

Curriculum Information



Plum Class Summer 2018

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Spring into Summer and Wonderful Woodlands!

Welcome back to everyone after a rather wet Easter holiday. I do hope that you managed to enjoy the sunshine on the odd occasion that it showed its face! Let's hope for some better weather over the next few weeks so that we can get our doors open and enjoy some great learning in the open air as we explore the season of spring. You may have noticed a new face in our classroom over the last few weeks; Miss Huntley is a final placement student teacher who will be working with us until mid June. As a student teacher, Miss Huntley is treated as a member of staff so please feel free to approach her to discuss matters relating to your child as you would with either Mrs Vicky or me.

Our Spring into Summer and Woodland work will be our final topic in Plum Class so this will be the last newsletter that I write. It's very hard to believe that we've begun the final term in what has seemed like a very fast school year. However, there are many exciting and fun opportunities for the children before their time in Plum comes to an end.

Read Write Inc

For Y1 children, we will keep going over all of the tricky sounds that we have learnt so that they just roll off the tongue as we spot them in our reading and use them in our writing. All Y1 children will take the national phonic check in June. Although this is a test, it is done in a very gentle and informal way and previous years have shown that children actually enjoy coming out of the classroom with me to do this together! I will be able to tell you how your child has got on with the check before the end of the school year.

Reception children have now learnt Set 2 sounds. It would be super if you could keep practising these at home. This week the children have moved from reading 'ditties' to reading the first set of RWI stories. These are short tales with a good mix of green and red words and usually a bit of humour thrown in for good measure! The children will continue to write short sentences using their phonic skills, red words and correct punctuation.

Mathematics

In our mathematical work, we will be counting in 2s and 10s. We will then begin some work on practical division and multiplication by making and adding equal groups. The children will learn to explain their reasoning as they do this and begin to generate and solve their own simple division and multiplication problems. Alongside this, we will learn double numbers up to double 10. It's great if they children can learn these off by heart. In our practical mathematics, we will be comparing and measuring weight and volume.

Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing

Our topic will offer lots of scope for reading, discussing, finding out and creating. Reading fantasy stories about magical lands and wonderful woodlands will offer opportunities for developing imaginative language, role play and story telling. Non-fiction texts about seasonal changes, growing and woodland areas will be used by the children to find information and to practise reading skills. In addition, team work will be crucial as we work in our garden and develop our map reading skills so I will be encouraging the children to recognise the importance of clear communication with each other.

Find out about our week on a Friday by reading our blog on our class webpage!

The World

Spring is springing all around us and we will be investigating signs of new growth in the plant life and wildlife in our local environment. We will be planting lots of flowers and crops in our garden that we'll be able to care for and observe as the spring turns into summer. We plan to do some map reading and map making work. We will use our school grounds for this as well as offering opportunities for more imaginative map making linked to adventure stories that we read. We will also investigate woodland areas and Year 1 children will have the chance to spend the day in the woods while Reception children enjoy spending time at the Alnwick Garden. More information on both of these trips will be coming soon.

Creative and Imaginative Work

We are using some 'Spring' inspired art by Jackson Pollock and Van Gogh as a basis for our own art work to begin with this term so look out for some super pictures going up on display. The children will then use natural materials to make sculptures. We will investigate the work of Andy Goldsworthy and use his natural sculptures as a basis for our own work. There will be role play and small world play opportunities available in both the indoor and outdoor areas and you'll be able to enjoy seeing the children interact in these areas through the weekly blog photos. Music inspired by nature will be used throughout the term and there will be lots of opportunities for singing and music making.

Physical Stuff

Caring for our garden will provide lots of opportunity for physical work as we plant, water and dig. PE sessions will be outdoors whenever possible and we will be developing our throwing, catching and aiming skills. We will also be practising races in preparation for Sports Day. It would be really handy if the children had a jumper or hoody in their PE bag so that we can still go out even if it's a bit nippy! Trainers rather than plimsoles are handy but not essential. We have secured a place for some balance bikeability training for our Reception children (possibly Y1s too). I'll be in touch soon with more details but this should be a really fun and useful experience for the children.

Home Learning

Many thanks to all for your support with home learning. Please remember to put your child's book in the correct box by Tuesday morning as this saves us the time and bother of going hunting for books in book bags!

Year 1: Your child will continue to have a reading book and key words to work on at home. It is also helpful if you can have a go at spelling some of the key words in your child's blue book. In addition to this, I will continue to send a maths task home each week that reinforces the skills we've been learning in the classroom. It's really helpful if you write a short comment to let me know how your child has got on.

Reception: Children will continue with their home learning books. It's really lovely to see how our classroom learning can be extended at home and I urge you to try to add something into this book each week. Children who make contributions to their home learning books really enjoy sharing their work with the rest of the class and it's an excellent opportunity to progress communication skills by explaining and describing work. You don't have to do loads and I fully appreciate that some weekends are very busy. Your child will continue to bring home reading and key word books. Please just have a word if you feel that you need more reading material on a weekly basis.

We would be extremely grateful for donations of:

- Yoghurt pots, junk modelling boxes, bottle tops, corks and anything shiny!

Important Days

Monday or Tuesday: Home learning books back to school

Thursday: PE and reading for Year 1

Every day: Water bottles, book bags, long hair tied back, cap or sun hat for warm weather, a waterproof jacket for 'just in case'!



As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With kind regards,

Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes