



St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

www.stphilipwestbrook.co.uk

District Centre

Westbrook

Warrington

WA5 8UE

Tel: 01925 445391

Mrs J Wightman
Headteacher

Reception Newsletter – 20th November 2020

Language

This week we received an email from some aliens to tell us that they have been visiting gardens and taking underpants from washing lines! We followed some clues around the classroom to discover our focus text for the week, 'Aliens Love Underpants' by Claire Freedom and Ben Cort. We loved reading the story and were keen to make posters to display to make people aware of the missing underpants! We listened to the sounds in the words and wrote labels with finger spaces. We also wrote some simple sentences in an email back to the aliens, to let them know that it is very unkind to take things that do not belong to you. The children are trying so hard to apply their phonic knowledge to their writing. Thank you for all of your support at home with this.

Maths

Last week we started to practise our calculation skills. We used the 'add' sign to help us make numbers bigger and we worked together to solve simple addition problems using pictures, objects and number sentences. This week we have introduced the children to a range of methods to help them find 'one less'. These included using our fingers, looking at a number line and using objects. From here we began to practise taking away small amounts and we recorded our findings in different ways; we drew pictures, wrote number sentences and even made up our own subtraction problems to share with our friends.

Phonics

The children are continuing to make good progress in their phonics work. We are now working within Phase 3 and are beginning to explore digraphs (two letters that make one sound e.g. sh, ch, th). As we make our way through the digraphs we encourage children to begin to recognise these sounds within their reading books, as well as begin to write these sounds within words.

Spelling

This half term we will begin to assess the children's spelling. At the end of each half term we will test the children on their ability to spell a collection of ten words. These words will be taught to the children during our phonics sessions over the course of the term but please also practise these at home. If your child is able to spell the words confidently then challenge them to write the words within the context of a sentence. Our focus spellings for this half term are:

to, the, no, go, I, into, as, at, it, in

It's a Baby!

Rehearsals for our virtual Christmas performance are well underway! Please send costumes into school as soon as possible. If you are unable to source a costume then please let a member of the team know. Our performance video will be shared with parents on Monday 14th December.

Snacks and Water bottles

Children should bring their water bottles to school each day and they should contain *water only*. Fresh fruit is available every day from the classroom for morning snacks. If you would prefer to provide your own snack please ensure it consists of either fruit, vegetables, bread or toast. Please do not send filled sandwiches, yoghurts or biscuits.

Reading Eggs

All children have now received their log in details for 'Reading Eggs'. This is an online learning tool designed to support children in their phonic development and reading skills. It has been lovely for teachers to log in and see how much time children are spending on this activity and it is clear to see how well it is impacting on children's phonic and reading skills in school. Please continue to practise this at home. A few parents have enquired about a similar app for developing maths skills. The same company also have an app called 'Maths Seeds'. Although we do not have a school subscription for this, please do to have a look if you are interested.

Social Distancing

As previously mentioned in whole school newsletters, we have asked all of our families to support us in ensuring social distancing rules are observed both in and around the school grounds. We were disheartened yesterday to receive an email from a very frustrated key worker, who has to wear a mask all day, identifying a number of our Reception parents standing together whilst watching their children play on the grass. May we remind parents that it is the responsibility of our entire school community to adhere to social distancing guidelines in order to prevent the spread of the virus, which could ultimately result in whole class bubbles having to self isolate at home, or possible school closure.

Thank you for your continued support,
The Reception Team