



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 19th November 2021

Celebrations

Our new project has begun and we are enjoying learning about lots of different kinds of celebrations! We have learnt about why we celebrate Bonfire Night and we thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali during our 'Diwali Day' last week.

Literacy

Last week we began to share the story, 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryon. This is a story about a young girl called Rocket who dreams of becoming an astronaut. In the story, Rocket is very excited by a special meteor shower. This inspired us to design our own fliers to advertise the meteor shower. We also wrote some lists of things that Rocket would need to pack in her backpack when she went to the park to see the meteor shower. We tried very hard to write our ideas using the sounds we could hear. This week we are continuing our sharing of the story. We have written encouraging letters to Rocket about her exciting event, as well as sentences to describe the behaviour of Rocket's brother, Jamal, who keeps looking down at his phone during the story. Next week we will be adapting the story in order to make up our own versions.

Maths

Over the last couple of weeks we have been exploring the numbers 1, 2 and 3 in lots of depth. We have been practising our counting skills and we have been sharing rhymes to help us write the numerals. We thought about how these amounts can look different when they are arranged in different patterns and arrays and we have also been working very hard on our 'subitising' skills. This means that we can now look at a quantity of 1, 2 or 3 and recognise the total without counting the objects or pictures. Great work Reception!

Phonics

The children are continuing to make good progress in their phonics work. We are now working within Phase 3 and are beginning to explore digraphs (two letters that make one sound e.g. sh, ch, th). You will find another copy of our Phase 2 and Phase 3 phonics assessment in your child's book bag. As we make our way through the digraphs we encourage children to begin to recognise these sounds within their reading books, as well as begin to write these sounds within words.

Spelling

This half term we will begin to assess the children's spelling. At the end of each half term we will test the children on their ability to spell a collection of ten words. These words will be taught to the children during our phonics sessions over the course of the term but please also practise these at home. If your child is able to spell the words confidently then challenge them to write the words within the context of a sentence. Our focus spellings for this half term are:

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

It's a Baby!

Rehearsals for our virtual Christmas performance are well underway! Please send costumes into school by Monday 22nd November so that we can begin filming. If you are unable to source a costume then please let a member of the team know as soon as possible. Our performance video will be shared with parents on the Reception Homepage of the school website on Friday 10th December.

WOW Moments!

In order to develop our home-school communication further we are introducing 'WOW moments'. All children have been given a WOW form to bring home. These forms are for you to cut up and add details to about any observations you may make of your child reaching a 'WOW' stage in their learning and development. Examples may include moving up a level in swimming, learning to ride their bike without stabilisers, spelling a tricky word or even sharing an interesting fact with you. Please add details of this WOW moment to the form and return it to school so that we can celebrate your child's wonderful achievements with the class (please do not send in more than one in at a time). We will keep a bank of these forms in the classroom. Please let a member of the team know should you require some more!

Snacks and Water bottles

Children should bring their water bottles to school each day and they should contain water only. Fresh fruit is available every day from the classroom for morning snacks. If you would prefer to provide your own snack please ensure it consists of either fruit, vegetables, bread or toast. Please do not send filled sandwiches, tortilla wraps or biscuits.

Thank you for your continued support,
The Reception Team