



St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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**Mrs J Wightman
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Reception Newsletter – 20th March 2020

British Science Week

The children were very enthusiastic and eager to participate in a range of scientific investigations last week; we certainly have some budding scientists in our classrooms! Why not ask the children about how we made a Skittles rainbow or an exploding volcano?!

Language

Last week we combined our science investigational skills with our literacy. We investigated properties of different materials and predicted which of these were most likely to float or sink. This led us to consider the ways in which plastic is polluting our oceans and seas. The children wrote predictions, described their observations and designed posters and leaflets to tell others about the importance of reducing our use of plastic. This week we have been enjoying the story of 'Tom and the Island of Dinosaurs' by Ian Beck. The children were excited to think of ways that they could rescue the dinosaurs from the smoking volcano. They have written letters to the girl on the island, described the journey to the island and even designed and explained their own maps of the island. The children were very keen to write and it has been lovely to see so many of our taught spellings coming through in the context of their sentences.

Maths

We have been practising our counting skills in order to ensure that we are all counting accurately, forwards and backwards to and from 20. We have also been practising our counting on and counting back skills when we have been adding and subtracting; we put the starting number in our head and then count forwards or backwards from there using our fingers or objects. Please continue to support children learning and ordering numbers to 20 and writing these independently.

Spellings

Our focus spellings for this half term are:

not, up, put, had, big, he, she, we, me, be

We will also be re-assessing children on any words they were unable to spell in our previous assessment. Please continue to practise these at home.

Parent Survey

We are currently evaluating our projects and learning challenges for future use. In order to help us with this, all children have been issued with a short questionnaire about their learning experiences so far this year. On the reverse of the questionnaire is an opportunity for parents to also give us feedback about how you feel the year has progressed. Please complete this with the children and return it to school so that we can evaluate your feedback and continue to work hard to maintain our home-school partnership.

Corona Virus

We understand that this is a very unsettling time for our children and their families. Following the announcement of school closure, we will be posting daily learning tasks on the Reception homepage of the school website, along with a list of helpful websites that contain free learning resources that can be accessed at home. We are extremely proud of the progress the children have made on their learning journey so far and are very sad that this has to happen, but we know that their enthusiasm for their learning will continue, so it is vital that the children have access to these tasks and are supported in their learning. Thank you for your support in this.

We wish you all a peaceful Easter and hope to see you all again soon.

The Reception Team