



Plum Class News

Autumn 2

Welcome back to our second half term together in Plum Class. It has been such fun to be back with the children and although we are in strange times with this second lockdown, we aim to make our class life exciting, colourful and full of interaction, play and learning. This is always such a fun half term and although things have to be a little different, we aim to ensure that there is still lots of magic, sparkle and fun!

Read, Write, Inc

We have made great progress with learning the Set 1 Read, Write Inc sounds. As you have discovered, this is the beginning of an exciting journey of learning and using letter sounds that unlock the door to reading and writing. We can't thank you enough for supporting your child at home, regular practise at home makes such a difference. We will continue to let you know the sounds that we've learnt each week and we ask that you continue to reinforce these. We're also beginning to blend sounds to make short three letters words – dog, cat, sun etc. It's so wonderful when the children realise they can do this. You may also hear your children talking about red words. These are tricky words that you can't sound out – me, the, she etc. We'll be sharing some of these with you soon so that you can reinforce them at home.

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, less, fewer, most and least. In addition to this, we'll be learning 2d and 3d shape names, investigating the properties of these shapes and looking for them in the environment that surrounds us at school. We have already been applying our shape knowledge this week as we made our rockets and fireworks! Towards the end of the term our Christmas topic will provide us with lots of opportunity to order and compare size (parcels and letters in our Christmas themed role play area).

The World

We have already begun our first mini topic, 'bonfire night,' by creating fantastic firework pictures, hanging proudly in our classroom. This week we have also found out the best materials to make rockets by using 3d shapes. Next week we move onto our second mini topic and start to gain a little understanding of Remembrance Day and the reason why we wear poppies.

Within this half term we will begin to understand the concept of day and night (light and dark.) We will be creating a dark cave area in the classroom, where the children can start to investigate shadows by using torches and twinkle lights.

In addition to this we will be learning about nocturnal animals, with a particular focus on owls. Towards the end of this half term we will be celebrating Christmas. Making Christmas cards, retelling Christmas stories and using ICT programmes to create Christmas themed pictures, these are just some of the exciting things we have planned!

Creative Work

Singing is a daily occurrence in Plum class and we'll be learning lots of new topic themed songs as well as enjoying old favourites! There will be opportunities for painting and collaging, particularly as we explore Christmas and we'll be making some very careful and detailed pictures of Owls. 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

Through gardening, dance and our weekly P.E sessions, we will build upon our vital gross motor skills. Scissor work, collaging with sequins and small cut papers, threading activities, model making and lots of regular fingers exercises will help to ensure that our fine motor skills get a bit of a work out too. Please continue to remember to send children dressed in their PE kits on Thursdays.

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

Thank you very much to everyone who shared the wonderful things you have been getting up to over the half term holiday – please continue to upload any photos of your child's home learning on their journal as it builds up a strong profile of their progress.

We'd like to introduce you to our new online reading scheme, **Bug Club**. Next week you will receive log in details and there will be a book for you and your child to enjoy together. The 1st couple of books will be wordless. The task is to use the pictures to tell the story – this is a vital skill when learning to read. We'll then move on to books with some simple text. Do let us know of you have any issues accessing this. If you'd like to let us know how your child has got on, please send comments to: annemarie.grimes@school360.co.uk

At lunchtime we are encouraging the children to eat with both their knife and fork. It would be great if you could practise and reinforce this skill at home so that the expectations are consistent.

Reminders: As the weather is beginning to turn cold, could you please ensure that your child has a coat, hat, scarf and preferably a pair of mittens rather than gloves. It is incredibly helpful to us and we strongly advise 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.

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Plum Class Teacher