

Plum Newsletter

Welcome to back to the Term 2 newsletter. We have a busy and exciting few weeks in front of us!

We are now finally into autumn and heading towards winter and even though the weather will become increasingly cold and wet, it is important for the children's physical development that we still access the Plum outside area including the mud kitchen and the sandpit area unless it is really raining.

We do have a small supply of waterproof coats that the children can borrow but each child should come to school with a waterproof coat every day and have a named set of spare clothes on their peg every day for emergencies. This could be left at school 'just in case'. We unfortunately do not have any spare wellies right now, but we recommend that your child has access to their own wellies at school every day to ensure that their feet and shoes are kept dry.

It is also important that you encourage your child to be fully independent in putting their own coat and shoes on. This really does increase a child's self-confidence at school when they can easily get themselves prepared for the outside activity or when it is time to go home. We do encourage each child to 'have a go' and we positively support them when necessary.

Term 2 Topic: How can we plan an enjoyable celebration for all the children in our class?

Our topic this term is 'Celebrations'. We will be learning about the different celebrations that happen at this time of year from Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night and Diwali to Christmas.

Our story this term is 'Elmer' and we will be using this text to investigate colours and shapes.

Our Focus Questions

Week 1 - What can you see? What can you hear?

Week 2 - Can you describe Elmer? How is he feeling?

Week 3 - What colour can you see? What shape would work best?

Week 4 - What sounds can you hear?

Week 5 - What changes have you seen? How has the environment changed?

Week 6 - What do you know about Christmas?

Week 7 - Can you talk about the Nativity Story?

Week 8 - What are you looking forward to?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During this term we will continue to support the children in making positive relationships with the adults and their peers. We will be continuing to develop their understanding that the adults in the classroom are there to support and help them if necessary. We will also be expanding our discussions on the Zones of Regulation which links to our behaviour policy and encourages the children to self-regulate their own emotions. We have already been noticing a big difference in the children as they learn to negotiate and collaborate with each other with our support.

Communication and Language

As this is one of the prime areas of learning, we will continue to focus much of our time on joining the children in their play to encourage the expansion of their vocabulary and their confidence of their conversational skills. Nadine and I really enjoy our interactions with your children within in their play and are so pleased to witness the continuous development of their use of language.

Physical Development

The children have plenty of opportunity to develop their gross motor skills this term. We have a large range of risky play equipment that they can choose to use outside to increase the strength and mobility of their large muscles. We now also have daily 'Squiggle while we wiggle' sessions that encourages development of their shoulder and arm muscles in preparation for writing. In Term 2, we will also be supporting the children's fine motor skills development by providing lots of activities such as cutting with scissors, creating marks that have meaning, recognisable drawings, as well as possibly beginning to practice writing our names!

Literacy

The text this term is 'Elmer' and we will be using this story across all the different areas of the curriculum. For example, it will support Mathematics in the understanding of shapes and colours, PSED in understanding feelings of both being different and belonging to a community and Communication and Language in the importance of using our words to explain what we need.

Phonics

In Nursery it is important that the children develop accurate focused listening skills so that they can then move on towards reception being able to differentiate between different sounds for their early reading and writing. Phase 1 phonic games encourage the development of this skill and the children have really enjoyed the listening games that they have been introduced to. We are moving onto Aspect 2 which is instrument sounds this term and have lots more games to play with the children!

Mathematics

For the first part of this term, we are introducing 2D shapes and all the language that is involved with them. We will be talking about the names of the shapes as well as sides,

corners and edges. Towards the end of the term, we will return to numbers to ensure that the children really understand about careful counting, subitising and cardinality.

Understanding the World

Our topic for this term is 'Celebrations' and we will be investigating how different cultures celebrate different traditions. We also have plans for a special Christmas present that the children can bring home to share!

Expressive Art and Design

This is a busy term for EAD! We will be creating firework pictures, learning about colours and colour mixing, there will be lots of singing preparation for our Christmas performance and there might be other plans afoot if Mandy can source what she needs (shhhhhhhh!)

Forest School

Now that we are definitely in Autumn and heading towards Winter the children need to be appropriately dressed for Forest School. If the weather is wet then Forest School will become muddy and the children might need to have a change of clothes on the day if they manage to get really wet or muddy and we need to get them changed. Please ensure that they can INDEPENDENTLY change into anything you provide for them to wear. Please NO lace up shoes and encourage your child to put their own socks, shoes and coat on.

Internet safety

We will discuss the need for staying safe online with the children again this term and developing their understanding of how to stay safe. We will be looking at stories that will support the children with this and will continue to discuss the need for supervision when on sites such as Youtube. Please ensure that you are always supervising your child whilst they are on the internet and that you have full parental controls in place.

Activities to do at home

- Go on an autumn walk together. Can you hear the crunching of the fallen leaves? Can you find conkers or different coloured leaves? What are the squirrels collecting for their hibernation time?
- What's the weather like out the window? Is it rainy? Is it cold and crispy? What does that look like? What does that feel like?
- Play some turn taking games like snap or a pairs game or taking turns to kick a football.
- Share some stories. Can your child help you tell the story? What might happen next? How might they be feeling?
- Don't forget to share any activities or celebrations on Tapestry so that we can talk to your child about it.

Reminders & dates

Tuesday 31 October - Hallowe'en

Sunday 5 November - Bonfire Night

7, 9 November (tbc) - Parent's evenings

12 November - Diwali

Friday 24 November - Inset day - school closed to pupils
Wednesday 20 December - End of Term 2
Monday 25 December - Christmas Break
Monday 8 January - Inset day - school closed to pupils
Nursery children will be given their start dates individually.

Model Text

Elmer

Once upon a time there was a herd of elephants. There were big elephants, small elephants, round elephants and strong elephants. All were happy except for Elmer. Elmer was different. He was a big colourful elephant.

One dark night Elmer was thinking "Why am I so different to the other elephants?" This made Elmer sad. Early one morning Elmer found a large bush covered in berries. Elmer had an idea. He covered himself in the berries to make himself look like all of the other elephants.

When he came back no one noticed him. But Elmer didn't like being the same as everyone else, he liked to be different. Suddenly it began to rain and all of the berries washed off Elmer to show all of his bright colours.

The herd of elephants laughed and laughed. After that they decided that they would like to be big, colourful elephants just like Elmer.

And they did.

The End