



St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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Reception Newsletter – 14th December 2018

Language

Last week saw the beginning of our studies linked to Christmas. On Monday morning the children were surprised to see a news headline announcing how Santa had crashed his sleigh at the weekend! The children were shocked at this news and were extremely keen to help design him a new vehicle which he could use to deliver his presents. We used this exciting writing task as an opportunity to assess the children's independent writing skills and were very pleased with how keen they were to write. The children are beginning to apply more of their writing targets to their independent work and we thoroughly enjoyed reading their wonderful ideas.

Maths

We had a delivery to the classroom last week. Santa sent an elf to each classroom to spend time with the children in the lead up to Christmas. The arrival of the elf led to lots of opportunities for us to practise using positional language to describe where the elf was sitting around the classroom. This week we have been helping Santa to solve some measuring problems. We have been using balances to weigh presents so that we can advise Santa where to put them in his sack. We began by comparing two presents and we noticed that the heavier item 'pushed down more' and the lighter item was 'lifted up'. We decided that Santa should put the heaviest presents at the bottom of his sack and the lightest ones nearer to the top so that they don't get squashed!

Phonics

The children have been making good progress in their phonics; they are learning new sounds daily and are beginning to apply this knowledge to words when reading. Over Christmas we would like the children to practise their sight recognition of Phase 2 words. They are able to blend these, however we would like them to practise reading them a little more quickly on sight. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Spellings

The children have now completed their Autumn term spelling assessments and results of these will be sent home before Christmas. If children mis-spelt any words, please continue to practise these as we will re-assess them after the Christmas break.

Christmas Play

Thank you for all of your support and encouragement leading up to our Christmas performance. We are so proud of the children for participating so well. They worked very hard learning lines, singing songs and practising dance routines and I am sure you will agree that they were fantastic!

Christmas Party

Just a reminder that next Tuesday 18th December we will be having our Reception Christmas party. On this day the children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes. 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.

Secret Readers

After the Christmas break we would like to introduce 'secret readers' to the children. We are always looking for ways to improve our relationships with parents. We feel that this exciting opportunity will enable parents to gain an insight into story times in school, as well as excite the children with the prospect of sharing a story with a familiar family member. The secret reader program involves parents coming into school before the end of the day with a pre-prepared story to share with their child's class. Story times need last no longer than 10-15 minutes and it is important that children are not aware that their parent is going to be our secret reader until the moment they step into the classroom (we wouldn't want to spoil the surprise)! If you are interested in being one of our secret readers, please let a member of the team know.

Thank you for all of the support you have given during the children's first term in school. We are so proud of how well they have settled and are delighted with their progress. We wish you a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Thank you for your continued support,

The Reception Team