



St Philip Westbrook C of E Aided Primary School

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Reception newsletter – 2nd December 2016

Language

Last week we began thinking about instructions. We discussed when we might need to use instructions and the features that make them useful. We enjoyed playing games where we had to follow instructions and we even wrote a set of instructions for how to make a windmill. This week our focus text has been 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson. After the arrival of a mysterious email from Stick Man, we designed WANTED posters to help find him and wrote some descriptions of him to help us return him to his family. We also created our own Stick Man designs and wrote captions to describe them using the sounds we could hear, finger spaces and full stops.

Maths

We have been working hard to develop our calculation skills. Last week we learnt about the 'add' sign and how it helps to make numbers bigger. We worked together to solve simple addition problems using pictures, objects and number sentences. This week we introduced the children to a range of methods to help them find 'one less'. These included using our fingers, looking at a number line and using objects. From here we began to practise taking away small amounts and we recorded our findings in different ways; we drew pictures, wrote number sentences and even made up our own subtraction problems to share with our friends.

Spelling

Our formal spelling assessments will begin next week. We will be testing the children on their ability to spell a collection of ten words. These words have been taught to the children during our phonics sessions over the course of the term but please also practise these at home. If the children are able to spell the words confidently then challenge them to write the words within the context of a sentence.

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

Christmas Play

The children have been working extremely hard throughout our rehearsals. We are very proud of them and can't wait to share our Christmas performance with you. The first performance will take place next Wednesday 7th December at 9.30 in the main school hall. We will be repeating the performance on Thursday 8th December at 2.15. Thank you for all of your support in helping the children to learn their words and for providing wonderful costumes. We hope you enjoy the show!

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. Examples may include moving up a swimming level, 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!

School website

We are working hard to update our class pages regularly in order to provide you with an insight into your child's learning in school. Sometimes we will add photos and galleries of the children to these pages. If your child does not appear in these photographs it is because we do not have permission from you to publish their pictures. If you believe this to be an error, please let a member of the team know.

Reception Christmas Party

On Wednesday 14th December we will be having our Reception Christmas Party. On this day the children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes. Following our Christmas worship, 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.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Reception Team



www.stphilipwestbrook.uk.org

