



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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06.10.2023

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 has been a very busy week in school and the children enjoyed a fabulous Poetry Day yesterday with marvellous poems created, read and enjoyed across the school with a focus on refuge and keeping safe. Some of the classes took part in a National Poetry Day workshop with the poet Simon Mole, joining around 2000 children from across the county via Teams. Classes were guided by the poet to write their own inspirational poems and our very own Penguin class was chosen to read their poem to everyone taking part. Well done, Penguin class! The class also performed it to our school in Friday assembly so that everyone could enjoy it. The poem has been uploaded to our school website for those who would like to read it. Well done to all our children for the effort and imagination they've put into their poetry work this week – we are super proud of them all!

Next week we are continuing with exciting engagement with the written word as it is Big Write week, led by Miss Hill. I won't divulge details as we want it to be a total surprise for the children. You will hear all about it from them and of course in next week's newsletter!

Harvest Assembly: Harvest Assembly: Thank you to everyone who has very kindly provided dry goods for us to distribute and place on our Harvest Table. Mrs Trott and Mrs Zanelli have created the most beautiful table including a bale of real hay which a farmer donated! Please continue to donate until half-term when the goods will be distributed – thank you. We will put a photo of the table in the newsletter before half-term. The children will be celebrating with a Harvest Assembly led by Mrs Dacombe in school on Friday 13th October. Our beautiful table and your generous donations help us all to remember those in need at this time of year. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Reception/Nursery Tour 4.00-4.45 pm next Tuesday October 10th: If you have a child entering these classes next September (or know anyone else who does!) please call or email the office to let them know you'd like to have a viewing of our Reception or Nursery.

Open Evening 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.

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: *This week the children have had a fantastic time in the Giles Bakery role play area. They have taken on the role of a customer by writing lists and using coins to pay for different types of bread, biscuits and cakes. Yoosuf picked up a large loaf of bread and commented, "It's so heavy!" The shopkeeper used the till, wrote receipts and ordered supplies on the computer and telephone. Harrison answered the telephone and said, "Hello, would you like some bread? We have some currant buns too."*

Our new nursery rhyme this week was 'Five Currant Buns'. The children have loved practising and performing the song together as a class, in their shape groups and during play with their friends.

In phonics, the children continued to practise their listening skills, identifying animals by a description and then making the correct animal noise. For National Poetry Day, they enjoyed listening and reciting 'The Ladybird' poem.

This week the children enjoyed the story 'Each Peach Pear Plum' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. The children were keen to find characters from well-known nursery stories, such as the Three Bears, Mother Hubbard and Tom Thumb.

Next week, the children will learn an autumn song, and this will be added to their rhyme ring. As part of Black History Month, we will read the story 'Big Hair, Don't Care' by Crystal Swain-Bates. The children will take part in an autumn walk to the school forest area, so please ensure your child has a coat.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children have celebrated National Poetry Day by focusing on rhyming words in stories, poems, and nursery rhymes. Their literacy activity was to sort words which rhymed with the word 'pig'. Yesterday, the children celebrated National Poetry Day by listening to poems and rhymes linked to refuge. They listened to the poems 'Take a Deep Breath' and 'The Grass House'.

In mathematics, the children investigated 'one more than', using their finger to make one jump forward on a number line to discover the next number.

In art and design, the children made character puppets from the story 'The Three Little Pigs' and all had a fantastic time in the Enchanted Garden retelling the story using their puppets. When Layla in Snowy Owl class was acting out the story using her puppet she said, "Little pigs never see a wolf again!"

In RE, the children have been discovering which seeds and berries can be harvested from trees and hedgerows. They found out which woodland creatures could eat seeds and berries and discovered they too could eat berries such as blackberries and elderberries. Mason in Barn Owl class talked about being able to pick blackberries. He informed everyone that "berries that are not black are not ripe and we can't pick them as they would taste sour."

Next week in literacy, the children will be focusing on the story of 'The Healthy Wolf' by David Bedford. This story introduces them to aspects of healthy living which the children will explore the following week during Science Week. The children will be labelling parts of Wilfred the Wolf and writing a caption to accompany their labelling.

In phonics, the children will be introduced to a new phonic term 'digraph.' This is when two letters are snapped together to make one sound, such as 'ck'. To support your child in learning to read, the school subscribes to Bug Club, an online reading scheme. On the inside of your child's red reading record book there is a Bug Club label detailing your child's username, password, and school code. This reading scheme is a fantastic way to support your child's reading.

Next week in literacy, the children will need to bring in an empty cereal box as they will be using this to make a house. They will be using their phonic knowledge to blend the sounds of words linked to parts of a house, for example; r-oo-f, w-a-ll.

In RE, the children will be continuing to find out why the festival of harvest is important around the world.

In PSED, the children will be discussing the importance of rules in a classroom setting and what the consequences are if the rules are broken.

In music, the children will be listening to 'Happy Birthday' by Stevie Wonder and continuing to practise and perform the nursery rhymes they have been learning.

Year 1: This week in Year 1, the children have been celebrating National Poetry Day by exploring the rhyming book 'Nature Trail' by Benjamin Zephaniah. This year's theme is refuge. The children explored the poem looking closely at a garden and all who live within it. They reflected on the importance of having a place of safety and used their senses to write their own poems all about our safe places. Please click on the link to hear the poem being read - [Nature Trail](#).

In English, the children have learnt to read and identify captions. They have practised their new skill of using finger spaces between words when writing. They have written their own captions for a picture from 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves' by Julia Rawlinson. In handwriting, the children have practised writing the digraph 'll'. They

recapped the formation patten for the letter 'l' and learnt to repeat it. They were careful to always start at the top of the letter.

In phonics, the children have been blending for reading focusing on the initial and final blends in words such as 'think', 'slept' and 'thank'. They have been reading the common exception words 'were', 'there', 'little' and 'one' and the high frequency word 'help'. The children have also been learning to spell the words 'they', 'all', 'are' and 'just'.

Our Book of the Week has been 'Child of Galaxies' by Blake Nuto and Charlotte Ager. The text generated lots of questions. Blue in Walker Bears asked, "How was the earth made?" Clark in Walker Bears, "How many times does the earth spin in one day?" Alexander in Walker Bears asked, "Where did humans come from?"

In mathematics, the children have explored the concept of one more than a given number. They have used number tracks and cubes as resources to help them, counting on one more from a given number. The children are also continuing to practise counting forwards and backwards.

In science, the children have begun to focus on each of the five senses. This week they learnt about the sense of hearing. They enjoyed making big ear headbands and doing some listening exercises inside and outside.

In RE, the Year 1 children listened to the story 'Sammy Spider's First Sukkot'. They watched a video of a Jewish child and his family preparing to celebrate the Jewish festival of Sukkot. The children learnt that the festival celebrates harvest and that Jewish people celebrate God's care for them during 40 years when they wandered in the desert after leaving Egypt, until they arrived in Israel. They learnt that there are special symbols, including a sukkah (a temporary shelter where Jewish families eat their meals during the festival of Sukkot), a lulav (a collection of three branches) and an etrog (a type of citrus fruit). They learnt that the lulav and etrog symbolise all growing plants and God's presence everywhere. The children each made their own picture of a sukkah.

Music lessons this week have continued to focus on hip-hop music. The children enjoyed using a range of percussion instruments to mark the beat whilst singing a hip-hop version of 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'.

New homework will be coming home today. The theme is our senses. Please complete the homework and return to school by Wednesday 18th October.

Next week will be our exciting and immersive Big Write week, but the theme is top secret! What will your child guess it might be?

Have a wonderful weekend.

The Year 1 Team.

Year 2: We have had a wonderful week in Year 2. On Wednesday, Penguin class took part in a National Poetry Day workshop with the poet Simon Mole, organised by Hertfordshire Libraries. They joined around 2,000 children from across the county via Microsoft Teams. Simon writes poetry about dinosaurs and shared a poem all about a herd of diplodocuses. With Simon's guidance, the children worked together to write their very own poem, explaining what it is like to be a part of the Penguin class 'herd'. The children listened so beautifully and came up with some absolutely amazing ideas. At the end of the workshop, Penguin class were chosen to read their poem to all the other children taking part and they received a big round of applause! If you would like to read the poem, it has been uploaded on to the class pages of the school website.

In English, the children have applied what they learnt last week to write their own set of instructions explaining how to clean a crocodile's teeth. They have drawn diagrams, written a title and a list of items that are needed, before writing a set of numbered instructions with time conjunctions and bossy verbs.

In mathematics, the children have explored number lines to 100. They have learnt how to identify tens on the number line, before learning how to identify tens and ones. The children used these skills to estimate numbers on a number line.

In computing, the children continued to learn how to code. They learnt how to use a timer to control when objects appear or move. They programmed a magician's rabbit to appear at a particular time. In science, the children set up an investigation to find out the effect of different liquids on our teeth. Using eggs to represent teeth, the children predicted what would happen when left in cola, orange juice, blackcurrant, milk and water. They will check the results next week. In design technology, the children recalled what they know about healthy eating and chose ingredients to make a salad.

Thursday was National Poetry Day, and the children spent the day exploring the poem, 'My Treasures' by Kate Wakeling. They listened carefully to the poem before discussing what it is about and how it made them feel. They made a list of their treasures, before adding their own verses to the original poem. In the afternoon, the children made a treasure chest and added pictures of their special items. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and gave it a big thumbs up!

Next week is our Big Write, which is our whole school approach to writing around an unusual event or a particular story. We don't want to spoil the surprise for the children, but we can say it's going to be a very exciting week! In mathematics, the children will learn how to compare numbers, how to order objects and numbers, and how to count in twos, fives, tens and threes.

In science, the children will look at the investigation they set up this week, record the results and make conclusions. In computing, the children will learn about different object types in code. They will create their own scene, add some objects and add code to make their objects move. In design technology, the children will learn how to peel, cut and chop safely using children's knives, before preparing a healthy salad cup.

The children will also be preparing for our class concerts, which will take place 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*

Please add the date to your diary if you haven't already done so.

We hope you have a calm and restful weekend.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PELICAN CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Harrison	<i>for excellent role play in the Giles Bakery.</i>
	Amari	<i>for a super shape picture.</i>
	Yoosuf	<i>for fantastic role play in the Giles Bakery.</i>
	Darius	<i>for exploring more activities in the Nursery.</i>
	Sabin	<i>for always showing excellent listening at carpet time.</i>
Snowy Owls	Myles	<i>for excellent role play in the Giles Bakery.</i>
	Ishvani	<i>for making a beautiful pig puppet.</i>
Tawny Owls	George	<i>for confidently finding one more using a number line.</i>
	Reggie	<i>for demonstrating an amazing knowledge of one more than a given number.</i>
Barn Owls	Isla	<i>for fantastic independent continuation of different rhyming strings.</i>
	Ayla	<i>for being so imaginative when using her puppet to act out the story of the Three Little Pigs in the Enchanted Garden.</i>
Red Fox Class	Oliver	<i>for working so hard to hold a pencil correctly during daily phonic lessons.</i>
	Fred	<i>for super listening and following instructions.</i>
Big Cat Class	Ava	<i>for writing a fantastic poem about a place of refuge using your senses.</i>
	Reggie	<i>for fantastic answers in guided reading.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Hollie	<i>for a fantastic speaking and listening activity.</i>
	Fatima	<i>for beautiful homework, using labels and finding out about parts of the body.</i>
Pelicans	Clark	<i>for writing clear captions to describe the tree in the story of 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves'.</i>
	Dollie - Rae	<i>for contributing excellent ideas for our class poem.</i>
	Jaxon	<i>for always being enthusiastic to learn.</i>

Puffins	Mikolaj	<i>for writing a wonderful set of instructions.</i>
	Ollie	<i>for fantastic contributions during class discussions.</i>
Penguins	Erika	<i>for a clear set of instructions explaining how to brush a crocodile's teeth.</i>
	Ashlee	<i>for excellent listening and ideas during the poetry workshop.</i>

Have an absolutely wonderful weekend!

**kindest regards,
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher**

School Dates – Autumn 2023

OCTOBER 2023	
W/c Monday 9th	<i>BIG WRITE Years 1 and 2</i>
Friday 13th	<i>Harvest Assembly in school (children only)</i>
Friday 6th	<i>Sukkot Assembly, pupils only, in school</i>
Week of 16th	<i>BIG WRITE Reception</i>
Week of 16th	<i>WELL-BEING WEEK</i>
Monday 16th	<i>Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm</i>
Monday 16th	<i>Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm</i>
Tuesday 17th	<i>Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm</i>
Tuesday 17th	<i>Autumn Concert – Puffins 2.30pm</i>
Wednesday 18th	<i>Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm</i>
Wednesday 18th	<i>Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm</i>
Wednesday 18th	<i>Autumn Concert – Penguins 2.30pm</i>
Thursday 19th	<i>FROG Bake Sale, 3.15pm</i>
Thursday 19th	<i>Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm</i>
Thursday 19th	<i>Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm</i>
Thursday 19th	<i>Autumn Concert – Pelicans, 2.30 pm</i>
Monday 30th	<i>INSET DAY – children not in school, staff in</i>
Tuesday 31st	<i>Children return to school</i>

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

Wednesday 29th	Advent Assembly, in school, pupils only
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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