



## **Plum Class News**

### **Autumn 2**

Wow! Where did that first half term go? I welcome you back to yet another busy, enjoyable half term. We are still extremely proud of how well all the children are doing and how they have come together as a class, working well with each other, being considerate of each other and taking the time to support each other. As we push through this half term the pace does not let up, and we also have to somehow squeeze in some Christmas festivities too!

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

We have continued to make 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 also send home details of the letters and sounds that your child has been learning so that you can reinforce recognition and formation.

#### **Mathematics**

This half term, we shall be ensuring that everyone in Plum class has a solid understanding of numbers to 20. 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, displayed on the classroom wall. This week we have also found out the best materials to make rockets by using 2d and 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 a daily session of the children's favourite 'dough disco' will help to ensure that our fine motor skills get a bit of a work out too. Please ensure your child has their P.E kit on their peg for every Friday P.E session.

**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 Books and School360 Learning Journals

Thank you very much to everyone that shared with us some of the wonderful things you have been getting up to over the half term holiday. Home learning books will be sent home on a Friday and need to be returned to school by Tuesday. It gives a brief overview 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 we fully appreciate that some weekends are very busy!

In addition to the home learning books, if you are adding your own observations onto your child's school 360 learning journal, you'll be entered into a 'draw' where the prize we are offering will be **2 free front row seats to our infant Nativity Performance in December.** This is a little incentive and a thank you to all the parents who are using School360 to upload observations.

We will be introducing reading books in the next coming weeks. More information about this will follow.

**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.**

### Key Dates:

**Tuesday:** Home Learning Books back to school.

**Wednesday:** Letter Sound files back to school.

**Friday:** P.E (some children **still do not** have a P.E kit in school - please bring into school and leave on your child's peg.)

**Every day:** Water Bottles and Book Bags to be in school.

Remember the door is always open if you have any questions or worries, catch us in the morning, end of the day or send us an email:

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*Plum Class Teachers*