

# Welcome to Africa

Dear Parents,

Let us start this newsletter by saying how excited we are about being on this adventure around Africa. We hope that you are ready for this amazing year together.

Firstly, let's introduce the amazing Year 1 teaching team. We are so fortunate as a class to have a great team of adults with fantastic knowledge and a lot of compassion and care for the children. Throughout the week, the children will see Mrs Wharf, Mrs Jones, Mrs Gee and Miss Hoogendyk.

The children will also be having weekly PE with A&M Sports. Our PE days are currently Monday and Wednesday.

Please read the rest of this newsletter very carefully as it is full of super useful information about Africa Class. As always, if you have any concerns, questions or comments then please come and see us or alternatively, email/call the office and we will get back to you. This is going to be a fantastic year and we are thoroughly looking forward to working with you all.

The Year 1 Teaching Team 😊



## Escape to Madagascar

The start of our journey sees us explore the continent that makes up Africa. The children will start by thinking about what to pack in a suitcase, different ways to travel to the continent and what countries make up Africa. The children will then zoom into Madagascar to discover the geography of the island and how it compares to Risby and the UK.

In English, our focus story is called 'Handa's Surprise'. A lovely story about fruit, animals and friendship. The children will learn how to write sentences, use adjectives and punctuation correctly. The children will have daily phonics, spelling and reading too. The teaching team in Year 1 are passionate about books and stories and so we will be immersing the children in a whole range of books.

In Maths, the children will be building on their mathematical foundations from Reception by continuing to form numbers correctly, use numbers to 10 to secure their knowledge and shapes.

In Science, the children will be investigating the seasons and materials. They will be using their scientific skills of observing and questioning to support their understanding of the world.

We will be taking part in regular music, computing, PSHE, RE, Philosophy, Art and PE sessions.

### **At Home**

To help your child with our learning this term, it would be great if you could;

- Read as many wonderful books as possible. This can be them reading to you and also you reading a book together. It can be a story book, a fact book or a magazine!
- Practice recognising numbers and counting backwards and forwards from any number.
- Do some writing at home such as writing a shopping list, writing cards or letters or even your own stories and songs.

### **The School Day**

Doors open at 8.40am and close at 8.50am.

School finishes at 3.30pm.

If someone different is collecting, then please let the office know or a member of the team on the door when you drop off in the morning.

### School Uniform

Please, please PLEASE make sure that EVERYTHING is clearly named! Coats, hats, jumpers, cardigans etc. If it is not named, then it is always harder to return this to you. This also includes naming everything for PE.

### PE

Our PE sessions will be on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon with A&M Sports. **Please check Dojo regularly for any changes.** Please can the children come to school dressed in their school PE Kits and please ensure that it is appropriate for the weather – crew neck jumpers (no hoods or zips), earrings out, hair up and trainers.

### Wellington Boots

We are super lucky that we have a welly boot station just near our classroom door, so please bring in your boots and make sure that firstly they are clearly named and also that they fit!

### Snack

In Year 1 Snack is provided but if your child would like a snack from home then please send it into school. If it's coming in a pot then please make sure it is named. The snack should be fruit or vegetables. The children will have the opportunity to eat this with their water bottles and enjoy a brilliant story read by me.

### Water Bottles – Water Only!

Please make sure that your child comes to school everyday with a named water bottle. The children have access to their water bottles all day, and at lunch are able to have cups of water.

### Bookbags

Can your child please bring their bookbag with them daily. Ensure it is clearly named and that it doesn't have any keyrings or chains attached as it makes it a lot harder to store these. Also, please only bring the essentials to school! No toys as they may get lost or broken.

## Reading

Please make sure that your child comes to school everyday with their reading book and reading log. The books sent home need to be read **TWICE** before they are changed please. This is to ensure fluency and comprehension. We read every day at school. Your child should read every day at home for at least 10-15 minutes with an adult. We know every day is a big ask but please try for as often as you can. Can we also request that you make a note of this reading in the orange reading logs. It can be as long or as short as you want, such as your initial and what the next page is to read. Reading is important and has so many benefits to your child.

## Recommended Reads

As already mentioned, during snack and story the children listen to story read by us, however the children do get the chance to vote for our class story. It would be great for us to share some possible reads with you for your bookshelves and vice versa. If you read any brilliant books at home, then we would love to hear about them.

## Birthday Books (No yummy treats)

In Africa Class, we like to celebrate birthdays and we know that you also like to mark this special day with yummy treats but instead of bringing in cake or sweets.... Please bring a book! This could be your child's favourite book or another brilliant book (as there are so many to choose from). Each birthday book will be placed in the classroom with a special sticker celebrating the day!

## Key Dates to Pencil In

<b>Harvest Festival at St Giles</b> <i>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</i> <i>10.30am</i>	<b>Parent Consultations</b> <i>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 4-7pm</i> <i>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 4-7pm</i>	<b>Join our Journey</b> <i>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</i>
<b>School Trip – More details to follow</b> <i>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<b>Half term</b> <i>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October</i>	<b>Christmas Plays</b> <i>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December</i> <i>2.30pm</i> <i>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December</i> <i>2.30pm</i>
<b>School Photos</b> <i>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October</i>		

# Happy 2025-2026

