Nursery Newsletter

Welcome back to Term 2! We have lots of exciting things happening this term for Plum class pupils.

- We will have Forest School outdoor learning sessions on a Friday - Children will need to come dressed in old, warm clothes with wellies in a named bag on this day. They tend to get quite muddy!

Topic: Celebrations

Driving Question: How could we plan an enjoyable celebration for all the children in our class?

Our Focus questions this term:

Week 1: What can you see? What can you hear?
Week 2: Can you describe Elmer? How is Elmer feeling?
Week 3: What colour can you use? 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?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We will be helping the children to recognise and talk about feelings such as sadness (blue zone) happiness (green zone) or feeling cross (red zone). We will be linking this to our new behaviour policy which focuses on the Zones of Regulation. Linking to the character of Elmer in our story, we will encourage children to notice how others are feeling and how to help or comfort them. The children will also take part in activities that require collaboration, for example ring games and nursery rhymes such as 'Row, row, row your boat.'

Communication and Language, Reading and Writing

Sharing rhymes, books and stories is an important aspect of Plum class. The children will begin to say repeated phrases in stories and they will join in with actions from songs. We will prompt children's thinking and discussion through involvement in their play, talking about what they have been doing and helping them to reflect upon and explain events. As the term progresses, the pupils will begin to

recite our key story of the term – Elmer, focusing on the key story language which is written in bold on our model text given.

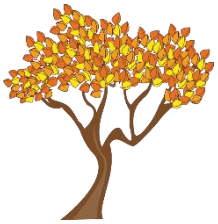
Physical Development

There will be plenty of opportunities to develop gross motor skills in Term 2. In our outdoor area and Forest School sessions, a range of large play equipment will be provided that can be used in different ways, such as boxes, ladders and balance beams. During PE sessions we will also be learning to use the large climbing equipment safely. To improve our fine motor skills, the children will experiment with a variety of mark making materials and resources such as scissors, jugs and threading. We will also be practising to hold our pencils correctly and use them to draw pictures and begin to write some letters from our names.

Phase 1 phonics

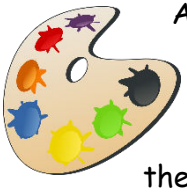
The foundations of phonics begins long before children learn to read and write letters and words. In Nursery we will be introducing the children to phonics. During this term we will be continuing to developing the children's listening skills and sound discrimination through games and activities. Later in the term we will begin to look at rhyme and alliteration.

Forest School



Every **Friday** we will continue to attend our weekly Forest School sessions, which take place in our wildlife area on school grounds. We ask that children come to Nursery in old clothes, that you don't mind getting muddy, and have wellies in a bag with the children's names on. To help us get ready in good time for Forest School, please can you help your child to practise taking off and putting on their shoes, socks and coats independently at home.

Expressive Arts and Design



As our topic suggests, we will focus on the arts and looking at colour. We will learn the names of all colours, look for colour patterns in the environment, what colours are used for specific things and colour mixing. This will be encompassed in a dressing up day where the children can come to school dressed in their favourite colour (or colours!). Towards the end of the term, we will focus on learning the songs for our Christmas song performance!

Maths

During our maths carpet sessions we will continue to look at recognising numbers and counting accurately. We will also look at shapes, by naming shapes and begin to talk about properties. Here is a website link to game you could play: https://www.topmarks.co.uk/early-years/shape-monsters



Understanding the World

This term we will be discussing our families and looking at how we all take part in different traditions and celebrations. We will begin by looking at Bonfire Night and end the term looking at Christmas.

Internet safety

We will discuss the need for staying safe online with the children again this term; 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. If you need support with this, you can go to: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/

Activities to do at home



- Can you challenge your child by encouraging them to move in different ways? Can they jump, hop, skip? How long can they balance on one leg?
- Play some simple turn taking games, for example; 'snap', 'pairs/memory', 'hide and seek', 'dominoes', 'uno' or taking turns to kick a football.
- Share your favourite stories and rhymes from your childhood. These can be in English or from another culture, particularly where children are learning English as an additional language.
- Begin to get your child 'school ready' by ensuring they know how to sit at a table to eat their food and use a knife and fork appropriately.
- Add information about what you do over the holidays and in celebrations this term to Tapestry.

Reminders & dates

Monday 2nd November– Back to school after half term.
Thursday 12th November – 9 – 10am - Parent pod for parents of all year groups - see poster in the office or online at: https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/about-us/dashwood-action-committee/
Friday 13th November – Sibling photos
Monday 16th November - Odd Socks Day – children can wear odd socks to school in support of Anti-bullying
Monday 16th-Friday 20th November - Anti - Bullying Week.
Thursday 19th November – 4-5pm – Reception open evening for new pupils for September 2027
Friday 27th and Monday 30th November – INSET DAY: School closed for all pupils
Monday 14th December – Plum Nursery Singing
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner
Friday 18th December – Last day of Term 2 and Christmas Jumper/Party Dress
Monday 4th January – INSET DAY: School closed for all pupils
Tuesday 5th January – Home Visits
Wednesday 6th January – Home Visits and Stay and Play
Thursday 7th January – Old Plum Class students start back to school
New children to Plum will receive their staggered starting dates separately.

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.