



# St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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**Mrs J Wightman**  
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## Reception Newsletter – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break. Thank you very much for your kind wishes, cards and generous gifts. The staff and children have been extremely eager to share their Christmas news with each other and we are all excited for the challenges of the term ahead.

### Language

Over the last couple of weeks the children have been thoroughly enjoying our exploration of the 'Supertato' series of stories. Last week the children entered the classroom to discover a collection of fruits and vegetables had been trapped and tied up by a cheeky pea. We followed the clues that had been left to help us find Supertato and then decided to set a trap to catch the pea. The trap worked and we celebrated by writing speech bubbles for the story characters. This week we have enjoyed writing character descriptions and designing more traps to catch the pea, trying hard to remember our full stops, capital letters and finger spaces.

### Maths

Last week we introduced the children to number doubles. The children impressed us with their ability to make doubles using their fingers and they are now beginning to calculate the totals of the doubles. Our aim is to help the children learn these double facts so that they can recall them quickly and without counting. This week we investigated a range of addition number problems. These included number stories linked to our project, for example, 'Superman ate 5 healthy apples and then ate 3 more. How many things did he eat altogether?' We thought about the different ways in which we could solve the problems and our methods included drawing pictures and using objects. The children responded extremely well to both of these methods, which led us to practise our counting on skills. We put the first number in our heads and counted on the next number using our fingers.

### Spellings

All children completed a spelling assessment before Christmas. Please continue to support the children in practising these words as we will re-assess them before the end of this half term. If your child was able to correctly spell all of the words, why not challenge them to write them correctly within the context of a sentence?

Our next set of spellings will be:

am, and, dad, an, is, got, on, put, mum, get

### Home Learning

Last week's homework task will run for two weeks. We would like the children to make a mask for a superhero of their own design. Masks should be sent into school by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, in time for our 'Superhero Mask Parade'. More information about this task can be found in the 'Reception Home Learning' link on the Reception page of the school website. We can't wait to see the children's designs!

### Secret Readers

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to come in and surprise the children as a secret reader. There is still time to volunteer if this sounds like an opportunity you would like to be involved in. The activity will last for around 10 minutes and will involve sharing a pre-chosen story with the children in your child's class, at the end of the school day. The children have no idea who will be coming in to share stories with them and we can't wait to see their surprised faces when they find out who their secret readers are!

### Chinese New Year

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January we will be holding a special celebration day in Reception where we will be learning all about how Chinese New Year is celebrated and exploring the wonderful stories surrounding why it is celebrated.

**Thank you for your continued support,**

**The Reception Team**