



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

St Philip's Centre
District Centre
Westbrooke
Warrington
WA5 8UE

Mr P Stanley
Headteacher

Tel: 01925 445391

Reception Newsletter – Friday 23rd September 2022

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 investigating different houses and homes, as well as drawing and labelling pictures of our own houses. Following this, we will be sharing information about who is in our family and how we have changed since we were babies. 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. Photographs can also be emailed to the school office, with a note to say which class and child they are for.

Maths

This week, we have been assessing children's shape and measure knowledge. We played some shapes games involving circles, squares, triangles and rectangles. We have also been using language associates with measure including heavier and lighter, longer and shorter and full and empty. Next week we will be practising our matching skills and looking for similarities and differences between objects. We will be playing pairs games and describing how we know when we have found a matching pair.

Phonics

Our phonics lessons have begun and this week we have been thinking about the pure sounds for letters m, a, s, d. Each Friday we will provide the children with a phonics bookmark, detailing the sounds we have been learning and handwriting guidance for children to practise at home. Over the coming weeks we will also begin to 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.

Reading

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 begin to bring home 'share with me' books from our class reading corners. These books are for sharing with the children. Children are not expected to be able to read the words in these books yet, although they should be able to locate some of the sounds we have been learning in phonics within some of the words. Some children may even be able to begin to blend these sounds together. 'Share with me' books can be changed independently by children whenever they wish. We are currently awaiting the arrival of reading record books. As soon as these become available we will send these home in children's book bags, along with guidance on how they should be used to record details of children's reading/book sharing whilst they are at home.

Homework

Last week, all children were given their first piece of Reception homework in their new homework book. Homework will continue to 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 17th 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