



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ
Telephone: 01438 359747
Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

13.10.2023

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,

This week we have celebrated Big Write, led inspirationally by Miss Hill.

In Reception, the children enjoyed listening to a story about Wilfred the wolf in 'The Healthy Wolf' by David Bedford. They found out Wilfred did not look after himself and after years of not eating healthily, not looking after his teeth, and not doing any exercise, he was a very unhealthy wolf!

In Years 1 and 2, the children had the most extraordinary surprise when they arrived at school on Tuesday morning only to find that all the characters had escaped from their books and were hiding all over the school and school grounds. There were even escaped characters hiding in my office!

Find out more about this amazing celebration of literature by asking your children whether they came up with any ideas about what happened and what caused this Great Escape! The children have been drawn into the topic and have completed what for some of them is their first attempt at extended writing. We will give you these books to keep when your child leaves the Infants' School and we're sure you will treasure them.

Harvest Assembly: The children are celebrating today with a special Harvest Assembly, led by Mrs Dacombe, in school. They have all practised Harvest songs and are very excited! Thank you so much for all your donations of goods. Mrs Trott and Mrs Zanelli have made a most beautiful harvest table in the hall and your donations will be distributed to those in need over the half-term break.



Year 2 Assemblies will take place next week: Please arrive by 2.20pm, as assemblies will start promptly at 2.30pm.

Tuesday October 17th 2.30pm: Puffin Class (Mrs Brown) assembly

Wednesday October 18th 2.30pm: Penguin Class (Miss Hill) assembly

Thursday October 19th 2.30pm: Pelican Class (Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Trott) assembly

Bake Sale next Thursday 19th October at 3.15pm: This will be our first FROG bake sale of the year – we are grateful as ever for any donations you are kindly able to provide. Please bring everything to the school office – thank you all so very much.

Open Evening Thursday 9th November 5.30-7.00 pm: This is a lovely opportunity for you to come into school with your children and have a good look round not only your child's current class but also previous classes as well as the year-group your child will be in next year. This occasion is a really strong part of transition as the children love visiting their previous teachers and key workers – and it's also a chance for them to have a little visit to next year's classes. You will also be able to have a chat with staff and to celebrate all the fantastic work on the walls, and the fabulous learning environment.

Census Day Lunch: A big thank you to everyone who ordered a school dinner last Thursday. We had lots of additional pupils taking lunch which will mean we increase our funding from government. Thank you.

Children due to start Reception in September 2024: The application process for Reception year to start in September 2024 will open on 1st November 2023 and 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 shall be offering tours of Reception every other Tuesday starting on 10th October, 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.

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 shall be offering tours of Nursery every other Tuesday starting from 10th October, 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.

Children due to start Senior school in September 2024: The application process for secondary/upper school places to start in September 2024 opened on Friday 1st September 2023 and closes on Tuesday 31st October 2023. Please see

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-and-upper-schools/secondary-and-upper-school-places.aspx> to make an application for your Year 6 child.

Nursery: The children have had a wonderful week in Nursery. They have experienced a variety of autumnal activities including a lovely autumn walk in our school nature area. Whilst walking in the nature area, Aden told his friends, "The wind is making a sound." Alfie B saw a snail on an apple tree and said, "The snail eats the apple." The children loved collecting natural resources including different coloured leaves, twigs, and acorns.

The children were very excited to learn about autumn and sang our autumn song with great delight. Amelie brought some leaves in to show and said, "These are changing colour, they have turned yellow." Teddie brought in some pinecones and shared them with his group. He remembered, "they open when they get dry."

The children have created a range of wonderful autumn themed art. They have made decorated pinecones, printed trees, conker rolling art, leaf printing and hedgehogs. The children enjoyed using tissue paper to create autumn trees, and painted autumn wreaths and acorns.

In phonics, the children played a game of Grandma's Footsteps. First, they decided what movement goes with which sound, for example; shakers for walking on tip-toe, a triangle for fairy steps and a drum for giant strides. Then the children had lots of fun identifying the instrument being played and responding with the correct movement.

In mathematics, the children have practised subitising up to three. Subitising is recognising the number of objects in a group without counting. They enjoyed using their superhero subitising skill to say how many conkers were in a group without counting.

Next week, we will read the story 'Baby Goes to Market' by Atinuke. The children will be thinking about how to stay healthy and learning about oral hygiene.

Reception: This week in Big Write, the children enjoyed listening to a story about a wolf called Wilfred in 'The Healthy Wolf' by David Bedford. They found out Wilfred did not look after himself, and after years of not eating healthily, not looking after his teeth, and not doing any exercise, he was a very unhealthy wolf. For the Big Write activity, the children labelled parts of Wilfred the wolf's body and wrote a caption about him or about ways of keeping healthy. Oliver in Barn Owl class wrote, "Exercise gives me big muscles."

The children have looked at different types of houses and homes such as a treehouse, tent and igloo and used recycled materials to create a house. They labelled different parts of a house including the door, window, wall, and roof. The children enjoyed deciding whether they were going to have a flat roof or a pitched roof and whether or not to add on a chimney. When creating his model of a house, Jacob in Barn Owl class said, "I need a back door and I need a loft window."

Next week is Science Week and the focus is healthy minds and healthy bodies. The children will be participating in a range of activities to find out how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. They will be listening to the story 'Ready, Steady, Mo!' by the athlete Mo Farah and participating in some fun and energetic activities with Mr Pullin to discover the importance of exercise.

The children will be answering questions from the character Supersoap when reading a story about the importance of hand washing. They will be finding out why they should clean their teeth twice a day and about the importance of having a healthy diet. One of the activities linked to a healthy diet will be to taste a selection of fruit and vegetables. The children will be acting out a bedtime routine using dolls, making sure they have cleaned their teeth, and each will read a bedtime story to a doll. They will be participating in activities to relax their bodies through meditation and mindfulness.

As part of Black History Month, the children have been reading the poem 'Colours' by Sheldon Silverstein:

*My skin is kind of brownish,
Pinkish yellowish white.
My eyes are greyish blueish green,
But I'm told they look orange in the night.
My hair is reddish blondish brown,*

*But it's silver when it's wet.
And all the colours I am inside,
Have not been invented yet.*

Next week, the children will be finding out what makes them the same and what makes them different.

Year 1: The children have enjoyed a fantastic week in school, participating in Big Write. They were amazed to learn that many book characters had escaped and were hiding in our school! An emergency assembly was held to discuss the situation and the children enjoyed searching for the missing characters on the playground. Lennox from Big Cats said, "The Genie came out at midnight and then the magic happened. All the characters escaped!" The children wrote captions to describe what was happening to the characters. The children practised using finger spaces and applying their phonic knowledge to spell.

In phonics, the children have been blending for reading, focusing on three letter consonant strings such as 'scr', 'str' and 'spr'. They have been reading the common exception words 'do', 'when', 'out' and 'what'. The children have also been learning to spell the words 'it's' and 'from'.

Our Book of the Week has been 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryon. The children enjoyed researching Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space, and following a draw along session with the illustrator Dapo Adeola to create the character Luna the cat. Click on the link if you'd like to share this story and have a go - [Look Up Draw Along](#).

In mathematics, the children have been finding one less from a given number to ten. They have been answering questions such as 'one less than ? is five' and 'one less than ? is nine'. They enjoyed learning a range of counting back songs and listened to the story 'One to Ten and Back Again' by Nick Sharratt and Sue Heap.

Having begun to learn about the five senses last week in science, this week the children explored the sense of sight. They found out how eyes work and looked closely at their own eyes using mirrors. They labelled different parts of the eye and had fun playing games such as spot the difference, making glasses and noticing what was missing from a selection of objects.

In computing, the children have been logging on to Purple Mash and learning how to drag and drop a picture onto a template using the topics tool. They have been adding text and enlarging the picture using the touch screen on the iPads.

In art and design, the children have been learning about the artist Andy Goldsworthy, a British sculptor, land artist and photographer known for his work with natural materials. They have used a variety of natural materials such as twigs, stones and leaves to create spiral pictures.

Homework books went out last week. Please do speak to your child's class teacher if you need any support with this. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful work by Wednesday 18th October.

Have a wonderful weekend.

The Year 1 Team.

Year 2: It has been a very exciting week in Year 2! On Tuesday, the children came into their classrooms to find books scattered over the carpet and tables. Even the teachers couldn't explain what had happened! The children were called into an emergency

meeting in the hall, led by Miss Hill. She had received reports that the characters from some of our favourite books had escaped! They had been spotted around the school, including the tiger who came to tea in Mrs Moran's office and one of the snow lambs watching Mrs Mendel at work! Miss Hill asked the children to stay alert and be on the lookout for the missing characters, as the books would not be the same without them.

The children took up the challenge and became detectives, searching for the missing characters inside school and outside on the playground. Sol in Penguin class decided, "The characters wanted to look around the school." Madison in Puffin class thought, "They wanted some fresh air, but they won't like the rain." Leon in Pelican class believed, "Someone left the books open and they escaped."

The children used what they have learnt about adjectives to create missing posters that included super descriptions of the character they would most like to catch. They then came up with a plan of how they could catch the character, thinking of the equipment they would use and drawing diagrams. Their final challenge was to write a clear set of instructions, using the knowledge and skills they have learnt during our last unit of work. The children made a super effort with their writing, and we cannot wait to share it with you in their Writing Progress Books.

In mathematics, the children learnt how to compare amounts of objects using the language of 'more' and 'less'. They compared pictures and numbers and learnt how to use the 'greater than' and 'less than' symbols. They also learnt about 'equal to'. The children looked at different representations of numbers and ordered them by value, sometimes starting with the smallest number and sometimes starting with the greatest.

In science, the children looked at the results of the investigation they set up last week, which was to find out the effect of different liquids on teeth. Some of the results were a surprise, with orange juice and blackcurrant squash causing a lot of damage. The children concluded that drinking water and milk is the best thing to keep teeth healthy.

In design technology, the children made their own healthy salad cup. They learnt about food hygiene and how to peel, cut and chop safely using children's knives. We hope they enjoyed eating their tasty salads at home!

Next week, the children will learn all about the festival of harvest. In mathematics, they will practise counting in twos, fives, tens and threes. In science, the children will learn about the importance of keeping clean to maintain good health and hygiene and will investigate the best way to remove germs from our hands.

The Year 2 class concerts will take place next week as follows:

*Puffin class – Tuesday 17th October at 2.30pm
Penguin class – Wednesday 18th October at 2.30pm
Pelican class – Thursday 19th October at 2.30pm*

We look forward to seeing you there.

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	Ariella	<i>for showing fantastic control with scissors.</i>
	Alexandra	<i>for independently creating hedgehog art.</i>
	Chayson	<i>for excellent observations on the autumn walk.</i>
	Molly F	<i>for always showing good listening at carpet time.</i>
	Amelia	<i>for fantastic singing of our autumn song.</i>
	Alfie B	<i>for super observations on the autumn walk.</i>
Snowy Owls	James	<i>for applying his phonic knowledge to label parts of the wolf.</i>
	Evie	<i>for wonderful segmenting and blending when writing labels for her house.</i>
Tawny Owls	Kiel	<i>for fantastic sounding out when writing his labels of Wilfred, the wolf.</i>
	Andrew	<i>for always using his Golden Words when getting his lunch.</i>
Barn Owls	Jacob	<i>for being very knowledgeable about different parts of a house.</i>
	Sophie	<i>for writing a fantastic caption about keeping her teeth clean.</i>
Red Fox Class	Olivia	<i>for trying her best in English.</i>
	Kian	<i>for super mathematics.</i>
Big Cat Class	Evie	<i>for excellent labels in English.</i>
	Theo	<i>for fantastic efforts in guided reading.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Livia	<i>for being a good friend.</i>
	Alana	<i>for super reflection and participation in guided reading.</i>
	George	<i>for working hard to complete the Big Write.</i>
Pelicans	Hussein	<i>for good listening and super learning.</i>
	Harper	<i>for writing a fantastic Big Write.</i>
Puffins	Belle	<i>for being a wonderful role model.</i>
	Kairav	<i>for making a fantastic salad.</i>

Penguins	Wednesday	<i>for always making a super effort with her work.</i>
	Adrian	<i>for his amazing drawings and happy smile!</i>

Have an absolutely wonderful weekend!

**kindest regards,
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher**

School Dates – Autumn 2023

OCTOBER 2023	
<i>Week of 16th</i>	<i>BIG WRITE Reception</i>
<i>Week of 16th</i>	<i>WELL-BEING WEEK</i>
<i>Monday 16th</i>	<i>Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm</i>
<i>Monday 16th</i>	<i>Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm</i>
<i>Tuesday 17th</i>	<i>Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm</i>
<i>Tuesday 17th</i>	<i>Autumn Concert – Puffins 2.30pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th</i>	<i>Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th</i>	<i>Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th</i>	<i>Autumn Concert – Penguins 2.30pm</i>
<i>Thursday 19th</i>	<i>FROG Bake Sale, 3.15pm</i>
<i>Thursday 19th</i>	<i>Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm</i>
<i>Thursday 19th</i>	<i>Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm</i>
<i>Thursday 19th</i>	<i>Autumn Concert – Pelicans, 2.30 pm</i>
<i>Monday 30th</i>	<i>INSET DAY – children not in school, staff in</i>
<i>Tuesday 31st</i>	<i>Children return to school</i>

NOVEMBER 2023	
<i>Thursday 2nd onwards</i>	<i>EVERY THURSDAY morning 8.30-9.20am, Stay and Play in the Nursery. Come in & join your child to share a book or other activity in the Nursery. All welcome.</i>
<i>Friday 3rd</i>	<i>Gunpowder Plot online broadcast for KS1 – 9.30-10.30</i>
<i>Friday 3rd onwards</i>	<i>EVERY FRIDAY morning 8.50-9.20am, Stay and Read in all Reception Classes. Share a book with your child, all welcome.</i>
<i>Thursday 9th</i>	<i>Open Evening, Prospective Parents, 5.30 – 7.00pm</i>
<i>Friday 10th</i>	<i>Remembrance Assembly</i>
<i>Monday 13th</i>	<i>Diwali Assembly & activities, in school, pupils only</i>
<i>Wednesday 15th</i>	<i>FROG AGM – 9.00am</i>
<i>Wednesday 15th</i>	<i>Stay and Share your Child's Work – Year 1, 2.45-3.10pm. All very welcome</i>
<i>Thursday 16th</i>	<i>Stay and Share your Child's Work – Year 2, 2.45-3.10pm. All very welcome</i>
<i>Friday 17th</i>	<i>Non-uniform day in support of Children in Need. Small donation requested.</i>
<i>Tuesday 21st</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>Friday 24th</i>	<i>OCCASIONAL DAY – School Closed</i>
<i>Monday 27th</i>	<i>Guru Nanak's Birthday Assembly in school, pupils only</i>
<i>Wednesday 29th</i>	<i>Advent Assembly, in school, pupils only</i>

DECEMBER 2023	
<i>Tuesday 5th</i>	<i>Year 2, Virtual Christmas Festive Journey, all day</i>
<i>Tuesday 5th</i>	<i>Reception Christmas Concert – BARN OWLS, 9.15am</i>

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