



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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26.04.2024

School Aims: our school is a place where we aim to develop:

- ▶ Positive attitudes to learning
- ▶ Creativity and a sense of self-confidence and self-esteem
- ▶ Equality of opportunity, independence, individuality, tolerance, sensitivity and cooperation
- ▶ Good relations, respect for others and the environment
- ▶ A broad and balanced creative curriculum
- ▶ Pupil achievement by providing quality experiences

Dear Parents/Carers,

The highlights of this week have been the Year 2 trips to Rye Meads and Living Eggs being delivered to Reception. The experience of being involved in the hatching of chicks is something our Reception children will always remember – a real joy. After hatching, the chicks remain with us for some weeks and the children are able to handle these beautiful birds and observe changes.

Our Year 2 children all thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Rye Meads and have returned to school absolutely brimming with information about their experiences when pond-dipping or mini-beast hunting! Their behaviour was absolutely exemplary and a leader at Rye Meads complimented our school on how polite they were – and the two coach drivers also said how lovely it was to be driving such well-behaved pupils. We are very proud of all our children.

Thank you everyone who contributed to Bags2School on Monday – and huge thanks as ever to our wonderful FROGs!

Sponsored spell words are going out today. I hope you enjoy doing these with your children and thank you in advance for any contributions. Last year we were able to purchase a lovely range of mathematics resources for Nursery and a lovely range of PE and other equipment including a table tennis table, bats and balls.

Nursery Closed on Friday 21st June: The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 21st June 2024. This is to allow the children who will be joining us in September an opportunity to visit with their parents. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Reception and Junior School (September 2024) Allocation Day: Allocation Day was Tuesday 16th April, when parents will have received notification from Hertfordshire County Council with their child's school allocation for September 2024. The deadline for the acceptance of places is Friday 3rd May 2024. If you have any questions regarding your allocation, please contact Hertfordshire Admissions, as we are unable to assist with this.

Nursery school places for September 2024: *There are a few places available in our Nursery Class from September 2024 – if you would like to visit, please contact the school for an appointment. We ask our families to share this information with friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2024. Eligible children will have birth dates between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021.*

Nursery: *This week in Nursery, the children have begun learning all about frogs. They listened to stories and looked at non-fiction books to find out facts about frogs. Rectangle group loved the story ‘Leap Frog’ by Jane Clarke and were eager to help the little lost frog find his way back home. Triangle group enjoyed sharing a non-fiction book brought in by Kennedy and were fascinated to hear many different facts about frogs. Henry listened carefully and said, “Wow, Mummy frogs can lay thousands of eggs, that’s a lot!”*

In understanding the world, the children learnt about the lifecycle of a frog. Misha remembered, “The mummy frog has the eggs.” Oliver shared, “Frogs like the water.” They looked closely at photographs of frogspawn and learnt that each egg is surrounded by jelly and they stick together to form clumps called frogspawn. Outside in the garden, the children loved performing ‘Five Little Speckled Frogs’ with their friends using the green crates as lily pads. Josh said, “I’m going to do a big jump!” and bravely leapt off the green crate, landing safely on the ground.

In expressive art and design, the children were eager to explore the new pond role play. They became nature detectives, discovering creatures that live in the pond and using nets to carefully pond dip and catch pond life. Andrew joined in with his friends and began to sing ‘Five Little Speckled Frogs’. Bertie B put on a frog hat and commented, “Frogs hop lots!”

In phonics, we learnt the letter sound /a/ and the children have practised saying apple, ant, avocado, and many more. They learnt the song ‘/a/ - /a/! Ants on my arm. /a/ - /a/! Ants on my arm. /a/ - /a/! Ants on my arm. They’re causing me alarm’ sung to the tune of ‘Skip to My Lou’. The children thoroughly enjoyed playing the listening game ‘Which instrument?’ They listened very carefully to the sounds of different percussion instruments and guessed which instrument they heard.

This week with Mr Pullin, the children were excited to take part in fitness activities. They moved along a line with a quoit carefully balanced on their head and performed jumps over hurdles.

Next week, the children will continue to explore pond life and learn more facts about frogs. In phonics, they will learn the letter sound /t/ and revisit finding words that rhyme.

Reception: *This week in literacy, the children began by being story detectives. They solved clues and worked out the story they would focus on is the traditional tale of ‘The Little Red Hen’. The children listened to a version of the story and were introduced to the matching Makaton signs. The children created a story map and used the Makaton signs to retell the story, with many children using super story language. Whilst talking about the story, Ella-Rae in Snowy Owls asked, “Why does the hen need help to make bread, when she can do it all by herself?”*

On Monday, an incubator arrived with ten eggs. The children were very excited. The first chick hatched on Wednesday morning and by the following morning all ten chicks had hatched and are all looking very healthy. The children have discovered the yellow chicks are male and the female chicks are brown. After visiting the chicks on Wednesday morning, Luca in Barn Owl class said, “That was so amazing. I heard the chicks going ‘cheep, cheep, cheep’. I think they look so cute!”

In mathematics, the children have been finding out how to create teen numbers using Numicon by creating a 'Numicon city' and finding out combinations to make teen numbers. After creating his Numicon City, Noah in Tawny Owls class said, "I think my brain is getting more bigger!"

In understanding the world, the children used pastels to draw a specific tree in the school grounds for the season of spring and this will be added to their 'seasons of a tree' book.

In literacy next week, the children will be looking at alliteration. This is when two or more words that are close together all begin with the same sound; for example, 'the cow is cross' or 'the hen is hungry'. The children will be listening to alliterative stories and participating in alliterative games. They are now focusing on how a sentence is structured, using a capital letter at the beginning of the sentence and punctuation to finish the sentence off.

In mathematics, the children will continue to focus on teen numbers. They will roll a die to make a number and collect the corresponding number of counters from tens frames. In understanding the world, the children will create the life cycle of a hen using a variety of media.

Year 1: In English, the children continued to work on their understanding of instructions. Last week, they sequenced the instructions to plant a sunflower seed and learnt to identify 'bossy' verbs. This week, they wrote their instructions, remembering always to check that they are writing clear sentences with a capital letter, full stop and finger spaces.

In phonics the children revised the graphemes 'oi', 'oy', 'ue' (/oo/), 'ue' (/yoo/), 'aw' and 'wh'. They used their robot arms to segment and blend a variety of words, adding sound buttons to identify the different sounds heard.

Our Book of the Week was 'Where the Wild Things Are' by Maurice Sendak. When Max puts on his wolf suit and makes mischief, his mother calls him 'wild thing' and sends him to bed without any supper. Alone in his room, Max enters a magical world and sets sail across the sea to the place where the wild things are. The wild things roar their terrible roars and gnash their terrible teeth and roll their terrible eyes and show their terrible claws... But Max tames the wild things and is made their king. Will he ever want to go home? If you would like to listen to the story and find out what happens, please click on the link to hear [Where the Wild Things Are](#).

In mathematics, the children revisited the number bonds to ten. They used this knowledge to make links with number bonds to 20. They used tens frames and Numicon to show different ways of making the number bonds. They also learnt about doubles.

In Forest School, the children had a wonderful time learning all about wildflowers. They rolled clay into balls and covered them in wildflower seeds. The children will be bringing their seed bomb home this week, ready for planting. In science, the children began filling in their plant diary and will make observations over time to track the growth of their class sunflower.

This week in PSHE, the children continued to reflect on the topic of relationships by considering the qualities of a good friend.

In PE, the children developed their striking and fielding skills in rounders. They learnt about the role of the backstop fielder. They also learnt that when fielding, they can pass the ball forward to another fielder in order to work more speedily to catch the strikers out.

In computing, the children enjoyed their second lesson on coding. They created a series of code blocks to create an algorithm for the computer to read.

Next week in English, the children will begin their new topic on 'The Gruffalo'. In mathematics, the children will be continuing with doubles, but extending their knowledge to near doubles. The children also have a very exciting week with a trip to Sishes Woods. They will become nature detectives and hunt for different flora in the woodland. Please see the separate trip letter for details.

Have a wonderful weekend.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: The Year 2 children have had a truly wonderful week, as they ventured out of school to RSPB Rye Meads. On arrival, the children had a safety talk before starting their activities. These included pond dipping and hunting for mini beasts. Before the pond dipping activity, the children learnt that ponds and rivers contain freshwater, while seas and rock pools contain saltwater. They thought about some of the creatures they might find in the different types of water, before using nets to catch pond creatures. The children used identification sheets to classify the creatures they caught.

Before the mini beast activity, the children discussed different habitats and the creatures they might expect to find under a log. They learnt how to carefully move a log and catch creatures without damaging them. The children found so many different mini beasts, including spiders, ants, millipedes and woodlice. They had great fun learning a song to help them remember the parts of an insect.

Chloe from Pelican class liked the pond dipping, "I caught a leech! It was a greeny-yellow colour. I loved learning outside for the day." Kaden from Penguin class said, "I liked pretending to be one of the pond creatures we caught. My group were a water boatman and it took ages for everyone to guess it!" Chiara from Puffin class exclaimed, "It was fun! I caught lots of fish when I was pond dipping."

It was a cold day for this time of year but both trips ran very smoothly, and the children were incredibly well behaved. Thank you to the parents who accompanied the trips and looked after small groups of children. Your support is very much appreciated. Please visit the school website to see photographs of the trip: [Rye Meads | The Giles Nursery and Infants' School](#)

In English this week, the children wrote their own explanation of how to take care of a monster. They chose a monster from 'Monsters: An Owner's Guide' by Jonathan Emmett and created a poster explaining how to look after it. The children wrote some wonderful descriptions of the monsters and used conjunctions such as 'when', 'if', 'that', 'or', 'and', 'so', 'but', 'because' and 'while' to extend sentences and provide further information.

In mathematics, the children continued their unit on multiplication and division, focusing on multiplication and division using the two-, ten- and five-times tables.

In science, the children explored animal offspring. They sorted photographs of different animals and their young by whether they look like the adult or not. They then sorted the photographs by animal group (mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, fish) and investigated whether certain groups of animals have offspring that do or do not look like them. In computing, the children learnt how to use yes and no questions to separate information. In PSHCE, the children discussed physical contact with others and learnt how to speak up if they don't like a particular type of touch. In RE, the children learnt about the Muslim ceremony of Aqiqah.

In English next week, the children will write a recount of their trip to RSPB Rye Meads. In mathematics, they will learn about length and height. In science, they will compare animals and plants in contrasting habitats. In RE, the children will explore what happens at a Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah ceremony and in computing, they will learn how to create a binary tree. In PSHCE, the children will learn some positive problem-solving techniques to resolve conflicts with friends, and in art and design, they will create press-print mini beast pictures.

On Monday, the children will take part in a mini-Olympic workshop so they should come to school in their PE kit as usual.

Sponsored Spell words have been sent home today. Please check your child's bag for the letter and sponsor form, which contains all the information you need to help your child take part.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PENGUIN CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

<p>Ladybird Nursery Classes</p>	<p><i>Gracie for excellent recall of the lifecycle of a frog.</i></p> <p><i>Alfie H for showing fantastic imagination in the pond life role play.</i></p> <p><i>Amir for arriving to Nursery happy and enjoying a range of activities.</i></p> <p><i>Molly F for super listening during phonics when playing 'Which instrument?'</i></p> <p><i>Evie for brilliant listening and recall of the letter sound /a/.</i></p> <p><i>Princess for showing fantastic imagination in the pond life role play.</i></p>
<p>Barn Owls</p>	<p><i>Aston for super counting in twos to work out each teen number in his 'Numicon city'.</i></p> <p><i>Lola for using fantastic story language when retelling the story of the 'Little Red Hen'.</i></p>

Snowy Owls	<i>James for demonstrating a good understanding of 'teen' numbers.</i> <i>ChloeElla for demonstrating a good understanding of 'teen' numbers.</i>
Tawny Owls	<i>Noah for amazing independent sentence writing.</i> <i>Zoe for drawing a brilliant spring tree.</i>
Big Cats	<i>Hollie for super guided reading all about sunflowers.</i> <i>Nadia for working hard on her reading, decoding carefully.</i>
Red Foxes	<i>Yamihle for fantastic recall of number bonds to 20.</i> <i>Ariana for super reading and phonics.</i>
Walker Bears	<i>Eliot for being a very alert fielder when playing rounders in PE.</i> <i>Aimee for writing an extended instruction in English.</i>
Pelicans	<i>Nkazi for fantastic dividing in mathematics.</i> <i>Zayana for always trying her best and giving everything a go.</i> <i>The whole class for a super educational visit to RSPB Rye Meads.</i>
Penguins	<i>Everyone in the class for being excellent representatives of our school on our trip to RSPB Rye Meads.</i>
Puffins	<i>Everyone in the class for being excellent representatives of our school on our trip to RSPB Rye Meads.</i>

kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

APRIL 2024	
Friday 26 th	Sponsored spell words given out
w/c Monday 22nd TBC	Living Chicks Project
Tuesday 23rd TBC	M&M Production of The Jungle Book followed by workshop.
w/c 29 th	Year 1, Class visits to Sishes Wood, each class to be confirmed

MAY 2024	
Monday 6 th	BANK HOLIDAY
w/c May 13 th	BIG WRITE
Wednesday 15 th	Stay and Read, Year 1, 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Wednesday 15 th	Buddha's Birthday Assembly
Thursday 16 th	Stay and Read, Year 2, 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Wednesday 22 nd	FROG Bake sale and Uniform Sale

HALF TERM: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2024

JUNE 2024	
Monday 3 rd	INSET DAY
Tuesday 4 th	Children return to school
Week 10 th June	MONEY WEEK
Tuesday 11 th	Reception Summer Concert, Barn Owl, 9.15am
Wednesday 12 th	Reception Summer Concert, Tawny Owl, 9.15am
Thursday 13 th	Reception Summer Concert, Snowy Owl, 9.15am
Sunday 16 th	<i>Fathers Day – diary note</i>
Tuesday 18 th TBC	SEN/Inclusion team Drop-In, 8.50-9.30am . If you have something you would like to discuss with our specialist team, do drop by for coffee.
Thursday 20 th	Class Photograph Day with Kittle
Thursday 20 th	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, 5.30-7.00pm
Friday 21 st	NURSERY CLOSED TO ALL CURRENT CHILDREN
Wednesday 26 th	Big Cats Summer Concert, 2.30pm
Thursday 27 th	Walker Bears Summer Concert, 1.30pm
Thursday 27 th	Red Foxes Summer Concert, 2.30pm

JULY 2024	
Monday 1 st	INSET DAY
Week of 1 st	Olympic Presentations
Tuesday 2 nd	Inco Coffee morning
Friday 5 th	Sports Day practice
Monday 8 th Date TBC	ARK Farm Visit (Reception classes)
Tuesday 9 th	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 10 th TBC	Walton on Naze trip – date to be confirmed, dependent on tides
Thursday 11 th	Moving Up Day
Friday 12 th TBC	Sports for Schools Athlete visit
Friday July 12 th	Nursery Pirate Day
W/C 15 th July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Monday 15 th	FROG / PTA Nursery Bedtime Stories
Monday 15 th TBC	Indian Dance Workshop
Tuesday 16 th	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th TBC	Drumming workshop
Monday 22 nd	Class Parties
Monday 22 nd	Puffins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Monday 22 nd	Pelicans Leavers Assembly – 10.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Penguins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Last day of term – finish at 2pm



2023 / 24 School Calendar

September '23						
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October '23						
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November '23						
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December '23						
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January '24						
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February '24						
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March '24						
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April '24						
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May '24						
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June '24						
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July '24						
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August '24						
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-  = Term Time
-  = 22/23 Pupil Holidays
-  = Bank and Public Holidays
-  = 2023/24 Pupil Holidays
-  = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
-  = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)



2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
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October '24						
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November '24						
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December '24						
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February '25						
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March '25						
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April '25						
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May '25						
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June '25						
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July '25						
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August '25						
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- = Term Time
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