



# St Philip Westbrook C of E Aided Primary School

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## Reception Newsletter – 20th October 2017

### Language

We are now coming to the end of our induction project, 'All about me'. Last week we enjoyed thinking about what the children would like to be when they grow up. All children designed a hot air balloon to be displayed in the classroom, depicting their hopes and dreams for the future. This week we have been thinking about how we have changed since we were babies, particularly in relation to our favourite foods. Thank you to everyone who sent in a baby photo, there were lots of giggles as we looked at and talked about them. The children have written about their favourite foods using the sounds they can hear. We were very proud by how well they were able to apply their phonic knowledge to their writing!

### Maths

Last week we continued our assessment of the children's number knowledge. The children have made very good progress in their touch counting and number formation. Please continue to practise this at home. This week we have been conducting surveys to find out about our favourite fruits (linking to Harvest). The children recorded their findings on to a pictogram and used these results in order to identify which fruits we liked the best and the least. After half term we will be introducing calculation strategies to the children to support them with simple addition and subtraction problems.

### Reading

Please continue to read at least 3 times a week with your child and record the details in their reading record books. The guided reading books are not sent home but children are invited to choose an independent read from our reading corner. Please note that children do not have to read the same book 3 times, they can change their independent reading book independently whenever they wish.

### Phonics

Our weekly phonics assessments indicate that children are making very good progress in their recognition of the sounds we have taught. We are now focussing on the ability to blend these sounds together to read words. Children are also becoming familiar with some of our 'tricky words' (words that cannot be sounded out). All children have been given a high frequency word mat which displays the words we have been practising to read on sight and through blending. Please practise reading these words over half term. After half term we will begin spelling assessments with the children. A list of spellings will be sent home at the beginning of each half term for children to practise. They will then be assessed on these words at the end of each half term.

### Career Day

Thank you for your support in helping the children to look wonderful for our Career Day last week. We had a wonderful day sharing our hopes and dreams with each other and have thoroughly enjoyed learning about a range of occupations over the course of the week. Special thanks to Mrs Wightman, Dr Coutinho, Mrs Atkinson, Reverend Pete Atkinson and Mr Lomax, who visited the children to tell them about their experiences of being a head teacher, a doctor, a vet, a reverend and a police officer.

### Christmas Play

Our Christmas performance this year is entitled 'The Nativity'. Performances will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30 and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 2:15. More information regarding tickets will follow. Due to limited space, tickets are restricted to 2 per child. These may both be used for the same performance or one ticket for each. All children have now chosen their parts for the performance and all speakers have received their lines for learning. Please support the children in helping them to learn any words they might have. Please also see the accompanying slip for details of costumes that children will need. If you have any problems in sourcing a costume please let a member of the team know.

### To Infinity and Beyond!

Following the half term break, our new project will be linked to Space. We would be very appreciative if you could save any small boxes, plastic bottles, bottles tops and cartons to send into school so that we can create some junk models of space rockets and rocket control panels. Thank you in advance!

It's hard to believe we are already reaching the end of our first half term in Reception. We are delighted with how well the children have settled into school life at St Philip's and thank you for all of your support so far. We hope you all have a relaxing half term and look forward to seeing you in November.

### The Reception Team



[www.stphilipwestbrook.uk.org](http://www.stphilipwestbrook.uk.org)

