

MONKTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Steve Rafferty



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Dear Parents,



A big welcome back after the Christmas holidays! We hope that you all had a lovely holiday and that you are all rested and ready for the new term.

Please can you continue to encourage the children to be independent in the mornings and allow the children to put their own snack and drink away, their names in the bucket and their bookbags and coats on their pegs.

This term our main focus will be being kind to one another and self care and independence. We will be focusing on relationships throughout the school and how we make our school a happy place. Our topic this term will be 'Animals', although most of our planning will be led by the children and their interests. This topic is one that the children in reception often love and we will also be taking the opportunity to observe any wildlife in our own wildlife area.

We will be looking at our local area and will be taking the children on several 'welly walks' to look at different parts of our community, inside and outside of the school grounds. We will also focus on the buildings that we may see on the way to school and the buildings that we might recognise in and around Chippenham. We will also be making the most of our new Outdoor classroom!

Our main focus for English will be 'story retell', with the main focus being on the story 'Zog'. We will also be having a big push on pencil grip and will be having lots of fine motor activities and handwriting activities for the children to try in the classroom. 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'

We will continue teaching 'phonics' on a daily basis, some children will begin to move onto the Phase 3 strand of Letters and sounds, where as some children will need to recap some of the Phase 2 sounds that were taught in the previous term. Fieldmice will be doing PE on Mondays 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.

We continue to record observations of the children and their work through an 'Eprofile' system and this is already looking very full with the things that the children achieved in the previous term. The boards in the classrooms are constantly changing with the work that the children are producing as they develop and learn, so please feel free to come and have a look.

We would also like the children to have a pair of wellies or old shoes in school at all times, this will allow us to take the children into the 'wildlife area' more often and to save their school shoes! We do have some spare pairs, so if you are unable to provide the children with wellies please let us know, or alternatively if you have any wellies that you are able to donate for other children to use this would be much appreciated!

We would like to thank you for your continuing support, if you have any questions please feel free to come and ask us!

Mrs McCartney and Mrs Bevan

