



## Little Griffins 1 (Reception 2023)- Spring 2 2023

The Theme of Investigation (TOI) is: 'Our Planet'

Our Central Investigations are: Volcanoes

We will develop the following <i>SKILLS</i> :	The <i>ACTION</i> we might take is:	We will try to be like these Woodland Explorers:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questioning</li> <li>• Researching</li> <li>• Cooperating</li> <li>• Caring</li> </ul>	<p>To discover more about volcanoes/natural disasters and why they happen, can we do anything to help or prevent this?</p>	<p>Curious Cat Deciding Deer Friendly Frog</p>

### Following Children's Interests

In Little Griffins we use the school-wide Theme of Investigation as a starting point, we then observe the children closely, taking note of their interests and developmental level and plan accordingly, working with the children to move their own learning and development forward. We follow the children's lead as they take control of their learning, show us what they are interested in and what it is they would like to learn about. This approach leads to a deep level of learning, and it's always exciting to see the twists and turns of the children's learning journey.

### What might we explore within our TOI, linking to our current interests?

The children have consistently been drawing and building volcanoes this term, creating scenes of them erupting and thinking of ways to save animals/people from this. We will begin by reading the story 'Vladimir the Volcano' by Rana Boulos, exploring why volcanoes erupt, what happens when they do, is there anything people can do to stop this/help?

The children will also be helping to plant herbs in our outdoor classroom and looking after them to ensure they can grow.

## What might we be learning?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework consists of seven areas of learning, within these seven areas there are three Prime Areas of learning, which are: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development. These three areas are a vital part of development in early childhood, and lay the important foundations for future learning. Below are some ideas of what we will be focussing on this half term.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Increasingly following the rules and understanding why these are important
- Talk with others to solve conflicts
- Understand gradually how others might be feeling
- Making healthy choices
- Showing resilience and perseverance

### Communication and Language

- Beginning to respond to 'why' questions
- Using a wide range of vocabulary
- Showing understanding of prepositions
- Beginning to use a range of tenses
- Questioning why things happen and giving explanations
- Being able to express their point of view

### Physical Development

- Increasingly be able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm
- Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. E.g. choosing a spade to enlarge a small hole they dug with a trowel.
- Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.
- Show a preference for a dominant hand.

## Home learning ideas

**Communication and Language:** Play games to encourage your children's listening skills as well as understanding of prepositions. Can they put Teddy on top of the table, under the table, next to the table? Can your child stand behind mummy/daddy, next to them, in front of them?

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Encourage your child to begin to attend to their self-care needs more independently. Allow extra time before going out to encourage them to do their own shoes and coats (whilst finding extra time can be tricky, it will be so worth it once they are able to independently do these things!) Make getting dressed a game- time them and see how quick they can be, or have a race against a sibling or parent.

**Physical Development:** Focus on developing those fine motor skills. Learning how to control a pencil isn't all about mark making and writing practice, children need to develop strength and dexterity first. Playdough is great for this, focus on pinching, rolling, squeezing- why not give dough disco a go? You can find links for this on YouTube and make it a regular activity. Use water in squeezey bottles and make targets on the floor/walls outside- can they squeeze the bottle and hit them? Paint with cotton buds to develop that pinching motion. Lots of fun activities can be done at home to develop these skills.

**Maths:** Support your children to begin subitising up to 3 (fast recognition of objects without counting them). Play games using dice and encourage them to recognise 1-3 without the need to count the dots. You could also use 1-3 objects, starting by putting them in the same arrangement as the dice, can your child tell you how many without counting? Make it a game and cover them up quickly after they've had a look- can they tell you how many? Once they can do that, can they do it when the objects are in an unusual arrangement?

**Literacy:** Encourage lots of mark making at home- remember this should be done in a fun way rather than promoting letter formation/writing. You could create as a family on a huge piece of paper, draw something relating to a book you've been reading together, create your own book with their illustrations! Encourage your child to do the drawing rather than drawing something for them to colour in.

**Understanding the World:** With spring on the way it's a great time to get your child involved with some gardening, they can help you plant and then care for these plants, talk through the life cycle of a plant as you do it to develop their understanding.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** Sing songs together, make instruments to play in time to the music/your singing. You could even make up your own song!

## **Celebrations and Festivals**

We are a diverse school with children from many different cultures and religions and this is something we ensure we celebrate. If ever you have a celebration special to your family that you would like to support us with, please speak to Mrs Turner who would welcome your input.