Curriculum Information



Plum Class Spring (2) 2020

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Exploring Africa!
Welcoming Spring!

Well, the year is whizzing by, we're now over the half way point in our year together in Plum Class. We'll be packing a lot into this half term and having lots of fun along the way. Please take some time to read the information in this newsletter so that you know what will be going on over the next few weeks.

Read Write Inc

Great progress continues to be made by all of our children!

Read Write Inc will continue on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings throughout the term.

For Y1 children: The children are learning and securing their Set 3 sounds and beginning to use these as they read and write. Thank you for your continued support at home. I will discuss further support that you can give at consultation meetings.

For Reception children: The children have begun to learn their Set 2 sounds and these will be sent home on a Friday so that you can practise them together. I can happily report that the children's reading and writing progress within RWI sessions is very pleasing and I look forward to sharing this with you at consultation. You can continue to support your child at home by reading regularly and learning key words. In addition to reading school reading books, encourage your child to read words, phrases and sentences in the books you share together at home. Reading 'real' books really helps to build confidence and a love of literature.

Mathematics

In our mathematical work, we will be expanding our knowledge of numbers by working with numbers up to 50. The children will count forwards, backwards and order these numbers. We will learn how these numbers are made with 10s and 1s and the children will work with numicon and other mathematical resources to make and compare numbers. We've already begun to count in 2s and we'll practise this skill regularly. In addition to this, we'll learn to count in 10s and hopefully have a go at counting in 5s too. Children in Reception will learn to double and half numbers and quantities and this will be a good opportunity for some skill revision for our Year 1 children too. We'll be doing quite a bit of measuring over the half term. This will involve making comparisons in height, length and weight. We'll be measuring in standard and non-standard measures.

Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing

Our Africa topic will offer lots of scope for reading, discussing, finding out and creating. We'll enjoy using non-fiction texts and the internet to find information to answer questions and we'll enjoy using stories such as Hot Hippo, Handa's Surprise, Sleep Well Siba and Saba and Too Much Talk as a basis for written, oral and creative work.

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

The World

We are casting our net a little wider this half term as we take the continent of Africa as the main inspiration for our learning. We are going to look specifically at the country of Uganda to find out about day to day life there. As we have a close friendship with the Pearl and Africa Choir from Uganda, there will be lots of opportunity to correspond to get first-hand information about life at home and at school. We'll be discovering that although there are many differences in our lives and our countries, there are many similarities too! The children will enjoy using Google earth to explore the landscape of Uganda. In addition to this, we'll be looking for signs of spring over the half term. We'll be looking for new growth on the plants and trees that we have in school and we'll be observing the development of bulbs as they flower. We'll finish our half term by looking at new animal life such as lambs, baby birds and chicks. The children will look at their own growth and development from baby to 4/5/6 years of age!

Creative and Imaginative Work

An African theme always provides such a rich opportunity to work creatively and we shall be learning some African songs and drumming patterns and having a go at a bit of traditional dancing.

In our artwork, we shall be looking at African landscapes as we paint and collage. We will also be making some traditional tribal jewellery. Our 'Get Stuck In' shelves are full of warm coloured drapes , bits and bobs and boxes which the children will enjoy using to make their own creative responses to art work, stories and music.

Physical Stuff

Gymnastics continues for children in Year 1 on Friday afternoons. Please ensure that children have shorts, T shirt and sand shoes for this. In addition, the Year 1 children will have rugby coaching on Tuesday afternoons. As these sessions will be outdoors, please ensure your child has joggers, a sweatshirt and trainers in school. Children in Reception will have an indoor PE session on a Thursday morning.

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 Wednesday 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 green 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

By Wednesday: Home learning books back to school
Tuesday: Outdoor PE kit Year 1
Thursday: Indoor PE for Reception and reading books for Reception and Year 1.
Friday: Indoor PE kit for Year 1
Every day: Water bottles, book bags, long hair tied back and hats and scarves for chilly playtimes!

With kind regards, **Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes**

Swansfield Park Primary School