



St Philip Westbrook

C of E Aided Primary School

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**Mrs J Wightman
Headteacher**

Reception Newsletter – 26th March 2021

Language

Last week we read the story of 'Tom and the Island of Dinosaurs' by Ian Beck. The children loved the story and were excited to think of ways that they could rescue the dinosaurs from the smoking volcano. We have been assessing their independent writing skills as 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. We are now working hard on ensuring we always remember our finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. This week we read the book 'How to Grow a Dinosaur' by Caryl Hart. We have enjoyed designing our own magic seeds and using our writing targets to record sentences about what they might grow into.

Maths

We have been exploring the properties of 3D shapes and thinking about the items that they remind us of. We made models with the shapes and explained why we chose cones for spikes and cuboids for tails. We have also been practising our number facts and exploring ways in which we can double numbers bigger than 5 and use this knowledge to help us find half. We also practised using the language of 'odd' and 'even'.

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.

Reading

We are delighted with how well the children are progressing in their reading. It is lovely to see them independently sounding out words and really enjoying sharing books with their teachers and friends. We are currently working very hard on developing the children's sight vocabulary. This means reading words on sight rather than by sounding out every word and this skill helps the children to read at a faster pace and develops their fluency. We have uploaded word mats to the Reception homepage of the words we are working on. Please try to ensure that children bring their book bags to school on Mondays and Thursdays so that children can choose a reading book to bring home. Children should read at home at least 3 times per week. If they do not have a reading book then please use the Reading Eggs app to help children with the progression in their reading skills.

Parent Consultations

We will be sending out Google Meet invitations for our next round of parent consultations following the Easter break. Please keep an eye out for them in your inboxes or spam folders.

Healthy Snacks and Water Bottles

Following our return to school, a number of children have started to bring morning snacks which are unhealthy. We are able to provide children with fresh fruit daily. If you choose to send a snack from home then please ensure it consists of either fresh fruit or vegetables, bread or toast. Please also ensure that water bottles contain water only.

We have had a wonderful few weeks back together with all of our Reception children. It has been lovely to watch them re-establish their relationships with friends and adapt back to classroom learning. It is sad that we only have one more week together before the Easter break!

We wish you all a peaceful Easter and look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 14th April for our final term in Reception!

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