



REIGATE ST MARY'S  
PREPARATORY AND CHOIR SCHOOL

January 2019

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 value of 'Trust'.

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. Letters to the monkey will provide opportunities for independent writing in addition to more focused writing and language activities. The children will be gathering factual information about African wildlife, including monkeys and their habitats. Supporting this, we will be looking at stories set in Africa and exploring these through Art, Drama and classroom role play.

At the end of the Spring Term we will be venturing to Drusilla's Zoo Park for our Fabulous Finish. We will be looking at the many different monkeys in their care and learning how to care about different animals.

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.

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

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.

Reception F children will be visiting Eversfield on a Monday morning. Half the class will attend four sessions before half term and half the class will be going after half term.

Finally, we would be really grateful if you could check all clothing is still named as labels sometimes have a habit of coming out and named items are much easier to return if lost.

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

Reception Staff