

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 1st December 2023

This week in Reception:

The children have had a lovely week in Reception, in spite of the chilly weather. The change in weather has given us an opportunity to explore the signs of winter and Reception have loved discovering frost and talking about the impending snowfall! At the end of the week, the children were introduced to their class cheeky elves, who are visiting from the North Pole in order to learn all about making good choices.

Our focus this week was loosely around St Andrew's Day, which provoked learning about Scotland, castles, lochs and flags. Many children chose to make and decorate their own shields, which they then used as props in their pretend play.

It has been a wonderfully musical week in Reception, with a fantastic rehearsal for our Christmas performance early in the week and an opportunity to see the amazing show, Catapluf, on Friday. Catapluf is an exciting musical journey by professional musicians, which encourages the children to explore music, rhythm and sounds. You can listen to the music from Catapluf here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOIC0eifx3o&list=PLXKKzBpuKnUiywyWdF6kQC23Em-N7mmq>





If your child liked the concert, be quick as there is a performance this Saturday in Bromley. Here is the link to that Wigmore Hall concert.

<https://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk/search?term=catapluf>

Phonics:

This week the children learnt the new digraphs **sh**, **th**, **nk** and **ng**. They also learnt the tricky words **she**, **push**, **he**, and **of**. We have practised sounding out and blending words that include our new sounds such as think, moth, thing and rush.

Blending and segmenting simple 3 phoneme words confidently are some of the most important building blocks upon which further skills are developed. Play robot talking games such as , 'Go and s-i-t on the ch- air' to support your child.

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 been focusing on the number 8 and the children have enjoyed exploring the different ways this can be split, put back together and recorded. The children represented number 8 by drawing 8 dogs, showing eight with 8 fingers and rolling dice to make 8. See if your child can show you different ways to represent number 8?

Home learning ideas:

As we approach the Christmas holidays, we are noticing that many of the children are tired. We hope you can spend the weekend relaxing by looking at your child's phonics books, reading stories and noticing signs of winter.

Reminders and announcements:

Reception in the new year

As you know, Ashleigh (Assistant Head to the Early Phase) will be returning to Kilmore school in the New Year following her maternity leave. Irene will remain as the Lions Class teacher until the end of the year and Philippa will be starting a new role in the school from January. We appreciate that you may have questions around

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this change but please be reassured that all parents will be informed of Philippa's new role before the end of the Autumn term.

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 for our Reception reading groups each week. When we do not have complete sets, children inevitably end up having to read the same books more than once or books from our old scheme.

Please 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.

Requests:

Wooden toy kitchen or other domestic units.

Forthcoming events:

- Monday 4th December: Reception Stay and Play 9:00 – 9:30
- Thursday 7th December: Reception Christmas performances to parents (9:20 and 2:15)
- Thursday 7th December: Christmas Jumper Day
- Tuesday 19th Dec: School Christmas dinner
- Tuesday 19th Dec: End of term parties (no food from home needed)
- Wednesday 20th Dec: Last day with early finish (see school newsletter)

