

Curriculum Information



Plum Autumn 1 2019

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All Aboard, Let's Go!

Welcome to the first Plum Class newsletter of the year. I'm happy to report that all the children are settling well into their new class and we are enjoying working and playing together. I hope that you find the information detailed in this letter a useful guide to our day in school. Please don't hesitate to pop in for a chat if you require any further clarification.

Read Write Inc Phonics Programme

All children in Plum will begin Read Write Inc (RWI) on Monday 9th September. For our Y1s this means a continuation of progress made last year with consolidation of set 1 and 2 sounds and a greater emphasis on reading and writing sentences. For our Reception children, we begin the exciting journey of learning and using the letter sounds that will unlock the door to reading and writing. Please support your child as much as you can by asking about the letter sounds they have been learning and by practising these at home regularly. You will receive information each week about the letter sounds we have learnt. For RWI, our Plum Class children are placed in small groups and your child's group leader will be Mrs Grimes, Mrs Snowdon or Mrs Vicky.

Mathematics

This half term, we shall be ensuring that everyone in Plum Class has a solid understanding of numbers to 10. As well as counting forwards and backwards, ordering, adding, reading and writing digits, we'll be comparing numbers by using clear mathematical language such as more, greater, less, fewer and equal to. Children will learn to group objects according to a given criteria or a criteria they have set themselves. Much time will be devoted to ensuring that children can explain the criteria that they have used. The ability to explain process starts in Early Years and runs right through the rest of a child's mathematical education! As we get closer to half term, we will begin some work on addition and subtraction. This will be very practical and will ensure that the children understand the process rather than just solving calculations!

Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing

Our topic work regarding modes of transport old and new will provide us with lots of stimulation to speak, listen, read and write. Stories such as *The Train Ride*, *Mr Gumpy's Day Out* and *Lost and Found* will feed our imagination as we re-tell stories, imagine new ones and write and illustrate our own adventures. Information texts such as *Brilliant Boats* and *On the Train, Shine a Light* will offer us an opportunity to learn super facts that we can share in many ways.

Find out about our week on a Friday by reading our blog on our class webpage!
Don't forget you can see our plan for this half term's learning on a class webpage!

The World

To help us get to know each other, we'll begin by finding out about the things that make us unique and the things that we have in common with others. We'll explore the 'growing journey' that we've been on to arrive in Reception or Year 1!

In addition to this, we'll explore old and new ways to travel, with a particular emphasis upon rail travel and where this all began with George Stephenson's Rocket. We'll find out about the old railway station in Alnwick (Barter Books) and about the restoration of the Aln Railway Line. Year 1s will visit the Aln Valley Railway – more information to follow! As we explore modes of transport, we'll observe the materials that are used to build them and we'll look in our local environment to see examples of these materials used for different purposes.

In addition, we'll be keeping our eyes peeled for seasonal changes as autumn takes hold. We'll be looking for autumn treasures on our school field but please bring in exciting finds that you come across when you are out and about. We'll be finding out about harvest time and we'll look forward to sharing this with you at our Harvest Festival on 16th October.

Creative Work

Singing is a daily occurrence in Plum Class and we'll be learning lots of new transport and autumn themed songs as well as enjoying old favourites! There will be opportunities for painting and collaging, particularly as we explore autumn and we'll be making some very careful and detailed pictures of trains and other modes of transport. Of course, there will be plenty of creative materials out every day as part of our continuous provision and children will be free to follow their own interests and ideas.

The Physical Stuff

Through racing and chasing games, gardening and dance we will hone our gross motor skills. Scissor work, collaging with small seeds and pulses, threading activities and model making will help to ensure that our fine motor skills get a bit of a work out too.

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 book and key word book, I'll send home a short maths task. Wherever possible I shall make this a practical activity that has opportunity for discussion and application of key maths vocabulary.

Reception: Children will have a home learning book which will be sent home on a Friday. It 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 letter sounds that your child has been learning so that you can reinforce recognition and formation. Closer to half term we will begin to send home reading books. More information will follow!

Important Days

Monday or Tuesday: Home learning books back to school

Every day: Water bottles and book bags in school, sun hat if the weather looks like it might be warm, long hair tied back.

Please get in touch if you need any more information about any of the above.

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

