



An A-Z Book all about...



**The Early Years Foundation Stage
at
Parklands Community Primary School**



Welcome to Apple and Ash

We are really looking forward to you starting school in September. To help you we have put together this A-Z for you to share with your family.

We hope you will enjoy sharing it together and find it useful.



All about me

Aa

During your story time visit you will be given a sheet for you to complete entitled 'All About Me'. We would like you to fill this in to tell us lots of information about you. You can include drawings, writing and photographs. This will help us to get to know you.

<p>My favourite things at home are... (This might include: toys, games, comfort objects, stories, places...)</p>	<p>All About...</p> <p>_____ (encourage your child to write their name)</p> <p>This is a photograph of me</p>	<p>My Feelings (This might include what makes me happy, sad, angry or scared and how I show these feelings. When I'm feeling... it helps me if ...)</p>
<p>Special relationships in my life are: (This might include: family members, friends, people who look after me, other people involved in my life, even pets)</p>	<p>My birthday is</p> <p>This is a photograph of my family. (Photographs are lovely to see and share, and it helps us to know who everyone is)</p>	<p>Anything else you might need to know about me. (This might include any health care needs, other people who are involved in my well-being, or any other information I would like to share with you.)</p>

Apple and Ash

These are the names of the Early Years classes. Our classrooms have lots of different areas with lots and lots of activities for you to enjoy with your friends.



Books and Book Bags

Bb

You can purchase a book bag from the school or Game, Set & Match. Please bring your book bag to school each day. It will be used to keep your reading diary and reading book in, as well as letters and any work to take home. Please make sure you look through your book bag each night, with a grown up and take out any work or letters.

It is very important that you bring books back to school. If a book is not returned, another will not be sent. We do lots of other shared, group and individual reading activities and games during the week.



Behaviour

We expect you to behave well at Parklands. We follow 'Parklands Three Rules' which are:

Be kind and respectful

Be safe

Be ready to learn

We really enjoy rewarding children who are behaving well and working hard and give out lots of stickers, certificates and constant praise!

Birthdays

We love celebrating when it is your birthday. We are a healthy school and discourage giving out sweets/cakes. Instead we would encourage you to buy a book for our class reading corner. We will share the book with the class and put a special note inside saying who the book was from.



Creative Development

Cc

At Parklands you will be involved in music making, role play, dance and art activities. We love putting your work on display and sharing it on Seesaw.



Dressing up

Dd

In Early Years, you can dress up in the role play area. We also have special days where you have to dress up for school instead of wearing your school uniform.



Energy

Ee

You will need lots of energy when you come to school. Making friends, playing games and learning is hard work. Make sure you have a good breakfast to set you up for the day. We enjoy using our energy round the mile a day track, the trim trail and during PE sessions.



Forest School

Ff

During the Summer Term, the children have the opportunity of taking part in Forest School. We have a great time hunting for bugs, making boats, creating necklaces or bracelets, lighting fires, drinking hot chocolate and eating marshmallows!



Friends

You will make lots of new friends when you start school.



Governors

Gg

This is a group of people who make lots of decisions about the school. Sometimes Governors will visit us in our classroom.

Garden

We are very lucky to have such a lovely garden area to work and play in.



Headteacher

This is the person who is in charge of the school. You will be introduced to Miss Angeli when you start school. She will come to visit us in Apple and Ash and to find out what we are doing. Sometimes you may go and see Miss Angeli to show her any special work.

Hh



Home-school activities

Sometimes there are fun activities that we send home for you to complete with a grown up.

Independence

This means starting to do things for yourself. When you start school we would like you to start hanging up your coat, putting your book bag in your tray and

Ii

your lunch box away by yourself. When we have PE, you should try and get changed by yourself too. We are always there to help you, especially with tricky things like socks, tights and buttons. It would be a really good idea if you practise getting dressed and undressed by yourself during the summer holidays. Remember that we go outside in all weathers, so make sure that you are able to put your coat on easily.



Joining in



At Parklands everyone is encouraged to join in and do their best. There is always someone there to help you, so try not to feel worried or scared about new experiences.



Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Kk

In this area of learning, you will explore different environments, find out about living things, objects and events and enjoy constructing, creating, using IT and asking questions.



Lunchtime

Ll

This is a very important part of the day! For your first 3 years at school you can have a free hot lunch every day. You should decide with Mummy and Daddy if you are going to have packed lunches or a hot school dinner. If you have a lunch box make sure it has your name on it and ask a grown up not to give you too much to eat! Adults will be in the hall and the playground at lunchtime too, so there is always a familiar face to help and re-assure you.



Literacy

This is where we learn to read, write, learn letters and sounds and speak and listen. We do this through lots of different activities like singing, role play, writing postcards. Reading your books and practising your key words at home are an essential part of this learning.



Learning Journals

Each term we go on a special learning journey linked to a theme, e.g. "Zoom to the Moon". Parents will get a 'Curriculum Letter' each term so you know what we will be learning about. Each child will have their own online Seesaw Learning Journal as well as a 'best work' scrapbook. This is a record of the term's work and will include photographs, paintings, observations, writing and lots more. We celebrate all milestones in these journals, so if there are any special events at home or if your child does something for the first time, maybe doing their coat up, please send in a photo or note. Parents are able to come in at different stages in the term to look through the learning journal with their child.

Milk

Milk

If you choose to, you can have milk to drink at school. An adult needs to fill out the form in your starting school pack. Children who are four get free milk if the application form is completed.



Numbers

Numbers

This is when we learn about numbers, calculations, shape, space and measures. We have fun together singing number songs and rhymes, sorting, counting, playing number games, comparing sizes and matching shapes. Practice counting things at home. You could count out 10 stones, count the steps up the stairs or looking at door numbers as you walk along.



Outside

Oo

We have a lovely outdoor area, just outside of the classrooms. We use this every day and set up activities inside and outside. Make sure you have a coat when it is cool and that you have a hat and sun cream on when the weather is hot. Please bring in your own wellington boots in a named bag to keep in



school and remember to practice putting on your coat and have a go at doing the buttons or zip up.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Pp

This is a really important area of learning, especially when you first start school. You will learn about playing together, sharing, taking turns and being kind. You will learn that not everyone is the same and that you should treat everyone with respect. You will learn about right and wrong and the consequences and rewards of your actions. You will be encouraged to say what you are feeling and to share your ideas during circle time. It is really important that you get used to doing things without a grown up.



Play

In Early Years we believe in learning through play. We learn a lot through exploring and experimenting with materials, equipment, ideas and language. We have lots of lovely toys and equipment for you to play with.



Physical Development

You will play lots of games and activities to help you develop large gross motor skills as well as fine motor skills. You will have PE in the hall twice a week. You will also learn about what happens to your body when you exercise and how you can keep healthy.

In the term when you are five, the school nurse will see you to make sure your eyes and ears are working well.



Quiet times

Qq

There will be times in the day when we will expect you to be quiet and listen. When an adult or another child is talking you must wait until they have finished before you have your turn. We love listening to your ideas and questions. Try to remember to put your hand up and never shout in school.

Reading

Rr

Reading is such an important skill to have and you will read every day at school, in lots of different ways. You will look at pictures and learn how to tell stories from them. You will learn how to get clues from the pictures to help you read new words. You will learn skills such as sounding out and blending words together. You will play games and complete activities to help you learn key words and tricky words. Practising at home is very, very important and will make a big difference to how you get on at school. We cannot do all the reading practise you need at school as there is not enough time!



Special Helpers

Ss

Each week in Apple and Ash, we have two special helpers. These children get to collect the milk, take messages to the office and do lots of other important jobs.



Teachers

Tt



Miss Jones
Apple Class Teacher



Miss Laker
Ash Class Teacher

We are really looking forward to you starting school. If you have any questions or are unsure of anything always go and ask them.

Uniform

Uu

You will need a school uniform so that you can look smart and people will know that you go to Parklands School. Ask a grown up to put your name in all your new clothes and to teach you what your name looks like. Sewn in name tags are best as they don't fade in the washing machine. Shoes with Velcro on are easiest. Please try to avoid shoes with laces - thank you.



Visits and Visitors



During the year we will have some visits and visitors that link to the topics we are learning about. These are fantastic experiences that you will remember for a long time. We will need lots of help on any visits so adult helpers are welcome too.

Sometimes we will ask you to bring in some money and a form to give permission for you to do something. It is very important that you bring things back to us. Please put money in an envelope with your name on it.

Volunteers

Daddy and Mummy and Grandparents are all very welcome to come into class to help. This could involve coming in at a regular time each week or coming in for a special event or trip.



Writing



Writing is a very important skill and goes on every day in Apple and Ash. All children are encouraged to 'have a go' at writing. This will begin by you making marks on the paper. Then as you learn you will start to write the letter shapes and eventually you will write down the sounds you can hear in the words you want to write, e.g. f-u-n for fun. Practise writing your name at home.



X

Xx

X is a letter in the alphabet. When you start school you will begin to recognise each of the 26 letters of the alphabet and the sound and name of each letter. We focus on a different sound each day and have a special time in the day which we call 'phonic time'. Each week you will take home the letters we have been learning that week and your grown up will have an information sheet, informing them of your learning and how they can help you at home. Try to use lower case letters and not capitals when you are writing.



Young

Yy

Although you are the youngest in the school, your first year at school is very, very important. What you learn in Early Years will help you on your journey as you move up through the classes at Parklands.



ZZZZZzzzzz

Zz

Being at school can be very tiring. There is so much to do and lots of new things to learn. Make sure you go to bed nice and early so you will be ready for each new day. Try to go to sleep and not watch the television. Ask for a story to be read to you. It will help you get off to sleep!

