



Little Griffins 2 (Reception 2024)- Spring 2 2023

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

Our CENTRAL INVESTIGATIONS are: What is special about Our Planet?

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"> • Questioning • Cooperating • Caring • Fine and Gross motor 	<p style="text-align: center;">To discover 'what is our planet'?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To learn how to care for all living things and the world around us</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Curious Cat Friendly Frog Creative Caterpillar Deciding Deer</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?

We will begin by sharing the stories 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers, and 'The Earth Book' by Todd Parr.

We will discuss- what do we know about our planet? What do we love about our planet? Who lives on our planet? Is it just for people? Before moving on to think about how we care for our Planet so we can all live here happily.

The children will also help to plant and look after herbs in our new planters in our outdoor classroom, exploring growth and change.

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

- Learning to play with others, sharing and taking turns
- Gradually learning that actions have consequences
- Responding to the feelings and wishes of others
- Learning to voice our own wants and needs
- Learning to talk about how we are feeling

Communication and Language

- Understanding a question or instruction that has two parts, such as: "Get your coat and wait at the door".
- Knowing many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.
- Beginning to respond to 'why' questions
- Building confidence to speak in front of a group

Physical Development

- Showing increasing control over a range of tools
- Feeding self competently, using a knife and fork
- Walking considerable distances with purpose
- Developing independence in self-care skills
- Washing and drying hands effectively
- Developing their control over a pencil

Home learning ideas

Communication and Language: Encourage your child's growing vocabulary by introducing them to new words, do not shy away from using big/unknown words. If a word comes up in a story that your child may not know, rather than changing it, tell your child the meaning of the word. Tell them names of things they do not know and choose books that introduce interesting new vocabulary to them.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Give your children appropriate tasks to carry out to encourage their growing independence. Can they help you cut some vegetables/fruit with a child safe knife for dinner/pudding? Can they put the knives and forks on the table for you? Can they water plants in the garden with you/plant with you?

Physical Development: Provide opportunities for your child to continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills. Encourage your child to walk when you are out rather than being carried/in a pushchair.

Maths: Encourage development of 1:1 correspondence- being able to count up to 10 verbally is great, but your child needs to understand what counting is. Provide lots of games where your child can count objects (even if these are movable to support them at first), ensuring they are using one number name for each object, touching/moving the object and counting slowly to reach the correct number. Help to ensure each object is only counted once.

Literacy: Encourage lots of mark making on different scales- provide small A5 paper, A4 paper, A3 paper and even try covering a table/wall with a large roll of paper for your child to mark make on, promoting gross and fine motor skills. As the weather gets warmer, you can use paint brushes and water to paint outside.

Understanding the World: Talk about the importance of taking care of living things and our environment. Get your children to help you with recycling and explain why, if you have a pet; encourage active involvement in taking care of them. See if you can find some books about looking after our world on your library trips!

Expressive Arts and Design: Have fun doing some junk modelling at home- a great way to reuse any cardboard boxes or tubes!

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.