

Reception News

10.02.23

This week in Reception



Children's Mental Health Week provided lots of opportunities to talk to the children about the different emotions we all experience and how we can begin to manage these in healthy ways.

The children took part in a range of activities from calm watercolour painting, yoga, mindfulness exercises, deep breathing, meditation and thinking of helpful strategies to regulate their emotions and move between the different zones of regulation. It was wonderful to see how much this Reception cohort have already learnt about identifying and naming the range of emotions they feel and to continue to build on this knowledge together. Some of the classes were also introduced to their class Worry Monsters (children are then encouraged to write/draw their worries and put them into the monster).

Phonics:

The current focus of Little Wandle phonics is on beginning to read longer words using the 'chunking' technique. Why not ask your child what this is to see if they can tell you? This week we read two syllable words such as 'magnet', 'carrot' and 'velvet' and practised sounding out the two halves of each word separately, before blending them together. As always, we reviewed a number of the digraphs and trigraphs already learnt, as well as several tricky words.

Number:

In Number we have been thinking about comparison in terms of height, quantity and weight. We explored this through the use of non-standard units of measure (measuring using random objects), using weighing scales and looking at larger and smaller groups of objects. We have focused on the use of mathematical language to express this including **taller/shorter**, **longer/shorter**, **more/fewer** and **heavier/lighter**.



Reception Playground:

We are very excited to announce that the playground building works are now finished and the children will be able to access the new areas once they return to school. When we come back we will be spending some time speaking to the children about how to safely use these areas and will further develop our outdoor space, with their help! We are sure you will agree that the new areas look beautiful and will provide a myriad of opportunities for exciting learning through play.



Lions Entrance:

As the building works are now complete, next half term Lions class will once again be able to enter their classroom from the main door. We'd like to thank all of the Lions families for being so accommodating and patient whilst this work has been taking place and we are sure that you will all be pleased to get back to normal!

Parents Evenings:

We'd like to remind you all that parents' evenings in Reception work differently from further up the school. As we have weekly meetings for the focus children in each class, **Reception do not take part in the whole school parents' evening week in the Autumn and Spring terms.** We feel that the regular meetings in Reception, which are often longer than the allocated 10 minutes, are very valuable and allow us to focus more closely on your child at that moment in time. These meetings will continue in this way for the remainder of the Spring term.

In the Summer term, we will discontinue these regular meetings and do the same as the rest of the school, which will be a parent/carer drop-in during the second half of the Summer term (more information to follow). That being said, should you ever wish to discuss something specific about your child, you are always welcome to schedule an ad-hoc meeting with your class teacher. Please do so by speaking to them at the door or emailing info@kilmore.lewisham.sch.uk and marking it for the attention of the teacher.

Missing Coat:

We have been made aware that a child in Reception has lost their coat. The adults in the class have thoroughly searched the school but have been unable to locate this. We would be very grateful if you could check that your child has not accidentally brought home the wrong coat and let a member of staff know if you find it. Can we please also remind you to name all clothing including coats and water bottles

Description of lost coat in Lions: Black duffel coat, hood with fur trim

Thank you

Student teacher

After half term we will be welcoming Polly, a student teacher, into the Reception team for a month. She will mainly be developing her practice in Bears but will also support within other classes when required. We are sure you will all give her a warm welcome.

Home Learning Ideas:

During the half-term break, you may wish to do some of the following activities with your child to help to embed/extend their learning and keep them busy!

- Make your own playdough (or, better yet, ask your child to make it! The children in Reception are getting very good at independently making it when in school)
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe>
 - Can your child form the letters of their name using playdough? What else can they write?
 - Go to the dough disco! <https://youtu.be/i-lfzeG1aC4>
 - Can they make their favourite animal out of playdough? What parts does it need? How many different **parts** does it have to make the **whole**?
- Go out in the garden or to your local park to look for the signs of Spring. Maybe your child can draw or paint these? Perhaps they could make a springtime book out of folded paper?
- Do a tally chart (please see copy attached at end of letter for printing or create your own) – these have been very popular in Reception recently! Your child could even make one about springtime (flowers, leaf buds, sunshine etc.)
- Visit a library

- Keep reading with your child (both the Little Wandle phonics book and any storybooks that you both enjoy)
 - You could write down some of the words or sounds from the Little Wandle book and hide these around your house for your child to find
 - Ask your child to think of as many tricky words as they can and write them down (either you or your child, depending on their confidence level). Can your child tell you a story using these tricky words? Maybe they could draw a picture to go with it?
- Practise writing letters or words in a tray of salt or shaving foam or using water and paintbrushes in the garden or on the pavement

Most of all, we hope you and your family find some time to relax and have fun during the break. We look forward to seeing you after the holiday.

The Reception Team





Tally Chart



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