

Curriculum Information



Plum Class Autumn 2 2019

Produced by:

Mrs Anne Marie Grimes

www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk

Feel Like Celebrating!

This half term is always such a great time to be in school! Even though the mornings and evenings are dark, we are cheery and positive as we enjoy many seasonal celebrations. Our classroom will be a hive of excitement and busyness as we get underway with all the festivities which will culminate in our Christmas celebrations.

Read Write Inc

Although it's a busy half term, we keep our RWI sessions going right until the end of term as the routine of our phonic work is so important to ensuring excellent progress. Children in Reception will continue to focus on recognising, hearing and forming initial letter sounds. They will also begin to put these together to read and write short words. Our children in Year 1 will continue to practise set 2 sounds and will read and write with these every day. There will also be a really big focus upon letter formation in RWI. I really can't stress enough how important it is to get this right!

Mathematics

We made great progress in our numerical work last half term and I'm really excited to support the children's on-going achievements in the coming weeks. For our children in Reception, we'll ensure that we can all recognise and form numbers up to 10 and we'll develop our 'flexibility' with these numbers by counting forwards, backwards, comparing and finding more and less. All children will work on their ability to add and subtract. For Reception children, this will continue to be very practical but I will be encouraging them to record the calculations that they make using the + and =, through the part, part, whole model and with their own pictorial representations. For children in Year 1, there will be lots of practical work but I'll also be encouraging the children to move on to the use of number lines and mental strategies. The Year 1 children will be learning their number bonds of 10 (all the combinations of numbers that add up to 10... 1+9, 2+8 etc.) and they will greatly benefit from your support with this at home. All children will explore 2D and 3D shape a little closer to Christmas and as well as learning to name the shapes, we'll be exploring their properties.

Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing

As part of our work on celebrations, we'll be using non-fiction texts and the internet to research and find information. We'll also discover that people can be a great source of information and learn how to ask questions effectively to find out things we would like to know. We'll also use a wide range of stories relating to Christmas and light and dark. These will include, The Little Match Girl, Babushka, Can't You Sleep Little Bear, Papa Panov's Special Day. These books will be used as the basis for vocabulary development, reading comprehension skill and writing.

Find out about our week on a Friday by reading our blog on our class webpage!

The World

We'll be finding out that not everyone celebrates in the same way and we'll see that although we can have many things in common with each other, there are also things that make us and our families different and unique. We'll explore difference as something that is positive and to be embraced! Throughout the half term we'll explore the custom of celebrating Bonfire night, Diwali and Christmas. In our scientific work, we'll be exploring day and night and finding out why it gets darker earlier during the winter months. We'll also find out about plants in winter – why do some plants keep their leaves while other don't?

Creative Work

Fireworks are such fun to explore creatively and there will be lots of this straight after the holiday. We'll be making diva lamps and rangoli patterns as we explore Diwali. We'll look at the work of the artist Kandinsky as one of the first Impressionist painters. We'll discover that he didn't just paint what he saw but also what he felt. We'll have the chance to investigate the different moods that colour can create and have time to mix colours. We'll also paint by listening to music and talking about mood and feelings. As we enter December, the glitter will be out. Need I say more!

There will be singing and rhyming on a daily basis as well as much opportunity for dancing, imaginative role play and small world play.

We'll also spend time putting together a Nativity play for you all to enjoy.

The Physical Stuff

Even though the weather is getting colder, we'll be out as much as possible using our fabulous outdoor environment to enhance our curriculum. We'll be building bonfires and making rangolis with natural materials as well as strengthening our arm muscles on our adventure playground – this really helps build our stamina for writing! As well as firework dancing, we'll be exploring balancing and jumping in gymnastic work and we'll use a range of climbing apparatus as we do this.

During this half term, in everything we do, we will be teaching the essential personal, social and emotional skills needed to keep our classroom a happy and thriving place to spend our days.

Home Learning

Year 1: Each week, in addition to your child's reading and key word book, I'll send home a short maths task. Wherever possible I shall make this a practical activity that has lots of opportunity for discussion and application of key maths vocabulary.

Reception: Children's home learning books will be sent home on a Friday. They will detail some of the things that we have done during the week that you might like to follow up at the weekend. It would be great if you and your child could add pictures, little bits of writing (it's fine for an adult to scribe) and occasional photographs relating to the activities you complete. These books will also be the stimulus for discussion work between children as they show each other the things that they have been doing. You don't have to do loads and I fully appreciate that some weekends are very busy! I will also send home details of the letters and sounds that your child has been learning so that you can reinforce recognition and formation. We now all have a reading and key word book!

Please put all home learning books in the trays outside the classroom by Wednesday morning.

We would be extremely grateful for donations of:

- Yoghurt pots, junk modelling boxes, bottle tops, corks and anything shiny!

Things to remember every day: Water bottles and book bags in school!

Year 1s: Joggers, sweatshirt and trainers for football on Mondays

With kind regards, **Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes**



