



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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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,

Children have returned to school after what has clearly been a terrific break for everyone, ready to return to learning and to work hard. It has been a busy learning week for the children in school.

The Year 1 pupils enjoyed a visit from Safari Stu on Tuesday which introduced them to the most extraordinary array of animals – several of which I have never seen before in my life! What a tremendous ‘hook’ into their new Animal topic for this half-term.

Year 2 have had a week focused on the Gunpowder Plot and were fascinated to learn about the history behind the celebration of Bonfire Night.

All children in Years 1 and 2 attended a special Road Safety: Be Bright Be Seen assembly led by Miss Hill on Tuesday and this important topic has been taught in class in Reception and Nursery. Please remember to be safe during any firework events you might be attending with your families this weekend for Bonfire Night or the following during Diwali celebrations.

You may have noticed that we have purchased some additional planters. They are dotted around the school to help to make the school look beautiful. Planting and learning about growth is also a wonderful thing for the children to experience. If anyone has any spare bulbs, compost or plants that you would like to contribute, we would be so very grateful! Our children will be planting over the next few weeks and I know our school will look stunning in the spring!

Thank you so much to everyone who came into school to attend our stay-and-play/ stay-and-read sessions which began this week in Nursery and Reception classes. We hope you enjoyed spending time in class with your children.

Thank you to our amazing FROG group for running a Bake Sale with the most delectable cakes! A fabulous £200 was raised! Thank you to everyone who contributed! You are unbelievably generous. We are hoping to begin to build funds back up again after a slow down during COVID – watch this space!



Thank you, wonderful FROG team!

Value of the month: The value for November is 'peace'. Peace means treating others with respect and avoiding arguments. When we show peace, we act with compassion and kindness. When we are peaceful, we feel harmonious and calm.

School Photographs: Kittle Photography came to school on Wednesday 1st November to take individual photographs of your children. Your child came home with a photo slip which gives information on how you may view and order your child's photograph. Please allow till Thursday 10th November for the photographs to be uploaded by Kittle.

Children in Need special event: A new, exciting 'Bearpee Challenge' is to take place in school on Thursday November 9th led by David Lloyds. Please can all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children come in PE kit on that day. A separate letter with more information has been sent. All contributions will go to Children in Need.

Parent Open Evening: Please note in your diaries that next Thursday 9th November is Open Evening from 5.30-7.00pm. This is an opportunity for parents to come into school with your children and look round the classes, see the beautiful displays, have a chat with your children's class teachers and support staff and generally to have a really good look round our wonderful school.

Healthy School: As a Healthy School, we encourage the children to eat healthily and make good food choices. The school lunches which we provide are in line with Hertfordshire County Council's recommendations for nutrition.

If your child has a packed lunch at lunch time, we ask that you support us by providing a packed lunch that is healthy, balanced and nutritious; for example, a healthy sandwich / wrap / salad / dip and breadsticks; a piece of fruit / carrot / cucumber sticks; a yogurt or fruit; a few crisps or similar snack, but not every day, and a small cake or biscuit occasionally as a treat. The lunch should also include a healthy drink or water. We are aware how tricky it is to feed a child who may be a fussy eater and want to help if we can. Please speak to you child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Please can we also ask that you do not give your child chocolate spread or any other products that may contain nuts as we have a number of children with severe nut allergies in school. Even the slightest exposure to these products can cause a life-threatening reaction for these children. Thanks for your support and cooperation with this very important issue.

Harvest Festival: All of the generous harvest donations were taken to Feed Up Warm Up in the half term by Miss Busby and the donations were very gratefully received by the charity. Thank you all. If you would like to make any donations in the future, information about this can be found here: <https://feedupwarmup.co.uk/support/donate-items/>

Food Shortages Survey: HCC is asking every household in Hertfordshire to complete a 15-minute, anonymous survey that will help them to understand how access to food, for financial or other reasons, is being affected and where support needs to be directed to help residents. The survey will close on Sunday 5th November. Have your say: https://melresearch.co.uk/hertsfoodsurvey_0

Poppy Appeal: From Tuesday 1st November, we have had poppies and other items available to purchase from the school office. The children may also bring a donation into class, and they will have the opportunity to visit the school office to purchase an item during school time. There are stick-on poppies available as well as accessories, such as bracelets and keyrings.

Children due to start Reception and Year 3 in September 2024: The application process for Reception year and Year 3 to start in September 2024 opened on 1st November 2023 and will close on 15th January 2024. Applications can be made via: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>

We are offering regular tours of Reception - please visit <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> or call or visit the school office to book a place.

Children due to start Nursery in September 2024. Applications/admissions are managed by the school. Applications open on 1st November 2023. An application form will be available on the school website from 1st November 2023.

We are offering regular tours of Nursery - to book a place, please visit <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> or call or visit the school office to book a place.

Nursery: The children have thoroughly enjoyed a week filled with firework activities. They have learnt to sing the rhyme 'Five Little Rockets' with great enjoyment, eagerly counting back from five each time ready for blast off. The children have described their experiences of fireworks and used fantastic describing words. Kennedy explained, "Fireworks are very loud, I stay in my house and watch them." Alfie said, "Fireworks make a boom noise!"

In the creative area, the children enjoyed making rockets and firework pictures using glitter and powder paint. Eshaal commented, "I'm making a green rocket, green is my favourite colour." Outside in the garden, the children have been running, hopping and jumping like rockets on the number tiles. They used bells, ribbons and streamers to add colour and movement.

This week, the children went to the hall with Mr Pullin to develop their gross motor skills. They have taken part in parachute games to improve strength and coordination. The children showed fantastic listening skills and confidence in taking part, well done everyone!

The children have been introduced to the number of the week and this has been added as a keyring to their bookbags. They enjoyed learning a rhyme to say as they write the

number one, "A downward stroke, my that's fun. Now I've made the number one!" The children looked at a variety of items and noticed how there was one of each item, one paintbrush, one duck, one car etc.

Thank you to all the parents who came to the first Stay and Play session, it was wonderful to have you join us. We will have Stay and Play every Thursday from 8.30am-9.15am, please come and join your child to share a book or other activity.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children have generated captions for a speech bubble for the big bad wolf or one of the little pigs from 'The Three Little Pigs' story. All the children wrote their speech bubble caption independently and for some children, they are beginning to segment and blend sounds they have learnt in phonics, whilst other children are writing letter shapes or mark making. All children were able to read their written caption back to an adult.

In mathematics, the children used wolves to make three in different ways by placing them into two separate caves. Some children used number pebbles to create a simple addition calculation, whilst other children had a go at writing a calculation on a whiteboard.

Throughout Reception, the children thoroughly enjoyed creating a biscuit house for a little pig. They used icing sugar as a cement-like mixture to support the walls and the roof. Some children even attempted to construct a pitched roof with varying degrees of success. It was good to see the children persevering when faced with the challenges of ensuring the walls stayed upright or making sure the pitched roof did not collapse. When Aston in Barn Owl class was making his biscuit house, he said, "I'm going to scoop it and spread it. I'm going to connect the walls,". Ishanvi in Snowy Owl class said, "Actually, it is not a house, it's a sandwich!" and Olaf in Tawny Owl class said, "I am building the walls and a kitchen in my house."

This week's poem is linked to the theme of Bonfire Night. The poem is called 'Fireworks' and is written by Tony Mitton.

Wait for the evening, cool and dark.
Wait for the fizzle, wait for the spark.
Whizz, crackle, bang, just watch us go.
Golden rain and sparkling snow.
Whizz, crackle, bang, in the big, blue night.
Making colours for your delight.
Whizz, crackle, bang, as we rush up high.
Exploding colours across the sky.

The children enjoyed sharing stories with an adult during our first Stay and Read session for the year. Each week at the end of Stay and Read, the children will be shown a Makaton sign. This week's Makaton sign is 'please'.

This month the Musician of the Month is Sergei Prokofiev. During the month, the children will be listening to a conductor tell the story of 'Peter and the Wolf'. Each character in the story is represented by a melody played by a different musical instrument in a large orchestra.

Next week in literacy, the children will be writing captions to describe parts of the wolf's body to create a WANTED poster. In expressive arts and design, the children will be looking at the work of the artist Al Agnew, an American naturalist painter who has created many paintings of wolves. The children will be using their observational skills to paint pictures of wolves. They will be using a paint palette to mix the colours needed for their painting.

Year 1: What a fantastic start to the new half term the children have had, with the Year 1 WOW Day! The children were so excited to meet Safari Stu and to see all the wonderful animals that he brought with him. He talked about each animal, explaining where it would be found in the wild, its habitat, diet, lifespan, and classification. The children encountered hissing cockroaches, a lesser tenrec, a tortoise, a royal python, a sand boa, a chuckwalla, a common tenrec and the most beautiful chameleon. Jacob in Big Cats commented that the chameleon looked like a dinosaur because it had scales on its back and Alannah commented that the cockroaches were warm and tickly in her hand.

***Please visit the Year 1 page to see some wonderful photos from Safari Stu's visit:
<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/year-1-red-foxes-walker-bears-and-big-cats/>***

Safari Stu's visit launched our new science topic for this term on animals. The children have reflected on what they already know about animals. Next, they will begin to learn about the animal classifications including mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish.

In English, the children have learnt where to use a full stop. They have identified full stops at the end of sentences. They have listened to their teacher reading aloud some animals facts and identified where the full stop would come. Finally, they have written their own sentences remembering to put a full stop at the end. They were also encouraged to leave spaces between their words, consolidating the learning from last term.

Our Book of the Week has been 'Something Else' by Kathryn Cave. This story provided the children with a lovely discussion about tolerance, our value of the month for October, and the importance of celebrating differences.

In phonics, the children have begun to work on Phase 5, learning new digraphs 'ay', 'ou', 'ie' and 'ea'. They have been reading a selection of words, using their robot arms to sound-talk and blend to read.

In mathematics, the children have begun to think about 'less than', 'greater than' and 'equal to', moving on from describing whether there are 'fewer', 'more' or 'the same' number of objects. They have used a variety of resources to complete each challenge.

The children have begun a new topic in PSHCE, celebrating similarities and differences. This week, the children worked with a partner to identify similarities between themselves. In art, the children have been investigating colour, learning to identify and name the primary and secondary colours.

Next week, the children will continue to explore animal classifications in science. In English, they will focus on writing factual sentences about hedgehogs, with the children putting into practice their knowledge of how to use full stops and finger spaces. In mathematics, the children will begin to compare numbers.

The Year 1 children will also be starting Forest School. Please make a note of which day your child's class has Forest School:

Wednesday – Walker Bears

Thursday – Red Foxes

Friday – Big Cats

Please look out for a separate email containing an information pack about our Forest School and the clothing your child will need.

***New homework will be coming home today. Please complete the homework and return to school by Wednesday 15th November.
We wish you all a wonderful weekend.***

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: We hope you all had a wonderful half term break. The Year 2 children have returned to school well rested and eager to get back to learning.

This week, the children have learnt about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. They started the week by becoming history detectives, looking at portraits of Guy Fawkes and making a note of what they observed. Next, they used an information presentation to answer questions about the Gunpowder Plot. In art and design, the children learnt shading techniques to sketch their own portrait of Guy Fawkes.

In English, the children learnt about the features of non-fiction books and practised using the contents and index pages to find information. They sorted key words into alphabetical order and found definitions to create a glossary.

In mathematics, the children started a new unit focusing on addition and subtraction. They practised the number bonds to ten, which they learnt in Year 1, to help them recall the bonds fluently. They also explored addition and subtraction bonds within 20, learning strategies to work them out quickly.

In PSHCE, the children learnt about firework safety and created a poster explaining how to stay safe on bonfire night. In art and design, the children learnt quilling techniques to create a firework silhouette picture.

Next week, the children will enjoy the Katie Morag stories by Maire Hedderwick. We will read the stories in class and watch some episodes of the CBeebies television series. The children will think of adjectives to describe Katie Morag's appearance. They will learn how to use the possessive apostrophe, before writing a character description.

In mathematics, the children will explore making bonds to 100 using tens, for example; $10 + 90 = 100$. They will practise adding and subtracting ones, learn to add by making ten and find techniques to add three one-digit numbers.

The children will be introduced to our new topic for this half term, 'An Island Home'. They will learn some new geographical vocabulary, including 'beach', 'harbour', 'cliff', 'port', 'ocean', 'pier', 'hill' and 'mountain'. In PSHCE, the children will explore how people make assumptions about girls and boys, some ways in which they are different and some ways they are the same.

It seems a long time away now, but we are already looking to the summer term and planning the Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Meads, which will take place in April 2024. The cost of coach hire has risen steadily in the past few years, which has a big impact on the cost of school trips. With this in mind, we wanted to make you aware as early as possible of the cost of the trip, which will be approximately £26.00. You will be able to pay for the trip in one payment, or over four instalments, starting in January 2024. An information letter will be sent out nearer the time explaining how to do this.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

RED FOX CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Rowan	<i>for a fantastic piece of firework art.</i>
	Marshall	<i>for super counting on the number tiles.</i>
	Vincent	<i>for ordering the numbers on the rockets.</i>
	Evie	<i>for brilliant singing and counting of the 'Five Little Rockets' rhyme.</i>
	Freya	<i>for great imaginative play in the garden.</i>
Snowy Owls	Kikiyin	<i>for fantastic calculations on ways to make three.</i>
	Hannah	<i>for making very good progress with learning her Phase 2 sounds.</i>
Tawny Owls	Sumayyah	<i>for trying her best in PE.</i>
	Albie	<i>for making a brilliant biscuit house.</i>
	Myla	<i>for always being helpful and considerate in the classroom.</i>
Barn Owls	Lylac-Mai	<i>for persevering when making her biscuit house.</i>
	Darcie	<i>for super segmenting and blending when writing her speech bubble caption.</i>
	Nancy-Mae	<i>for being very helpful and keeping the Barn Owl class tidy.</i>
Value of the month (Tolerance)	Snowy Owls: ChloeElla and James Tawny Owls: Ivy, Reid and Myla Barn Owls: Sophie, Jason and Ahmed	
Red Fox Class	Tigerlily	<i>for sharing fantastic animal facts.</i>
	Reuben	<i>for super phonics.</i>
Big Cat Class	Jacob	<i>for superb learning all about animals.</i>
	Lauren	<i>for excellent phonics work on the 'ay' and 'ou' digraphs.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Odin	<i>for correctly identifying full stops in English.</i>
	Bella	<i>for fantastic knowledge of primary and secondary colours in art.</i>

Value of the month (Tolerance)	Red Foxes: Betsy and Yamihle Big Cats: Zuzanna and Parth Walker Bears: Fatima and Kristof	
Pelicans	Lyra	<i>for working hard all week.</i>
	Nkazi	<i>for always being ready to learn.</i>
Puffins	Lucas	<i>for a wonderful understanding of the Gunpowder Plot.</i>
	Matthew	<i>for making a fantastic fireworks picture using quilling.</i>
Penguins	Ela	<i>for always trying her best in mathematics.</i>
	Lavinia	<i>for a beautifully detailed portrait of Guy Fawkes.</i>
Value of the month (Tolerance)	Pelicans: Darcie and Zahraa Puffins: Aaron and Vienna Penguins: Elise and Aleksander	

I hope you all have a peaceful and enjoyable weekend.

Kindest regards,
Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Dates – Autumn 2023

NOVEMBER 2023	
Thursday 9th	Open Evening, Prospective Parents, 5.30 – 7.00pm
Friday 10th	Remembrance Assembly
Monday 13th	Diwali Assembly & activities, in school, pupils only
Wednesday 15th	FROG AGM – 9.00am
Wednesday 15th	Stay and Share your Child's Work – Year 1, 2.45-3.10pm. All very welcome
Thursday 16th	Stay and Share your Child's Work – Year 2, 2.45-3.10pm. All very welcome
Friday 17th	Non-uniform day in support of Children in Need. Small donation requested.
Tuesday 21st	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.
Friday 24th	OCCASIONAL DAY – School Closed
Monday 27th	Guru Nanak's Birthday Assembly in school, pupils only
Wednesday 29th	Advent Assembly, in school, pupils only

DECEMBER 2023	
Tuesday 5th	Year 2, Virtual Christmas Festive Journey, all day
Tuesday 5th	Reception Christmas Concert – BARN OWLS, 9.15am
Wednesday 6th	Reception Christmas Concert – TAWNY OWLS, 9.15am
Thursday 7th	Reception Christmas Concert – SNOWY OWLS, 9.15am
Wednesday 13th	Christmas Concerts: Year 2 9.30
Thursday 14th	Christmas Concerts: Year 2 6pm
Thursday 14th	Nursery Christmas Concerts, 10.00am and 2.00pm
Monday 18th	Christmas Dinner – FROG to decorate tables etc.
Monday 18th	Hanukkah Assembly, pupils only
Tuesday 19th	Afternoon Christmas Parties. Nursery closed in the morning and all Nursery children to come for the afternoon. A Surprise Visitor!
Wednesday 20th	Last Day of term – finish at 2pm

TERM DATES 2023-24

Autumn Term: Friday 1st September 2023 – 20th December 2023

Friday 1st September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 4th September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th September 2023

[Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2023 – Friday 27th October 2023]

Monday 30th October 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 31st October 2023

Friday 24th November 2023 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Wednesday 20th December at 2pm

[Christmas Holidays: Thursday 21st December – Wednesday 3rd January 2024]

Children return to school on Thursday 4th January 2024

Spring Term: Thursday 4th January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024

[Half term: Monday 19th February 2024 – Friday 23rd February 2024]

Children return to school on Monday 26th February 2024

School finishes on Thursday 28th March at 2pm
[Easter Holidays: Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April 2024]

Children return to school on Monday 15th April 2024

Summer Term: Monday 15th April 2024 – Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Monday 6th May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 27th May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024]

Monday 3rd June 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Children return to school on Tuesday 4th June 2024

Monday 1st July 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
School finishes on Tuesday 23rd July at 2.00pm