

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 20th October 2023

This week in Reception:

We have finally made it to the end of this (very long!) first half term and, whilst we know that the children are all ready for a well-deserved rest, they have had a wonderful few weeks of learning, playing and settling into life at Kilmorie School. As for us, we have loved getting to know the children better and look forward to continuing to do so after they return to school on Monday 30th October.

This week in Reception we have learnt the importance of respecting everybody and continued to emphasise the values of kindness and fairness. The children had a special assembly with Dennis, in which they learnt about the significance of 'showing racism the red card'. They were very engaged in this and many were able to eloquently explain why it is important to treat everybody with respect and how differences make each of us special.

As part of Black History Month, the children learnt about inspirational black people including Lonnie Johnson (inventor of the Super Soaker water gun), Tessa Sanderson (Olympic javelin thrower), Black Panther (superhero) and Precious Adams (ballet dancer). The children then had the opportunity to bring this learning to life by making their own targets and blasting them with Super Soakers, throwing real javelins, dressing up as superheroes and ballet dancing.

All of the Reception children had great fun making biscuits this week. They enjoyed measuring the ingredients and using their fine and gross motor skills to mix it all together.

As we continue to develop our outside learning area, this week has seen the introduction of a role play area at the top of the treehouse. The children have had great fun playing in the new 'office'. Please ask them about their busy days at 'work'.

Phonics:

This week the children learnt the new sounds h, b, f, l and the tricky word 'the'. They have also been practising sounding out and blending words that include these sounds such as "hop", "log", "bat" and "fit".

Please visit the Kilmorie 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.

Weekly Learning Letter

Maths / Number:

This week we focused on the number 5. The children learn how to represent number 5 in different ways for example, by drawing dogs, dots, lines or using their fingers. They also looked at different arrangements of 5, splitting 5 into two groups and putting them back together to make 5. They specially loved going on a '5 Hunt' in the wild garden in which they had to find 2 different numbers and add them together to make 5.

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. Please make sure to bring back the Little Wandle books every Monday to ensure that we have full sets ready for the week ahead.

Home learning ideas:

- Autumn Hunt: We have given each child a paper bag with instructions, which we hope they will use for some Autumn exploration in your local park or garden!
- Phonics resources: We have sent each child home with an overview of all of the graphemes learnt so far and how these should be pronounced and written. We hope that you find this useful.
- Reading: Please continue to read regularly with your child (this can be the Collins Big Cat phonics book or simply stories you enjoy together). See if your child can begin to sound out and blend simple words or spot the sounds or tricky words that they have learnt.
- A final word... we know that this has been a jam-packed first half term for everybody! With that in mind, we hope that you enjoy resting, playing and having fun with your child over the holiday.
- If you would like to share any pictures of your child enjoying their half term break, we would welcome these on your child's Evidence Me 2 Simple profile.

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, 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.

Weekly Learning Letter

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

A note about clothing

As always in Reception, we endeavour to regularly remind children to look after and wear weather-appropriate clothing, such as jackets and coats. We frequently emphasise the importance of this to our classes, particularly as the weather begins to get colder and wetter, and adults are always available to assist with zips and buttons if asked. However, we are sure you will understand that this can be a challenging task when supporting 30 children throughout the day. We would therefore be grateful if you could reinforce this at home by regularly speaking with your child about the importance of wearing their warm clothing, asking for assistance when needed and hanging clothing on pegs.

Should your child lose any of their belongings, please feel free to check in the classroom at the end of the day, in the lost property box by the Elsinore Road gate or in the whole school lost property cupboard inside the main gates on Kilmorie Road. **Please ensure that all clothing is labelled with your child's name.**

Requests

- Should any family have **any wooden toys** or child sized furniture they are going to recycle, we would happily take items off your hands.
- **Child hand sized stones** - we would like to paint ladybirds with 1-10 spots onto stones so if you find those of an even curve and suitable size, please could you collect them for us and give them to Philippa.
- Lastly, a rather more time-consuming reach out. These counting logs shown below are very pricey to buy and I wonder whether any one would be willing to attempt making a set for us?



Weekly Learning Letter

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!

