

## Weekly Learning Letter

**Friday 22nd March 2024**

### This week in Reception:

It has been another busy week in Reception. On Thursday, we celebrated world poetry day and the children liked listening to different styles of poems and even writing their own acrostic poems using their names as inspiration. The children have also enjoyed learning about Ramadan and the ways in which this is observed. The children liked learning about how the day that Ramadan starts is dependent on the sighting of the new crescent moon. The children learnt about the different phases of the moon, and this led to some children creating paintings to represent each phase. The children created beautiful representations of Mosques using dried beans, rice and pulses to decorate them. On Thursday, we also celebrated World Down Syndrome Day, the children talked about what makes each of us unique and they loved designing their own socks inspired by who they are. On Friday, the children learnt about the importance of saving water and discussed the things that we could do to use less water. Some of the children even made their own water saving machines out of junk modelling.

### Phonics:

**Giraffes:** We have been practising the digraphs **ar** (park, dark, farm) and **or** (horn, born, torn) and the trigraph **igh** (light, night, high). This culminated in a fun recap games session on Friday with a sound sort and a game of In the Bin.

**Unicorn Dinosaurs:** In phonics this week, we focused on longer words ending in **-ing** (marching, morning, waiting) and practising using the chunk it up method. We also practised writing sentences that included the tricky words **is**, **she**, **he**, **my** and **they**.

**T-Rex:** In phonics this week, we focused on longer words ending in **-ing** (singing, swimming, lightning) and compound words such as (rooftop, carpark, popcorn) we also did lots of writing practice, including writing sentences that include the new words we had learnt.

### Maths / Number

This week in maths we learnt about 3D shapes. The children talked about the properties of a cube, cuboid, cone and sphere and liked challenging their friends to guess the 3D shape they were describing. As well as this, they enjoyed going on a

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3D shape hunt around the classroom and outdoor area, trying to see if they could find any of the shapes they had learnt about in their environment.

### Home learning ideas:

- See if your child can write an acrostic poem about a family member or friend.
- Go on a 3D shape hunt around your local area.
- Use junk modelling to make a machine that helps us save water or to help us clean our oceans.

### Reminders

#### **Sickness and absence**

There has recently been a high incidence of sickness across the year group including a sickness and vomiting bug, as well as a virus that causes an extremely high temperature. The latter, seems to come on very quickly with the child's temperature suddenly spiking.

With this current situation in mind and how contagious this virus appears to be, should your child have a slight temperature before school we strongly recommend that you keep them off until they are well. However, if you do decide that your child is well enough to attend school and give them Calpol, please ensure you notify one of the adults in their class at drop-off. We will then know to monitor your child more closely.

Likewise, with sickness and vomiting, please ensure that your child stays at home until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness.

#### **Holi Celebration – we're getting messy!**

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, the final day of the school term, we will be celebrating the Hindu festival of Holi by throwing powder paint outside. Please dress your child appropriately, in clothing that you do not mind getting messy. Although, this paint is washable and we encourage the children to throw the paint on the ground, they will inevitably get a little messier than usual and we would hate for anybody to be upset about special clothing.

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### Collaborative Meeting: Tackling Bias

At Kilmore we want all families to be equally valued. Thanks to the honest feedback from parents we have realised that there is still work to be done to ensure all parents feel included in school life. With this in mind, we would like to invite all parents from the Early Phase (Nursery – Year 1) to join us in sharing their ideas and experience to help us tackle biases that exist in the school. We are focusing on the Early Phase first due to this usually being the first experience parents have with us. We will be discussing how to make the Early Years Garden party a more inclusive experience for all, as well as the accessibility and relevance of the website and newsletter.

Please come to the meeting on Wednesday 27th March at 15:40 in the Nursery, you can enter via the Elsinore Gate. You are welcome to bring your children with you to play in the Nursery whilst we meet, which may include some screen time.

If you are unable to attend or would feel more comfortable sharing your ideas on a 1:1 basis, please email [info@kilmore.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@kilmore.lewisham.sch.uk) FAO Ashleigh and Philippa.

### Early Years Garden Party

Early Phase (Nursery, Reception, Year 1) and the Friends of Kilmore are pleased to announce that we will be holding our Early Phase Garden Party on Saturday 11th May from 11.30-14.30pm in order to raise funds for our indoor and outdoor construction and small world areas. We are currently planning lots of exciting activities, games and stalls.

To make this a success, we need your help!

We need you to create a poster which will be displayed around the school to let everyone know about our amazing event. Three of these will then be selected (one from each year group) to become our official invites that will be sent to our future Reception families. All children that create a poster will have them displayed around the school.

Your poster can be as imaginative as you wish but needs to include the following,

- Early Years Garden Party
- Saturday 11th May
- 11:30 – 14:30

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Once completed please hand your poster into your class teacher or Ashleigh. Thank you for all your support.

### Evidence Me

Here is an example observation to give you an idea of the type of thing you can share. Remember you are also welcome to upload videos of your child exploring, learning and playing.



Andre was playing with the Duplo. He independently placed the pieces together to create a truck. I asked him to tell me about his truck, he was able to tell me about the different shapes he had used and what his truck could do.

Have a great weekend!

The Reception Team

