



St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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Mrs J Wightman
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Reception Newsletter – 18th December 2020

It's hard to believe we are at the end of our first term in Reception! Thank you for all of the support you have given during the children's transition into school. We are so proud of how well they have settled and are delighted with their progress.

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 last week we had to help Santa solve some measuring problems. We used balances to weigh presents so that we could 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! This week we have introduced the children to 3D shapes. We have been exploring the classroom for items that resemble the shapes and we have started to use the vocabulary of 'faces', 'edges' and 'vertices' to help us describe them.

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 have been sent home today. If children mis-spelt any words, please continue to practise these as we will re-assess them after the Christmas break.

It's a Baby!

Thank you for all of your kind messages and comments about our Christmas performance. We are so proud of our wonderful children and extremely glad you enjoyed watching. We only wish we had time to make an outtakes video to share with you all as there were plenty of comedy moments! The video will remain on our Reception homepage until after Christmas.

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!

St Roccas Elf Run

Our Reception classes had lots of fun participating in the annual St Roccas Elf Run on Tuesday. They put on their elf hats and ears and ran for as long as they could to help raise money for cancer patients and their families. The children demonstrated excellent stamina and sportsmanship as they cheered each other on. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their sponsorship forms and money. St Roccas will be collecting the money after Christmas so please ensure that all sponsorship envelopes are returned no later than Friday 8th January.

Christmas Homework

We have uploaded a list of tasks for children to tackle over the Christmas holidays, should they wish. These tasks are designed to be fun and enjoyable as we want all of our children to have a lovely Christmas after such an unusual year. If you would like some additional ideas for tasks to help children with their learning over Christmas then please continue to explore the Reading Eggs app, share lots of books and practise letter and numeral formation.

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful cards, gifts and Christmas wishes. We wish all of our families a peaceful, relaxing and healthy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

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