

Year One Newsletter

Summer 1 2025



We hope you have had a fantastic break and enjoyed indulging in chocolate, treats and spending time with family and friends. Hopefully the sun continues to shine, and we can all enjoy spending more time outside. We have another exciting half term ahead of us – it is an absolute pleasure being able to support and watch your children flourish and grow.

Our topic this half-term is 'Amazing Africa'.

Wonderful Whipsnade Zoo

Wow!! What an absolute pleasure it was to take the children to Whipsnade Zoo. They enjoyed a jam-packed day visiting and seeing lots of different animals, listening to animal talks, taking part in an African animal workshop with one of the zoo rangers and having a delicious picnic. Lots of the children said their highlight was the double-decker coach ride to and from the zoo! We walked almost 13,000 steps, and it didn't rain whilst we were there, yippee!! Members of staff and the public commented on how polite, engaged and well-behaved our children were. We are all so incredibly proud of them for representing our school so well. A huge thank you to all the parents for making this trip possible, we really appreciate your support. We cannot wait to use our newly acquired knowledge to inspire our writing in the classroom. You are fantastic Year One!



Phonics Screening Check

The Year One Phonics screening checks are due to take place the week commencing **Monday 9th June 2025**. The checks are based on Phase 3 and Phase 5 sounds which the children have been learning all year. They have also taken part in a mock version of this test with Mrs Reynolds. Each child will be tested on them individually and you will be informed of their results. You can find out more about the check [here](#).



To support your child with the phonics screening check, we encourage you to read with them once a day to embed their knowledge of their taught sounds. If you would like support on how to support you child with phonics you can visit the Little Wandle resources [here](#) or ask your child's class teacher.

Homework

The children are working really hard on their homework. Each week we ask that the children:

- ✓ Read their phonics books at least once a day in addition to enjoying sharing books from school and sharing stories you have at home.
- ✓ Complete Maths homework which will continue to be set on Purple Mash every Friday. The children have a week to complete this.

Year 1 Curriculum – ‘Amazing Africa’



In English this half term, we are basing our learning on African animals and stories. The children will be writing a recount of their zoo trip, fact files on African animals and retelling and adapting the story Giraffes Can't Dance. We will focus on writing sentences using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces as well as including adjectives and high-quality vocabulary. We are working hard to be able to write words with -ed and -es suffixes (e.g. jumped, walked/houses, boxes)

During Geography, the children will learn all about Africa. They will learn how to use an Atlas and create a fantastic A3 fact file based on everything Africa! This will include learning about basic key skills and learning how to locate the continents and countries.



In Maths the children will be learning how to recognise and find half and a quarter of an object and quantities, developing their positional and directional language and improving their knowledge of place value to 100.

Continuing with our theme, in Science we are learning all about animals – linking to our African topic. Year 1 will learn to identify a variety of common animals and will begin to classify them. They will be introduced to new vocabulary: carnivore, herbivore and omnivore and be able to explain what the difference is between the three.



In DT, the children will be learning about all things chocolate! They will understand that cocoa comes from Africa and learn how chocolate is made. They will taste a variety of different chocolate and learn how rice crispy cakes are made before choosing the chocolate and topping to go into their very own rice crispy cakes!

In RE we are learning all about caring for others by linking this to various religious stories. This links well to our PSHE topic of relationships where we will be learning about different families and discussing what makes us and others special.

In Music the children are lucky enough to have an African Drumming workshop with Mrs Horwood next week and will learn some African songs. We will then continue our learning of exploring pitch by playing a variety of instruments including chime bars, glockenspiels, xylophones, drums cabasas and maracas.



In PE, the children will predominately be outside. They will be taking part in athletics and football. The skills learnt will come in handy for our upcoming event...Sports Day!

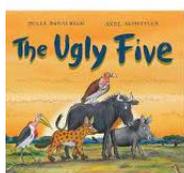
Value of the Month – May

Individuality

During the month of May, we are focusing on the value 'individuality. We will be discussing what this means, celebrating our uniqueness and how we are all individuals, and that is amazing! We will read lots of books to support our learning.

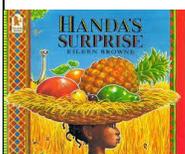


Topic Recommended Reads



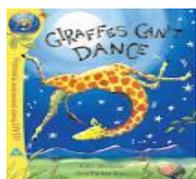
'The Ugly Five' by Julia Donaldson:

This is a heart-warming story where the unusual animals find pride in themselves and their differences. It teaches us that beauty is in the eye of the beholder – to see beauty we must look inside.



'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Brown:

The children are familiar with this story and enjoy retelling the events in the book. The illustrations are beautiful, and it can spark discussion about what fruits they like/dislike or have not yet tried.



'Giraffes Can't Dance' by Giles Andreae:

It is a great book which encourages one of our many values – resilience. It is a story of a giraffe who wants nothing more than to dance. The children love the bright pictures and wonderful message that is demonstrated in this book.

Enrichment in Spring 2

Last half-term was a huge success story in terms of not only the children's learning, but their enjoyment of the breadth of the curriculum too. It was jam packed full of enrichment; World Book Day, an author visit, Science Week, Kings and Queen's Day, Comic Relief, Easter Disco and the Sing Off competition. Here are a few images...



and finally....

As always, thank you for your continued support, it is a pleasure to work alongside you to best support your children. Here is to another successful half-term!



teacher
+
parent

a child's
STRONGEST
advocate