



Parent Guide to Reception at Apley Wood



'Feed the Mind...Free the Imagination'

2021-2022

Welcome

Welcome to Apley Wood Primary School. Thank you for choosing our school; we hope that your child will have an exciting, fun and enjoyable year with us.

Staff

We work as a very close team in Reception, so although your child will have a designated class teacher, they will work with all members of the EYFS staff. We are very easy to spot as we all wear pink polo shirts with the school emblem on.



Miss Lucy Smith
EYFS Leader / Class Teacher
(from half term)



Mrs Rebecca Halliwell
Class Teacher



Mrs Joanne Pitt
Class Teacher



Mrs Laura McGuinness
Class Teacher
(until half term)



Miss Zara Corbett
Teaching Assistant



Miss Lucy Holbrook
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Becky Machin
Teaching Assistant



Ms Cheryl Wilson
Teaching Assistant

Curriculum

The Reception Curriculum continues a child's learning journey from nursery/pre-school; it has the same 7 areas of learning and puts play at the centre of a child's learning. The areas of learning are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development – learning how to get on with others, follow rules and show self-confidence as well as showing independence, resilience, perseverance in the face of challenge.

Physical Development – learning how to use a range of climbing and balancing equipment as well as using pencils and paintbrushes with increasing control. Show an understanding of the factors that affect their health and well-being.

Communication and Language – learning how to express themselves clearly through words and gesture

Literacy – learning how to read and write using their knowledge of letters and the sounds they make.

Maths – learning how to count, calculate and show a deep understanding of numbers to 10 including the composition of each number.

Understanding the World – learning about different celebrations and change and growth in the natural world. Develop sense of AWE/WONDER AND MAGIC.

Expressive Arts and Design – learning how to use a range of loose parts and materials to play imaginatively. Develop their ability to perform, adapt and recount stories in their play.

How We Teach Your Child

Your child will be taught in whole class, small group and sometimes 1:1 sessions. When they are not working directly with an adult they will access carefully selected resources around the setting. These are enhanced at different times depending on children's interests, needs and stage of development. As we progress through the year, in preparation for Year 1, children are expected to work more independently on activities directed by an adult.

Sharing Information

Your child has been given a plastic wallet to keep their reading diary and reading books in. Please ensure this is sent in every day.

If you need to speak to us about something urgent or confidential, please contact the office.

We will also provide opportunities for you to find out what your child does in school in order to help you understand more about how and what we teach. Information will be communicated to you via: letter, Twitter and the school website. Each year group have their own class page which is updated regularly with homework and news. Please make sure you check this weekly for information.

School office – 01952 386180 or email a2190@taw.org.uk

Website - www.apleywoodprimaryschool.org.uk

Dropping off and Picking up

Children enter their classroom from the via their class door at **8:30am**. Children must enter by themselves due to current social distancing guidance. If they are upset we will use a range of strategies to support you and your child to have a positive start to the day.

If your child arrives later than **9:00am** please enter the school via the main entrance and register at the office. At **3:00pm** all children should be collected from their classroom doors. If you will be late or someone else will be collecting your child you must contact the office or let the member of staff on the door know in the morning.

Healthy Snacks

We provide free fruit snacks daily, however, you can provide your own small snack for your child to have at morning break. This should be something healthy such as: fruit, a small cheese snack or a fruit string. Crisps, biscuits and chocolate are not allowed and due to allergies please ensure you do not send in anything containing nuts. Please make sure your child's snack is labelled.

Lunchtime

Lunchtime is currently from **11:30 – 12:30**. Children eat together in the school hall, with others from their class. All reception children are entitled to a free school meal. They can choose to eat a packed lunch Monday to Thursday and a hot finger food meal on a Friday. The sandwich choice is cheese, tuna, tuna mayo or ham. Alternatively, you can send them with a packed lunch in a lunchbox from home. Children tell us whether they are having a home or school lunch during morning registration. Water is available at lunchtimes.

Drinks

Please provide your child with a named water bottle so that they can have a drink whilst in the classroom. They are encouraged to refill these at water coolers located in the corridors. We ask that you only send in still water, no juice or fizzy water.

Allergies

Please let the office know if your child develops an allergy to anything. We keep up-to-date details in all classrooms. Some children at school have nut allergies, because of the obvious danger to these children any food items that contain nuts are not to be brought into the school at anytime.

Cooking

Over the year we do various cooking and food tasting activities. We won't send out separate letters for permission as you will have signed form in your new starter pack to say if you are happy for your child to take part in these activities. We will ensure that any dietary requirements you have informed us about e.g. Halal, vegetarian are known by staff.

Medical Information

Please inform the office if your child needs to take medicine whilst at school. First Aiders in school can give prescription medicine but we are unable to give anything which is not. If you feel your child needs Calpol, for example, you can come to school during the school day and give them their dose.

If your child has or develops asthma you will need to complete an asthma care plan at the office. Inhalers are kept in the classrooms so that first aiders can administer them as quickly as possible.

Illness

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they must stay at home for 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. If on any occasion you feel they are too ill to come to school please ring the office. If you are unsure bring them in and we will phone you during the day if we feel they are not coping.

Physical Education

On Wednesday mornings one class take part in Forest School, whilst the other takes part in a PE lesson. P.E. kit can be purchased from Baker and Son in Wellington. Currently these will both take place outside on the school grounds. An update regarding kit and the date we will start is in your child's home school folder.

Toilet Accidents

We will keep spare underwear in the classroom in case of unforeseen personal needs. This will be sent home in a plastic bag. If your child is prone to more frequent accidents please let us know and provide a change of underwear and wipes just in case.

Toys

We occasionally allow toys into school at the end of term or for special 'show and tell' occasions. However, for most of the time, please ensure your child does not bring toys in, incase they get broken or lost.

Sun-cream

When it is hot and sunny please send your child to school with sun – cream on. We suggest using an all-day cream; you can get these from supermarkets like Aldi. Children can bring their own sun-cream to top up at lunch-time but will be expected to apply it themselves.

School Rules

Children will learn our school golden rules through stories linked to each rule.

We are gentle ~ We don't hurt others

We are kind and helpful ~ We don't hurt anybody's feelings

We listen ~ We don't interrupt

We are honest ~ We don't cover up the truth

We work hard ~ We don't waste our own or others' time

We look after property ~ We don't waste or damage things

We reward children for following school rules through: physical rewards of housepoints, stickers, certificates, golden tickets and notes home, in addition to verbal and written praise. More information about our behaviour policy can be found on the school website.



Home Learning

The most important thing to do at home is read, read, read. We will also send home a topic-based learning activity once a term to enhance themes covered at school. We love to hear about special achievements outside of school too, so we send home proud clouds every half term for you to record your child's successes with us. These will be sent in your child's home school plastic wallet as the year progresses.

Our Top 10 Tips for a Super Start to School Life

1. Label everything

With 60 children in Reception the chances of them putting on the wrong jumper or cardigan by mistake are fairly high. Please label all belongings... If it can be taken off, put down or left behind, label it!

2. Let us know if there's a problem or you have a concern

If your child has had a bad night's sleep, is sad about a lost toy, or is having issues with another child at playtime, please tell us: if we don't know about problems, we can't help.

Usually we are happy to chat to you immediately before or after school. However, due to the current situation we ask that you let the office know, either through email or telephone if possible, to allow us to maintain social distancing wherever possible.

3. Teach your child what to do at lunchtimes

If your child is having school dinners, it is helpful if they know how to cut up food and pour themselves a drink. If they are bringing their own lunch send in easy to open cartons and packets. The lunchtime supervisors are on hand to help, but the more independent children can be, the better.

4. Forest School / P.E. Days

Currently we are not asking children to get changed at school. On P.E. days please come dressed in outside kit. On Forest School days wear school clothes with a puddle suit / waterproof suit and wellies in a named plastic bag.

5. Reading

Reading every day, whether a comic, bedtime story or online game, will hugely benefit your child. Once we have established routines and assessed their phonic skills, we will send home a book each week with a reading diary. Please sign it everytime your child reads to you or you share a book together. It is the only way we know how much children are reading at home. 3 reads will earn 5 house points.

6. Name Recognition

Whilst every child enters at their own unique starting point it is of huge benefit if they can recognise and write their own name. Please spend some time helping them if they cannot already do this.

7. Keep contact details up to date

It sounds obvious, but it's essential to tell the office if your mobile number or email address changes so we can always get hold of you if we need to.

8. Home school folder

We put letters, information and some of your child's work in their home school wallet on most days. Please check and empty it daily so you do not miss anything. We will empty them out regularly.

9. Prepare for tiredness

It is pretty exhausting for a four- or five-year-old to behave well for hours on end, and take on board lots of new things. Do not worry if you find they seem more emotional and tired than usual for the first few months. Earlier bedtimes and not too many things packed into their week after school and at weekends will help.

10. Don't take your child too literally

We completely understand that it is heartbreaking if your child tells you that nobody played with them or someone was mean; but keep an open mind. Children's perceptions are often very different to those of adults. However, if you have any worries, please do not hesitate to let us know. We want you and your child to be happy.

'We are each wonderful and unique but together we are a masterpiece.'

