



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

St Philip's Centre
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Reception Newsletter – Friday 22nd October 2021

Language

We are now coming to the end of our induction project, 'All about me'. Last week we learnt about each other's families and we compared how our families are similar and different. We wrote labels to accompany pictures of our family members and some of us even wrote simple sentences to describe who the people were in our family photographs! This week the children have been thinking about what they would like to be when they grow up. All children have completed a piece of independent writing, depicting their hopes and dreams for the future. We have been delighted by how well the children have been able to independently record the sounds that they are now able to hear in words.

Maths

Last week we explored different ways in which we can measure items. We compared lengths, heights, sizes, weights and capacities and used lots of descriptive vocabulary (taller, shorter, longer, heavier, lighter) to describe our findings. This week we have been learning about repeating patterns. We have enjoyed looking for patterns in the classroom and the outdoor area, as well as designing our very own repeating patterns using lots of different materials, shapes and colours.

Phonics

Our weekly phonics assessments indicate that children are making very good progress with their recognition of the sounds we have taught. We are now focussing on the ability to blend these sounds together to read words. Children are also becoming familiar with some of our 'tricky words' (words that cannot be sounded out). All children have been given a high frequency word mat which displays the words we have been practising to read on sight and through blending. Please practise reading these words over half term. After half term we will begin spelling assessments with the children. A list of spellings will be sent home at the beginning of each half term for children to practise. They will then be assessed on these words at the end of each half term.

Reading

Today, all children will be bringing home their first reading book to share with you over the half term break. The books have been carefully selected to match the phonics level that your child has been assessed as working at. Therefore, children should be able to recognise lots of sounds in the words, as well as begin to blend these together to read the words. Please take some time to watch the video that has been uploaded to the Reception Homepage on the school website for guidance on how we teach reading in school, as well as advice for how you can support your child at home.

Career Day

Thank you for your support in helping the children to look wonderful for our Career Day on Monday. We had a wonderful day sharing our hopes and dreams with each other and have thoroughly enjoyed learning about a range of occupations over the course of the week. Special thanks to those parents who gave up their time to come in and speak to the children about their occupations, as well as our very own Mr Stanley. The children loved hearing about your work and looking at the clothes, tools and equipment you use.

Diwali Day

After half term, our new project will be entitled 'Celebrations'. We will be learning about lots of multicultural festivals, as well as sharing experiences of our own celebrations. On **Tuesday 9th November** we will be celebrating 'Diwali Day' in Reception. On this day, children are invited to come to school wearing bright colours to prepare them for a day of Bollywood dancing, Indian artwork, storytelling and lots of fun!

Half Term Homework

Our priority for this half term break is that the children have a well-deserved rest and make lots of lovely memories with their families. We will not be sending home children's homework books, instead all children have now received a bookmark containing login details for some online learning tools that they are welcome to explore over the holidays.

This week we introduced the children to the 'Purple Mash' link on the school website. Purple Mash is an online learning tool that children can access at home. All children's usernames are their initials and their passwords involve them clicking on 2 pictures. Instructions for using Purple Mash have been sent home with the children today. Next half term we will be teaching the children to use a range of resources on this site.

'Reading Eggs' is an online learning tool designed to support children in their phonic development and reading skills. When children log in, they will be able to participate in a range of phonic games which progress in-line with their achievements.

'Google Classroom' is the online tool that we used for our virtual learning last year, during lockdown. Although we do not set work on Google Classroom in Reception, it is important that children have login information for this site, should we be required to work remotely once again.

It's hard to believe we are already reaching the end of our first half term in Reception. We are delighted with how well the children have settled into school life at St Philip's and thank you for all of your support so far. We hope you all have a relaxing half term and look forward to seeing you in November.

The Reception Team