Welcome to Year One. I hope you all had a fantastic summer and are now ready for the exciting year ahead. At first, the children may find Year One quite different from Reception. Our aim, over the course of the autumn term, is to make a smooth and seamless transition from learning through play, to a more structured and informative curriculum. Over the first few weeks we will be undertaking lots of ‘getting to know you’ activities, as well as agreeing on a set of ‘promises’ aimed at making our classroom environment safe; and learning fun and accessible for all. This will link in with our ‘Rights Respecting Charter’, the focus for which this term will be our right to learn. Below you will find a brief summary of some of the topics and skills we will be covering this term. Our class open evening will take place on Wednesday 19th September at 7pm, when I will have the opportunity to give you a more detailed view of the children’s day and my expectations for the coming year. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to raise with me any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Kind regards, Mrs Tina Rekesius

**Literacy**
We begin this term with a brief look at signs, labels and captions and the children will be making a book about animals. Our main focus will be based on stories and poetry from Africa. The children will be writing jungle poems and re-telling a ‘Tinga Tinga’ tale. Our non-fiction work will also be linked to our African topic. The children will be creating a Rainforest Poster and making their own Lemur Fact File!

The children make huge leaps in their writing development during Year One and to support this, our main focus will be ‘sounding out’ words we want to spell, and using capital letters and full stops in our sentences. We will also be working hard on our letter formations. There will be daily reading and phonics sessions, where the children will have the opportunity to continue to practise their letter sounds and spelling.

**Numeracy**
We will again be using The White Rose Maths Hub as our main approach to teaching maths in Year One. This scheme focuses on:

- Fluency - grasping the fundamentals of maths, practising arithmetic skills, making connections & becoming more confident with written and mental methods
- Reasoning - being able to explain why an answer is wrong or right,
- Problem Solving - applying mathematical knowledge to a variety of situations, breaking down problems into manageable steps

Weekly numeracy homework will be issued on a Wednesday, to be returned by the following Monday. It is important that your child completes this weekly homework, as it will help to consolidate their learning.

**Topic Work**
To help the children link information, most of our work across the curriculum is based on a theme. For the first few weeks the theme will be ‘Ourselves & Other Animals’ (science/literacy focus), After that, and for the majority of this term, our theme is ‘An African Adventure’ (geography/art focus). You will notice our literacy texts tie in with these themes and where possible so will our numeracy - an holistic approach makes the learning so much more fun and the children are given greater opportunity to make links between ideas. Literacy, Art and ICT activities run through all our topics, as do opportunities for role play, construction, outdoor exploration and physical development.
What can I do at home to support my child?

To support your child’s literacy development, it is really important for you to be listening to them read as often as possible at home. After you have heard them read it is useful if you can record a few comments about their reading inside their red reading record book. It is also helpful if you can remind your child to change their book when they need a new one. The children will be given the opportunity to do this each morning before registration.

Similarly, it is important that you support your child in practising the weekly phonics’ sounds and spelling words in their blue phonics homework folders. The best approach for this is ‘little and often’ and each week the sheet given out will provide a space and a method to do this. The spelling sheet will also contain several ‘high frequency’ words and learning to spell these words will be a key part of your child’s writing development. The children will be informally tested on their weekly words first thing each Monday morning during our ‘spelling & grammar’ session.

Many thanks in advance for your support. 😊

STAFFING

Class Teacher: Mrs Rekesius
Monday PPA Release & Cover Teacher: Mrs Berry
Teaching Assistants:
Mrs Lucock
Mrs Gee
(Miss Jane - Tuesday afternoon)

Please Note: Mrs Lucock (Mrs Gee on Friday) will greet the children at the rear door to the classroom in the small playground each morning.

If you have any messages that you would like to have passed to me or if you would like to speak to me after school, they will make a note of it in our link book and pass these messages/requests to me.