

Who stomps, chomps and roars?

The Land Before Time!

Apple Class - Summer Term 2026



Dear Families,

We hope that you had a lovely Easter break. Here is an outline of our learning for the Summer Term. Our main focus is "The Land Before Time!". We will be finding out about dinosaurs and learning about the work of Mary Anning. The learning for Year One children will be linked to the National Curriculum and for Reception, it will be linked to the seven areas of the Early Years Curriculum. Our Reception children will join in with some of the topic learning although they will spend the majority of their time pursuing their own interests whilst learning through play. Reception will continue to have Phonics, Maths, Drawing Club (English), PSHE and PE lessons.

Monday and Friday- we will be changing reading books on these days so please ensure books are in book bags. We still have some books outstanding so please can you have a look at home to see if you have any extra ones. Please do not put drink bottles in book bags as they have a tendency to leak and books can be easily damaged. Thank you.

Friday- we will be issuing new Apple Class library books so please return them if you would like a new one. The box will be in our outside area so that you can choose one with your child.

Our Reading Together date will be **Tuesday 5th May**

Our class assembly will be on **Thursday 2nd July**

Please ensure PE kits are in school at all times. Our PE days will be **Monday** and **Wednesday** but there are occasions where we may need to swap our days around. **Please ensure all uniform and PE kit is labelled with your child's name as this will help us to get the children changed more quickly and allow us to return any lost clothing!** The children will still need warm clothes for PE for the start of this term as some of our sessions will be outside.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to message us on Seesaw or speak to a member of the team after school if you have any concerns or questions. We are always happy to help!

Kind Regards
The Apple Class Team

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSHE and RSE)

We will revisit the NSPCC 'Pantosaurus' materials to help the children understand that their bodies belong to them and to encourage them to talk to a trusted adult if they are ever worried about anything. Here is the link if you would like to look at the materials we will be using: [Talk PANTS & Join Pantosaurus - The Underwear Rule | NSPCC](#)

We will also be talking about how to keep healthy through exercise, healthy eating and taking care of our minds and bodies.

The Year 1 children will also be talking about how our bodies change as we grow older and will learn the correct names for parts of their bodies.

Mathematics

Reception will count, order, read and write numbers to 20. We have looked at numbers 1-10 in depth and we will be focusing on subitising amounts up to 5 (recognising without counting). We will continue to explore the composition of each number to 10 (e.g. for 5, we could say 4 and 1, 3 and 2, 5 and 0 etc). Learning number bonds to numbers for numbers to 5 will also be a focus e.g. knowing that $3 + 1 = 4$ and $4 - 1 = 3$. Reception will also explore spatial reasoning.

Year 1 will continue to develop their place value knowledge of numbers to 50 and beyond. They will continue to improve their addition and subtraction skills by learning to count on and to find small differences. We will introduce early multiplication skills through counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and we will explore division through sharing objects into equal groups. Year 1 will develop their understanding of time and money and will also be developing their mental maths skills by learning number facts such as doubles, number bonds and other addition and subtraction facts.

Understanding the World

Science: We will be learning about plants and what they need to grow. We will also revisit our learning related to Animals and Humans and we will learn about the life cycle of a butterfly. There will be some special visitors in class to help us with this learning! We will continue to develop our knowledge about seasonal change (weather patterns in Spring and Summer).

History: Year 1 will be learning about the story of Mary Anning, why she is a significant person and how it has impacted on life today. Reception will be learning about the past through a range of stories.

Geography: We will be developing our knowledge of human and physical features and we will be comparing Colgate to another UK location.

Computing: Year 1 will develop their skills by creating music and as well as revisiting our learning about e-safety. Reception will also continue to learn about e-safety and will develop their music creation skills also.

RE: We will be finding out about Judaism, with a particular focus on Jewish celebrations such as Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Outdoor Learning: This term our outdoor sessions will support our scientific learning about plants and life cycles. We will be identifying plants and planting seeds and beans.

English

We will be reading dinosaur stories and non-fiction texts and books about the work of Mary Anning. We will also explore non-fiction books in relation to plants and animals. We will be reading and talking about poetry.

Reception will continue their Drawing Club sessions to help develop drawing and fine motor skills as well as provide opportunities to demonstrate and build upon their phonic knowledge and writing skills. We will be focusing on writing short sentences and adults will model how to use finger spaces between words and segment the sounds for spelling. Any extra writing that the children can do at home always helps to increase confidence and independence.

During English lessons, the Year 1 children will be developing their writing stamina in order to compose longer sentences and pieces of text with increasing independence, spelling a greater number of words correctly and using capital letters and full stops more accurately. We will be writing to entertain and to inform.

We will continue to use the Song of Sounds phonics programme to consolidate the sounds we have taught as well as continue to develop the children's recognition of high frequency 'tricky' words.

Reception will continue with Song 1 and we will revisit the digraphs (2 letters that represent one sound) and trigraphs (3 letters that represent one sound) such as sh, th, ai, igh and air. We will support the children with becoming more confident with reading and writing words with 3, 4 and 5 sounds.

Year 1 will continue to work through Song 2. We will revisit the sounds that the children are less confident with and will continue to work through the tricky words. We will also practice alien words in preparation for the Year 1 Phonic Screening check in June.

Reading at home:

Reading books will be changed twice a week. This will give the children the opportunity to read a book at least twice before changing it for a new one. This is really important for building up fluency and word recognition skills. It will also develop their comprehension skills as they will have a greater understanding of the text once they have read it twice. Listening to their favourite stories being read aloud will also support comprehension skills. The more stories children hear, the greater understanding they have of how texts work and the more vocabulary they learn. Please read with your child as often as possible- even 5 minutes a day can increase their confidence and fluency.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be using junk modelling to produce models of their choice and can access the painting area on a daily basis.

They will be able to immerse themselves in a variety of role-play situations linked to our new learning.

Art: Both Reception and Year 1 will be exploring printing and they will also be developing their drawing skills by sketching fossils.

DT: Year 1 will be creating moving pictures using different mechanisms as part of our work on dinosaurs.

Music: Mrs Burton will be using our music scheme 'Withers' to develop the children's singing skills and knowledge of playing musical instruments.

Physical Development (PE)

We will be taking part in multi-skills and invasion games during our sessions with Mr Lowes. After half term, we will be practising for Sports Day. We will also be developing our rolling, kicking, throwing and catching skills using large balls.

We will be developing gross motor skills by using the trim trail, bikes and scooters and the large equipment to create our own obstacle courses.

We will continue to develop fine motor control by using play dough, small construction and utensils such as tweezers to help strengthen finger muscles. Our daily morning activities will include scissor skills, tracing and letter formation. We will continue with our Dough Disco sessions- there are videos on YouTube if you would like to try them at home! Year 1 will be improving letter formation by practising groups of letters that have the same directionality (e.g. c, g, o, a and d) and will use cursive letter formation when they are ready.

