

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 29th September 2023

This week in Reception:

This week in Reception we talked about journeys and linked this to the paintings below. To make this learning more meaningful to our children, we thought about the different journeys they make from their homes to school every morning. Each class then spent time drawing and decorating pictures of their own homes and things that they see on their daily journey, which will be used to create an impressive wall display of our local community!

Each class had an opportunity to explore the Wild Garden during their Outside Day this week. Although they can choose to play in this area during morning playtime, during their Outside Day this time is more focused (such as looking for minibeasts or making dens) and, due to higher adult to child ratios, the children are allowed to take more risks, like climbing trees. Wild Garden time provides a great weekly opportunity for the children to think about the natural environment, observe seasonal changes and develop their gross motor skills through climbing, balancing and lifting.

Phonics:

During phonics this week we have taught the new graphemes (written letter) and phonemes (sounds they make) i, n, m, d. As well as consolidating the learning of last week's phonemes s, a, t, p. The children are becoming very familiar with the routine of phonics and engage enthusiastically. They are particularly enjoying the addition of a phonics password before they go for their lunch!

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 should have received information about Reception curriculum meetings including how we teach phonics. If you have not had this letter, please could you let your class teachers know and give them your email address so it can be added to our central system.

Weekly Learning Letter

Maths / Number:

We have now started to introduce short learning sessions on the carpet after lunch. This week we focused on number 1 and the different ways that this can be represented (i.e. with an object, the numeral, a dot on a whiteboard, on a dice, with a jump, a clap etc.). Although we realise that lots of the children are already confident counters, we teach a mastery approach to maths at Kilmorie, meaning that we move through the numbers at a steady pace. This ensures that all the children will have a deep understanding of numbers and the different ways that these can be manipulated. They can then adapt these same strategies to bigger numbers as they continue to learn. Alongside this focused learning, we still count bigger numbers each day.

Reading:

Last week we sent Little Wandle books home with your children to look at over the weekend. We hope your child enjoyed this and is excited about taking another book this week. We have sent a new Little Wandle book home in the bookbags this week, as well as a book of your child's choice for you to share together.

We have not yet begun the group reading sessions in school, as we are still focusing on embedding other school routines throughout the day and settling the children. However, many of the children have had opportunities to do one to one reading with adults in school and, as always, we end each day with a shared story to promote a love of reading for all. Thank you to those of you who have left us notes in the yellow reading journals. The Reception team will begin to write in the yellow reading journals once the reading groups begin.

Home learning ideas:

- Play a game of i-spy using the sounds the children have learnt this week (i, n, m, d). Please use **letters sounds**, not letter names.
- Play a sorting game with toys, natural objects (from the park or garden), or food. Can your child sort them into different groups (size, colour, type etc.)?

Weekly Learning Letter

Forthcoming events

- **Open Mornings:** On Friday 13th October and Monday 4th December we are inviting 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. **Please come on your preferred date and if both parents would like to attend, we kindly request that you choose one date each so that we do not overwhelm the children with a large number of adults in the classroom.** More dates for parents to visit are being planned for later in the year.
- **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.

ParentPay

ParentPay details are coming home this week (either inside the bookbags or handed out to the children, depending on the class). If you have not received your letter, please speak to your class teacher.

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 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!

