Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer. It has been a lovely first week back and the children have settled incredibly well.

Below is lots of information about our class, please get in touch if you have any questions and/or concerns in person or via email on lthewsey@gfschools.co.uk

**Timetable**

Attached is a timetable for this half-term and a termly overview. These are also on the ‘about our class page’ on the website and will be updated throughout the year.

We teach our theme topics (Science, History and Geography) in blocks; they are rotated every few weeks. We have found this approach to be more effective in supporting children’s learning and children also engage better with our topics this way.

Throughout the year, the Year One children will also have a block of swimming and Forest School sessions on Friday afternoon.

**Tapestry**

This year, we are using Tapestry to share children’s experiences and learning in school. Tapestry is a secure online Learning Journal to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. These can all be made available to parents/ careers to view from home. Special moments with your child at home can also be shared with us at school. I will send you more details about Tapestry, including how to sign up, in the next couple of weeks.

**Reading**

Every day, we deliver a phonics session to teach early reading and spelling. Last year, our school chose Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised as our scheme, which we will be continuing with this year.

We usually teach four new sounds each week and have a review session on a Friday. We will send out a list of sounds each week for children to practice further at home. In addition to this, children will also have a book that is read in small groups, three times a week to apply children’s knowledge. Both of these will be sent out every **Monday.**

For further information please see the handouts on Little Wandle.

**Year 1 spellings**

To support children with their reading and writing, the Year 1 children will have a set of spellings to practice at home each week. These spellings will be taken from the Little Wandle sessions, therefore will link with the sounds we are learning in school. There will be opportunities to practice these at school as well.

The children will have an informal spelling test on a **Monday morning**.

Thank you in advance for all of your support, and I hope your child enjoys their time in Class One.

Kind regards,

Miss Thewsey





**Reading at home**

**The reading practice book**

It is the school’s role to teach reading. However, you play a vital role, too. It is important that children have plenty of practice reading at home in order to become fluent, confident readers. Your support is needed to help their child practise reading and develop fluency with a book they have already read at school. This book is matched to their phonic stage and is fully decodable.

The children should be able to read the practice book with developing confidence and fluency without any significant help. After the child has read the book, it may be helpful to talk about the book, but only so far as the child is interested.

**The sharing book**

If children are to become lifelong readers, it is essential that they are encouraged to read for pleasure. The desire of wanting to read will help with the skill of reading. To help foster a love of reading, children should take a book home that they can share and enjoy with their family. This will be a book your child has chosen to bring home. These books offer a wealth of opportunities for talking about the pictures and enjoying the story.

Your child is not expected to read this book independently. The book is for yourself to read to or with the child. Again, it is good to talk about the book with the child, but the goal is enjoyment.

For more information, please just ask. There is also a dedicated page on their website for parents with videos and guidance:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>