



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

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Reception Newsletter – 17th December 2021

It's hard to believe we are at the end of our first term in Reception! Thank you for all of the support you have given during the children's transition into school. We are so proud of how well they have settled and are delighted with their progress.

Language

Last 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. This week we have completed our studies of the story, 'I am Henry Finch' by Alexis Deacon. We thought about times when our heads are filled with lots of thoughts and we wrote a poem to describe our thoughts using lots of words containing the 'z' and 'zz' sounds.

Maths

Over the last couple of weeks we have been consolidating our learning linked to the numbers 4 and 5. Last week we learnt about how we can change the numbers by adding one more or by taking one away. This week we have been learning about shapes with 4 sides and sorting squares and rectangles. We also used these shapes to make some robot pictures. The children have worked so hard – why not ask them to explain the difference between a square and a rectangle?

Phonics

The children have been making excellent progress in their phonics; they are learning new sounds daily and are beginning to apply this knowledge to words when reading. Over Christmas we would like the children to practise their sight recognition of the high frequency words we have been learning. They are growing in their ability to blend these, however we would like them to practise reading them a little more quickly on sight. All children have brought home a word mat to support them in this task. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Spellings

The children have now completed their Autumn term spelling assessments and results of these have been sent home today. If children mis-spelt any words, please continue to practise these as we will re-assess them after the Christmas break.

It's a Baby!

Thank you for all of your kind messages and comments about our Christmas performance. We are so proud of our wonderful children and extremely glad you enjoyed watching. We only wish we had time to make an outtakes video to share with you all as there were plenty of comedy moments! The video will remain on our Reception homepage until after Christmas.

To Infinity and Beyond!

Following the Christmas break, our new project will be linked to space and the solar system. We have a large number of astronomy fans in our cohort of children this year and we look forward to enthusing them in their learning through this exciting project. Children will be learning about different planets, as well as having the opportunity to taste some real space food! In our artwork we are hoping to make some models of space vehicles using items of junk. If you happen to have any spare cereal boxes, tubes, lids or pots over the Christmas holidays, please save them and send them into school to support our children in their artwork.

St Rocco's Elf Run

Our Reception classes had lots of fun participating in the annual St Rocco's Elf Run this week. They put on their elf hats and ears and ran for as long as they could to help raise money for cancer patients and their families. The children demonstrated excellent stamina and sportsmanship as they cheered each other on. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their sponsorship forms and money. St Rocco's will be collecting the money after Christmas so please ensure that all sponsorship envelopes are returned no later than Friday 7th January.

Christmas Homework

We have set the children a list of tasks to tackle over the Christmas holidays, should they wish. These tasks are designed to be fun and enjoyable as we want all of our children to have a lovely Christmas after such a busy term. If you would like some additional ideas for tasks to help children with their learning over Christmas then please continue to explore the Reading Eggs app, share lots of books and practise letter and numeral formation.

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful cards, gifts and Christmas wishes. We wish all of our families a peaceful, relaxing and healthy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Thank you for your continued support,
The Reception Team