



St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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Reception Newsletter – 25th October 2019

Language

We are now coming to the end of our induction project, 'All about me'. Last week we thought about our local area and where we live. The children drew and labelled pictures of their homes using the sounds they could hear and they enjoyed describing familiar landmarks close to our school. This week the children have been thinking about what they would like to be when they grow up. All children have completed a piece of independent writing to be displayed in the classroom, depicting their hopes and dreams for the future.

Maths

Last week we worked hard at forming our numerals correctly in a range of ways. We used play-dough, string and lolly sticks to make the correct number shapes and are working hard to ensure they always face the right way round. Attached with this letter is a copy of the formation rhymes we have been using with the children. Please continue to practise these at home. This week we have been assessing the children's number knowledge. The children have made very good progress in their touch counting and their recognition of numbers to 10 and beyond. After half term we will be introducing calculation strategies to the children to support them with simple addition and subtraction problems.

Reading

Please continue to read at least 3 times a week with your child and record the details in their reading record books. The guided reading books are not sent home but children are invited to choose an independent read from our reading corner. Please note that children do not have to read the same book 3 times, they can change their independent reading book independently whenever they wish.

Phonics

Our weekly phonics assessments indicate that children are making very good progress with their recognition of the sounds we have taught. We are now focussing on the ability to blend these sounds together to read words. Children are also becoming familiar with some of our 'tricky words' (words that cannot be sounded out). All children have been given a high frequency word mat which displays the words we have been practising to read on sight and through blending. Please practise reading these words over half term. After half term we will begin spelling assessments with the children. A list of spellings will be sent home at the beginning of each half term for children to practise. They will then be assessed on these words at the end of each half term.

Career Day

Thank you for your support in helping the children to look wonderful for our Career Day on Tuesday. We had a wonderful day sharing our hopes and dreams with each other and have thoroughly enjoyed learning about a range of occupations over the course of the week. Special thanks to those parents who gave up their time to come in and speak to the children about their occupations. The children loved hearing about your work and looking at the clothes, tools and equipment you use.

Purple Mash

This week we introduced 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 initials 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.

Christmas Play

Our Christmas performance this year is entitled 'A Present for the Baby.' Performances will take place on Wednesday 4th December at 9:30 and Thursday 5th December at 2:15. More information regarding tickets will follow. Due to limited space, tickets are restricted to 2 per child. These may both be used for the same performance or one ticket for each. All children have now chosen their parts for the performance and all speakers have received their lines for learning. Please support the children in helping them to learn any words they might have. Please also see the accompanying slip for details of costumes that children will need. If you have any problems in sourcing a costume please let a member of the team know.

To Infinity and Beyond!

Following the half term break, our new project will be linked to Space. We will be learning about our Solar System, as well as sharing books and solving problems linked to this theme.

It's hard to believe we are already reaching the end of our first half term in Reception. We are delighted with how well the children have settled into school life at St Philip's and thank you for all of your support so far. We hope you all have a relaxing half term and look forward to seeing you in November.

The Reception Team



Number Formation Rhymes

↓ 1	Number one is like a stick; a straight line that is very quick.
↗ 2	For number two go right around, then make a line across the ground.
↗ 3	Go around, what will it be? Go around again to make a three.
↓ 4	Down, across and down some more, that's the way to make a four.
↓ 5	Go down, around and then don't stop! Finish the five with a line on top.
↙ 6	Make a curve, then make a loop. There are no tricks to make a six!
↗ 7	Across the sky and down from Heaven, that's the way to make a seven.
↖ 8	Make a 's' and then don't wait, go up again to make an eight.
↖ 9	Make a loop and then a line, that's the way to make a nine.
↓ 10	A straight line down then around with your pen, that's the way to make a ten.