



Plum Class News

Spring 1 2017

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring term! Firstly, I hope you all have had a wonderful Christmas and well deserved break. Next week in Plum Class we will begin our new topic 'Winter.' We will be exploring everything cold and wintry, if the snow does fall, we will take this opportunity to have some fun, but we don't want too much, as we have lots of learning to do during this term!

Read, Write, Inc.

RWI sessions will continue for all children in Plum Class. They are all making good progress. Most children have nearly learnt all the set 1 sounds. We have started blending these sounds together to make words. It is truly wonderful to watch the children's faces as they realise that they can read and write! So please do continue to reinforce all of the sounds taught, at home.

Literacy

- Spell words containing letter sounds taught
- Form lower case letters correctly

We will share a selection of wintry themed stories. As well as using our phonic knowledge to decode, we will think about what might happen next and talk about different characters we meet within the story. For the writing element we will focus upon sounding out words, writing them and towards the end of Spring 1 writing very basic sentences.

Mathematics

- Count up to (and beyond if able) 20 forwards and backwards in 1s starting from any number
- Read and write numerals up to 10 and then to 20)
- Given a number, identify 1 more and less
- Use the language of more or less to compare numbers (using digits, quantities, objects, pictures)
- Add with 1 digit numbers (introduce 1 digit to a 2 digit if able)
- To name common 2D shapes
- Identify and create patterns with objects and shapes

During our number sessions we will continue recognising numbers 1-20, especially those tricky teen numbers. We will also be practicing how to form these numbers correctly.

Reading

All children now have reading books, and are doing really well generating ideas and discussing the stories in small groups. Some children have begun their reading journey and are now on stories with simple sentences. By the end of Spring 1 I hope for most children in Plum Class to be reading word books. In addition to the reading book, I will start some children with a 'book of high frequency words.' These words are key words which your child, simply, 'just needs to know!' Please practise these words at home with your child, by either doing them as flashcards, or placing them round the house and playing a game of 'find the word.' I will add new words to the book as the child learns the previous ones.

Please make sure your child's reading book, record book and word book are in their book bags everyday, so that myself and Mrs Crowe can hear the children read or practise words, whenever we have a minute to spare. It is equally important to write a brief comment into your child's reading record book, so we can keep note of how your child is getting on at home.

Outside Environment

We go outside in all weathers and we have the appropriate suits for the children to wear, although a spare set of clothes is always appreciated (in case they do get wet or muddy). As the weather is very cold now, 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 if **all clothing and shoes are named** in order to ensure that they go home with the correct child at the end of the day!

Creative Work

We will keep to our focal theme during our creative work (Winter.) We will use cold colours, to create winter scene pictures and use selective wintery images and materials to make collages.

I hope to see drawings of domestic birds and snowflakes, during the winter time, with the help of some photographs as the stimuli.

Communication and Language

We will build upon our communication skills through many discussions around our focal theme. Through learning about domestic birds, the changes through the seasons, melting and freezing, and not forgetting the many winter based stories we will read and write about.

There will be more opportunities for our vocabulary to expand through learning about the Chinese New Year.

Important Dates

Every Friday - We are beginning our 'p.e' lessons Friday mornings. It is essential that your child has a named p.e kit in school, at all times.

Wed 1st Feb 11.50 - Plum Class Family Lunch. Please make sure you book your lunch in advance, we can not accept anyone who turns up for lunch on the day.

Friday 17th Feb — School closes for half term.

Monday 27th Feb — School re opens.

Wednesday 1st March — Parent Consultation (1pm—7pm)

Thursday 2nd March — World Book Day.

Thursday 23rd March at 2.30 — Plum Class Assembly

Friday 24th March — Comic Relief

Friday 7th April — School closes for Easter Holidays.

The World

We have already begun to explore signs of Winter, and we have learnt that the month 'January is in the season Winter.' From this we will be investigating winter in our own country, by keeping a weather and temperature chart. We will also learn about common birds in winter, and how they survive during the season. We will be making them some tasty food too, to give them a little hand during the cold months.

We will also be exploring the concept of freezing and melting. The children will create experiments to help understand temperatures, and what materials are most suitable for keeping things warm and dry (waterproof).

The Physical Stuff

We are already very good at getting out into the outdoor learning environment, everyday. However this half term we aim to explore the school field, and look for birds and spot signs of winter.

Our inside p.e lessons will focus upon the children moving in different ways (twirling like leaves.)

We also aim for the children to become more independent when getting changed for p.e and for the outdoors.

Reminders and Requests

Water Bottles

Some children still do not have a water bottle in school. Please can I ask you to bring in a named water bottle every day for your child, as most children do get thirsty throughout the day.

Milk

For any children who still would like milk at snack time, please can you return the form as soon as possible. This can be placed in Plum Class Tin, which will make its way to the office. The children are provided with a piece of fruit and have access to drinking water, in addition to milk.

Recycled Materials

We regularly provide the children with the opportunity to do junk modelling and collage making. Can you please save any small boxes, Heinz ketchup bottles (squeeze tubes only please), egg cartons, kitchen roll tubes and wrapping paper tubes so that we can remain stocked up.

Remember, the door is always open if you have any questions or worries, please just pop in, or email me on my new email address:

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Bethany Whitlow
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