



St Philip Westbrook C of E Aided Primary School

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Reception Newsletter – 1st December 2017

Language

Over the last couple of weeks our focus text has been 'Aliens Love Underpants'. After the discovery of a collection of multi-coloured underpants in our classrooms we designed WANTED posters for the aliens and wrote some descriptions of the underpants to help us locate the owners. We also created our own underpants and wrote captions to describe them using the sounds we could hear, finger spaces and full stops. This week we have been thinking about instructions. We have enjoyed playing games where we have had to follow instructions and we even wrote a set of instructions for some asteroid rock cakes, which we then followed, baked and thoroughly enjoyed eating!

Maths

We have been working hard to develop our calculation skills. Last week we introduced the children to a range of methods to help them find 'one less'. These included using our fingers, looking at a number line and using objects. From here we began to practise taking away small amounts and we recorded our findings in different ways; we drew pictures, wrote number sentences and even made up our own subtraction problems to share with our friends. This week we have been assessing children's number knowledge. The children have participated in a range of activities to help us identify how well they recognise numbers, count accurately and can begin to solve simple addition and subtraction problems..

Spelling

Our formal spelling assessments will begin next week. We will be testing the children on their ability to spell a collection of ten words. These words have been taught to the children during our phonics sessions over the course of the term but please also practise these at home. If the children are able to spell the words confidently then challenge them to write the words within the context of a sentence.

to, the, no, go, I, into, as, at, it, in

'The Nativity'

The children have been working extremely hard throughout our rehearsals. We are very proud of them and can't wait to share our Christmas performance with you. The first performance will take place next Wednesday 6th December at 9.30 in the main school hall. We will be repeating the performance on Thursday 7th December at 2.15. Thank you for all of your support in helping the children to learn their words and for providing wonderful costumes. We hope you enjoy the show!

WOW Moments!

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in our assessments of the children by contributing additional information about their learning achievements outside of school. In order to develop our home-school communication further we are introducing 'WOW moments'. All children have been given a WOW form to bring home. These forms are for you to add details to about any observations you may make of your child reaching a 'WOW' stage in their learning and development. Examples may include moving up a level in swimming, learning to ride their bike without stabilisers, spelling a tricky word or even sharing an interesting fact with you. Please add details of this WOW moment to the form and return it to school so that we can celebrate your child's achievements with the class. We will keep a bank of these forms in the classroom. Please let a member of the team know should you require some more!

Reindeer Run

A reminder that on Wednesday 20th December, Reception children will be participating in the 'Reindeer Run' in school. This is a sponsored event to raise money for St Rocco's Hospice. All sponsorship donations will help towards providing care to patients and their families and every child who participates will receive a pair of reindeer antlers.

Christmas Party

On Tuesday 19th December we will be having our Reception Christmas Party. On this day the children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes. Following our Christmas worship, the morning will be spent making decorations and Christmas crafts in preparation for our party in the afternoon. We ask that children bring a small and clearly labelled plate of party food with them to enjoy before they go home. Please note that this food will be in addition to their school lunch so need not be substantial; just a few party treats.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Reception Team



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