



# St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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## Reception Newsletter – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

*Kung hei fat choy!*

We have had a wonderful week celebrating Chinese New Year and learning about the ways in which it is celebrated and the reasons why. The children have enjoyed making Chinese crafts, retelling Chinese legends and even tasting some Chinese foods.

### Language

Last week we had a visit from some real-life superheroes! Fire-fighters from the Warrington fire brigade came to school to tell us about their job. They showed us their protective clothing and even let us sit in their fire engine! Following this visit we decided that we wanted to learn more about real-life superheroes so we looked at some non-fiction books and began to use the vocabulary associated with these texts, including 'contents page', 'index' and 'glossary'. This week we have been assessing the children's independent writing skills. After our Chinese New Year project day on Monday we challenged the children to independently write some sentences about the Chinese Zodiac story. We were impressed by their improved application of finger spaces and full stops! We are now working on our use of capital letters and our ability to record our Phase 3 digraphs in our spellings. Please find another copy of these in children's book bags.

### Maths

Last week we assessed the children's independent application of their number skills. Each day we practised a different method to help us with our calculating; we counted on and back from numbers, we doubled and halved numbers and we even made up our own addition and subtraction problems. This week we have been learning about 'capacity'. Superman needed our help to find the best water bottle to give him the biggest drink. We have been comparing and ordering containers to help him solve this problem.

### Spellings

We are in the process of completing our next stage of spelling assessments. Following this, we will send home the children's scores. We are also re-assessing the children on any words they were unable to spell in our last assessment. Please continue to practise these at home.

### Purple Mash

Next week we will be introducing the children to the 'Purple Mash' link on the school website. Purple Mash is an online learning tool that children can access at home. In the back of children's reading record books are individual log-ons. All children's usernames are their first names and their passwords involve them clicking on pictures. Instructions for using Purple Mash have been sent home with the children today. Next half term we will be teaching the children to use a range of resources on this site.

### Water Bottles

Children are encouraged to bring a clearly named water bottle to school every day. Please ensure that bottles are not stored in book bags as they may leak. We also ask that these bottles contain water only.

### The Land Before Time...Walking with Dinosaurs

After half term our new project will explore what the world was like when dinosaurs were alive. We will be learning about lots of different dinosaurs, as well as thinking about how the world has changed and what happened to the dinosaurs.

It is hard to believe that in one more working week we will be half way through the academic year! We hope all our families have a relaxing break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Thanks for your continued support,  
The Reception Team