

Little Griffins - Spring 1 2024

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

Our CENTRAL INVESTIGATION is: **Discovering the world around us**

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?

Core Stories: 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers, 'The Earth Book' by Todd Parr.

The World

- We will learn about the world around us - how do we take care of the Earth? Why is it important that we look after our world?
- Who lives on Earth - is it only humans?

Planets

- Looking at and finding out about other planets, learning facts about these planets.

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: Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development 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 socialise and play with others, understanding others' boundaries and respecting personal space
- Developing their ability to make independent choices
- 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 hold a conversation
- Slowly developing how long they hold their attention on tasks
- 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

- Feeding self competently, using a knife and fork
- Walking considerable distances with purpose
- Developing independence in self-care skills
- To be mostly clean and dry throughout the day, attending to own toileting needs
- 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: Encourage your children to take turns in conversations, listening and responding to what the other person is saying. Gently remind your children that they need to wait their turn if you are speaking to someone else - a tricky but important skill to learn.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Encourage your children to use their words to talk to others, especially in new situations/with new people. In situations such as children's birthday parties, encourage them to use their voice to ask questions such as 'Can I play please?' if wanting to play with another child.

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: Complete some puzzles at home together. These are a great introduction to shape and problem solving- if your child is finding big puzzles easy, challenge them with a trickier one!

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 or 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: 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.