

Welcome to Africa

Dear Parents and Carers,

Let us start this newsletter by saying how excited we are for this adventure around Africa with your children. We hope that you have all had a lovely summer and are ready for an amazing year together.

Firstly, let's introduce the brilliant 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, Miss Wyatt, Mrs Jones, Mrs Gee, Mrs Howe and Mr Miller for PE.

Our PE days this term will be Wednesday and Thursday. The children can come to school dressed in their Risby PE kits on these days. We also have a 'Meet the Teacher' where you will be able to come and see the classroom, ask questions and learn more about Year 1.

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 be working with you all.

The Year 1 Teaching Team 😊



Amazing Africa

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 learn the

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continents and oceans of the world focusing on Africa and where the UK is in relation. We will also learn how to use a compass and answer questions about the world using it. As Africa is so big, we will also look at the physical features, human features, traditions and cultures which will help explain why it is so amazing.

Escape to Madagascar

The children will then zoom into Madagascar to discover the geography of the island and how it compares to Risby and the UK. The focus will be on farming and the weather but the children will also explore the country using their new skills of finding physical and human features plus using a compass on the island.

More Lessons

The children will start Year 1 by focusing on how to form letters correctly plus understand the key fundamental parts that make up a sentence. They will have daily opportunities to write in a variety of ways through the day.

Books, books and more books. The Year One teaching staff can't get enough of celebrating super stories, fantastic facts and brilliant poetry and so the class will hear a variety of texts from all of us everyday.

The children will continue with daily spelling and phonics sessions too.

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.

The children will work up to a beautiful piece of Art through Journey of Discovery taking time to build up artistic skills and develop their own styles. This is also true of DT where the children will be able to imagine, create, evaluate and improve on their models. We will listen and appraise a range of African music and learn about rhythm in our music lessons. The children will also have weekly Computing, PSHE and RE lessons too.

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At Home

To help your child with our learning this half 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 – 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.

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 Wednesday and Thursday. **Please check Dojo regularly for any changes.** Please can the children come to school dressed in their school PE Kits and 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!

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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 have the opportunity to change books daily. We read everyday at school. Your child should read everyday at home for at least 10-15 minutes with an adult. We know everyday 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.

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.... 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!

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Key Dates to Pencil In

Tuesday 16th September – Meet the teacher

Thursday 24th September – Harvest Festival at St Giles Church

Friday 25th September – Non-Uniform Day

Wednesday 7th October – School Photos

Monday 19th October – Parent Consultations

Wednesday 21st October – Parent Consultations

Monday 26th October – Half Term

Friday 20th November – Children in Need

Tuesday 8th December – Christmas Performance

Wednesday 9th December – Christmas Performance

Wednesday 16th December – Risby's Christmas Day

Thursday 17th December – Christmas at St Giles Church

Monday 21st December – Christmas Holidays