Appleton Academy

Primary Newsletter

Autumn 1 2026



Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy first half term it has been! The children have made a fantastic start to the new school year, settling into their new classes and routines with real enthusiasm. A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support. It has been lovely to see so many of you joining us for our Meet the Teacher sessions and class assemblies. These opportunities to welcome families into school and celebrate the children's learning are always very special. I hope the half-term holiday gives everyone the chance to slow down, spend time together and enjoy everything that autumn has to offer. There is plenty to look forward to when we return. More of our classes will be sharing their learning through class assemblies, our **parent consultation meetings will take place on 17 and 18 November**, and **Year 6** will be heading off on their much-anticipated residential to **Herd Farm**. Please remember to book your parent consultation appointment using the link you have received by text. Have a wonderful half-term holiday, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school refreshed and ready for another exciting half term.

Best Wishes
Mrs Kelly



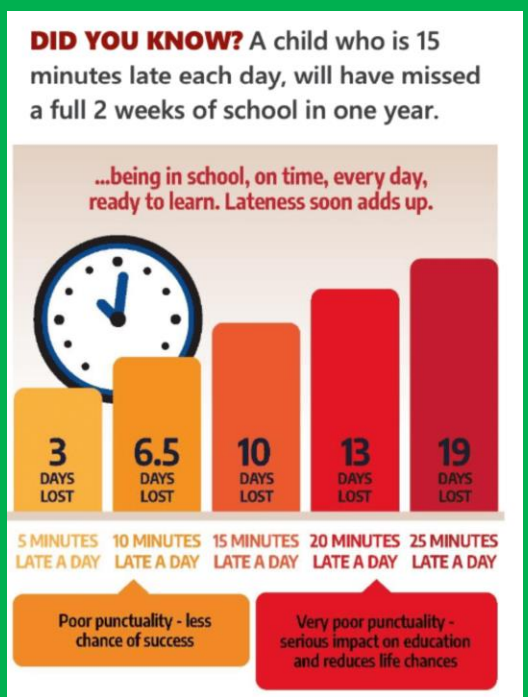
Attendance

As we settle into the routines of the new academic year, we would like to remind families of the importance of regular attendance. Every day in school is an opportunity for children to learn, develop friendships and build confidence. Good attendance helps children make the most of their education, so please continue to support your child in attending school regularly and arriving on time.

Amazing Attendance Award

As well as our weekly rewards and certificates, we will be continuing our **Amazing Attendance Award** this year. Children who achieve 98% attendance and punctuality or more throughout the half-term will be rewarded with the opportunity to choose an activity of their choice in recognition of their commitment.
Thank you for your continued support.









EYFS



Early Years have settled into life at Appleton Academy brilliantly! The children have quickly become familiar with our school rules and routines and are doing a fantastic job of following them each day. We are incredibly proud of how well they have adapted to their new environment and the positive start they have made!





The children have been busy making lots of new friends. They have enjoyed exploring and playing in our different provision areas, where they have had lots of opportunities to follow their interests, develop new skills and learn together through play.









In Nursery our topic this half term was Owl Babies. We talked a lot about our families and the people who make us feel safest. In Reception our topic was Heroes, we talked about what makes a hero, and who our heroes were. We talked about the people who help us in our families and in our world!

EYFS









On Thursday 22nd October we held a wonderful Harvest Festival for our families. We sung a variety of different songs about the autumn and the harvest. We acted out a story for our parents all about a Pumpkin Hunt, and we showed some wonderful autumnal crafts we have made.





Year 1



Year 1 have had a fantastic start to the new year. This half term we have used the story The Little Red Hen to inspire our writing. We started our writing by acting in the role of the red hen and baking some yummy bread.







We have enjoyed learning about the importance of washing our hands with a visit from the School Nursing Team. Nurse Natalie came to visit, and we used pretend germs to see how thoroughly we need to wash our hands.







This half term we have also enjoyed starting our drama and PE lessons. We have taken turns playing games, tested our balancing skills and started to act!









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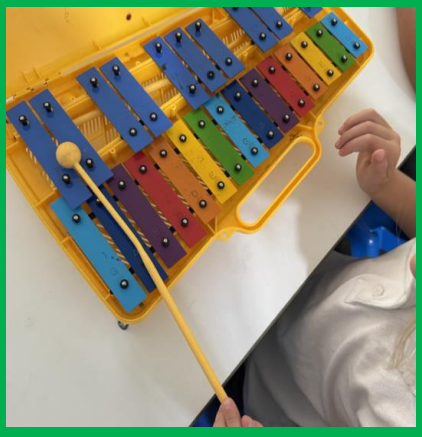






Year 2

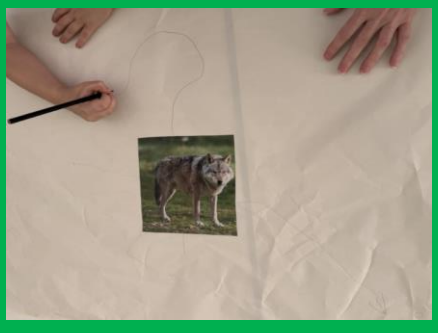
Year 2 have settled into their learning routines brilliantly. The children have shown a positive attitude and are growing in confidence each day. They particularly enjoyed their music lesson, where they had great fun exploring and playing the glockenspiels. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and teamwork as they learn new skills.


In English, Year 2 have been enjoying The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We used our imagination to create and describe new characters to replace the troll, thinking carefully about their appearance, personality and behaviour. The children came up with lots of creative ideas and used exciting adjectives to bring their characters to life.







Year 3

In Year 3 this half term, the children have been learning Spanish. We have taste tasted Spanish food and had a Spanish Day where they were able to Flamenco dance, create posters on Spain and decorate Spanish flags.





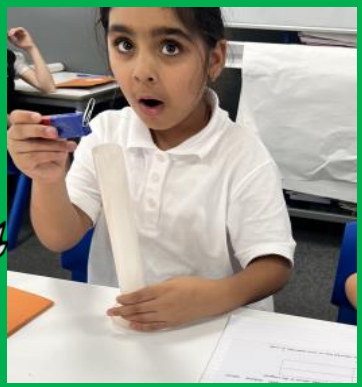




In Science, we have been learning about forces and magnets. We have experimented using a range of magnets, we have tested to see how strong they are and learnt about how they are used in our daily lives.











Year 4



In Year 4 this half term, the children have been learning about World War Two. We celebrated our learning by visiting Eden Camp. The children got to experience what it would be like to live through the Blitz and be in an Air Raid Shelter.



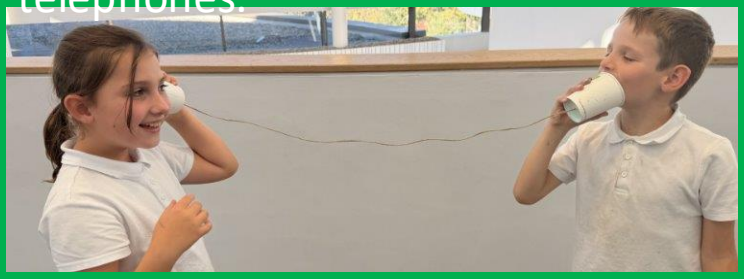






In Science this half term, we have been learning about sound. We explored how Alexender Graham Bell created the first telephone. Then the children had a go at making their own telephones.





Year 5

Year 5 has been a fantastic half term filled with learning, creativity and new experiences. We have enjoyed taking greater responsibility for our learning and growing in confidence as we move closer to Year 6. Our topics on rivers and forces have been particularly engaging, and we loved reading our class novel, *Journey to the River Sea*. A highlight was meeting the talented poet and rapper Testament, who made us laugh and encouraged us to experiment with rhyme and creative writing.



In Science, we investigated air resistance by designing and testing parachutes to see how it affects the speed of a falling object.







5DF have also enjoyed starting our swimming sessions and are excited to continue improving our skills.

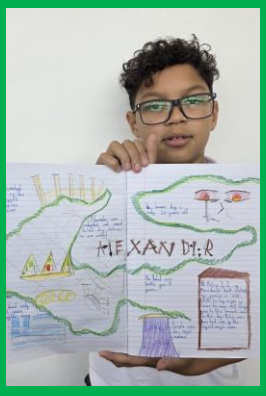
Year 6

In Year 6 this half term, the children have been exploring the fascinating civilisation of Ancient Greece. As part of their learning, they have written their own Greek myths, designed original mythical creatures, and created an additional labour for Hercules to complete. The children have also produced some outstanding artwork inspired by the topic and have developed their understanding of this significant period in history, including its lasting influence on modern society.















Charlie's Minotaur



Freddie's Minotaur



Charlotte 's Minotaur

Year 6

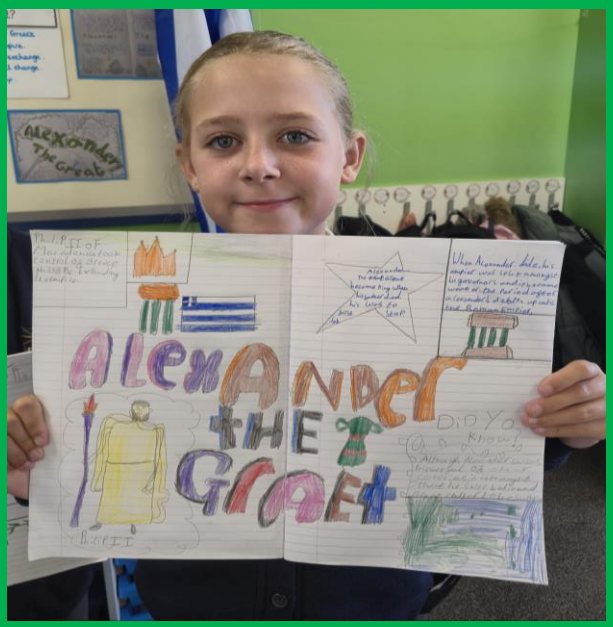
Throughout this term, the children have been studying Electricity. They have explored the history of electricity, learning about how our understanding and use of electrical power has developed over time. As part of their science learning, the children also carried out a range of investigations to examine the effect of voltage on the brightness of a bulb. Through these practical experiments, they developed their scientific enquiry skills and deepened their understanding of electrical circuits.





During PE this term we have been taking part in Tag Rugby sessions. Children have worked hard understanding the rules, how to pass the ball and how to pass backwards. In our History topic we have worked hard to create a double page spread on Alexander the Great.





Student Leaders



We are delighted to introduce this year's Student Leaders and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and commitment they have already shown. Our newly elected leaders have attended their first School Council meeting and have enjoyed sharing the key points and discussions with their classmates. Their first important task was to gather ideas from pupils across the school about the improvements they would like to see, ensuring that every child's voice is heard. We have been impressed by their thoughtful suggestions and positive attitude, and we are excited to work alongside our Student Leaders throughout the year. We look forward to seeing the difference they will make and all that they will achieve together.

Meet our Eco Warriors



We are delighted to introduce our new team of Eco Warriors, who are already making a fantastic start in their important role within our school community. The group recently held their first meeting, where they began exploring ways to help care for our environment and make a positive difference around school. Excitingly, they attended their first trip to the Great Yorkshire Showground for Apple Day, where they will learnt about local agriculture, food production and the natural world around us. We look forward to sharing updates on their eco-friendly initiatives and adventures throughout the year!

ignite
Immersive Education

Ignite Immersive Education is a creative education company, who work with pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 at Appleton. Their sessions uniquely blend core subjects and in class learning, with the creative arts. Each week pupils work with Shine and Jenny, as they sing, dance and act their way through the curriculum. Here's what they've been up to this term:



This half term Year 5 have been exploring their topic of 'Rivers' through the arts. From creating and performing dances to represent the stages of the water cycle, to singing songs and rapping about the key features of Rivers. We have created thoughtful drama work, where we explored the lives of those living in water poverty as well as exploring script work and thought tracking based on our key text 'Journey to the River Sea'. The children excelled in their script work over all and loved performing their different interpretations of the characters from our story for each other!





5DF class assembly

Kevin Sinfield

There was a real buzz of excitement across the school and wider community when **Kevin Sinfield** visited us during his incredible *7 in 7 Challenge*. As part of his journey, Kevin stopped at school for a short break before continuing on to Huddersfield. In the days leading up to his visit, our primary pupils enthusiastically created banners and placards to show their support, helping to make the occasion even more special. On his arrival, Kevin received a warm and memorable welcome as our fantastic Student Leaders and members of the secondary phase lined the corridor to cheer him on. It was a truly inspiring moment for everyone involved, and we were proud to play a small part in supporting Kevin's extraordinary fundraising efforts and celebrating the values of determination, resilience and community spirit that he embodies. We are also delighted to share that, excluding donations made via the QR code, our primary pupils raised an impressive **£161.07** in cash for the **Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association**, demonstrating their generosity and support for this important cause.







Clubs

This half-term has been full of fun, laughter and learning in our after-school clubs! It has been wonderful to see so many children staying after school to try new activities, develop new skills and spend time with their friends.

Children have loved getting creative in **Arts and Crafts Club**, building amazing creations in **Lego Club**, and learning exciting routines in **Cheerleading Club**. Our **Choir Club** members have enjoyed singing together and growing in confidence, while **Yoga Club** has given pupils the chance to relax, unwind and practice mindfulness after a busy school day. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm shown by all the children and look forward to more exciting clubs next half-term!









Community Events

My name is Emily Chesterman, and I am the Parental Involvement Officer here at Appleton Academy. What a great start to the new school year it has been with many children coming to school every day and settling into their new classes. Have a wonderful half term rest, enjoy Halloween if you celebrate it and be safe around fireworks and fires. I look forward to seeing everyone next half term ready for the Christmas fun to begin.
Emily.chesterman@appletonacademy.co.uk



Attendance
School attendance is important because it drives academic achievement, mental wellbeing and future life success. Missing just a few days can disrupt progress and make it harder to understand learning. Daily attendance helps children build and keep strong relationships with peers and supports over all mental health and reduces the feeling of isolation. Keep a good routine, arrive on time ready to learn and be your best.

Halloween Events
Cartwright Hall – 31/10- Join Musarat Raza, an artist as she makes Halloween hates and masks. Create your own.

Bradford Cathedral – 1/11- Halloween themed singing, songs from Macbeth and listen to music about magic

Harold park- 31/10- Haunted Halloween Hunt, stalls, music, fancy dress parade and a ghost hunt 3-5pm

East Riddlesden Hall – 24/10-1/11- Pumpkin Trail- Outside in the gardens, real pumpkins are hiding. Can you uncover the hidden word with arts and crafts.

National Science and Media Museum – 24/10-1/11- Shaun the Sheep's Mossy Bottom Laboratory with science experiments, awesome workshops, live shows and film screenings.

The Spooky Express at Oxenhope Station – Step inside the haunted shed, see a spooky show, sing and join the Halloween fun riding The Spooky Express with decorated carriages Fancy dress is encouraged and prizes to be won. https://kwvr.co.uk/events/the-spooky-express/

Bolling Hall Museum- 31/10- Halloween with Hyacinths – Plant hyacinth bulbs to take home, spooly storytelling, free books from the mobile library, pop up café, face painting, magic photos, waxy bookmarks and meet Colonel Richard Tempest. 11-3pm.

Adult Halloween Party- Mercure Bankfield Bradford Hotel BD16 1TU- 31/10 630pm
Spooky fun, fantastic music and great entertainment in support of Bradford Hospitals Charity. Dancing, games, raffle and surprises. Fancy dress and meet new people. £13.70pp 18+ book via Eventbrite.



Bradford Industrial Museum- Ghost in the Machines. 26/10-3/11- Who is haunting the museum with Halloween crafts and trail.

Kirkgate Market Bradford 31/10- Face painting, joke shop with funky masks. 26/10- Carve a pumpkin for free.

Broadway Bradford- Mini Pumpkin Festival 29/10- Sculpt a pumpkin and watch experts create sculptures- Near The Light Cinema.

Ilkley Market- Real Food. The Grove LS29 8HB- 1/11 10-3pm & 6/12 10-3pm – Locally produces fine foods and drink. Fresh bread, cakes, gluten free bakes, condiments, cheeses and crepes. Organic meat, vegetables, herbs and truffles.

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Sendiverse- 26-30 Oct- Creativity and fun week- Free or low cost activities. Booking required. Email info@the-leap.org.uk for more information

SEND Marketplace drop ins

26/10- 930-1230pm- Rainbow Family Hub

30/11-1-3pm – Barkerend Family Hub

21/12-930-1230- Farcliffe Family Hub

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Karmand Community Centre BD3 9EP 01274 669593- Tue & Thur weekly 9-12pm

Support and advice- welfare benefits, housing, immigration, debt, energy costs, dementia support, SEN, new mothers, ESOL classes, respite services, sim cards and food banks.

WOW Community Free Health Check event- 25/11-9-1pm Anand Milan Centre, Lidget Green BD7 2LU check Blood pressure, weight, height, cholesterol and diabetes risk.

6-week Health Programme- 1 to 1 support with diet, nutrition and exercise. The Gateway Centre BD100JR 01274 636602

Get a 12-week free Slimming World Membership- Call 01773 546247 or email your name and address to hello@mylivingwell.co.uk

Pop up energy hub in Bradford Interchange every Wed & Thur 10-4pm until the end of October. Home energy advisors offer free advice and tops on how to save energy and keep your home warm.