



# St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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

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**Mrs J Wightman**  
Headteacher

## Reception Newsletter – 16th November 2018

### Language

Our new project, 'To Infinity and Beyond' is well under way. The children returned to school to discover a mysterious box in the classroom, along with some boots and a colander! A visit from a bear told us all we needed to know; he wanted to travel into Space and planned to use these items to help him on his journey. We talked to the bear about our ideas for Space travel and wrote helpful lists of things he should take to Space with him. We shared the Jill Murphy story, 'Whatever Next!' and have thoroughly enjoyed retelling this and writing words and sentences from the story using our sound mats. We have learnt that good writers always pinch their pencil and listen carefully to the sounds in their words.

### Maths

Last week we began to explore measure in the classroom. We used our hands and other classroom items to measure how long and short our Space items were and then we solved measure problems to help us decide which items were the right lengths to pack in our Space suitcases. This week we are practising our calculation skills. We have been using the 'add' sign to help us make numbers bigger and have worked together to solve simple addition problems using pictures, objects and number sentences.

### Phonics

The children are continuing to make good progress in their phonics work. We are now working within Phase 3 and are beginning to explore digraphs (two letters that make one sound e.g. sh, ch, th). You will find another copy of our Phase 2 and Phase 3 phonics assessment in your child's book bag. As we make our way through the digraphs we encourage children to begin to recognise these sounds within their reading books, as well as begin to write these sounds within words.

### Spelling

This half term we will begin to assess the children's spelling. At the end of each half term we will test the children on their ability to spell a collection of ten words. These words will be taught to the children during our phonics sessions over the course of the term but please also practise these at home. If your child is able to spell the words confidently then challenge them to write the words within the context of a sentence. Our focus spellings for this half term will be:

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

### Spare clothes

We always strive to provide children with spare, clean clothes if they have toileting accidents or get particularly messy whilst they are in school. Please ensure that if your child is sent home in spare clothes that they are washed and returned to school as our stock is getting low.

### It's a Baby!

Rehearsals for our Christmas performance are well underway! If your child has a speaking role, please help them to learn their words. If you need another copy of their words then let a member of the team know. Costumes can be sent into school as soon as you have them. All costumes must be in school by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

### 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!

**Thank you for your continued support,**  
**The Reception Team**