

## **This week in Reception**

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you've had a fantastic week so far! This week we celebrated Walk to School Week, encouraging the children to embrace a healthy and eco-friendly way to get to school. We had a great time exploring different modes of transportation and learning about the health benefits of walking. The children had the opportunity to create maps of their journey to school, which allowed them to develop their spatial awareness skills. It was lovely to see how many of the children have such a good knowledge of the local area! To further reinforce this learning, the children enthusiastically participated in making tally charts about how they arrived at school each day, whether it was by foot, car, scooter, bicycle, taxi or bus. This activity not only strengthened their numeracy skills but also sparked meaningful discussions about sustainable travel choices.



Additionally, we dedicated time to Mental Health Awareness Week, emphasising the importance of well-being and self-care. Mindfulness activities played a central role in our discussions, helping the children to develop techniques for managing their emotions and promoting positive mental health. One of the mindfulness exercises we practised was called 'Rainbow Breathing'. This involves taking deep breaths and visualising the colors of the rainbow as we breathe in and out. It was a fantastic way to help our children relax and focus their attention. Another activity we enjoyed was 'Smell the flower, blow out the candle'. Through this exercise, we encouraged the children to take a deep breath in, as if smelling a beautiful flower, and then blow the air out gently, like blowing out a candle. This simple activity allowed them to slow down and be fully present in the moment, promoting a sense of calm and tranquility. Perhaps your child can teach you these activities at home?

## **Phonics:**

In phonics, we have been consolidating the learning of words ending in 's' or 'es', such as 'fights', 'chips', 'foxes' and 'fishes'. The children are becoming increasingly confident at sightreading the tricky words 'be', 'he', 'she', 'we', 'me', 'my' and 'they'. Maybe you could hide these words around the house and encourage them to go on a tricky word hunt?

We are now at the stage with our Little Wandle reading scheme where many of the children are beginning to sound out in their heads, before blending the word out loud. Can your child have a go at home?

### **Maths:**

We have been focusing on sequencing numerals from 1 to 10 and the relationship between these and groups of objects, as well as pictorial representations. This hands-on approach is helping the children to develop a strong foundation in number recognition and counting and sequencing skills. We have introduced stem sentences such as "x is 1 more than x" and "x is 1 fewer than x" to help the children make the connection between the numerals and their corresponding quantities. The children took part in various activities to reinforce this understanding, including sequencing number mats, playing a giant number track game with dice outside, matching groups of objects, such as counters or toys to the corresponding numerals and counting their steps from home to school and around the school grounds.

### **Next Week**

Next week we will be celebrating World Bee Day, World Turtle Day and World Africa Day, with a host of activities around wildlife and the natural world! We will plant some wildflower seeds for the bees (donations welcome!), learn all about endangered animals on the internet and through non-fiction books, as well as doing some hot and cold activities to learn about different climates.

### **The Great Kilmorrie Design Challenge**

During the first week back after the half-term break, we will be taking part in the Great Kilmorrie Design Challenge. We are excited to be designing and making tie-dye garments and accessories! However, to do so, we need your help! **Please can you supply a plain white (or light coloured) cotton t shirt, vest or even pants for your child to use (either labelled or in a labelled bag) on or before Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, so your child can take part in this challenge. This can be new or second hand, but please be aware we are planning to sell these design products back to Kilmorrie parents and carers at the July drop-in evening. We are also in need of old white cotton bed sheets or fabric and white pants or vests to use for our prototypes and accessories.** If any of you are able to provide more than 1 t shirt, we would be very grateful as we know that not all families will be in a position to provide this. Thank you!

### **Sports Day**

You will probably already know that Reception is joining the wider school community at the field for Sports Day on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. We will be setting off first thing and will need plenty of parent volunteers to assist with the short walk to the field off Perry Hill. Please could we ask you to put this

date in your diary, not only to come and watch, but also to help us walk there **and back, around midmorning.**

Thank you

## The Reception Team

