



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,

It has been a wonderful learning week in school. Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 1 and 2 parent/teacher consultations. We hope very much that you felt it was beneficial to hold these consultations so early in the term and that you benefited from the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher on an individual basis in this way. I'm sure you were all very proud of your amazing children!

Next week is another busy week. On Thursday it is Census Day when we swap Thursday and Friday school dinners. More details are included below. Thursday is also Poetry Day and all classes throughout the school will experience a fantastic day of activities and experiences and reading connected to poetry and rhyming. This year's national theme is refuge (feeling safe and sheltered from danger) which will be a fascinating topic for the children to explore.

October 1st is also the beginning of Black History Month. Our school is deeply inclusive and learning throughout the year reflects the richness of our cultural environment; this month we will make representation an extra-special focus and activities, assemblies and a wealth of interesting and educational experiences will be running in school throughout this month.

Parking around school area: Please kindly be considerate to our neighbours/residents of Durham Road and Jessop Road. Please do not block driveways or park on double yellow lines. I have received a very sad email from one of our neighbours this week saying that she is disabled and often returns from a group she attends, returning at school pick up time only to find her driveway completely blocked. Thank you so much for behaving towards our neighbours in the way that you would want people to treat you if you lived near a school.

F.R.O.G Annual General Meeting: We invite you to join us on Tuesday 3rd October at 9am for the very first meeting of the year for our Friends and Relatives of Giles – we call ourselves FROG (and in other schools might be known as a PTA. FROG has always done so much for our school – it is a wonderful group who helps to raise necessary funds for the school which go towards school trips and much much more. Mrs Victoria Aldwinckle has been Chair for several years and has done the most wonderful job. With this and with quite a long gap because of Covid, numbers of

FROG members have gone down. If you are able to give even the tiniest bit of time, we and the children would be so grateful.

*FROG is such a good way to make new friends and to make a real contribution to your children. If you are able to come along on Tuesday morning, I look forward to welcoming you. If you are interested in potentially giving some of your time but are unable to make Tuesday, please email me on: head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk
Thank you for helping our school!*

Census Day Thursday 5th October - School Dinner Menu change: *Thursday 5th October is Census Day so we will swap Thursday and Friday dinners that week.*

This means that on Thursday 5th October, children will be offered:

Red Option: Battered Fish Fillet

Green Option: Cheese and Tomato Pizza

White Option: Jacket Potato

Yellow Option: Egg Baguette

On Friday 6th October, children will be offered:

Red Option: Beef Burger in a Bun

Green Option: Vegetarian Roll

White Option: Cheesy Pasta

Yellow Option: Ham Baguette

Please do encourage your child to try a school dinner - it potentially means more money for the school if numbers are high. Your child can always bring in their own packed lunch but also have a school dinner 'on the side' that day! Thank you for your support.

Harvest Assembly: *The children will be celebrating with a Harvest Assembly led by Mrs Dacombe in school on Friday 13th October. We collect dried goods items, tins and the like which we will distribute to local families in need and the hospice. Miss Busby will also be taking contributions to the Feed Up Warm Up charity. Please bring any donations to your child's class teacher from Monday onwards. We will have a beautiful harvest table in the hall which will allow us all to remember those in need at this time of year. Thank you very much for your generosity.*

Change of contact details: *If you moved house or changed your mobile phone number over the holidays, please do let us know so that we can update your child's record. Please email admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk.*

Volunteer work in school: *We appreciate our volunteers so greatly and it is a role that in turn can give those who volunteer in school a lot of happiness. Our children are so fantastic and the teaching staff so incredible – it's an opportunity to make new friends and to pick up new skills at the same time as supporting our children's learning. Please speak to me if you are interested in doing some volunteer work in our school.*

MSA role: *There is currently a space available. If you are interested, please speak to me.*

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.*

School Crossing Patrol Vacancy:



"It provides me with extra income"

"It's given me the confidence to get back to work"

"It makes me smile"



WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING THE SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL AT

THE GILES NURSERY AND INFANTS' SCHOOL

THE PAY IS £10.60 PER HOUR (excluding enhancements)

JOB SHARES ARE AVAILABLE FULL TRAINING AND SUPPORT ARE PROVIDED BY THE TEAM

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE ACTIVE AND SAFER TRAVEL TEAM ON

01992 556816/01992 556803 OR EMAIL: scp.enquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Can we please remind you that it is parental responsibility to get your child to and from school safely

Hertfordshire County Council, Active and Safer Travel Team, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN. Tel: 01992 556816 - September 2023



"Term time only is perfect as it fits around child care"

"It puts me in a good routine"

"I feel part of the community"



Nursery: This week the children have been excited to sing the nursery rhyme 'Humpty Dumpty', which has been added to the children's rhyme ring for them to enjoy at home. During carpet time, they thought about the meaning of the song and Vincent commented, "Humpty breaks because he's an egg." Annabelle remembered "The yellow part is the yoke!"

In expressive art and design, the children worked well together using a variety of construction resources to build walls for a Humpty Dumpty puppet to sit on. Ariella said, "I'm making it really strong, it won't fall down." They also had lots of fun using a variety of different media to make a Humpty Dumpty character, adding legs, trousers, and a face. These will be displayed in the Nursery for everyone to see and enjoy.

In phonics, the children enjoyed exploring drumming outdoors, discovering how different sounds can be made by tapping or stroking with their beaters. They used their beaters around the outside area on wooden objects, the metal fence, and the slide.

The children have loved reading the story of 'Where's Spot?' by Eric Hill and have been excited to find out where Spot could be hiding! Elijah remembered, "The snake is in the clock!"

Next week, the children will be learning the rhyme 'Five Currant Buns' and will have the opportunity to enjoy playing in a bakery shop as part of the role play area. The children will enjoy the story of 'Each Peach Pear Plum' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. Please remember to bring in your child's book bag on Monday each week.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children generated captions linked to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', focusing on the big bad wolf. The children continued to develop their knowledge about how a caption is structured by using their fingers to count how

many words were in their caption. When the children had finished ordering their caption, they used their 'reading finger' to check their caption made sense.

The children had their first visit to the Enchanted Garden, where they all had a marvellous time acting out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. When Kobi from Snowy Owls was pretending to be one of the little pigs, he said, "Not by the hair on my chinny chin chin!" The children have also enjoyed watching the Disney version of 'The Three Little Pigs' called 'Silly Symphony', which was made in 1958. This version always makes the children laugh.

In mathematics, the children enjoyed counting objects and investigating capacity. They enjoyed filling pots with rice and talked about the volume of their pots. Mya- Jae from Barn Owl class said, "It's a little bit full of rice!"

This week's poem is titled 'Harvest Time is Here Again' by Anita Killick.

*Harvest time is here again,
Cut the corn and sift the grain.
Pick the apples on the trees,
In the chilly autumn breeze.
Dig the carrots,
Parsnips, too.
Lots to eat for me and you.*

In RE, the children listened again to the story 'A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles' by Gill Vaisey and were challenged to answer questions related to the story. Each class in Reception had listened carefully as they were able to answer all the questions!

This month the Musician of the Month has been the British folk singer, Ralph McTell. The children learnt some interesting facts about him, including that he can play the guitar, piano and harmonica. Yesterday in Barn Owl class, it was Aston's turn to show the class the items which are special to him in the Special Box. One of the items he showed was a harmonica which belonged to his grandad. Aston then visited the other classes to show the children his harmonica and they listened to how it was played.

Next week in literacy, the children will be focusing on rhyming words. They will listen to rhyming stories, sing many songs, participate in many rhyming activities, and celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday 5th October. The children will be creating a rhyming string linked to the word 'pig'.

In mathematics, the children will be locating one more on a number line, to help them understand the relationship between consecutive numbers.

In expressive arts and design, the children will be using a range of collage materials to create a puppet and then using their puppet to retell the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' in the Enchanted Garden.

In RE, the children will be finding out which British woodland animals gather to eat or store food in preparation for winter.

In PSED, the children will be discussing the importance of being kind and using gentle hands when interacting with each other.

In music, the children will practise finding the pulse of a piece of music and learning the words and actions to a nursery rhyme.

Year 1: It has been an absolute delight to meet the families of the Year 1 children at parent consultations this week. We hope you found the meetings as helpful as we did. Thank you for making the time to meet with us.

This week, the children in Year 1 have begun to think about the season of autumn. In English, the children have listened to the autumnal story 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves' by Julia Rawlinson. They have used their skills of observation to look closely at a picture from the book and note what they can see in it. They have learnt that they need to leave finger spaces between words when they are writing. They enjoyed making lolly stick spacers to help them with this skill. The children have also been on autumn walks to immerse them in the story.

In phonics, the children have been blending for reading focusing on the initial blends in words such as 'flag', 'green', 'spin' and 'gran'. They have been reading the common exception words 'have', 'like', 'some' and 'come' and the high frequency words 'it's' and 'from'. The children have also been learning to spell the common exception words 'you' and 'was'.

Our Book of the Week has been 'Would You Rather' by John Burningham. The children have been thinking about what choices they would make in each scenario.

In mathematics, the children have been learning to read number names and match them to the numeral. They have also learnt how to count on from a number using a number track and a range of manipulatives.

In science, the children have continued to learn about parts of the human body. They have carefully drawn different body parts and labelled them clearly. They have also been on an autumnal walk, looking for signs of autumn.

The first computing lesson using a device was a moment of great excitement across the year group. The children enjoyed using their personal log-in details to log on to Purple Mash. They designed their own avatars and learnt how to use the paint programme. Your child's Purple Mash details are in their red reading record, and you can log on at home from a device such as a smart phone, tablet, laptop or computer, should you wish to take a look.

In art and design, the children listened to the story 'Funnybones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. They used art straws to make their own skeleton pictures.

Next week, the children will continue to enjoy the story of 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves', using it as a stimulus for writing captions in English. In mathematics, the learning will focus on finding one more than a given number. The children will begin to explore the senses in science.

Thank you for helping your child to produce some truly wonderful homework. We have enjoyed looking at the work handed in so far. The homework books are due back on Wednesday 4th October.

Have a wonderful weekend.

The Year 1 Team.

Year 2: It was a delight to meet the families of the Year 2 children at parent consultations this week. Thank you for making the time to meet with us.

It has been a fantastic week in Year 2. In English, the children read the story of 'The Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl and learnt all about his cunning plans and clever tricks. They imagined what they would do if he appeared on our playground and how

they could catch him. There were some fantastically imaginative ideas! The children used their ideas as a basis to learn how to write a set of instructions. They made a model example, which will help them write their own set of instructions next week.

In mathematics, the children have been revisiting their learning about place value and practicing key skills. They have focused on recognising tens and ones, and partitioning numbers to 100. It is essential for children to secure these skills to support their understanding of addition and subtraction with larger numbers.

In art and design, the children explored texture by layering card and tissue paper to make a crocodile. In computing, the children learnt about the 'collision detection' event. They created a program where a frog turned into a prince once it collided with the princess. In science, the children looked at how they brush their teeth and learnt why it is so important to keep their mouth healthy. In PSHCE, the children explored green and red choices and why it is important to make green choices.

Next week in science, the children will start an investigation to find out the effect different drinks have on our teeth. English will link to science, as the children write a set of instructions explaining how to brush a crocodile's teeth. They will use the model example they made this week to support them. In mathematics, the children will start to explore number lines to 100. In design technology, the children will recall what they know about healthy eating and design a healthy salad. In PSHCE, the children will think about rewards and consequences, and how these help to keep our school and classroom a safe and fair place.

Next Thursday is National Poetry Day. The theme this year is refuge: feeling safe and sheltered from danger. The children will have the opportunity to read poems, act them out and discuss how they make them feel. They may have a go at writing their own too! If you would like more information about the event, please visit the website: <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

WALKER BEAR CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Elijah	<i>for super listening in phonics.</i>
	Alfie H	<i>for making a fantastic Humpty Dumpty.</i>
	Wolfie	<i>for building a brilliant wall for Humpty Dumpty.</i>
	Finley	<i>for building a great wall for Humpty Dumpty.</i>
	Teddie	<i>for settling into Nursery and smiling each day.</i>
	Chloe	<i>for making a brilliant Humpty Dumpty.</i>
Snowy Owls	Ivy	<i>for being kind and polite.</i>
	Maeesha	<i>for settling well into her new school.</i>
Tawny Owls	Esther	<i>for demonstrating an amazing knowledge of capacity.</i>
	Reid	<i>for brilliant segmenting and blending during phonics.</i>
Barn Owls	Jason	<i>for demonstrating a super understanding of capacity.</i>
	Mia	<i>for joining in the PE lesson and having a marvellous time.</i>
Value of the month for Positivity	Snowy Owls: Ella-Rae and Cormac Tawny Owls: Georgia-Grace and Maisie Barn Owls: Ayla, Mason and Noah	
Red Fox Class	Isabelle	<i>for fantastic drawing and labelling parts of the body.</i>
	Kiari	<i>for super phonics this week.</i>
Big Cat Class	Samuel	<i>for fantastic reading in class.</i>
	Zuzanna	<i>for a wonderful piece of homework all about the body.</i>
Walker Bear Class	James	<i>for super sentence writing in English.</i>
	Connie	<i>for drawing and labelling very clear diagrams of parts of the body in English.</i>
Value of the month for Positivity	Red Foxes: Veronika and Kalanne Big Cats: Ava and Charlie Walker Bears: Kian-Marc and Abigail	
Penguin Class	Albert	<i>for a super effort to complete his learning activities.</i>
	Finley	<i>for fantastic listening during learning time.</i>
Pelican Class	Maya	<i>for trying her best all week.</i>
	Kan Kan	<i>for always demonstrating good listening skills and being actively involved in lessons.</i>
Puffin Class	Chiara	<i>for coming up with a wonderful idea on how to catch a crocodile.</i>
	Virat	<i>for being a wonderful friend.</i>
Value of the month for Positivity	Penguins: Ayaansh and Erika Pelicans: Nkazi and Hanna Puffins: Lucas and Belle	

Have an absolutely wonderful weekend!

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel, Headteacher

School Dates – Autumn 2023

SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	
Tuesday 17 th	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30 – 5.50pm
Wednesday 18 th	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm
Thursday 19 th	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm
Thursday 19 th	Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm

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