



Plum Class News

Summer 1

Firstly, a big welcome back to our final term in Reception. This term will hopefully bring brighter, sunnier weather with lots of opportunities for outdoor play and learning. We would like to thank you all for your fantastic support of our Early Years Colour Run Tiddly Triathlon- we have worked together to raise lots of money to facilitate changes to areas of our EYFS outdoor environments so that we are able to enhance all of the children's learning. We greatly appreciate your support!!

This term we will be learning about: **'Growing in Our Garden and Minibeasts and their habitats'**. The children will be encouraged to explore nature, new life and changes through the growth of plants, growing produce and the animals living in our immediate surroundings.

Read, Write, Inc

In RWI children are making wonderful progress - we are very proud of them all, however, we are finding that some children are finding the pace of RWI difficult. If you do feel that your child is demonstrating any signs of worry, please let us know so that we are able to support them further. Learning to read and write is exciting but it can also be a tricky and tiring process for children.

The groups for this term are as follows:

Group A, B and C - Miss Freeman

Ditty Group - Mrs Horne-Smith **Mon-Weds** and Mrs Tate **Thursday and Friday** supported by Mrs Pickard

Red Group - Mrs Johnson

Green Group - Mrs Hammond

Key Vocabulary

Our children will continue to learn new vocabulary daily across all subjects. We will share some of this vocabulary weekly via our class blog so please help us to consolidate the understanding and the use of these words at home to ensure our children 'learn more, remember more'.

Mathematics

This half term we will be consolidating our knowledge of shapes, moving on to 3D shapes and their properties. We will also introduce the children to number bonds to 10, whilst consolidating our understanding of learnt bonds to 5 and extending the children's knowledge on patterns. We will then begin developing our number knowledge from 10-20 and beyond.

We will practice counting, ordering numbers, comparing numbers, representing numbers and we will be learning about how numbers 11 and beyond are made up (tens and ones). We will then move onto addition, subtraction and the importance of number stories as we develop our confidence creating our own within our independent play.

Our mastering number sessions this term will focus around the comparison of quantities where children will be subitising and then representing numbers such as representing 8 as '5 and 3 more' in our composition of number sessions.

The children's ability to 'reason' will be developed throughout all of their mathematical work as they are encouraged to explain how they have reached solutions to problems.

The World

This term we will be continuing to explore Spring changes, observing how the plants in our environment grow and how the animals in our environment help in this process. We will specifically be exploring the lifecycle of a sunflower and minibeasts within their natural habitats, with an emphasis on recapping our prior nursery learning on the lifecycle of a butterfly, by caring for our own class caterpillars. These topics are all about investigation and we will be able to use simple classification to compare and identify the differences between minibeasts, looking at their features and investigating their role in the ecosystem; with particular focus on the bumblebee concerning growing flowers and the food we eat. We will be using our well-resourced and fabulous outdoor learning environment to explore, plant, discover and create. We look forward to a visit from a bee keeper!!

Our RE this half term will be based around a multi faith unit in which the children will explore which stories are special and why and what can they learn from stories. **We will also be planning to celebrate the Coronation with a 'red, white and blue day' - further details to be announced!**

Creative Work

In our creative work, we will be refining our drawing skills that we have been developing over the year in Drawing Club as we produce detailed drawings/sketches of plants and their parts, minibeasts and our focus text characters. We will be producing our own 3D representation of the lifecycle of a sunflower, as well as joining in with the whole-school Alnwick in Bloom competition, creating artwork in the style of the famous artist Vincent Van Gogh's painting 'Sunflowers'. With links to the Coronation, we will be designing crowns and baking scones for our class Coronation party.

As part of our music delivery, we will be following Charanga to listen to and appraise a range of Funk style music. We will be using our voices to sing and begin to learn about different percussion instruments. We will also be revisiting some of our favourite nursery rhymes.

The Physical Stuff

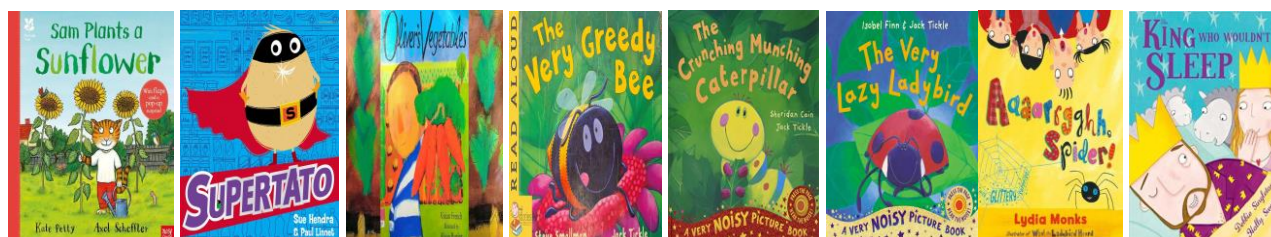
This half term the children will be planting, digging, scraping up leaves and using these opportunities to help keep our outside environments tidy as well as exploring signs of new life within the school grounds.

Plum Class will continue to take part in teacher led PE sessions on a Wednesday.

PE this term will focus on developing core strength and consolidating skills through activities using a range of gross motor skills in dance and movement activities.

Finally, this term we will be checking that the children's fine motor skills are more controlled. Correcting improper pencil grip and letter formation is vital so that correct habits are ingrained. We will continue to work on handwriting daily in our RWInc sessions.

Our core texts



Sam Plants a Sunflower, Supertato, Oliver's Vegetables, The Very greedy Bee, The Crunching Munching Caterpillar, the Very Lazy Ladybird, Aaaargghh Spider!, The King Who Wouldn't Sleep

Please help to consolidate your child's understanding of these texts by reading these at home or by accessing them via Youtube stories.

We will also be sharing lots of other stories and non-fiction about minibeasts, spring and growing throughout this half term

Weekly Learning Tasks:

- **Reading**- please encourage your child to read their reading book as much as possible as well as enjoying lots of stories with your child to stimulate their curiosity and enthusiasm
- **Maths**-We encourage you to please download the free Whiterose 1-minute maths app. There are some fantastic games on here to begin to develop your child's fluency with number. In reception, the Early Learning Goal expectation is not for children to record maths, but more to be able to understand the patterns within number, fluency and reasoning

Other ways of helping your child:

- Visiting the library to look for books to support our topic (life cycles, animals and living things, minibeasts)
- Using the Internet to research our topic
- Discussing what has been taught at school (**you can read plum class blog each week to find out about what we have learnt during the week**)

Reminders:

- Now that the weather is warming up, please ensure that your child has a sun hat and sun cream to keep in their bag everyday
- Please bring a named water bottle every day containing **ONLY** water
- Just a reminder that Swansfield Park remains a **NUT FREE SCHOOL** and we would like to gently remind parents (**particularly those bringing in packed lunches**) that products **containing nuts/traces of nuts** (e.g. peanut butter/chocolate spread) **are not allowed**.
- Please arrive promptly for 8.35am so we can start our day. If you are running late, please drop your child at the main entrance. Equally, collection is 3.00pm -our staff are happy to wait for the occasional late pick up but please remember many of our staff do have our own children to collect/clubs/meetings to attend. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Remember we are always here if you have any concerns or questions. You can contact me via email or we can arrange a phone conversation if you would prefer.

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