



Plum Class News - Autumn 2

Wow! Where did that first half term go? We welcome you back to yet another busy, but 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. They are working well with each other, being considerate of each other and taking the time to support one another. Our children have definitely settled perfectly into Plum class life at Swansfield Park Primary. As we push through this half term the pace does not let up, with lots of exciting and challenging activities for everyone to enjoy, as well as festive fun and lots of Christmas based learning.

Read, Write, Inc

Last half term we made great progress learning the Set 1 Read, Write Inc sounds. As this is only the beginning of our journey, we will continue to practise recognising and blending the set 1 sounds we have learnt. We can't thank you enough for supporting your child at home. Regular practise at home makes such a difference! Where appropriate, we will continue to send home the sounds that your child has been revisiting so that you can reinforce recognition and correct letter formation. We do hope that you are finding the 'RWI sound videos' useful and that they are a good source of guidance for how your child is learning in school. This half term we will be having a big focus on fluency of sound recognition and blending. Lots of us are beginning to blend cvc (consonant, vowel, consonant) words (e.g. dog, hat) which is great! Not everyone is at this stage and that is okay. Everyone's journey is different and each child will continue to receive the level of support they require to ensure good progress. Very soon we will begin to send home blending books so that you can support reading at home too. Your child will also choose a class library book so that you can continue to encourage their love of reading at home. If you have any questions about your child's phonics journey, please don't hesitate to ask.

Mathematics

This half term, we shall be ensuring that everyone in Plum class has a solid understanding of numbers to 5. The Numberblocks help us with our children's understanding of numbers and will continue to do so this half term. 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. 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 post office area).

The World

We have already begun our first mini topic; 'festivals and celebrations' by looking at the customs and traditions involved during Bonfire Night. It is safe to say lots of us love fireworks! To help us understand why we have fireworks, we went back in time to learn about the story of "The Gunpowder Plot". We thought carefully about who was in the wrong, King James or Guy Fawkes? I'll let you decide! Next week we move onto our second mini topic to start to gain a little understanding of Remembrance Day and the reason why we wear poppies as well as considering the concept of Peace. This will lead us to thinking about and how we can create a peaceful environment at school as we explore anti-bullying the following week. Within this half term we will also learn about the festival of lights; Diwali and then begin to understand the concept of day and night (light and dark) by sequencing the activities that occur during these times as well as carrying out some interesting experiments.

Towards the end of this half term we will be exploring the Christian celebration of Christmas. Children will explore why Christmas is special for Christians as they find out about The Nativity story and the figures in it. They will be retelling The Nativity through art and role play and learning some Christmas carols. We will also have fun creating and making! These are just some of the exciting things we planned!

Key Vocabulary

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

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! Our children will be re-familiarising themselves with nursery rhymes and action songs and practise keeping the beat, finding the pulse and exploring rhythms of songs. They will also get the opportunity to perform in small groups if they choose to! There will be opportunities for painting and collaging, particularly as we explore Christmas. 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 with sequins and small cut papers, threading activities, model making and using our 'pinchy fingers' 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 Thursdays for their weekly teacher led PE session. Children must wear black joggers or black leggings, a white t shirt (with or without the school logo), plain black or white socks and black trainers (no laces please). A P.E hoody is optional. School jumpers and school cardigans can be worn.**

As well as our Thursday PE sessions, Plum class will take part in **weekly NUF coaching sessions** on Tuesday afternoon. Please send your child into school with their PE kit every Tuesday.

Please wear PE kit on Tuesday and Thursday

Additional information

Thank you very much to everyone that shared with us some of the wonderful things you have been getting up to over the half term holiday - please continue to upload any photos of your child's home learning on their journal as it builds up a strong profile of their progress.

Children will be bringing home some reading material to share with you at home. Please do take the time to read with your child and enjoy the special journey that your child is embarking on- a whole new world is opening up in their literary development and we ask that we work as a team to ensure your child makes progress in their reading journey. Please record in your child's reading record when you have heard them read and how they managed.

Reminders: 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.**

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.

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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