

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 17th November 2023

This week in Reception:

We have had a very exciting and eventful week in Reception! Thank you to all the parents that came to see the children's amazing performances this week. We are sure you will agree that they all did a brilliant job.

As well as this, we have had lots of fun learning all about the Hindu festival of light, Diwali. The children enjoyed talking about the traditions and history of the festival and exploring activities related to this. The children learnt a song about the festival of Diwali, practised drawing rangoli patterns on the floor using large chalks outside, designed mehndi hand patterns and even made their own diwa lamps using salt dough and paint.

Phonics:

This week the children learnt the new sounds v, w, x and y. They also learnt the tricky words **and**, **has**, **his** and **her**. Why not ask your child if they can tell you a sentence that includes one of these tricky words? As well as this, we have practised sounding out and blending words that include our new sounds such as vet, box, yes and wax.

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 have focused on consolidating the maths skills learnt to date. The adults in each class set up different open-ended maths games which the children have loved getting involved with. The children have also been using their maths outside. For example, many of the children had a great time using the giant scales to compare and weigh different objects found in the outdoor area. As always, every class has been practising subitising ('don't count, say the amount') and counting to 30.

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Reading:

The children have continued reading in their new reading groups (these will likely change each half term). **Please make sure you bring back your child's book bag and Little Wandle book on Monday, ready for the new week ahead and to ensure that we have complete sets of each book.**

Home learning ideas:

- Make rangoli patterns on the floor or paper using rice/dried beans, chalk or pencils.
- Ask your child to tell you all about Diwali and the different traditions they have learnt about this week.
- Play a game of 'Pop it in the Bin' with your child. Think of a simple word that includes some of the sounds they have learnt so far this year then get your child to guess which sounds are in your word. If they guess a correct sound, fill it in. However, if they get the sound wrong.... pop it in the bin! Can they guess the word before the bin fills up.

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Lions and Bears drop off

As the children continue to grow in confidence, we feel that this is the perfect moment to encourage them to enter the classroom completely independently each morning. We would therefore like the Bears and Lions parents to say goodbye to your children at the bottom of the ramps. While your child gets used to this change, an adult from the class will be waiting at the bottom of the ramp to greet them and the other adult will be waiting in the doorway as normal. We believe that this is an important step in your child's growing independence.

Due to the layout of the playground, Tigers drop-off will remain the same.

Reminders

Focus children:

If your child is having a turn at being one of the focus children (class teddy, special helper boss or Child of the Week) please remember to speak to your child's teacher or TA before the end of the week to organise your short parent meeting. When it's your child's turn at being the Child of the Week, please take 4 photos of your child over the preceding weekend and email these to info@kilmore.lewisham.sch.uk so that your child can present these to the class during their special week.

An urgent request for missing books

We are running extremely low on our sets of Collins Big Cat phonics books, which are part of the Little Wandle phonics scheme. We need complete sets of matching books in order to successfully carry out the programme in our Reception reading groups each week. Each week we are finding that a number of books are not being returned to us, meaning that many sets are now incomplete and can no longer be used for the reading groups. This is causing a real issue and we have now had to resort to using old phonics books, which are not part of the Little Wandle scheme.

With this in mind, we would be grateful if you could check your homes for any books that may not have been returned. If you are unsure of the book titles, please refer to your child's reading journal, where these will have been recorded.

We are introducing a checklist to ensure that all books are returned to us each week and, unfortunately, if books are not returned to us for two consecutive weeks, your child will not be able to borrow another book until these come back. Thank you for your understanding.

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Forthcoming events

Reception trip to St George's Church – Monday 20th November:

We are all looking forward to visiting St George's Church on Vancouver Road and learning a little bit about Christianity from the local priest, Richard. In order to ensure that this trip is safe and successful, we would like to have as many parent/carer volunteers as possible. Please contact the Kilmorie office if you would be willing to help us out on this trip. Thank you to those of you who have already offered your help – it is greatly appreciated.

Tigers: 9:30 – 11am

Lions: 1:10 – 2:30pm

Bears: 1:45 – 3:15pm

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!

