



# St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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

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**Headteacher**

## Reception Newsletter – 20th December 2019

### Language

Our language work this week has centred around the Christmas Story. We have been learning about the true meaning of Christmas and the reasons why we give and receive presents. The children have enjoyed retelling the story with the puppets, building models of the stable and writing riddles to describe their favourite characters.

### Maths

In our maths work we have been helping Santa to solve some measuring problems. We have been using balances to weigh presents so that we can advise Santa where to put them in his sack. We began by comparing two presents and we noticed that the heavier item 'pushed down more' and the lighter item was 'lifted up'. We decided that Santa should put the heaviest presents at the bottom of his sack and the lightest ones nearer to the top so that they don't get squashed!

### Phonics

The children have been making good progress in their phonics; they are learning new sounds daily and are beginning to apply this knowledge to words when reading. Over Christmas we would like the children to practise their sight recognition of Phase 2 words. They are growing in their ability to blend these, however we would like them to practise reading them a little more quickly on sight. Thank you for your continued support with this.

### Spellings

The children have now completed their Autumn term spelling assessments and results of these will be sent home before Christmas. If children mis-spelt any words, please continue to practise these as we will re-assess them after the Christmas break.

### Superheroes to the Rescue!

Following the Christmas break, our new project will be linked to 'Superheroes'. We have a large number of superhero fans in our cohort of children this year and we look forward to exciting them in their learning through this exciting project. Children will be learning about living and non-living things (including those that can fly) as well as having the opportunity to meet some real-life superheroes!

### Secret Readers

After the Christmas break we would like to introduce 'secret readers' to the children. We are always looking for ways to improve our relationships with parents and this activity has always received great feedback from both parents and children. We feel that this exciting opportunity will enable parents to gain an insight into story times in school, as well as excite the children with the prospect of sharing a story with a familiar family member. The secret reader program involves parents coming into school before the end of the day with a pre-prepared story to share with their child's class. Story times need last no longer than 10-15 minutes and it is important that children are not aware that their parent is going to be our secret reader until the moment they step into the classroom (we wouldn't want to spoil the surprise)! If you are interested in being one of our secret readers, please let a member of the team know.

Thank you for all of the support you have given during the children's first term in school. We are so proud of how well they have settled and are delighted with their progress. We wish you a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

**Thank you for your continued support,**

**The Reception Team**