



St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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Mrs J Wightman
Headteacher

Reception newsletter – Friday 20th September

The last two weeks have been wonderful! We are so proud of the children and how well they have settled into school life at St Philip's. Thank you for all of the support and encouragement you have given to the children.

Full Time

Next week all children will be attending school full time. The school gates open at 8:40 and close at 8:50 each morning. If children are late to school please enter via the front school entrance at the main office. The school day will end at 3:15 when children will leave through their individual classroom doors. When children arrive at school they will be encouraged to say goodbye to their adults at the classroom door, please be assured we have lots of familiar adults in the classroom to help children put their things away, should they need it.

PE

PE kits are kept on children's pegs. They are sent home for washing every half term. Keep an eye on the class pages on the website for information about your child's PE days. Please ensure all items of clothing (including bags and pumps) are clearly named. Over the next couple of weeks we will be encouraging the children to get themselves changed into their PE kits as independently as they can. Staff are always available to help, but we ask that children also practise getting themselves dressed and undressed independently at home in order to help with this in school.

Water Bottles and healthy snacks

Children should bring their water bottle to school each day and they should contain water only. Fresh fruit is available every day from the classroom for morning snacks. If you would prefer to provide your own snack please ensure it consists of either fruit, bread or toast.

Lunch times

This week all of the children have walked to the dinner hall to meet the kitchen staff and to have a look at where they will be having their lunch. They even told the school cook what their favourite foods were in hope that they may appear on the menu! All classes will have a designated midday assistant who will be with them to help them in both the dinner hall and the playground.

All About Me

This half term we are looking forward to learning as much as we can about the children. We will begin by thinking about what we already know about ourselves and then later this half term we will be encouraging the children to think about their hopes and dreams for the future. This will include a 'Career Day' on Tuesday 22nd October, whereby children will be invited to come to school dressed in a way that reflects a possible profession they would like to have. More information about this day will be provided later in the half term.

Who is in my family?

One of our areas of focus for our project this half term will include an exploration of our family members. We would like all children to bring in a family photograph to support them in this work. Photographs will be placed in children's Learning Journey books and they will be encouraged to share these with teachers and friends. If you need your photograph returning please let a member of staff know.

Homework

Next week the children will be given their first piece of Reception homework in their new homework book. Homework will be given out to the children every Friday and homework books should be returned to the homework basket in the classroom by the following Thursday. Children will also receive a phonics bookmark detailing the sounds we have been learning in our phonics lessons so that they can continue to practise these at home.

Reading

Next week all children will participate in their first guided reading session. This session will take place weekly and the books we read will be recorded in the children's reading record book, along with a comment related to our focussed reading skill. The guided reading book will remain in school, however all children will be encouraged to choose an independent reading book from our reading corner to bring home. These books can be changed by children independently whenever they wish. When the children share their reading books at home please record news of this sharing in their reading record book. We encourage the children to share books at home at least three times a week in return for a sticker, which will be placed on their reading bookmark in their reading record book.

We will be holding a reading meeting for parents on Friday 11th October at 9.00am-9.30am and repeating it at 2.30pm-3.00pm. This meeting will provide an insight into the ways in which we teach children to read at St Philip's, along with a short introduction to Letters and Sounds.

Thank you for your support,

The Reception Team