



Plum Class News

Summer 2020

Welcome back to the summer term everyone! I'm sure it has been a very strange Easter holiday but at least the sun shone for a lot of the time and it was pleasant to be outside! I'd like to begin by saying a huge 'THANK YOU' to everyone who has engaged with our virtual classroom. Of course it's not the same as being together in Plum Class but it's lovely to see what your children have been doing and from the feedback you've been giving me, I think the children are enjoying the little videos and the virtual gallery. Keep the pictures coming and if you haven't been in touch yet – please can I urge you to at least drop me a quick email to let me know that you are accessing the learning materials for your child. As I've said each week on the blog, I most certainly do not expect all of the activities to be done. I know only too well the juggling act that we are all engaging in at the moment as we try to keep a balance between ensuring that everyone is happy and healthy, working ourselves and ensuring that our children are engaging in some learning. It's not easy. Do what you can. And, please get in touch if I can support you further. It is possible to post out paper copies of our work if it's difficult for you to access the internet.

This term, we have lots of exciting learning and discovering to do as explore:

Spring into summer

Awesome Alnwick

Planting and growing

Animals near and far

Read, Write, Inc

Read Write Inc will continue to be covered on the weekly blog. We usually do these sessions Monday- Wednesday so it would be helpful if you could carry on this routine to allow for consistency if and when the children return to school. As I have detailed on our blog for the week beginning 20th April, you can follow the materials that I produce or you can access the online sessions produced by Read Write Inc. Alternatively, do a little bit of mix and match between the two! But, for those in Mrs Vicky's group, Mr Rose's group and my group, keep going over our set 1 and set 2 sounds and ensure that your child reads on a daily basis. For those in Mrs Snowdon's group, keep going over the set 2 and set 3 sounds and read on a daily basis! I will add green and red word activities each week for you to use with your children. It's also helpful if you get your child to engage in a short writing activity each day – there will be a sentence writing activity on each of the daily ditties. This ensures that your child keeps up their fine motor skills, keeps letter formation going and ensures that written phonic skills keep progressing.

Mathematics

The children all made great progress with their mathematical skill last term and I want to ensure that this progress can continue as we work at home. Our learning this term begins with some doubling and making and sharing equal groups. Working practically is the best way to develop and secure these skills so our activities will involve play scenarios with toys, blocks, bricks and food. Within this work, always encourage your child to give an explanation of what they have done using full sentence. For example, "I had 6 red blocks and I've shared them between my three teddies. Each teddy has got 2 red blocks and that is equal" Or, "I had 8 blue blocks and I couldn't share them equally between my three teddies because one teddy only had two blocks in their group and the other teddies had three. That wasn't fair!" Within this work, we are laying the foundations for multiplication and division which children will move on to later in KS1. We will also work on finding half and quarter of shapes and quantities. Our Reception children will continue to use and apply their number skills to create and solve addition and subtraction problems and will learn to make estimations. Our Year 1 children will expand their number recognition skills by focusing on numbers up to 100. We will look at number order, compare these numbers and learn how they are made with 10s and 1s. I hope that we will also have the opportunity for some practical weighing and capacity work before the summer holiday arrives!

Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing

We have lots of exciting stories to explore this term. If we are not able to do this together in the classroom, I will look at other ways that I can share this literature with you. Some of the stories will be well known to you but others may be new. As part of our growing topic we will have fun with the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and even if you don't have a copy of this at home, I'm sure you'll be able to tell the story to your child as well as your child being able to tell it to you! We will also look at The Curious Garden, What the Ladybird Heard, Oliver's Vegetables and The Sun Egg, just to name a few! In addition to this, non-fiction books and sites such as NatGeo Kids (<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>) will be an excellent source of information for our topic learning. Throughout all of our topic work, the most important thing you can do is talk with your children and encourage them to talk with you, using whole sentences and not shying away from using technical vocabulary. Children love learning 'big words'. Get your children to explain, tell you about similarities and differences and make comparisons. These are vital skills!

The World

We will begin by noticing, describing and explaining changes we see in the natural world as spring becomes summer. We will focus upon growing plants and if it is at all possible, I encourage you to do some planting, even if this is just in a used margarine tub with a few cress seeds! This will enable your child to see roots, shoots, leaves and comment upon growth. If this is not possible, I will be sharing my growing garden on a weekly basis. We will then move on to exploring the animal life that surrounds us in our local environment and some of the new life that is occurring. We'll look at the life cycle of butterflies and frogs and this will lead us into classifying and talking about similarities and differences between different animals. We'll then expand our knowledge of animal classifications to some of the animals we met when we were on safari in Uganda. A little closer to home, we'll be thinking about our town of Alnwick and I'll be encouraging the children to look at some of our famous landmarks such as Alnwick Castle and The Alnwick Gardens. We'll talk about these two sites from a historical perspective. In addition to this, we'll find out about Alnwick in recent history. I'll be asking the children to discover about Alnwick Fair which used to take place in the summer on an annual basis. Maybe there will be a relative or a family friend that the children will be able to speak to (perhaps virtually!) about this.

Creative Work

I'm hoping that we'll be able to use lots of natural materials in our creative work this term. We'll be getting our inspiration from the work of Andy Goldsworthy to make beautiful natural sculptures. There may be natural materials that you'll be able to gather out on your walk to help with this. I'll be letting you know ahead of the time when you'll need to do this. We will also be using our drawing painting and collage skills to make art work relating to our town of Alnwick, flowers and plants and animals. In addition, I encourage you to allow your child to be creative within your outdoor space – provide resources such as pots and pans, spoons, sticks etc to make music, to make potions and to create role play games such as garden cafes, minibeast hotels and shops. Singing is really important for young children. If you use Facebook, can I recommend Avril Huntly's **Sing With Me** session at 3.00pm every Saturday afternoon. This is great for all the family.

The Physical Stuff

Although we are all called to stay at home and stay indoors as much as possible, it's so important to try to keep our children active! If you are able to, get out on a walk each day and ensure that children have the opportunity to climb, run, jump and skip, these gross motor practices are so important. On days when this is not possible, why not have a go at making obstacle courses or timed challenges in the house or garden with oranges to throw into a bowl, containers to stack, stairs to climb, star jumps to do, the possibilities are endless! Within school, we would be preparing for sports day over the course of the term. Maybe you could set up egg and spoon races, welly throwing or even a long jump. Have a competition with everyone in your family!

And finally, from the Plum Class team...

Our great hope is that it will be possible to welcome the children back into Plum Class before the end of the school year, however, at the moment, we have no idea about the timing of this. Be assured that we're all thinking about your lovely children often and we are only too happy to help if we can. We'll try to keep you all smiling with videos and messages. Please keep in touch with us so that we know you're doing ok.

With our very best wishes to you all,

Mrs Grimes

Mrs Vicky

Sheila