

Reception Autumn Newsletter

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Kilmorie. The children have had a fantastic first week and we have enjoyed getting to know them. Our main focus at the start of the school year is to settle the children and introduce them to the daily routines in order that they feel happy and ready for learning.

What we are learning this half term

Our first topic is "Knowing me, Knowing you" and has a personal, social and emotional development focus. We will be exploring our identities as belonging to Bear, Lion or Tiger class, our families and ourselves. The themed book we will be using this half term is 'Little Red Hen'.

To help support the children in their learning, we would be grateful if you could name and fill a small box, such as a matchbox, with as many special things as you can fit inside and bring it into school to share.

In Reception we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, which is play based and is made up of the following seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- Communication & Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts & Design

There will be a curriculum meeting on **Wednesday 3rd October at either 9.30 or 6.00, whichever is most convenient for you**, to discuss our approach to teaching and learning in Reception and to discuss ways you can support your child with their learning.

Reading

Every week your child will have one-to-one time with his/her teacher to share a reading book on a specified day. We will put comments in a reading journal about their progress and what they like. Please try to read with your child every day if possible and put your own comments in the journal. The children will have the opportunity to comment as well by drawing pictures. Please keep the reading journal in their book bag and make sure to bring the book bag in on their reading day. They will also have the opportunity to bring a storybook of their choice from the class book corner.

Clothing

As you know, Kilmorie does not require children to wear a uniform. In Reception children will be very active and will be engaged in a variety of activities that may be messy! Please do send your children in wearing clothes that they are comfortable in and are not their best. Sometimes, due to the nature of the curriculum, they may get a bit dirty. Occasionally the children have accidents and will need changing. If possible please could you leave some a change of clothes in a named bag on your child's peg. Wellies are also useful for rainy days. We also have our own collection of clothes if necessary. Please label all your child's clothes.

PE Clothes: Reception children will not be required to wear a PE uniform for their indoor and outdoor PE sessions at the moment.

Donations of old clothes: If you have clothes that your children no longer need or they grow out of, please donate them to our collection of spare clothes. Thanks!

Toys

We discourage the bringing of toys from home as they get lost and often cause difficulties with sharing. However, if your child has something they have made at home or wants to share something related to our topic, please let them bring it in on their allocated reading day.

Volunteers

It is always fantastic when parents and carers come in to help or to accompany us on trips during the year. If you are interested, please speak to your child's class teacher and give your details to the office. It is generally best to let the children settle in first.

Donations for Cooking and Junk Modelling

We like to cook regularly in the Reception classes. This can be quite costly so we ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p per week, £3.00 for the half term or £6 until Christmas. An envelope will be offered for this purpose.

We need your rubbish! The children often create models using recycled materials as part of their learning. Please send in your recycling such as old birthday/Christmas cards, wrapping paper, small boxes, kitchen tubes, egg boxes, yoghurt pots, plastic fruit trays, toilet rolls..... Anything that you don't want and is clean, we will take!

Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA)

Please note that on Friday mornings, Marcus, Ashleigh and Philippa will be out for PPA. They will be covered by Megha, Nyasha, and Liz Woodland.

The Friends of Kilmorie would like to invite you all to a coffee morning (9.30am) or afternoon tea (2.30 pm). Please look out for the date. This will give you the opportunity to meet other parents and to tell you about the fantastic activities they organise to support the school and your children. Parent Council will also be there. More information will be sent home shortly.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to ask. We are always pleased to help and answer your queries. It is easier to speak after school but if urgent please see us immediately. Should you need to, you can email info@kilmorie.lewisham.sch.uk and messages will be forwarded to the relevant teacher.

Thank you very much,
The Reception Team