



## Little Griffins- Summer 2024

The Theme of Investigation (TOI) is: **'Making Connections'**

Our Central Investigations are: **Growth and change**

*Throughout this Curriculum Overview you will notice columns split in to two sections: Reception 2024 and Reception 2025. If your child is due to join Reception in September 2024, please read the Reception 2024 sections to find out what your children will be learning. If your child will stay in Nursery for another year and join Reception in September 2025, then please read the Reception 2025 sections.*

### 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?	
<b>Reception September 2024</b>	<b>Reception September 2025</b>
<b><i>Core books: Eric Carle- The Tiny Seed, Dianna Aston- A Seed is Sleepy, Carol Ottelenghi- Jack and the Beanstalk</i></b>	<b><i>Core books: Nick Butterworth- Jasper's Beanstalk, Pat Hutchins- Titch, Carol Ottelenghi- Jack and the Beanstalk</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exploring how plants and flowers grow</li> <li>- What changes can we see happening outside?</li> <li>- How do we take care of plants and flowers, what do they need to help them grow?</li> <li>- Life cycles of plants</li> <li>- We will be planting and growing seeds ourselves</li> <li>- Exploring what food we can grow, tasting vegetables and fruits</li> <li>- Making connections – what else changes and grows? How have you changed and grown?</li> </ul>	

## 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.

### Reception 2024:

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Learning to play with others, sharing and taking turns, understanding others boundaries and respecting personal space.
- 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

- Developing control over scissors
- Developing control over their pencil
- Attempting to cut food using a knife and fork
- Beginning to learn to do own zips up on coats
- Competently taking off and putting on own shoes and jumpers
- Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.
- Show a preference for a dominant hand.

### Reception 2025:

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Beginning to show an ability to listen to others wants and needs
- Developing the ability to share and compromise with others
- Growing confidence when socialising with others
- Developing their ability to independently choose what to play with
- Beginning to use their words to talk through emotions

#### Communication and Language

- Begin to focus attention for short carpet times, stories and songs
- To listen to others when they are speaking
- Building confidence to speak in front of a group
- To begin to follow simple directions
- To use their words to communicate their own wants and needs

#### Physical Development

- Feeding self competently, using a knife and fork
- Walking considerable distances with purpose
- Developing their control over a pencil
- To begin to explore lines and circles when mark making, using these shapes to create pictures
- To do their own shoes and coats
- To begin to learn to put on and take off their own jumpers
- To become more independent with toileting

## Home learning ideas

### Reception 2024

**Communication and Language:** Encourage a wide vocabulary by using and explaining unfamiliar words and making sure your child has understood what they mean through stories and other activities. Examples from 'The Gruffalo' include: 'stroll', 'roasted', 'knobbly', 'wart' and 'feast'.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Set up plenty of opportunities for your children to play and socialise with other children, ensuring they can socialise, share and begin to negotiate problems before joining Reception.

**Physical Development:** Give your children plenty of opportunities to explore using scissors, ensuring they are holding them correctly. They can create collages, cut out a drawing, even help with dinner prep by using clean scissors to cut up herbs/salads. Tip: if your child is struggling with scissors, spring loaded ones are a great place to start.

**Maths:** Help your children to recognise that each counting number is one more than the one before. Play games to explore this; roll a dice, count out objects- can your child tell you what one more would be?

**Literacy:** Play initial sound 'I spy', put out objects beginning with m, a, s, d, t. Say "I spy with my little eye something beginning with mmm", can your child find the correct item? Give them a turn and go back and forth between you.

**Understanding the World:** Talk to your child about the changes that are happening outside. If they spot an animal/insect, talk between you about the life cycle. Grow plants together and discuss the changes you see.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** Begin a plant diary! Plant a seed together and encourage your child to add a drawing to their 'plant diary' each week to see how it's changed. You could do one alongside them to discuss what you can both see.

### Reception 2025

**Communication and Language:** Share books together with pictures but no words. Discuss what you can see on the pages, what do you think is happening? Encourage back and forth conversation.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Give children a sense of responsibility in your home, get them helping with daily tasks, for example, they can fetch milk cartons or fruit, they can wash up their own plates after their snack, pour their own drinks from a small jug.

**Physical Development:** As the weather gets nicer explore large mark making outside- use water and paintbrushes on walls to stimulate large shoulder and arm movements. Huge pieces of paper on the floor to paint on/draw on.

**Maths:** Sing counting songs together, encouraging children to count on their fingers as they count out loud.

**Literacy:** When reading rhyming stories, deliberately miss out a word in a rhyme, so the children have to fill it in: "Run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the gingerbread —."

**Understanding the World:** Go on walks and talk to your children about what they see, using a wide vocabulary and explaining what words mean if needed.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** Explore different media. Create pictures using collage, paint, felt tips, pencils etc.

### 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.