

MONKTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Steve Rafferty



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Dear Parents,

Hello and Happy New Year, I hope you have had a fantastic holiday and are all well rested for the busy term ahead!

I am delighted to introduce myself as Rabbits' new teacher and am very much looking forward to getting to know the children and yourselves. It is wonderful to see some old faces from when I was teaching in Hedgehogs and to see how well the children have progressed! I am very aware of how daunting it can be to have a change of teacher mid year and will do everything in my power to make the transition of teachers as smooth as possible for the children. We have had an amazing first week and I have been so impressed with their independence and enthusiasm for school.

This term our main focus will be being kind to one another, self care and independence. We will be focusing on relationships and how we make our school a happy place.

Our first topic this term is China. This is a really exciting topic and will include a Chinese Day – more details to follow – we will be finding out all about the country, where it is, the traditions, food and landscape. We will be looking at The Chinese New Year story and also be creating Willow Pattern plates, Dragons and lanterns.

Next term we will be looking at Food and where it comes from. We will be looking at farms and different habitats and will be finding out how we make and create different things! We are looking forward to making good use of the new outdoor classroom.

Please encourage your child to join in 'show and tell' if they have something they would like to bring in to show the class and talk about they are very welcome to.

Our literacy work this term is story making. The children will be retelling stories orally and internalising the key features which they will then reuse in their own writing. We are starting with the story 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson so you may well hear the retelling at home – please ask

them! The children will continue to have grammar lessons where they will be thinking about how they can improve their writing skills, along with daily handwriting practise and phonics.

We will be looking at different materials and their uses in science and in music this term we will be using our scheme 'Music Express' and looking at the unit 'In the groove'.

Rabbits will be doing PE on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** this term, the children usually bring their PE kits in at the start of term and keep them at school on their pegs until the end of term.

The children will still have two reading books. Please could I ask you to write in your child's contact book so that we know when reading books need changing. The children will have opportunity to read with a teacher/teaching assistant or another adult during the week.

Within the classroom we continue to have individual learning boards, where we display the children's work of which they are the most proud, this is changed on a regular basis to show the children's development, please feel free to come in and celebrate your child's success!

I would like to thank you for your warm welcome and your continuing support, if you have any questions please feel free to come and ask me, after school is usually a good time.

Mrs Hamilton