

## Curriculum Information

### Plum Class- Spring 1 2022

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Firstly, a very happy new year to all Plum Class families! We hope that you are well rested and looking forward to another busy term. **Just a quick reminder, please do remember to check out our blog on Fridays to catch up on all of our weekly learning!**

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

Reception friends- Assessments at the end of the autumn term showed fabulous progress and this is testament to our hard working children and the super support you have given from home.

Now that we have taught all of the Set 1 sounds we are going to focus on using these to help read short words and ditties which will contain both green and red words. We will also begin to write short phrases, making sure that we form our letters correctly and leave finger spaces. There will of course be lots of time for consolidation for those who need to re-visit Set 1 sounds – no child is left behind and we ensure that everyone continues to make the progress they need to on their own learning journey.

Don't forget to read your blending book every week for practice and return these by Wednesday the following week so we have time to read with your child and give them their new book by the Friday.

Our Year 1 friends were so busy last term focusing on blending, decoding, holding sentences in our head and then writing them down. We will continue to move forward with these skills this term as lots of us are still finding it very tricky to blend whilst reading and decode whilst writing. We will continue to practice reading our speed sounds from set 1 and 2. Please practice these at home- you can find set one and two sounds on plum class page on the website.

#### **Reading**

Thank you to everyone who has embraced our new reading scheme and provided the children with opportunities to read these books at home. The children read with us each week and we are really beginning to notice those who are reading regularly at home – your hard work is paying off! The children usually read with us on Thursdays and Fridays so please ensure their book and Reading Record are in school by Thursday each week. Please do also continue to use Bug Club alongside the books we send home as it gets the children used to independently using technology for informative purpose and these books are also aligned with our phonic coverage in RWInc.

#### **Mathematics**

Reception friends- In our mathematical work, we will be continuing to develop our understanding of the composition of numbers 1-5, developing our confidence of these number bonds through partitioning and sharing these numbers using the part, part, whole method. We will develop our understanding of one more than, one less than using place value as our guide as we jump forwards and backwards on the number line.

We will then move on to numbers 6-9 as we begin to consider the sub groups within these numbers as we continue to utilise our subitising skills to add numbers together to create the whole amount, the first steps on the ladder towards creating addition number stories. We will be considering the patterns within number as we group arrangements, sharing irregular amounts of items, in-turn developing our understanding of odd and even numbers.

In Year 1 we are going to be very busy ploughing ahead as last term we spent lots of time consolidating our knowledge on place value within 10. We also spent lots of time learning about number bonds, part whole models, bar models and various methods to support our understanding of addition. We didn't get to move onto subtraction. This will be our starting focus this half term.

After we have covered subtraction we will move swiftly on to place value within 20 and we will be looking closer at how bigger numbers are made up. In order for us to do this we needed to secure our knowledge of the lower numbers.

## Topic Work

This half term we will be exploring the world and environment around us. We will be learning more about “trash to treasure”- with a focus on reduce, reuse and recycle. We will learn about the damage we are causing to planet earth and what we can do to help with emphasis on recycling. Year 1 will enjoy making their own treasure boxes with recycled materials and reception will reuse materials to make things that are useful-bird feeders, pencil pots etc.

Reception will also be learning more about the world around us with emphasis on birds and Winter. We will investigate the birds that visit our school grounds in winter and how we can help them in bad weather and also learn about other wildlife that may be living around us and as part of this we will revisit hibernation and migration. We will learn more about the habitats of birds around us as well as looking at the habitats of birds and animals from colder climates to consider how animals adapt to their environments.

In other areas of learning we will get busy developing our map skills in year 1, become scientists and investigate different materials and will use both non-fiction and fiction texts to engage us in our learning. Keep an eye on our weekly blogs to see which texts we have been learning about.

## The Physical Stuff

We will try to get out onto the field (with our wellies!) at least once a week to follow treasure hunts, look for birds, and make bird hides and spot signs of winter. PE day will continue to be on a Thursday (all children) – **please remember to send the children to school in their PE kit as per the website.** This term we will be exploring different ways we can use our bodies to balance and move. We will continue to develop our fine motor skills through lots of writing, cutting, colouring and manipulating. You can support us in this by encouraging your child to hold pencils and scissors correctly and by providing opportunities for these experiences at home. Many of our children have mastered the art of fastening their own zip and we'll continue to support the children to do this throughout the half term. At lunchtime, as always, we'll 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!

**This half term our year 1 children only should come to school in their PE kit on Tuesday (as well as Thursday) as they will be taking part in NUF problem solving.**

## Weekly homework tasks:

- Reading- please encourage your child to read their reading book as much as possible
- Have a go at reading and writing red words from red word walls 1,2,3 and 4
- **Numicon challenge- Starting next week I will be setting weekly challenges (via a tab on plum class page titled Numicon Challenge)** which will involve you using your brand new numicon packs. If you're in Reception I'd love to see a picture of your completed work on your learning journal. If you're in year 1 please email me a picture of your child completing their work. This can be printed and brought in if easier.
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## **Additional information/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.**
- Could we also politely remind you that our school day starts at 8.35. If the door is closed by the time you arrive the only entrance will be via the office. The doors will be closed by 8.45 to ensure that we are able to get on with our busy day!

Remember we are 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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