

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 13th October 2023

This week in Reception:

We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who came to our Stay and Play event this morning. The children loved showing you all the different areas of the classroom, sharing books with you and showcasing all the things they have been learning about this half term. If you could not make it to the Stay and Play this week, we are also having one on the morning of Monday 4th December for 30 minutes, immediately after drop off time.

To celebrate World Mental Health Day, this week in Reception we have been focusing on exploring different emotions, how they make our bodies feel and the strategies we can use to make ourselves feel better. The children have enjoyed exploring this in a number of different ways. They each made a rainbow fruit skewer, which was linked to the mindful activity of 'rainbow breathing'. Some children chose to paint different animals to represent emotions, whilst others used paper plates to draw faces to show how they were feeling. The children seemed to especially enjoy making their own flowers and candles from lollisticks and showing others how these could be used to breathe deeply and help them to feel calm ('smell the flower' and 'blow out the candle'). We imagine that some of the children will probably be very excited to show you their new 'calm jars', which they made using glitter and water. There were also many opportunities during the week to practise mindfulness, yoga and meditation.

Phonics:

This week the children learnt the new sounds ck, e, u, r and the tricky word 'l'. They have also been practising sounding out and blending words that include previous learnt sounds such as 'dog', 'cat', 'duck' and 'mum'.

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.

Maths / Number:

This week we focused on the number 4. The children enjoyed subitising different arrangements of 3 and 4. Subitising is the ability to visually recognise small amounts of 5 or less without counting (– 'don't count, say the amount'). They also explored

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different ways to represent these numbers including using fingers, objects, on a tens frame and through drawing. They loved creating their own 3 and 4 monsters, with lots of body parts!

Reading:

This week we have continued with our group and individual reading sessions. The children are really enjoying practicing reading in their groups and love talking about the stories they have been reading.

Home learning ideas:

- Do a grapheme hunt in your house – write down any of the following graphemes on scrap card or paper and ask your child to find them (d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r). Maybe they could use these sounds to try to spell some simple words (r-u-g, d-o-g, c-o-g, r-o-ck)?
- Can your child create their own animal that has 3 or 4 of every body part and then describe the animal to a sibling or friend?
- Enjoy some mindfulness colouring with your child.
- Ask your child to practice our smelling the flower and blowing out the candle breathing technique. Can your child teach you how to do this?
- Have a tricky password in your home ('I' or 'is'). Maybe you could stick this on the fridge/toilet door/tv remote?

Forthcoming events

- **Reception performances:**

As part of our celebration of Diwali, we would love to invite you to an exciting performance of songs from the children. Each performance will take place in your child's classroom and will last around 15 minutes. Please enter school via the Early Years gate on Elsinore Road, which will be staffed from 2.50 – 3pm. You are welcome to take your child home at the end of the performance if this is convenient for you.

- **Tigers performance – Monday 13th November at 3pm**
- **Bears performance – Tuesday 14th November at 3pm**
- **Lions performance – Wednesday 15th November at 3pm**

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- **Visit to St Georges Church, Vancouver Road**

Monday 20th November- times and details to follow, but we definitely need volunteer helpers.

- **Curriculum information and phonics information sessions for parents and carers:**

Our second session will take place on 18th October at 9.15am. A separate letter was been sent to you to invite you, asking you show expression of interest in attending.

Evidence Me

Please look on the [reception year group](#) page for details of how to log into Evidence me if you are encountering difficulties. Alternatively, you can ask your class teacher for a paper copy.

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!

