



REIGATE ST MARY'S
PREPARATORY AND CHOIR SCHOOL

January 2017

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas. Welcome to the Spring Term.

This term, the children will spend the first few days working out what our topic might be about from clues left in the classroom. They will work collaboratively to make predictions and solve the problems of the 'Monkey Puzzle', our topic for the first half of term. As the children unravel the mystery they will discover a very shy monkey living in the classroom! Please do not share this information with your child as working it out for themselves is part of the fun and learning.

The seven areas of learning will be delivered through this topic which will also link to our whole school thinking skill of 'Trust' and the value 'Collaboration'.

Our topic will begin by considering how our Monkey visitor might be feeling, for example, shy or lonely. We will be thinking of practical ways in which we can help him and others who are feeling this way. There will be discussions of these issues and other problems to develop communication and language skills. There will be opportunities for independent writing to the monkey as well as more focused writing and language activities. The children will be gathering factual information about Monkeys and their way of life. In February, we will be taking part in a Perform Drama Workshop with a jungle theme.

There will continue to be regular phonics sessions and individual reading times throughout the week. Please may we remind you to sign and comment in the Reading Record Book each day. Mrs Selkirk will be holding a Phonics Evening for parents on Wednesday 22nd February.

In Maths we will be continuing with counting (forwards and backwards), recognising and ordering numbers and beginning to solve practical addition and subtraction problems. We will also be looking again at 2D/ 3D shapes and patterns. To encourage your child's mathematical development we recommend playing board games using dice.

Please note that Reception H will be having their PE lesson on Mondays this term. Please could the children in Reception H and Reception S come to school dressed in their PE Kit on Monday mornings, bringing their uniform in their drawstring bag. Reception F will now have their PE lesson on a Thursday afternoon and will change during the school day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak to us at any time.

Kind regards

Reception Staff