

## Weekly Learning Letter

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

### This week in Reception:

This week we continued to learn all about Lunar New Year and the places where this is celebrated. Each class did a range of activities including making lucky red envelopes, creating dragon masks and preparing and eating noodles with vegetables. The children even made their own large Chinese dragon costumes from boxes and bedsheets (great for teamwork!). This culminated in the children performing a fantastic dragon dance outside to music!

We have also been talking about Children's Mental Health Week. On Monday, the children took part in a mindfulness session led by a mindfulness practitioner. This provided lots of opportunities to talk to the children about the different emotions we all experience and how we can begin to manage these in healthy ways.

### Phonics:

We have learnt the last two phase 3 sounds; **air** (as in chair) and **er** (as in digger). The children also looked at double letters within words such as **letter, ladder, rubber, bigger**. They also learnt the tricky words; **are, sure** and **pure**.



air  
chair in the air



er  
a bigger digger

### Maths / Number:

This week we continued to investigate composition of number (knowing that numbers are made up of two or more other smaller numbers), focusing specifically on number 5 and the number bonds within this (the pairs of numbers that make 5). The children explored this in a variety of ways including playing the 'snapping game', in which they split 5 cubes into two groups, showed a friend one and made them guess how many were in the other hand; throwing 5 items into a hoop and identifying how many were inside and how many were outside; and practising playing 'bunny ears' using fingers on their heads (ensuring the fingers displayed on each hand total 5)

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### Home learning ideas:

- The children have been learning the meaning of the word '**compare**'. Ask your child if they can compare two of their favourite toys – telling you about what is the same and what is different between each. Encourage their language development by asking which they like the best and why.
- Play number track board games with your child (such as Snakes and Ladders). This will help your child to develop their number recognition, counting on skills and subitising skills, when recognising the number of dots on the dice. If you don't have any boardgames, perhaps you could draw one on paper or with chalk on the pavement, garden or in the park?
- Enjoy sharing stories together, talking about the pictures and predicting the endings.
- Write a list of all the things you get up to in the half term – you could share this for your show and tell in the first week back

### Reminders

#### **Milk**

There has been some queries around this so we thought it was important to share the information with all parents. Since the beginning of the school year, cows milk has been available for any child who would like a glass during the lunch period. The milk station is next to the salad bar in the school hall. The children are regularly reminded by staff to help themselves if they would like some but we will continue to do this into the next term to ensure children are accessing it if they wish.

#### **Observations**

We are pleased to see that most of you have been able to now log in to Evidence Me and are grateful to those of you who have shared some observations of your children. Some useful feedback from parents has been that some are unsure of what to add so after the half term we will add suggestions of observations you could upload. We apologise that not all parents have received observations from their class. By the end of the Spring term we will ensure that all of you receive 3 observations for your children and another 3 in the Summer term. Although we may not share every observation, please be reassured that we are constantly observing the children and their developments.

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### Phonics

Over the past two years we have been using Little Wandle to teach our phonics lessons in Reception and Year 1. We have been very happy to see the children's progression since using this programme and it has ensured consistency in teaching across all the classes. We are now in a place where we can make slight adaptations that will best fit the needs of our children and school. With this in mind we have decided to split the year group into three phonics groups to ensure each child's learning needs are being met. All children will be taught how to read and write all the same letters and sounds by the end of the year but the pace of each class will differ. For example, some children are ready to write within the same lesson whilst other children need to focus on the reading aspect and partake in the writing later in the day. Each child will be thought about carefully and be assigned to each group based on the learning style that suits them best. These groups will be introduced after half term and their Phonics teacher will be either Bethan, Irene or Will.

### Kali

As some of you may know Kali is studying towards a course (Childhood Studies- SEN) at the same time as working with us. As part of this she is going to begin a research project focusing on writing within the Early Years, in particular how children interact with writing within the setting. We wanted to inform the parents of this and if anyone objects to their child being part of the study they are more than welcome to email [info@kilmorie.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@kilmorie.lewisham.sch.uk) FAO Ashleigh and opt out. Kali wants to reassure you that it is a general study, with no particular children being selected. The information she collects will be anonymous, with no children's names being mentioned.

### Wish List

Next half term we are focusing on the development of our construction areas within all the classes in the Early Phase (Nursery – Year 1) with this in mind we have been creating a list of all the resources we need more of. If you have a half-term clear out and come across any of the below items please could you think about donating them to us or if you know any other friends or family members who may have some of the items we are looking for please share it with them. Thank you in advance.

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## Construction Items

- Duplo
- Lego
- Mobilo
- K'nex
- Wooden building blocks
- Magnetic blocks
- Stickle Bricks
- Spirit Levels
- Small to medium sized cable reels



Have a fanatasic half-term and thank you for your continued support!

- Reception Team

