

# Welcome to Nursery 2020

Our aim is to help you and your child make a smooth transition into Appletree Nursery...

## Enjoy, Achieve, Succeed

Appletree Gardens First School motto is at the heart of our Early Years ethos...

Our dedicated team work enthusiastically to ensure all children **ENJOY** each and every day. We are passionate about providing a rich and varied environment and curriculum to enable all children to **ACHIEVE** the very best that they can.

We are committed to developing confident, successful learners who **SUCCEED** in everything they do.

### Meet the Nursery Staff...

#### Nursery Teacher - Mrs Claire Carron

I have worked in Appletree Gardens for fifteen years and this will be my second year in Nursery. I have been the Early Years Leader for six years and I love working with our youngest children. Their open minds and endless enthusiasm are some of the main reasons I love teaching!

I live with my husband and our dog, Archie, a crazy Border Terrier who loves long walks. We like walking at the beach or through Holywell Dene. I am in a steel pan band and we often play at weddings, parties and even the Mouth of the Tyne Festival! I also enjoy playing tennis and swimming.

I love to play games and have a reputation (among family, friends and Appletree staff) for being a little competitive! I always say it's important to learn how to be a good winner and a good loser!



#### Nursery Teaching Assistant - Mrs Clare Taylor



Hello everyone! I have worked extensively throughout the school supporting teaching and learning and this is my sixth year in nursery.

I am a mum to 4 daughters all of whom attended Appletree Gardens. You will often see me with my daughters out shopping at the weekend. (Please say hello.)

I love sewing, knitting and crafts. My Sunday afternoons are spent with my girls, either in the garden or baking something delicious for tea.

I love reading and my favourite children's book is Owl Babies.

#### Nursery Teaching Assistant - Miss Beth Brown

I've worked with lots of different age groups in lots of different schools but I found my home when I joined Appletree last year. I enjoy working with early years children because they have such fantastic imaginations and I enjoy listening to, and facilitating, their ideas.

At home I like to cook, read and play with my cat. I enjoy learning about lots of different things and trying food from different countries, I love to travel and my favourite place I've ever been to was Cuba.



## Nursery Session Times

**Morning session:**  
8.30am - 11.30am

**Afternoon session:**  
12.30pm - 3.30pm

## Additional Childcare Provision

At Appletree Gardens First School, we are committed to working closely with our families to ensure we can help cater for all of their childcare needs. We offer:



**Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club**  
**Wraparound Care**  
**Holiday Clubs**



**2 Year Old Provision - funded and fee paying places**

This provision operates in Appletree Gardens Annex attached to the school.

For details of the services on offer **please see separate leaflet in your Nursery pack** or contact our childcare manager, Susanne, on 0191 2523546 or 07532 261368.

## Extra 15 hours of free childcare for those eligible

Those eligible will be offered an extra 3 hours of childcare per day, in addition to their daily 3 hour nursery sessions. These additional hours will be provided within our nursery with a separate lunch time.

### **Lunch:**

- Lunchtime will be a separate session in our 'Wraparound' provision (located in Appletree Annex)
- Children will be collected from and taken to nursery by the Wraparound staff
- Our Wraparound lunch room is separate from the main school canteen and the children have access to a secure garden to play in after their lunch
- **There will be a small daily charge of £4 for this session**
- Children must bring a healthy packed lunch (no nuts, chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks please)

### **Children who attend morning nursery:**

- Children attend nursery from 8.30-11.30am
- Our wraparound staff will then collect the children and take them for lunch in Appletree Annex
- Children will then be brought back to nursery for their 'additional childcare' afternoon sessions from 12.30-3.30pm.

### **Children who attend afternoon nursery:**

- Children attend nursery for their 'additional childcare' session from 8.30-11.30am
- Our wraparound staff will then collect the children and take them for lunch in Appletree Annex
- Children will then be brought back to nursery for their afternoon nursery session from 12.30-3.30pm.

## **Organisation**

Nursery provides two large, bright airy rooms which are interconnecting. The toilet area has a disabled toilet and children can access this area at all times as they need. We have a large outdoor area in a mature garden which has a safety surface and grass. Nursery has its own entrance which is separate from the school and the outside gate is locked after the children come in to ensure security.

## **Nursery Admissions**

The nursery intake is staggered during the first weeks of the autumn term. Several factors will influence this including 30hrs children and date of birth. Admission is gradual and parents are initially encouraged to stay with their child until they are settled. This also allows parents to get to know nursery staff during these first important weeks.

## **Collecting Children**

Please arrive promptly to collect your child as lateness causes distress. If you are unavoidably late please phone the school office, who will inform us and we can support the child until you arrive. Only a responsible adult known to school can collect a child. Please inform nursery staff if someone different is bringing or collecting your child. This will be recorded on the white board next to the door for daily record.

## **Outdoor Learning**

Our outdoor area is in a mature garden and has a safety surface. We have a static wooden climbing frame and a range of safe, sturdy play equipment. We also have a garden shed which stores our small world play, balls, buckets, large blocks and gardening tools. The children have supervised access to resources and are also encouraged to follow their fascinations and instigate their own play which the staff support and extend. We have a newly developed 'Nature Zone' which we access for Forest Fun activities, exploring natural materials, investigating and wondering. We play outside in the nursery garden every day, 'come rain or shine', and always in the snow! High quality waterproof trousers and coats trousers are provided. We have a few pairs of spare wellies but it is helpful if children can bring in their own, named pair to keep in Nursery. In the summer a sun hat will be worn but please put sunscreen on your child BEFORE coming to nursery.

## **Clothing**

The nursery uniform is not compulsory, but many parents buy the jade green sweatshirt with the nursery logo as they wear well and save the child's other clothing during messy play. Please do not send your child to nursery in their best clothes; many of our most exciting activities are very messy or wet! Clothing needs to be comfortable, simple and easily washable - track suit bottoms and leggings are ideal for children to manage themselves. Send your child in suitable footwear every day which they are able to put on and take off by themselves (no laces)! Flip-flops, strappy sandals or shoes with heels are neither safe nor practical. Please note that wearing jewellery can be dangerous when children are playing and this includes necklaces and earrings, even studs.

## **Toileting**

The majority of children will be toilet trained before starting nursery but we know that this skill takes longer for others to learn. If there are accidents your child will be changed - we have some spare clothing, but please make sure you return all nursery clothes promptly once they are washed. Clothes which are easy to manage support independence - please don't put your child in tight skirts, jeans with a button, belts or dungarees. If your child is not toilet trained please see the nursery staff and each child will be supported in a planned way as they learn to use the toilet.

## **Milk**

Free milk is provided for all children under the age of 5. If your child does not like milk they can have a drink of water. Please provide your child with a named water bottle. Fruit is available every day through the 5 a day scheme and is very popular.

## **Attendance and Illness**

We expect your child to attend nursery every day. However, if they are ill please do not bring them to nursery. This is to avoid the spread of infection. Sickness and/or diarrhoea need an absence of 24 hours from when the child was last ill. If your child becomes ill during a session parents will be requested to collect their child or a designated emergency contact will be made. When a child is absent please inform the school of the reason as soon as possible. Only medicine prescribed by a doctor, this includes inhalers, may be administered in nursery and you must sign a consent form.

## **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

The safety and protection of children, staff, parents / carers and visitors to Appletree is paramount. Every adult in school and within our school community, has a duty of care to the children in Appletree. We have systems in place to protect our children and work closely with North Tyneside Children's Services 'Front Door' service. We are also part of 'Operation Encompass' a national initiative to support children living in households with Domestic Abuse. If you have any queries or concerns about a child's welfare or safety do not hesitate to contact school or NT Front Door on 0345 2000 109.

## **Communication with Parents**

In nursery we have electronic Learning Journeys, on a programme called Seesaw, to chronicle the children's learning. We encourage all parents to sign up to Seesaw as it the perfect way for them to see what their child is doing in nursery. We use it to communicate about events in school and ways you can support at home. It is also useful for parents to share photos and information about their child from home which helps us to really tailor our provision and curriculum around the needs and interests of our children.

## **Parent Helpers**

We like to encourage parents to come into nursery to help wherever possible. This might include playing games with the children, reading stories or helping with a craft activity. If you have any other skills you think may be useful please let us know! If you would like to help on a regular basis you will need DBS clearance which can be obtained through school. This is not necessary to help on trips. We are always grateful for any parental support on trips!

## Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS)

All children in nursery follow the foundation stage curriculum. It is organised into seven areas which underpin all future learning. We follow half-termly topics. We aim to provide a range of exciting, stimulating and challenging activities both inside nursery and outside in the nursery garden. Nursery provides a secure environment in which to develop their skills and interests. Consistent routines and caring, supportive staff help the children to settle quickly and become independent.

**Prime Areas of Learning** - these are universal and crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This area of learning includes developing self confidence and a sense of belonging, learning to respect themselves and others. They develop positive relationships, sharing and taking turns. They learn to respond to expectations of behaviour and to know the difference between right and wrong. Children learn to trust the adults in nursery and feel secure in the setting.

### **Communication and Language**

It is important to develop the ability to listen carefully and talk confidently and clearly. Children are encouraged to enjoy stories, songs and rhymes and respond to them using puppets and story prompts. Nursery aims to develop children's language skills through role play and imaginative games. They follow simple instructions and learn to express themselves clearly.

### **Physical Development**

As children develop physical skills they gain confidence in their ability to explore the environment. They need to develop gross motor skills such as running, climbing, pedalling bikes as well as fine skills of cutting, painting, drawing and joining pieces in construction sets. Children learn to move confidently, control their bodies and use large and small apparatus such as balls, bean bags. They learn about how to keep healthy and active and help to grow fruit and vegetables in the organic garden. They manage their own personal needs including hand washing and going to the toilet independently.

**Specific Areas** - these include areas through which the prime areas of learning are strengthened and applied.

### **Literacy**

Children enjoy stories and rhymes. They join in repeated phrases and recall elements of the story. They enjoy rhyming games, nursery rhymes and action songs. They begin to give meanings to the marks they make and will be encouraged to recognise their name and begin to write it. They will observe adults writing and help to make labels, lists, captions. They experience mark making in many different ways such as chalking outside on walls and paths and painting with buckets of water and big brushes. Children will learn letter sounds and will begin to develop their early reading and writing skills. Information will come home with the children regularly to enable parents to practise these skills.

## **Maths**

Children develop an understanding of maths through rhymes, songs and games. Through practical activities they will learn to recognise numbers and order them. They will compare groups of objects and sort them. They will develop an understanding of measures by filling and emptying containers in the sand or water tray. They will become aware of similarities and differences between shapes. Concepts and vocabulary are introduced as adults play alongside.

## **Understanding the World**

Children will explore and find out about the world around them, asking questions and developing thinking skills. They will explore different materials, learn about living things and find out about everyday technology and what it is used for. They will talk about past events in their own lives and their families' lives. They will explore the differences in communities and traditions. Activities take place indoors and outside and are planned to stimulate and follow the children's interest and curiosity.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

Children enjoy imaginative play and creativity is an essential part of a young child's learning. Children explore songs, music and musical instruments. They will draw, paint and use many different types of media. They will take part in drama and role-play. They are encouraged to be independent and express their own ideas. We aim to use as many natural materials as possible. Play is a natural activity for all children and it helps them to develop intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. Structured play activities enable a child to make links between school and home and the outside world generally. Well structured play is a key way in which children learn with enjoyment and challenge throughout the Foundation Stage.



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