



Plum Post

Autumn 2 Term
Nov-Dec 2016

Where did that first half term go? I am really proud of how well all the children are doing, and how they have come together as a class, working well with each other, being considerate of each other, and taking the time to support each other. We have 2 new children in the class this half term—Adam Gullen and Brogan Bassett. Unfortunately, Belle Ross will be leaving us next week. As we push through this half term the pace does not let up, and we also have to somehow squeeze in some Christmas festivities too!!!!

Staffing

As you will have read in the main school newsletter, next term I will be seconded to Embleton Primary School as the acting head, for 2 terms. I am truly sad to be leaving Plum Class, as they are a fabulous group of children, but know that they will be in very safe hands with Miss Whitlow. Miss Whitlow worked with many of the children in the summer term, in nursery, and I regularly send children through to nursery for them to show her their work. She will also be coming in to class this half term, so that she can get to know those she is less familiar with before taking the class from January. The class will continue to be supported by Mrs Lisa Pickard. On a Tuesday afternoon Mrs Crowe will continue working with the class, and on a Thursday afternoon, Mrs Amy Smith will be responsible for the class.

Reading Books

You will now have received reading books and reading records. The first few books are wordless ones. By using the pictures to tell the stories, children become familiar with using the information they are given to search for clues to aid their understanding. Use questions to talk about what is happening, and also to make predictions about what they think is going to happen on the next page(s). When you have read with your child please make a comment in the reading record, so that we know how they are getting on at home. We usually expect a child's reading book to be read 3 times in a week. We will read with them as well, when we change their book. Book changeover happens at various times during the week, so it is really important that they are stored in book bags at all times.

Recycled Materials

We are very grateful for any junk materials that you may have at home—the children have already made some amazing creations. We would also like wrapping paper that can be reused, or ends of rolls of wallpaper. We are always on the lookout for ribbons and other craft materials. If anyone would like to donate any glitter, stickers, googly eyes, bits of material or wool, that would be fab! We cannot use toilet roll tubes, and do not need cereal boxes as they take up too much space.

Library Books and Maths Challenges

Thank you so much to all of you that make sure the maths challenges and library books are kept in book bags. I change them over on a Friday. If the library book and challenge card are not in the book bag your child will not receive a new one until they have returned the old ones.

Thank you so much for the lovely photos you have been emailing of your child completing their maths challenges. I add them in to their maths books, as they are great evidence of your child doing maths beyond the classroom.

Winter Clothing

As it has now started to get much colder, please ensure that your child has a winter coat, hat and gloves in school at all times. Some children still do not have wellies—please make sure that they are brought in so that the children can fully access the curriculum. You might also want to send in some waterproof trousers!

Plum Class Family Lunch

On Wednesday 30 November Plum Class parents/ grandparents are invited in for family lunch. Places need to be booked in advance (on the Monday) so that the kitchens know how much extra they need to cook. It is a great opportunity to come and share a roast dinner (and delicious school pudding!) with your child. We ask that you come to the main school reception at 11.45 and then we will bring the children out to collect you. Please let the office staff know if you have any particular dietary requirements.

Christmas Gifts

Traditionally at the end of term, families choose to give Christmas gifts to staff. Whilst we in no way expect anything, if you would like to give a gift, we have decided that this year we would rather you donated to the fund to support Evie Campbell's bone marrow transplant. As most of you will know, Evie, in our class, has a rare blood condition resulting in her currently being kept alive by 4-weekly blood transfusions. Her family are fund-raising so that she can have a bone marrow transplant. If you were thinking of giving us a gift, we would rather you donated to this worthy cause instead. More details on how to donate will be sent out closer to the time. We have talked in general terms in class about Evie going to hospital to get more blood as her's doesn't work properly.

Christmas Cards

Do not feel that your child has to give a Christmas Card to each member of the class. It is perfectly acceptable to just send them to 3 or 4 special friends (or suggest to your child that they might like to donate Christmas card money to help sort out Evie's blood instead!)

Change of Clothes

Please ensure that your child has a FULL change of clothes in school. We often get mucky or wet and do not have enough spare clothes in school. If your child does have to use any of our spares, please ensure they are returned as soon as possible.

Curriculum

Throughout the year we teach basic skills whilst also developing the learning that the children initiate themselves. However, we also use themes of seasons and celebrations as stimuli for further learning and development as these are things that all the children can relate to.

Autumn 2 General Aims

- ◇ Respecting each other and all our resources
- ◇ Developing our independence and self-help skills
- ◇ Developing concentration and perseverance
- ◇ Taking turns to talk—using talk partners
- ◇ Learn about special festivals—Halloween, Bonfire night, Christmas, Children in Need.
- ◇ Starting to use writing when telling stories and labelling.
- ◇ Developing comprehension skills when reading.
- ◇ Counting and matching numbers to 20 and beyond; Counting backwards from 10.
- ◇ Using the computer to draw pictures and make photo stories.
- ◇ Observational artwork.
- ◇ Learning how to use the woodwork tools and to make bread.

Much of our learning will be based on what the children are interested in—so who knows what we might find out about!!

Diary Dates

- ◇ 8/9 Nov Parent Consultations
- ◇ 30 Nov 11.45 Plum Class Family Lunch
- ◇ 6 Dec 1.45/7 Dec 10.00 Christmas Play
- ◇ 14 Dec 2.00 Christingle
- ◇ 15 Dec Christmas Dinner & Party
- ◇ 16 Dec Last day of term
- ◇ 3 Jan First Day of Spring Term

Water Bottles

A number of children are not bringing in water bottles daily. It is really important that you ensure that your child has one available every day.

School Website

All newsletters and curriculum information are on the school website. Every week I blog about some of the things that we get up to during the week. You can access the blog either via the class pages tab, or the early years tab. Additionally, the Head teacher's blog is updated weekly which gives you good reminders about upcoming events. Another great place for finding out about what is going on is through the school facebook page. Please use these sources of information to make sure you don't miss anything!! If you do not have access to the internet then please let me know.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to any of us

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