



St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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**Mrs J Wightman
Headteacher**

Reception Newsletter – 25th September

We are delighted with how well the children have adjusted to full days in Reception. We are all feeling a little tired but the children are continuing to work hard and make us smile!

Language

Our new project, 'All About Me', has begun and we are enjoying finding out lots of things about the children. Next week we will be exploring the ways in which we are all different, as well as describing how we look and labelling pictures of ourselves. Following this, we will be sharing information about where we live and who is in our family. The children will be making models and drawing pictures and then writing about these using the initial sounds they hear.

Maths

This week we have been practising our counting skills and number recognition. We are learning how to write our numerals correctly, ensuring they face the correct way round. Next week we are going to become 'Shape Detectives'. We will be exploring the inside and outside classrooms looking for and naming 2D shapes. We will also begin to describe some of their properties using the language of 'sides' and 'corners'.

Reading

By the end of next week, all children will have participated in their first guided reading session and will have brought home their first reading book in their book bags. Guided reading sessions will continue to take place weekly and will focus upon developing children's book handling skills, as well as their recognition of sounds in words. The guided reading books are not sent home but children are invited to choose an independent read from our reading corner each Monday and Thursday. Please note that children should only bring their book bags to school on these days if they wish to change their reading book.

Phonics

Our phonics lessons have begun and this week we have been thinking about the letter names and pure sounds for s,a,t,p,i. Each week we will upload a list of the sounds we have been learning on the Reception Homepage for you to continue to practise at home. We will also share some simple words containing these sounds for children to practise reading by blending the sounds together, for example, i-t makes "it". For guidance on how to pronounce the pure sounds visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q>. This link can also be found on the Reception Homepage of the school website.

PE

We have started PE lessons and are currently enjoying linking music and movement to make simple dances. Over the next couple of weeks all children will be getting changed into their PE kits. Please ensure that PE kits are in school and continue to encourage children to be more independent when getting themselves dressed and changed. Also, please ensure all items of children's clothing, including their coats, school uniforms and lunchboxes are clearly named.

Snacks and Packed Lunches

Children are able to have a snack during their morning play. Fresh fruit is available each day in school. If children bring a snack from home please ensure that this consists of either fresh fruit or vegetables, bread or toast. Please also ensure that snacks (including those in lunch boxes) are able to be opened by children independently, or are sent in already peeled and opened, as staff are not allowed to touch these items.

Homework

All children have been shown their first piece of Reception homework which can be found on the Reception Homepage. Please support children in completing this task on Purple Mash by next Thursday. Purple Mash can also be used for additional learning tasks that the children choose to complete at home, or for uploading any exciting photographs of adventures and experiences that the children have had such as holidays or sporting achievements. We can then celebrate and share this information with the children in school.

Career Day

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we will be holding our annual 'Career Day' for Reception children on Monday 12th October. On this day children are invited to come to school dressed in a way that reflects an occupation they would like to have when they grow up. Unfortunately this year we are unable to invite parents into school to talk to the children about their own professions. However, if you are feeling brave and would like to share this information with the children in your child's class, we would be happy to set up a short Google Meet or Zoom session with yourselves, giving a brief introduction about your job and maybe a glimpse at any uniform or equipment you use! If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please email main school office and your class teacher will get in touch to make arrangements.

**Thank you for your support,
The Reception Team**