



St Philip Westbrook
C of E Aided Primary School
'Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly'

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Reception Newsletter – Friday 24th September 2021

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 very proud!

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. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we would like all children to bring in a family photograph and a baby photograph to support them in this work. Photographs are intended to be placed in children's Learning Journey books and they will be encouraged to talk about these with teachers and friends. If you need your photographs returning please let a member of the team know.

Maths

This week we have been practising our matching skills and looking for similarities between objects. We have loved playing pairs games and 'Snap' and we have also been able to describe how we know when we have found a matching pair. If you happen to do any washing over the weekend, the children are excellent at matching up odd socks! Next week we are going to explore the skill of sorting. We will be looking for differences between objects and thinking about the ways in which we can group objects according to these differences.

Reading

This week class teachers have loved having the opportunity to share books with all of the children individually. This has enabled us to assess children's book handling skills, as well as their ability to make simple predictions, talk about their favourite parts and look for familiar letter sounds. Next week all of the children will participate in their first group shared-read with their class teacher. We will start to send reading books home later in the half term when children are able to recognise more sounds and are beginning to blend some of these together to read simple words.

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 Friday we will provide the children with a phonics bookmark detailing the sounds we have been learning, for children 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.

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.

Homework

Today, all children will bring home their first piece of Reception homework in their new homework book. Homework will be given out to the children every Friday and homework books should be returned to the homework basket in the classroom by the following Thursday. Homework books can also be used for sharing news of adventures or achievements that take place outside of school, so that we can talk to the children about these and celebrate their achievements. We are in the process of setting all children up with a series of accounts for online learning (Purple Mash, Reading Eggs and Google Classroom). Details of logins will be sent home shortly, along with further information about how these online tools can support children with their learning at home.

Career Day

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we will be holding our annual 'Career Day' for Reception children on Monday 18th 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. We will also be welcoming visitors to the classrooms throughout the course of the week to talk to the children about their professions. Please see the information letter in your child's book bag for information about this day. If you would like to volunteer to come into the classroom and speak to the children about your profession please let a member of the team know.

Thank you for your support,

The Reception Team