



# St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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

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## Reception Newsletter – 29th March 2019

### Language

Last week we read the story of 'Tom and the Island of Dinosaurs' by Ian Beck. The children loved the story and were excited to think of ways that they could rescue the dinosaurs from the smoking volcano. We have been assessing their independent writing skills as they have written letters to the girl on the island, described the journey to the island and even designed and explained their own maps of the island. The children were very keen to write and it has been lovely to see so many of our taught spellings coming through in the context of their sentences. We are now working hard on ensuring we always remember our finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. This week we have been researching facts about dinosaurs and fossils using the non-fiction text, 'Digging up Dinosaurs'. We managed to answer some of the questions from our initial mind map and have been writing about our findings using all of our writing targets. We were particularly surprised to find out that dinosaurs used to be called 'terrible lizards'!

### Maths

Last week we practised our mental maths skills to help us solve number problems more quickly. We explored the ways that we can find half of an amount, as well as investigating the different ways we make 5 by adding two numbers together. This week we have been practising our counting skills in order to ensure that we are all counting accurately, forwards and backwards to and from 20. Please continue to support children learning and ordering numbers to 20 and writing these independently.

### Spellings

Next week we will continue our assessments of the children's spellings. Our focus words for this half term are:

not, up, put, had, big, he, she, we, me, be

We will also be re-assessing children on any words they were unable to spell in our previous assessment. Please continue to practise these at home.

### Mother's Day Assembly

We hope that you enjoyed our special assembly. We were so proud of the children for being so brave and speaking and singing so confidently. Thank you for all of your kind words and thanks. We have passed your messages on to the children.

### Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who returned our Parent Survey. It was lovely to read your positive comments and to hear from our children about the learning that they have enjoyed. We value all feedback and we thank you for your suggestions for ways in which we can improve our provision even further.

### RSPB

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April (our last day in school) the RSPB will be visiting Reception. All children will participate in a workshop exploring our outdoor area. They will be looking for habitats, as well as taking a walk around exploring the journey of an animal. On this day we ask that children bring a pair of wellies to school with them (in addition to their school shoes) in case the ground is muddy.

### Under the Sea

After the Easter break our new project will be entitled 'A Journey Under the Sea'. We will be learning about different sea creatures, as well as sharing stories linked to the seaside and exploring the materials that things are made from. We are also planning a visit to the Blue Planet Aquarium. More information about this visit will follow.

Thanks for your continued support,

The Reception Team