

MONKTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Steve Rafferty



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Dear Parents,

After our long, hot summer, I am delighted to welcome you all to Squirrels' class. This will be a busy but exciting Autumn Term, as the children familiarise themselves with the new routines and expectations of Key Stage 2.

Wherever possible, our class activities will relate to our topic themes; this year they will be: Autumn: The 1960s, Monkton Park/Chippenham, Spring: Life in Tudor Times, Tudor Explorers, and Summer: J K Rowling and Harry Potter.

You will have seen your child's reading contact book, containing details of our Reading Reward Scheme. Children now have the responsibility of changing their own school reading book, and are expected to read daily at home. The reward system allows your child to earn a certificate for every 25 days of reading. Our writing will build on our reading experiences, grammar lessons, spelling lessons and handwriting practice. To support your child in practising the particular spelling focus being taught in school, on-line spelling homework will be set each week through Spelling Shed (<https://play.spellingshed.com>). Your child's log in details have remained the same as last year.

We teach maths by building upon previous knowledge, so pupils are taught as a class, with independent tasks set as appropriate for the year group. A daily "Minute Maths" session is used to help build automatic recall of key number facts with pupils taking home their marked daily sheets and they are encouraged to complete any unfinished questions at home, without any time pressures, in order to continue to build skills and confidence. Additionally, your child has weekly games to play, practising multiplication tables, using his/her personal login to Times Tables Rockstars. (<https://play.trockstars.com>)

On Wednesday mornings, our class will be joined by the year 3s from Owls for outdoor learning sessions. Please ensure your child has a coat and outdoor shoes in school on these days. On Thursday mornings, Mrs O'Neill will teach Science, RE and PSHE, and we will be learning recorder with Mrs Tyson on Thursdays. PE is currently on Wednesday and Fridays but full PE kit needs to be in school every day as in addition to our regular PE lessons we will be continuing with the school's Golden Mile challenge.

Parents' evenings will be shortly after half term, but if you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me sooner.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Slee Class Teacher, Squirrels' Class