



Welcome to Year 1!

We hope that you have enjoyed your summer and are excited about learning new things together in year 1.

Our first topic is "Welcome to the Jungle!" where we will cover aspects of Science and Geography by looking at ourselves and our families, a variety of animals and a comparison between England and Africa. We begin on the first day by asking a **Big Question – Why is an Elephant not like a human?** We will explore the topic using the stories of Elmer the Elephant by David McKee, The Mixed up Chameleon by Eric Carle and Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne. It will help us to look at how we are all special and unique and to celebrate our differences as well as look at what makes us similar to other animals. We will finish the topic with an African Day on Thursday 11th October where we will take part in a variety of activities such as Art, Dance, Food Technology and drama.

Homework project – find out and present some facts about Africa. This can be a poster, a model, drawings, or powerpoint but must be at least in some part your child's own work! Africa is a colourful place so make your project stand out with its bright colours! **Bring this project in during the week of October 8th** ready for our Africa Day.

Families and Belonging

The first two RE topics link nicely together and fit into our overall theme as we look at what it means to be part of our own family and God's family before exploring how we can belong within those families and in other areas of our life such as in sports clubs and uniformed organisations. Please talk to your child and share memories and experiences of wider family times. We will encourage them at certain points to bring in photos showing their families and also to share their experience of belonging to groups and organisations outside school.



Maths



In maths we will be looking at numbers and counting so any practice you can do with your child at writing, reading and counting numbers up to 20 will really help them. We will also begin some addition and subtraction using + - = signs and simple word problems.

Homework

In year 1 we have weekly homework in special homework books which will be sent home each Tuesday and due to be returned the following Monday. This will usually consist of a handwriting practice and a number activity. We also expect you to regularly listen to your child read and initial the link book accordingly. Within a few weeks we will start to send home a small spelling book. This will have a short list of spellings for your child to learn at home. There will be a spelling test the following week. There is also one piece of project type homework each half term either set by us or as whole school homework.

Finally a quick reminder that PE is on Monday and Thursday when the children are encouraged to come in joggers and polo shirt for ease of changing although PE bags are expected to be in school at all times.

Please do not hesitate to speak to either teacher if you have any concerns at any point – we are happy to spend 5 minutes with you at the end of the day or arrange a time to speak on the phone.

Many thanks Mrs Weston and Mrs Crowley