



Plum Class News: Spring Two

Life in Kenya versus life in Alnwick Early Spring and signs of new life (Easter)

Firstly, welcome back to another term of fun learning in Plum Class. It is going to be jam packed with fun learning activities! We have enjoyed having a chance to speak to you all during parent consultations over this last week and we hope you enjoyed looking at your child's workbooks.

Across Early Years, we want to continue to develop our outdoor learning environments. With this in mind, we are organising an inaugural 'Swansfield Colour Fun Tiddly Triathlon' on Monday 27th of March.

You should have received an email with further details on this exciting event!

We hope you will get behind us by sponsoring your child to take part and supporting our outdoor learning project.

Please bring in your child's sponsor money and sponsor form on the day of the triathlon. Thank you.

Just a quick reminder, please do remember to check out our blog on Fridays to catch up on all of our weekly learning- it is clear from our discussions with you and from the parent feedback form that you sometimes struggle to know what you should be doing to help your child at home. The blog offers lots of ideas to build upon our weekly vocabulary and learning.

Read Write Inc

Read Write Inc will continue daily throughout this term as we continue on our individual reading journeys. The children will also be applying their phonic knowledge within the classroom, writing for a range of different purposes as they continue to develop their writing skills.

Please continue to consult our tab on the website: **Supporting your child at home** for information on RWI sounds, red and green words, as well as information on how to continue to use the Ditties, red books and green books that we send home.

Key Vocabulary

Our children will continue to learn new vocabulary daily across all subjects. We will share some of this vocabulary weekly via our class blog so please help us to consolidate the understanding and the use of these words at home to ensure our children 'learn more, remember more'.

Mathematics

Our Growing 6, 7 and 8 unit will continue this half term as we combine two groups to create a whole amount, developing our understanding of the composition of these numbers as well as developing our understanding of pairs noticing that some quantities will have an odd one out left over with no partner. The children will then develop their understanding of measure by using the accurate language to describe length and height with opportunities to compare length and height, making direct comparisons using physical manipulatives.

We will also continue to order important times in the day and use the language such as now, before, later, soon, after, then as well as describing when these events happen. They will begin to recognise that regular events happen on the same day each week and use the vocabulary 'yesterday', 'today' and 'tomorrow' to describe when events happen.

We will then move on to working with the numbers 9 and 10, developing our understanding of the number bonds that make up these numbers as well as continuing to look at the number line to 10 considering one more and one less than a given number. We will be partitioning these numbers into groups, using the part whole model to create addition number stories and compare numbers to 10 in different play based scenarios within the classroom considering if these groups have more than or fewer than the other and manipulating these groups to create equal amounts.

This term we will also move on with our subitising skills to subitise numbers to 10 using two dice as we further develop our understanding of the pattern within numbers, identifying how they repeat as we count into higher quantities. During our Mastering number sessions we will consider the '5 and a bit' concept using bunny hand games to quickly count larger collections, for example 7 is made up of 5 (one hand) and 2 bits (fingers), this will further develop our subitising and quick counting skills.

The World

Our topic work will focus on 'Comparing life in Alnwick and Kenya' and will open up some fantastic exploration activities to get our busy brains thinking! We will recap our knowledge on how to access 'Google Earth' and use it to find where Kenya is. We used this before Christmas when exploring places in Alnwick and working out our route to the Post Office. We will compare some things in our local environment to those in Kenya, such as the animals and the jobs that people have. This will all be brought to life by writing to a Kenyan school. We will be very excited to hear their reply! We will be comparing and contrasting the weather we have in Alnwick with the weather in Kenya as well as finding out about the Massai people. In our RE work, the religious Christian festival of Easter will be our final topic as we explore the story of Easter and begin to think about new life that we can see all around us as we look at the traditional symbols of Easter, such as the egg. We will end the term looking around the school grounds for signs of new life on the trees and in the ground as we begin to look at the signs of seasonal change from winter to Spring.

Creative and Imaginative Work

This term will include singing lots of topic related songs as well as the traditional Nursery rhymes that we enjoy in Plum Class! During our Charanga music lessons we will be listening to music from different genres around the world and will be learning to appraise it with a range of musical vocabulary. We will also be learning to sing a range of fun and exciting songs. We will be encouraging the children's creative construction side as they create models within our continuous provision, construct with a variety of materials to create large scale story maps and utilise the outdoors and our large-scale loose parts to create the settings for our focus stories.

Extending from our colour mixing of cold colours for the season of Winter, we will enjoy colour mixing warm colours to create African sunset backgrounds. We will also be creating observational paintings of some spring flowers, developing our understanding of how to lighten primary colours to create different shades.

As always, there will also be lots of opportunity for small world and role-play with our classroom home corner and pop up role plays such as a garden centre, in response to the children's interests.

The Physical Stuff

NUF (Newcastle United Foundation) coaching focusing on various multiskills- Tuesday afternoons

Teacher led PE- Wednesday morning

Please remember to wear PE uniform on both days

In teacher led PE this half term we will learn about different sports that use balls and practise some of these in P.E sessions. We will utilize some of the skills gained last half term and put them to excellent use when playing in a team, as well trying to beat our own personal scores and targets. We will also enjoy using different sports equipment with balls, for example a hockey stick and a ball or a football goal and a ball. We will become brilliant at controlling a ball. We are continually developing our fine motor skills too! At lunchtime, as always, we will look for children who are in the 'knife and fork gang' and celebrate their skills. Please continue to support your child in acquiring this essential life skill at home. In order to help us gain strength, control and dexterity in our fingers, we will enjoy a weekly challenge of the 'funky fingers' table as well accessing lots of fine motor skills challenges in the classroom during our child-initiated learning time.

Reading

The children will continue to read with us on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays so please ensure their book and Reading Record are in school by Tuesday each week.

360 Journals

We love to see the contributions that you make. It's great to see school learning extended into the home and also to find out about the things that your children are currently interested in and enjoying out of school. It's also great to see their achievements - riding their bikes, writing on their own, getting a swimming award etc. We will continue to add to journals in school but as discussed last term we work from books so observations will mainly be of significant learning achievements. If you are unable to access your child's journal, get in touch and we'll get you on board.

Every day please remember: Water bottles, coats suitable for the weather, a warm hat and a sun hat for sunnier days,(all named)! Also, please ensure that long hair is tied back. It's hard to work and play when hair is in your face! We have noticed more and more water bottles filled with juice, as healthy school we do ask that only water is brought into school by the children.

Please remember we are always here if you have any concerns or questions. You can contact either of us via email or we can arrange a phone conversation if you would prefer. If you have something you would rather discuss in person we are available at the end of the day for a chat when we have dismissed the children.

Miss Freeman- Annabel.freeman@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk