



## **Plum Class News**

### **Summer 1**

Welcome back to our new term. We are really hopeful of giving the children a wonderful summer in school full of exciting and memorable experiences both in the classroom and in our fabulous outdoor environment. We will also try to ensure that the children get to enjoy a 'trip' out of school before they head to Year 1. Thankfully, we live in a wonderful town with lots of possibilities close at hand.

### **Read, Write, Inc**

The children continue to make great progress. We are flying through our set 2 sounds and we're sharing these with you each week through the class blog. It would be great if you could reinforce these at home. In our sessions, all of our children are working at a pace and level that's right for them. This may involve reinforcing set 1 sounds and letter formation and learning to blend 3 sounds to make a short word. Or, this may include reading and writing short sentences. We revisit our red words each week and we'd be grateful if you could continue working on these at home. Don't forget you can find these on our class webpage.

### **Mathematics**

We will continue to secure our place value skills throughout the term. For some this means working with numbers to 10 and for others, this involves numbers up to 20. When the children can count, order and compare these numbers with ease and confidence, we know that there is a really secure understanding and a firm foundation that can be built upon in Year 1 and beyond. We'll keep our addition skills going with lots of opportunity to practise through our weekly 'big maths' challenges and independent activities during our number sessions. We'll encourage the children to solve calculations, make their own addition stories and record these in a range of ways. We will spend much of our teaching time developing subtraction skills this term. This will begin very practically and we'll ensure that the children have an understanding that when they take away, they always end up with less. The children will also learn to record their subtractions and we'll explore the link between addition and taking away. As we approach the end of the summer term, we'll focus upon doubling, halving and sharing and there will be a chance for counting in 2s as well.

Away from number work, we'll continue to recognise and work with 2D and 3D shapes. We will be making and describing repeating patterns and we'll be exploring measurement of length, capacity and time. There will also be opportunities for children to use money in a range of play situations.

### **The World**

We have begun our summer term by looking forward to a summer of growing. We've planted beans and sunflower seeds and we'll be watching these carefully over the next few weeks. As we head into May, we'll plant and care for a range of vegetables in our class garden. We love an opportunity to use our skills across the curriculum and we'll use our measuring skills as we watch our garden grow. There'll be an opportunity for children to find out about a keen gardener in their family which will allow discussions about events from the past. We'll use our school grounds to find and explore the world of minibeasts. Looking closely at similarities and differences will be the focus of our work. We really hope that we'll be able to take the children out of school on a mini trip before the summer holiday and this will facilitate an exploration of days out and holidays.



### Creative Work

Our children just love to be creative. Although there will be many taught creative sessions involving singing, dancing, role play, painting, drawing and collaging, much of the children's work in this area will centre around their own ideas and fascinations. We love to encourage all of our children to develop and refine their own creative ideas and to work with their friends to indulge their imaginations.



### The Physical Stuff

Gardening is great physical activity and there'll be plenty of scope for digging, weeding, brushing and watering. As our garden blooms we'll be able to explore healthy diets and have the chance to 'eat a rainbow' from our own efforts!

The children have begun their Tuesday sessions with NUF coach, Lee. The focus of these sessions is on early physical skill development. The children will start and stop moving with control, negotiate space, follow instructions and most importantly, have fun while being physically active. Weekly PE sessions will continue on Thursdays too so please ensure that PE kit is worn on both PE days.

**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.**

### Additional information

All of the contributions you made to the children's **360 Journals** during lockdown were fabulous! Please continue to add entries of your children's achievements and learning moments.

We hope that your children are still enjoying **Bug Club**. Please continue to read regularly with your child. This is crucial. We know that many of you are reading books that you have at home – this is great. You can let us know how your child is getting on via email. In school, your children read with us each week as part of RWI sessions and individually with either myself or Mrs Hammond.

We continue to encourage the children to use their knives and forks at lunchtime and to cut up their own lunch. Please encourage these skills at home too!

**Reminders:** As the weather gets warmer (we can live in hope!), please ensure that your child has a sun hat and water bottle in school each day. Please apply sun cream before school. It's also advisable for the children to bring a light weight waterproof jacket. **Don't forget to ensure that all items of clothing and shoes are clearly named.**

Remember I am always here if you have any concerns or questions. You can contact me via email or we can arrange a phone conversation if you would prefer.

**Mrs Anne-Marie Grimes: [anne-marie.grimes@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:anne-marie.grimes@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk)**

*Plum Class Teacher*