

# Curriculum Information



## Plum Class Spring 1 2020

Produced by:  
Mrs Anne Marie Grimes  
[www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk)

### Wintertime and Trash to Treasure!

Firstly, a very happy new year to all Plum Class families! Mrs Vicky, Shelia and I would like to extend our thanks to you all for your support throughout last term and for your kind wishes, cards and gifts at Christmas. We are raring to get going again and look forward to some super learning and lots of fun throughout the spring term!

#### **Read Write Inc**

Assessments at the end of the autumn term showed fabulous progress and this is testament to our hard working group leaders and children and to you for your continued support at home.

Read Write Inc will continue on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings throughout the term.

**For Y1 children**, this will involve reading ever more challenging books. The children have a new book each week and spend a lot of focused time reading with their reading partner and group leader. Furthermore, a lot of time will be spent consolidating set two sounds by reading and writing them in words. In addition, children will learn set 3 sounds. This is the final group of sounds that the children need to know. We actively encourage the children to be 'sound spotters', looking for set 2 and 3 sounds in the books they read. Please encourage this as you read at home too. You will receive sound packs home early in the term that will help you support your child.

**For Reception children**, we have now learnt all of our Set 1 sounds and we are going to focus on using these sounds to read short ditties containing green and red words. We will also begin to write short phrases, making sure that we form our letters correctly and leave finger spaces. I'll send the ditties that the children read home each week so that your child can show off his/her reading skills by reading them fluently to you. You may also like to encourage your child to write short sentences that relate to the ditty.

#### **Mathematics**

In our mathematical work, we will build upon our number knowledge by counting, recognising, comparing and ordering numbers up to 20. The children will learn that teen numbers are made with ten and some ones. They will have plenty of opportunity to explore this concept using numicon, tens rods, unit cubes and ten frames. All of these resources help the children to gain a deep and concrete understanding of the place value of these numbers. Central to our work with these numbers will be encouragement to explain the number work we are involved in. We'll then revisit addition and subtraction. The children will make and solve calculations and will also solve missing numbers problems. Not only will we add and subtract with fingers and practical equipment, we'll also use number lines to count on or back.

#### **Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing**

There are so many fabulous winter related stories which will inspire us to read and write over the half term. Just to name a few, we'll enjoy stories such as Penguin and the Pinecone, Jack Frost, The Magic Sky, One Snowy Night and Under the Snow.

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

### **The World**

We will take our inspiration from the season of winter and find out about winter in our local environment. We will investigate the birds that visit our school grounds in winter and how we can help them in bad weather and also learn about other wildlife that may be living around us. We will also use our school grounds to engage in some early map making and reading work. The children will learn to give and follow directions as they do this. We will look at maps together and we'll explore our local environment using Google Maps. Directions will also play a part in our computing work as we explore programmable toys. In addition to this, we'll explore the natural and man-made materials which we use most frequently. We'll investigate the properties of these materials and make decisions about the most appropriate materials for different purposes. As we find out about materials, we'll take the opportunity to discuss environmental issues and the importance of recycling and reusing.

### **Creative and Imaginative Work**

We'll be singing lots of winter related songs and learning and reciting rhymes.

In addition, we'll use the winter weather as inspiration for lots of art work using cold colours and lots of paint, collage materials and other mark marking resources.

There will be opportunity for lots of imaginative play in our bird centre and our outdoor walk in workshop will provide a space for upcycling and creating with junk model materials.

### **The Physical Stuff**

We will try to get out onto the field (with our wellies!) at least once a week to follow treasure hunts, look for birds, and make bird hides and spot signs of winter. Our indoor PE will be gymnastics and for Year 1 children, these sessions will be led by Sam Dronsfield. We will also focus upon doing up zips on our coats and putting on wellies and outdoor gear.

### **Home Learning**

**Many thanks to all for your support with home learning. Please remember to put your child's book in the correct box by Wednesday morning as this saves us the time and bother of going hunting for books in book bags!**

**Year 1:** Your child will continue to have a reading book and key words to work on at home. It is also helpful if you can have a go at spelling some of the key words in your child's book. In addition to this, I will continue to send a maths task home each week which reinforces the skills we've been learning in the classroom. It's really helpful if you write a short comment to let me know how your child has got on.

**Reception:** Children will continue with their home learning books. It's really lovely to see how our classroom learning can be extended at home and I urge you to try to add something into this book each week. Children who make contributions to their home learning books really enjoy sharing their work with the rest of the class and it's an excellent opportunity to progress communication skills by explaining and describing work. You don't have to do loads and I fully appreciate that some weekends are very busy. Your child will continue to bring home reading and key word books. Please just have a word if you feel that you need more reading material on a weekly basis.

***We would be extremely grateful for donations of:***

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

### **Important Days**

**By Wednesday:** Home learning books back to school

**Thursday:** PE and reading

**Every day:** Water bottles, book bags, long hair tied back and hats and scarves for chilly playtimes!

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

