



St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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Reception Newsletter – 4th December 2020

Language

This week saw the beginning of our studies linked to Christmas. On Monday morning the children were surprised to see a news broadcast announcing that Santa crashed his sleigh at the weekend! The children were shocked at this news and were extremely keen to help design him a new vehicle which he could use to deliver his presents. We used this exciting writing task as an opportunity to assess the children's independent writing skills and were very pleased with how keen they were to write. The children are beginning to apply more of their writing targets to their independent work and we thoroughly enjoyed reading their wonderful ideas.

Maths

On Monday we had a delivery to the classroom. Santa sent an elf to each classroom to spend time with the children in the lead up to Christmas. The arrival of the elf led to lots of opportunities for us to practise using positional language to describe where the elf was sitting around the classroom. We have enjoyed following the elf's antics around the school building and have found him hiding 'under', 'behind', 'in between' and 'infront' of lots of pieces of furniture!

Phonics

The children are making excellent progress in their phonics; they are learning new sounds daily and are beginning to apply this knowledge to words when reading and spelling. Over Christmas we would like the children to practise their sight recognition of Phase 2 words. They are able 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

Our formal spelling assessments will begin next week. We will be testing the children on their ability to spell a collection of ten words (see below). These words have been taught to the children during our phonics sessions over the course of the term but please also practise these at home. If the children are able to spell the words confidently then challenge them to write the words within the context of a sentence. Children's spelling scores will be sent home before the Christmas break.

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

It's a Baby!

We are in the midst of filming our Christmas nativity, 'It's a Baby!' The children have been working so hard learning songs, practising dance routines and recording narration. Thank you for your support in sourcing costumes. The children look fantastic in them and we can't wait to share our performance with you all on Monday 14th December.

Christmas Party

On Thursday 17th December we will be having our Reception Christmas Party. On this day the children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes. Following our Christmas worship, the morning will be spent making decorations and Christmas crafts in preparation for our party in the afternoon. We ask that children bring a small and clearly labelled plate of party food with them to enjoy before they go home. Please note that this food will just be for your child and will be in addition to their school lunch so need not be substantial; just a few of their favourite party treats.

Reading Meeting

In the Autumn term, we would usually hold a meeting for Reception parents and carers to explain all about how we teach reading and how your child can be supported at home. As we are not able to hold the meeting in person due to Covid-19, we have recorded the meeting for you and uploaded it onto the Reception homepage of the school website. We hope that you find it useful.

Elf Run

Reception children will be participating in the annual St Rocco's sponsored run on Tuesday 15th December. This year the run has an elf theme, so all children will be provided with elf hats and ears before they run. Sponsorship forms were sent home last Friday and these should be returned to school before the end of term so that they can be quarantined and collected by St Rocco's in the new year. This event is always great fun and a wonderful way to raise money for cancer patients and their families.

Thank you for your continued support,
The Reception Team