



## Plum Class News- Summer 2

Firstly, a big welcome back to our final half term in Reception! We do hope you've had a lovely break and have enjoyed some of the sunshine with your fabulous children. It's hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of the school year! Wow - now there's a scary thought! This is the 'final push' for the children to consolidate their learning and apply the skills they have learnt independently in their work, before they transition into Year 1.

This half term is going to be a fun one, packed full of lovely activities of which I hope the children will remember fondly. How quickly has our time in Reception gone!?

### Clothing and Sunscreen

Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed each day, especially with the changeable weather. We will be spending a lot of our time outside this half term so **children will still need jumpers or cardigans as well as named sunhats and sun cream**. Please can we ask that you apply sun cream before school and send a small named bottle into school for your child to apply themselves on particularly hot days as well as a named bottle of water. Here's hoping for some glorious weather!

### Read, Write, Inc

Children will continue to learn in their Read, Write, Inc groups this half term, which are pitched at each child's phonic level. This half term will be about supporting your child to be confident, fluent and speedy readers as well as confident and independent writers. As we approach year one, we want the children to feel confident with recognising all of set one sounds (and set two sounds if possible) and be able to write a simple sentence which can be read by others.

Reading books will continue to be sent home and are linked to your child's reading level. Ditty group children will continue to take their ditty worksheet home, which they have focussed on during the week in order to consolidate reading skills and an ability 'to hold a sentence'.

### Mathematics

This half term we will spend lots of time consolidating our learning from the year. We aim to make sure that the children leave Reception with a solid understanding of numbers to 5 and 10. Including touch counting, subitizing, comparing numbers, number composition, number order and number bonds (e.g.  $3+2=5$ ). As always, the activities the children will do will be hands on, practical, fun and engaging.

As well as this, the children will begin thinking about '10 and beyond'. Children will be supported as they work past '10' and identify numbers to 20 and higher. They will use ten frames, numicon number shapes, towers of cubes, rekenreks, to see that numbers are composed of full tens and part of the next ten. The children will spend time building and representing numbers to 20 and they will consider the counting pattern of numbers 11-19.

As we progress through the half term, the children will explore the concept of adding more and taking away. They will use real objects to see that a quantity of a group can be changed by adding or taking away. They will use the "first, now, then" structure to explore mathematical stories in meaningful contexts.

### Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing

This half term we will begin our topic focus by comparing habitats including 'woodland habitats' and 'seashore habitats'. We will also compare these habitats to ones we have learnt about earlier this year- Antarctic/Antarctica, Africa and out in the garden. Later in the half term, we will begin to learn more about 'castles'. This topic will involve looking at local castles with particular emphasis on Alnwick Castle. We will also re visit prior learning surrounding maps and we will look at various landmarks in Alnwick, including the castle and gardens. The children will have further practise at drawing information from a simple map.

We will also be learning about the history of castles, the role of people in a castle and then we will enjoy listening to lots of exciting stories centred around castles, knights and dragons.

These topics will offer lots of scope for research, reading, discussing, finding out and creating. We will enjoy using non-fiction texts and the internet to find information to answer questions around castles and habitats.

**Our core texts to inspire our learning include...**



**Look what I found in the woods, Into the forest, On the Seashore, In the castle, The Castle The King Built, and Rose Learns about Transition.**

### **The World and Creative Work**

Every day children will have many opportunities to explore the world around them, the ever-changing seasons and to notice and comment on changes. As well as this, our RE topic this half term is 'What places are special and why?' and is a multifaith unit. Children will be considering 'what makes a place special?', 'Where do you feel safe? Why?', 'Where do you feel happy? Why?', 'Where is special to me?' 'Where is a special place for believers to go?' Children will begin to recognise that some religious people have places which have special meaning for them. They will also become confident in expressing a personal response to the natural world.

In Drawing club, children will be doodling and sketching after being inspired by a story. They will spend time engaging in creative writing and they will have fun writing their own speech bubbles, captions, labels and sentences. They will discuss their masterpieces based on Zog, How to catch a dragon, Pete the cat and the treasure map, The selfish shellfish and beginning with Little Red Riding Hood. It is amazing to see the progression made in the children's drawings since September!

### **Diary Dates**

**Roll up day Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

**Sports Day Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

**Last day of term Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

### **Additional information**

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. As the transition into Year 1 is becoming ever closer, we ask for your help with encouraging independence in your children with everyday tasks such as putting their own coats on, doing their own zips etc.

**Don't forget- we have the weekly blog on the Plum Class page which is updated weekly to tell you about what learning is happening in Plum class.**

There will be no parent consultations this half term as your child will receive an end of year report. However, as always, if there are is anything you wish to discuss, please feel free to get in touch as we are always happy to help and work together to ensure the happiness and progress of your children.

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