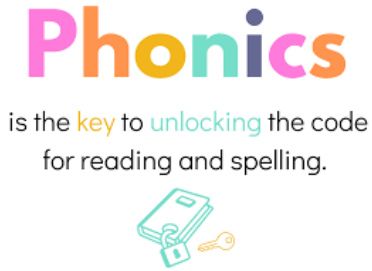
PAWS, CLAWS AND WHISKERS

Welcome to year 1 and the autumn term

We are looking forward to getting to know you and your children and have an exciting topic to get us started.

Big cats, small rats, tiny fleas and buzzing bees!

This half term Apple class are going to discover that animals come in all shapes and sizes! We'll be sharing information about the pets we have at home, finding out what vets do, studying animal artwork and drawing detailed animal pictures to capture their special features. Famous animal fables will make us laugh, and we'll have fun reading them aloud as well as writing our own. We'll spot similarities and differences between animals, look at different habitats around the world and investigate camouflage. Learning about the role of a zookeeper and designing a zoo is even on the agenda!

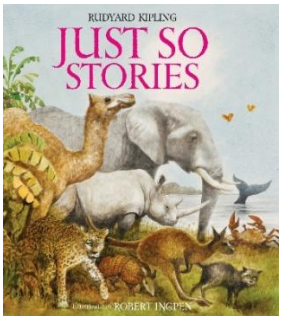


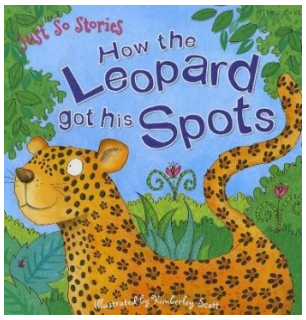
Phonics *lessons will continue on a daily basis, just like in Cherry class. These will build on the children's knowledge and skills to further develop their reading and writing and support spelling.*

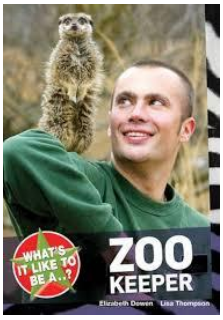
Reading books *will be changed on Mondays and Thursdays. Please continue to read regularly with your children encouraging them to sound out and blend words. Please ensure the books and reading records are in school on these days so that they can be swapped for a new one.*

The children will have the opportunity to visit the **library** *and choose a book to bring home on Thursdays. Our system doesn't allow children to take out new books until their existing books are returned so please do let us know if you misplace a book.*

In Apple Class we will share a variety of books to inspire a love for **reading** *and encourage the children to explore a range of both fiction and non-fiction subjects.*







Our class texts will inspire the children's **writing** as we create our own tales based on *Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories.*

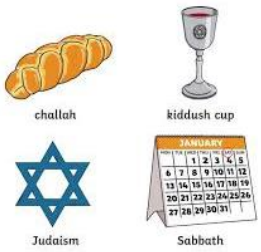
We will also be writing instructions focussing on the daily activities of a zookeeper and how they take care of the animals.

Following on from their learning in Reception, we will continue to develop the children's fine motor skills and practice forming lower case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place. In year 1 we will compose our sentences out loud and use finger spacers to remind us to leave finger spaces between words when we write.

Number Words	
1 - One	6 - Six
2 - Two	7 - Seven
3 - Three	8 - Eight
4 - Four	9 - Nine
5 - Five	10 - Ten

In **maths** we will begin with place value. The children will learn that collections of objects can be sorted into sets based on attributes such as colour, size or shape. They will use a variety of manipulatives to count forwards and backwards and compare and order sets of objects while using mathematical language including: less than, greater than and equal to.

Science lessons link perfectly to our topic. We will learn about animals including humans, identifying and naming a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will explore what they eat, identify variation amongst our classmates and discover what camouflage is for.



Our **RE** unit will focus on Judaism as we answer the question: Why do Jewish families say so many prayers and blessings? We will learn about the festival of Sukkot which will link to our harvest festival celebrations.

Our **PE** lessons will take place on Thursday afternoons this half term.
Please ensure that children are wearing their correct PE kit including trainers to ensure that they are safe to take part. Long hair must be tied up and earrings either removed or covered with tape for the lessons, thank you.

Following on from their previous **Forest School** experience, Apple class will continue their outdoor learning on Monday afternoons with Mrs Webb, starting from the 14th September. Please refer to the separate letter for further information.

In **art** the children will be completing a project all about spirals where they will have the opportunity to try out a variety of materials including charcoal, pastels, chalk, pens and sketch pencils.

They will also explore and compare art with an animal theme and learn to use different types of lines to add special features to their own animal drawings such as fur, feathers and scales.

Please remember to send your children to school with a **water bottle** as well as a coat or sunhat depending on the weather, ensuring that any suncream brought into school is labelled with your child's name.
Please ensure that your children are not bringing in toys from home as these can be very distracting for both themselves and others and can get misplaced.

The children will have the option to choose a piece of fruit which they can eat in the classroom before morning break.

In addition to reading with and sharing books with your child there is some optional topic related homework attached. Please see the information below to choose from a selection of tasks. The completed activities can either be brought into school, added to Seesaw or emailed to the address below.

If you have any questions or queries please catch me before or after school or email:

cfarquhar@chidham.w-sussex.sch.uk

Many thanks, Mrs Farquhar

Apple class home learning topic activities

Please help your child to complete 1 or 2 of the following. Alternatively, if you have your own ideas for a topic related task, I would love to see them!

Use the internet to find out about wildlife parks, farms or zoos near you. Find out about the animals that are kept there and make a fact file with pictures and information. It could be about the wildlife park or zoo or the animals that people can see there.	Look in books, the internet, calendars or magazines to find pictures of animals. Compare the pictures that you find and choose your favourite. What is it about the picture and the animal that you like? Create an animal picture of your own and write two facts about your chosen animal.	Choose an animal story to read. Examples include The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr, The Hare and the Tortoise by Brian Wildsmith or How to Hide a Lion by Helen Stephens. Draw a picture of your favourite event in the story. Write a sentence or two beneath your picture to explain what is happening.
Write an animal story. Draw pictures and write sentences to show what will happen at the beginning, middle and end of your story.	Look at pictures of wild animals. Choose three, then use information books and the internet to find out where in the world they live, what they eat and their habitat. Choose how to present your findings.	Choose a pet that you would like to investigate. Research how to look after the pet. Record your findings, including what pet you have chosen, what it eats, where it should live and any special things this pet needs.
Use information books and the internet to find out about an animal in danger of becoming extinct. Make a poster to persuade people that this animal needs saving. How will you make your poster stand out?	Look out onto your street, explore your garden or take a walk in your neighbourhood to look for animals. Record the animals that you see in a table. Use the data you have collected to find out which type of animal was the most and least common.	Create a model of an animal. You might like to make your animal out of recycled materials, modelling clay or Lego for example. Look closely at your animal or a picture of an animal and try to replicate their markings or specific details.

Useful websites

National Geographic Kids – Animals Primary Resources

Animals Primary Resources | National Geographic Kids

BBC – The Countryfile Calendar Photographs

Countryfile Calendar 2026: winning photos and how to buy the calendar | Countryfile.com

BBC - The Countryfile Calendar Photographs

DKfindout! – Endangered Animal Facts For Kids

Animal Facts for Kids | Endangered Animals

Meet 10 Endangered Rainforest Animals

RSPCA – Read expert pet care, advice & information

Expert Advice and Information for Pets - RSPCA - rspca.org.uk