

## **Curriculum Information**

### **Plum Class- Autumn 2 2021**

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Wow! Where did that first half term go? I welcome you back to yet another busy, enjoyable half term. We are still extremely proud of how well all the children are doing and how they have come together as a class, working well with each other, being considerate of each other and taking the time to support one another. As we push through this half term the pace does not let up, and we also have to somehow squeeze in some Christmas festivities too!

#### **Read, Write, Inc**

Our Reception friends have continued to make great progress with learning the Set 1 Read, Write Inc sounds. As you have discovered, this is the beginning of an exciting journey of learning and using letter sounds that unlock the door to reading and writing. We can't thank you enough for supporting your child at home, regular practise at home makes such a difference. We will continue to send home the letters and sounds that your child has been learning so that you can reinforce recognition and formation. When you practice at home please make emphasis on correct letter formation.

Our Year 1 friends have also been super busy! This half term has been a big mix of practicing and refining important skills. In order for us to move on with reading and writing, the children have to be secure with the basics. During this half term, our RWI sessions were about recapping our set 1 letter sounds as well as focusing on correct tripod grip whilst we write some cvc and ccvc words. We also needed some time to practice reading green and red words with fluency. As the weeks progressed, we have been practicing holding simple sentences in our head and writing them down. Lots of us still find it tricky to hold sentences in our head. The children still look for adult support for which word comes next. We will be continuing to practice this daily and slowly we will be moving on to reading and writing set 2 sounds with growing independence. Mrs Hammond and Mrs Snowdon are doing a fantastic job with this so please keep practicing reading red words and green words. Please have a go at writing simple sentences with a full stop at the end (e.g. A cat sat on a mat.).

#### **Mathematics**

This half term, we shall be ensuring that our Reception friends have a solid understanding of numbers to 5. 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, less, fewer, most and least. In addition to this, we'll be learning 2d and 3d shape names, investigating the properties of these shapes and looking for them in the environment that surrounds us at school. We have already been applying our shape knowledge this week as we made our rockets and fireworks! Towards the end of the term our Christmas topic will provide us with lots of opportunity to order and compare size (parcels and letters in our Christmas themed role play area).

In Year 1, we have been busy practicing and recapping lots of important mathematical skills, particularly explaining and reasoning. For this reason, we have not been able to move on as quickly as we hoped but it is extremely important that all children are achieving before we move on. This half term we will introduce the signs  $<$   $>$  and  $=$  to compare objects and numbers. We will also spend lots of time ordering numbers and looking closely at the number line. Lots of us are really struggling with our teen numbers so we will have lots of emphasis on numbers 10-20. We will then move on to addition and subtraction and number bonds to 10.

#### **Topic Work**

We have already begun our first mini topic, 'bonfire night,' by creating fantastic firework pictures which are hanging proudly in our classroom. Our Reception friends have been retelling the story of the Gunpowder plot and our Year 1 friends have been busy writing some simple sentences about Bonfire night. As always, in year 1, we use our topic work as a way to engage with writing!

Next week we move onto our second mini topic and start to gain a little understanding of Remembrance Day and the reason why we wear poppies.

Within this half term Reception will begin to learn more about hibernating animals and we will use our fabulous outdoor environment as a stimulus for our learning. Year 1 will be learning more about Plants. Again, we will use our lovely outdoor area as a stimulus.

Soon we will begin learning about the festival Diwali and Hanukkah We will have lots of fun learning about these fantastic festivals!

Towards the end of this half term we will be celebrating Christmas. Making Christmas cards, retelling Christmas stories and using ICT programmes to create Christmas themed pictures - these are just some of the exciting things we have planned!

### **Creative Work**

Singing is a daily occurrence in Plum class and we'll be learning lots of new topic themed songs as well as enjoying old favourites! There will be opportunities for painting and collaging, particularly as we explore night and day, Kandinsky and Christmas and we'll be creating some very careful and detailed pictures. 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 gardening, dance and our weekly P.E sessions, we will build upon our vital gross motor skills. Scissor work, collaging, threading activities, model making will help to ensure that our fine motor skills get a bit of a work out too. Please continue to remember to send children dressed in their PE kits on Fridays.

- A reminder that we now have **a formal PE kit** and this consists of a white t shirt (with school logo), purple shorts or PLAIN black leggings/joggers and PLAIN black (ideally velcro) trainers. Lots of children have lace up colourful shoes. Laces are extremely tricky for young children and we try to encourage independence as much as possible. Please bare this in mind when buying new shoes.

**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.**

### **Learning Journals- Reception children only! Please note that YR 1 children no longer have learning journals as they have reached the end of their EYFS journey.**

I hope you are still managing to access your child's online learning journal via the EYFS parent app. If you have forgotten how to access or use the app please don't hesitate to ask for support.

As children in Reception are progressing at a quick rate and record lots in their own work books, please bare in mind that your child's learning journal will only consist of "wow" moments. We do not document every aspect of their learning. Only wow or independent work.

### **Additional information/Reminders:**

- We hope that after a few teething issues you are now enjoying using **Bug Club** and **Numbots** with your children. Please continue to use these platforms regularly.
- You will be pleased to know that we can now send reading books and reading records home again. Please read with your child regularly and complete their reading record to let us know how they are managing at home. We are VERY excited to have new books to replace the Biff, Chip and Kipper stories. Please return the books and reading records each week so we can give you a new book. Reception children will also begin reading books this half term.
- As the weather is beginning to turn cold, could you please ensure that your child has a coat, hat, scarf and preferably a pair of mittens rather than gloves. It is incredibly helpful to us and we strongly advise that **all items of clothing and shoes are clearly named.**
- **Find out about our week on a Friday by reading our blog on Plum class webpage!**

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

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*Plum Class Teacher*