

Curriculum Information



Plum

Autumn 2 2017

**Produced by:
Mrs Anne Marie Grimes**

www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk



Feel Like Celebrating!

This half term is always such a great time to be in school! Even though the mornings and evenings are dark, we are cheery and positive as we enjoy many seasonal celebrations. Our classroom will be a hive of excitement and business as we get underway with all the festivities which will culminate in our Christmas celebrations.

Read Write Inc

Although it's a busy half term, we keep our RWI sessions going right until the end of term as the routine of our phonic work is so important to ensuring excellent progress. Children in Reception will continue focusing on recognising, hearing and forming those initial letter sounds. They will also begin to put these together to read and write short words. Our children in Year 1 will continue to practise set 2 sounds and will read and write with these every day. There will also be a really big focus upon letter formation in RWI for Year 1s. I really can't stress enough how important it is to get this right!

Mathematics

Now that we've all secured number order to 10, we'll be focusing our attention on ordering numbers beyond 10. We're great at counting forwards to 20 and beyond but as counting backwards is trickier, we'll spend lots of time securing this skill. We're going to be spending a lot of our time in maths thinking about addition and subtraction up to Christmas. This will be practically based for a lot of the time and I'll be encouraging the children to explore the different ways to make a given total (we call this number bonds), to create their own calculations and to record these. This creates a far deeper understanding of the concepts than simply answering 'sums'! We'll continue to name and use 2D shapes (circle, square, oblong, triangle, pentagon) and we'll also be comparing size and measuring.

Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing

As part of our work on celebrations, we'll be using non-fiction texts and the internet to research and find information. We'll also discover that people can be a great source of information and learn how to ask questions effectively to find out things we would like to know. We'll also use a wide range of stories relating to Christmas and light and dark. For example, *The Little Match Girl*, *Babushka*, *Can't You Sleep Little Bear*, *Papa Panov's Special Day*. These books will be used as the basis for discussion, reading skill and writing.

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

The World

We'll be finding out that not everyone shares the same festivals and we'll see that although we can have many things in common with each other, there are also things that make us different and unique. We'll explore difference as something that is positive and to be embraced! Throughout the half term we'll explore the custom of celebrating Bonfire night, Diwali and Christmas.

We'll be looking at maps of the UK to locate the 4 countries and their capital cities and we'll find out that each capital city comes alive as people visit to celebrate New Year 's Eve. We'll also find out how people in different countries celebrate Christmas in slightly different ways.

In our scientific work, we'll be naming parts of our bodies and discovering that each part has an important job to do! We'll explore our 5 senses and find out that our brains are vital to each sense. Our senses work will culminate in planning and enjoying a Christmas party that will appeal to each of our 5 senses. There will also be lots of opportunity to explore light and dark.

Creative Work

Fireworks are such fun to explore creatively and there will be lots of this straight after the holidays. We'll be making diva lamps and rangoli patterns as we explore Diwali. As we find out about our senses, we'll look at the work of the artist Kandinsky as one of the first Impressionist painters. We'll discover that he didn't just paint what he saw but also what he felt. We'll have the chance to investigate the different moods that colour can create and have time to mix colours. We'll also paint by listening to music and talking about mood and feelings. As we enter December, the glitter will be out. Need I say more!

There will be singing and rhyming on a daily basis as well as much opportunity for dancing, imaginative role play and small world play.

We'll also spend time putting together a Nativity play for you all to enjoy.

The Physical Stuff

Even though the weather is getting colder, we'll be out as much as possible using our fabulous outdoor environment to enhance our curriculum. We'll be building bonfires and making rangolis with natural materials as well as strengthening our arm muscles on our adventure playground – this really helps build our stamina for writing! As well as firework dancing, we'll be exploring balancing and jumping in gymnastic work and we'll use a range of climbing apparatus as we do this.

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.

Home Learning

Year 1: Each week, in addition to your child's reading book and key word book, I'll send home a short maths task. Wherever possible I shall make this a practical activity that has lots of opportunity for discussion and application of key maths vocabulary.

Reception: Children will have a home learning book which will be sent home on a Friday. It will detail some of the things that we have done during the week that you might like to follow up at the weekend. It would be great if you and your child could add pictures, little bits of writing (it's fine for an adult to scribe) and occasional photographs relating to the activities you complete. These books will also be the stimulus for discussion work between children as they show each other the things that they have been doing. You don't have to do loads and I fully appreciate that some weekends are very busy! I will also send home details of the letters and sounds that your child has been learning so that you can reinforce recognition and formation. We now all have a reading book and key word books will be following very soon!

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 and book bags in school!

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



