

Friday 22nd September 2023

This week in Reception:

It has been a very busy week in Reception and I'm sure that, like us, you are all extremely proud of how your children have adapted to the longer days and new routines of 'big school'. Our focus at the beginning of term is always on settling the children and ensuring that they feel safe and confident in the school environment. We have done this by slowly introducing the different areas of the learning environment, both inside and out, and spending short carpet sessions playing circle games to find out more about the children and who they are as individuals, including their likes and dislikes.

The children have been very excited to explore all the areas of Reception, especially the outside area which seems to be particularly popular this year! They have managed lunchtimes well and are impressing us all with their independence when selecting food and carrying their own trays to the table.

Thank you for returning your donation envelopes. We will use your contributions to buy cooking ingredients and other resources needed throughout the term.

Phonics:

This week we jumped straight into our Little Wandle phonics programme by introducing the children to the phonemes for s, a, t and p. We did this by introducing items that begin with the sounds, such as a snake for s. The children were very enthusiastic and it's lovely to note that some continued to spot things beginning with these sounds in their free play after the phonics session.

Please visit the Kilmore School Website for more information about phonics and follow the link to the Little Wandle site, where you can find lots of parent information about how we teach this programme. You will soon receive information about meetings to inform you in more detail about the Reception curriculum and how we teach phonics.

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Maths / Number:

We have not yet begun teaching any formal maths sessions as we initially think it is important to focus on doing settling activities for the children, such as the circle games mentioned above. However, we have observed the children using lots of maths in their play including measuring quantities when playing in the water tray, using the large scales to weigh items, measuring their heights against wall charts and counting toys in their play. We have also counted the children each time they line up and taken opportunities to sing familiar counting songs with them, which they love.

Reading:

Next week we will begin our Little Wandle reading programme. Although many children will continue to read individually at this point, some will begin to read in groups. Initially, each of the children will receive a wordless, or almost wordless picture book to bring home. This is to encourage the children to gain confidence in looking at books. Please encourage your child to talk about what they see in the pictures and 'read' you the story.

Home learning ideas:

Play a game of i-spy using the sounds the children have learnt this week (s, a, t, p). Please use letters sounds, not letter names.

Forthcoming events

Open Mornings: On **Friday 13th October and Monday 4th December** we are inviting all reception parents to stay for 30 minutes at drop off so your children can show you their classrooms, share books with you and look at any learning they have recorded in their books. Feel free to just come along.

Curriculum information and phonics information sessions for parents and carers: **10th October at 4pm and 18th October at 9.15am**. A separate letter will be sent to you to invite you to show an expression of interest in attending.

School website

Please do [visit our website](#), you can find details of forthcoming events on the [calendar](#) (& you can subscribe to your child/ren's year group so it will auto update

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your calendar), as well as photos of learning activities including educational visits in the [photo gallery](#), read all about recent events and sporting achievements in the [school news](#) section and much, much more!

