

# Curriculum Information



**Autumn Term 2017**

**Produced by:  
Mrs Anne Marie Grimes**

**[www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk)**



## *All Aboard, Let's Go!*

Welcome to the first Plum Class newsletter. 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**

All children in Plum have now begun Read Write Inc (RWI) sessions. For our Y1s this means a continuation of progress made last year with new letter sounds to learn and a greater emphasis on reading and writing. 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 either Mrs Young, Mrs Crowe, Mrs Vicky or Mrs Grimes.

### **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, less, fewer, most and least. For children who master these skills within 10, we'll progress to larger numbers. 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 will then apply our shape knowledge as we make model trains later in the half term. Autumn and harvest produce will provide us with lots of opportunity to order and compare size.

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

Our topic work regarding modes of transport old and new will provide us with lots of stimulus 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!**

### **The World**

We'll explore ways to travel old and new 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. 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 will 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 **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 lots of 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 letters and 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 about this will follow.

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

- Yoghurt pots and junk modelling boxes
- Bottle tops and corks

### **Important Days**

**Monday or Tuesday:** Home learning books back to school

**Thursday:** PE and reading for Year 1

**Every day:** Water bottles and book bags in school!

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

With kind regards,

**Mrs Anne Marie Grimes**

