

Curriculum Information

Plum Class- Autumn 2021

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Welcome to the first Plum Class newsletter of the year. I'm happy to report that all the children are settling well into their new class and we are enjoying working and playing together. Although the mornings can be tricky for our children, as separation from parents has had to be prompt and independent, the children have shown true emotional resilience – they seem to be finding the separation easier than us parents! Life in Plum class is quickly settling and the children are forming friendships and gaining in confidence daily – it is wonderful to see.

I hope that you find the information detailed in this letter a useful guide to our day in school. Please don't hesitate to contact me for a chat if you require any further clarification.

Read Write Inc Phonics Programme

All children in Plum will begin Read Write Inc (RWI) on Monday 13th September. For our Y1s this means a continuation of progress made last year with consolidation of set 1 and 2 sounds and a greater emphasis on reading and writing sentences. For our Reception children, we begin the exciting journey of learning and using the letter sounds that will unlock the door to reading and writing. Please support your child as much as you can by asking about the letter sounds they have been learning and by practising these at home regularly. You will receive formation worksheets each week for your child to practice their writing at home too.

For RWI, our Plum Class children are placed in small groups and your child's group leader will be Miss Freeman, Mrs Snowdon or Mrs Hammond.

Mathematics

This half term, we shall be ensuring that everyone in Plum Class has a solid understanding of numbers to 10. As well as counting forwards and backwards, ordering, adding, reading and writing digits, we'll be comparing numbers by using clear mathematical language such as more, greater, less, fewer and equal to. Children will learn to group objects according to a given criteria or a criteria they have set themselves. Much time will be devoted to ensuring that children can explain the criteria that they have used. The ability to explain process starts in Early Years and runs right through the rest of a child's mathematical education! As we get closer to half term, we will begin some work on addition and subtraction. This will be very practical and will ensure that the children understand the process rather than just solving calculations!

Topic, Reading and Writing

This half term we will be learning all about transport. Our topic work regarding modes of transport old and new will provide us with lots of stimulation to speak, listen, read and write. Stories such as Oi Get off our Train, On the train, Terrific Trains and The Silver Serpant Cup will feed our imagination as we re-tell stories, imagine new ones and write and illustrate our own adventures.

The World

To help us get to know each other, we'll begin by finding out about the things that make us unique and the things that we have in common with others. We'll explore the 'growing journey' that we've been on to arrive in Reception or Year 1! In addition to this, we'll explore old and new ways to travel. Each week we will focus on a different mode of transport. In addition, we'll be keeping our eyes peeled for seasonal changes as autumn takes hold. We'll be looking for autumn treasures on our school field. We'll be finding out about harvest time and although we won't be having a harvest festival, we will be sharing a special harvest theme video with you on the website.

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

Creative Work

Singing is a daily occurrence in Plum Class and we'll be learning lots of new transport and autumn themed songs as well as enjoying old favourites! There will be opportunities for painting and collaging, particularly as we explore autumn and we'll be making some very careful and detailed pictures of trains and other modes of transport. Of course, there will be plenty of creative materials out every day as part of our continuous provision and children will be free to follow their own interests and ideas.

The Physical Stuff

Both Reception and Year 1 will be doing PE on Thursday morning so please send your child to school in their PE kit every Thursday.

Year 1 only will be taking part in fundamental movement skills with a football coach every Friday morning. Year 1 only should come to school in their PE kit on Friday.

Through racing and chasing games, gardening and dance we will hone our gross motor skills. Scissor work, collaging with small seeds and pulses, threading activities and model making will help to ensure that our fine motor skills get a bit of a work out too.

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.

School360 Learning Journals (Reception children only) PLEASE UPDATE YOUR "EYFS PARENT APP" IN THE APP STORE

The online journal is our way of recording your child's development and journey from Nursery through to the end of their Reception year. It includes photographs and observations of significant moments during their time with us which link to the Early Years Curriculum that we follow. As we usually run drop in sessions to explain these journals and RWI in more detail, we will be thinking up a new way to relay this information to you so please bear with us. It would be extremely helpful if you could occasionally upload any 'wow' developmental moments at home so that I am able to see learning opportunities in your child's home context as well as at school.

Home Learning

Year 1: Each week please continue reading the stories set on Bug Club. It is vital that your child practices reading every week. Lots of us are struggling to blend set 1/2 sounds to read words so please practice this as much as possible.

Don't forget to practice your maths skills using Numbots (I will reset your child's password for both schemes and be in touch with this soon).

In addition to this, please support your child to learn to read red words (words that cannot be sounded out- e.g. the, to, me, he, she etc). For those children that can read red words 1 and 2, you will receive a special certificate!

Reception: Every week I will send home the letter sounds that your child has been learning so that you can reinforce recognition and formation.

As we can't send home reading books at the moment, you will have access to Bug Club our school online reading scheme. I will provide you with a login, password and further details soon. Your child will also be able to practice and develop their maths skills using Numbots- again, I will provide you with a login, password and details soon.

Important Days

Thursday: Yr 1 and Reception- Come to school in PE kit

Friday: Yr 1's ONLY -Come to school in PE kit

Every day: Water bottles and coats, sun hat if the weather looks like it might be warm and long hair tied back.

Please get in touch if you need any more information about any of the above.

With kind regards, Miss Annabel Freeman