



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
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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 fantastic week in school and on Wednesday we celebrated National Fitness Day. The event was organised by our terrific sports apprentice, Mr Pullen, and the whole school engaged in fitness activities from 10 am. All of key stage one (Years 1 and 2) went out onto the field and ran non-stop for ten minutes, while Reception earned badges with Joe Wicks and Nursery did lovely activities in their garden. We were so impressed by our children and hoped they showed you the sticker they earned with pride!

Thank you to all parents who were able to come in to meet their child's keyworker in Nursery. We hope you enjoyed this opportunity to talk and also to see your child in their Nursery setting now that all the children are in and have settled so beautifully.

In this week's eSafety feature we take a look at the world's most popular messaging service WhatsApp. With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, this guide from National Online Safety, explains how to keep your settings secure and information evolving scams. Click on the link to read more.
<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/giles-nursery-and-infants/UploadedDocument/99e7eadb-57fc-4d17-8f40-ddcce84a1e3a/whatsapp-2023.pdf>

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.

Tears and Tissues meeting: Thank you to all those who came in for a cup of tea and a biscuit – it was a really lovely meeting and those attending enjoyed the opportunity to meet our Special Educational Needs Team, Mrs Ballard and Miss Stanton.

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.*

Stevenage Youth Festival Event: *Ella Lacey and Anisa Mathew who are Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor of Stevenage have asked us to share information regarding this event with you. This is taking place on Saturday 23rd September 11am until 3pm at Event Island in Stevenage Town Centre. The event is sponsored by Stevenage Young People's Healthy Hub and Everyone Active. There are several activities and stalls for young people, including smoothie bikes, basketball, football, healthy hub trailer (providing a variety of activities) and many more. There is also live music throughout. Open to all!*

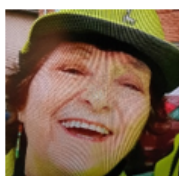
School Crossing Patrol Vacancy:



"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 fascinated to learn about ladybirds through stories and facts. They have learnt about the lifecycle of a ladybird and Kennedy*

recalled that, "Ladybirds come from eggs, then larva, then pupa." The children have learnt the Makaton sign for ladybird and enjoyed singing their first nursery rhyme this week ('One Little, Two Little Ladybirds') which is attached to their book bag for further practice at home. They have created wonderful paintings of ladybirds, taking great care to add spots, legs and eyes.

The children participated in a listening walk outside to develop their listening skills and to distinguish sounds within the outside environment. They all tried incredibly hard to practise good listening to identify the different sounds that they heard, well done everyone. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing 'roll the ball' and are learning the names of all their new friends.

Next week, we will be learning the 'Humpty Dumpty' rhyme and have planned lots of fun activities around this theme. The children will be reading the story 'Where's Spot?' by Eric Hill and learning the positional words 'in' and 'under'.

Thank you for attending the Nursery meet the keyworkers this week, we hope you enjoyed your time with us and seeing how your children are settling in.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children have been generating and ordering a simple caption about a pig. They were encouraged to say their caption aloud a few times and used their fingers to count how many words were in their caption. The children watched an adult model write their caption before it was cut up for them to order. Once they had ordered their caption the children used their 'reading finger' to read their caption to an adult. The children have listened to different versions of the traditional tale of 'The Three Little Pigs'. In one version of the story, they discovered that 'growled,' 'cried,' 'roared' and 'thundered' were alternative words for 'shouted.'

In mathematics, the children have enjoyed recognising numbers to 10 and to 20. They sung many number rhymes and participated in a range of activities linked to numbers as well as playing mathematics games in and around the classroom.

The children have continued to discover more about the season of autumn. When talking about hibernation, Evie said, "It's when hedgehogs hide in autumn." This week, the children have investigated the school grounds and the woodland area for signs of autumn. They used iPads to take photographic evidence of the season. When the children were in the woodland area looking for signs of autumn, Rory in Snowy Owl class said, "I found an acorn," Blaze in Barn Owl class, "I can see seahorses (sycamore) seeds up there," and Isla said, "The animals hide in the autumn when it's cold."

This week's poem is very seasonal and is titled 'Autumn Trees':

The trees are kind of pretty,
In their autumn gold and brown.
Some leaves are orange or red,
But all will soon fall down.
Then they dry and crackle,
As we crunch them with our shoes.
I guess it's time for autumn now,
As summer takes a snooze.

In RE, the children were introduced to the characters the Reverend Freddie Fisher and his cat, Puddles. They loved the story 'A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles' by Gill Vaisey, especially when Puddles tipped the vase of flowers over and got soaking wet!

Next week in literacy, the children will be ordering and writing a simple caption about a wolf. They will be continuing to develop their knowledge of creating a caption by

making sure they have the correct numbers of words in their caption and when ordering it, including finger spaces between each word, and reading their ordered caption to check it makes sense.

In mathematics, the children will be playing number games to practise counting a number of objects accurately. In expressive arts and design, the children will be in the Enchanted Garden acting out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', taking turns to be one of the pigs or the Big Bad Wolf!

In RE, the children will be listening to the story 'A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles' and participating in a quiz linked to the story.

In music, the children will be enjoying practising the pulse of a well-known nursery rhyme and moving in time to a piece of popular music.

All the Reception children have received a non-text reading book. Please would you support your child in sharing this reading book every day to encourage their imagination for storytelling and their language. If your child reads at home with you or a family member or friend, please add a comment in their red reading record book and the following day your child will receive a new reading book. Children who read regularly at home will receive a Super Readers certificate.

In class, the children have been learning about 'golden words.' These are phrases they use to be polite to one another. Our 'golden words' are 'please,' 'thank you,' 'excuse me,' 'may I,' 'sorry' and 'good try'. We are encouraging the children to use these golden words in everyday situations.

Year 1: In English this week, the children have listened to the poem 'Sometimes' by Lilian Moore. They have rehearsed it and performed it, thinking carefully about their voice, rhythm and pace. They have also worked together to make rhyming strings and explored rhyme through a range of games and activities.

In phonics, the children have been blending for reading focusing on the final blends in words such as bend, mend, hump, bent and tent. They have been reading the common exception words 'said' and 'so' and the high frequency words 'went' and 'just'. The children have also been learning to spell the common exception words 'he', 'she', 'me', 'we' and 'be'.

The children have continued to learn the long-legged giraffe letters in handwriting. Dough Disco is a firm favourite, helping to warm up our fingers ready for handwriting. This week the children have learnt the correct formation for lower case letters u, j and y.

Our Book of the Week has been 'Hey You! An empowering celebration of growing up Black' by Dapo Adeola. By clicking the link, you can find out all about the author and if you scroll down the page you can listen to Dapo Adeola read the story - <https://youtu.be/zW3Kzv-La54>

This week in mathematics, the children have been practising counting objects from a larger group. They have worked hard to count accurately. Whilst counting objects from within a larger group, they have discovered that they still have some left over. For example, if they have ten pencils and give eight of them to a friend, they will still have two left. The children then went on to learn that they can use a tool such as a tens frame to help them count objects if they cannot move them. By using the practical resource of a tens frame, they rehearsed using one counter to represent one object, and realised that if there were four objects, they would need to use four counters to represent them. The children tackled problems such as working out which tens frame

picture represented a particular group. Livia in Walker Bears used her reasoning skills to prove how she could tell which answer was the correct one when given a choice, stating, "I can just count them!"

In science, the children have continued to learn about parts of the human body. They matched body parts to their names and enjoyed drawing around their friends with chalk in the playground and adding labels to the body outline.

The children have begun their new unit on online safety and thought about who they could ask for help when working on the internet. They learnt that you must always ask a grown up before going online and to speak to a trusted adult if they have any worries.

In PE, the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in National Fitness Day, completing a ten-minute run around the school playing field. The children demonstrated excellent stamina and determination to complete the activity. Thank you, Mr Pullin, for organising a very exciting event.

Today your child will bring their homework book home. Please select one of the suggested activities to complete with your child. There will also be some common exception words to practise reading and writing. Please return the homework books to school by Wednesday 4th October. We hope you have lots of fun supporting your child's learning in this way.

Parent consultations will take place on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th September. Please look out for a clipboard outside your child's classroom to book an appointment time. We look forward to meeting you all.

Next week in mathematics, the children will be recognising numbers as words, for example; '6' as six or '3' as three. In English, the children will begin to read the story of 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves' by Julia Rawlinson and Tiphonie Beeke. This will begin a unit of work on the use of finger spaces and captions. In computing, the children will be logging on to their Purple Mash accounts and creating an avatar.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

The Year 1 Team.

Year 2: What a lovely week we have had in Year 2! On Wednesday, the children took part in National Fitness Day. They ran for ten minutes on the school field, accompanied by children from Year 1. They enjoyed running along to the music and tried their very best to keep moving for the duration. Well done Year 2!

In English, the children have written poems about vegetables. They looked at lots of different vegetables and used their senses to generate adjectives to describe them, for example; bumpy white cauliflower. They learnt how alliteration can improve their poem, for example; shiny smooth aubergine.

In mathematics, the children continued to learn about place value. They learnt to partition numbers to 100 and write numbers to 100 in words and expanded form. For example; $41 = 40 + 1$, $41 = 30 + 11$, $41 = 20 + 21$, $41 = 31 + 10$.

In art and design, the children looked at still life paintings of fruit by Paul Cezanne and painted their own pictures of vegetables using water colours. They drew detailed sketches of the cross-sections of different vegetables, using different colours and patterns to add texture. In computing, the children revised their learning about coding from Year 1 and practised writing code to create an algorithm.

Next week in English, the children will hear the story of 'The Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl. They will begin to learn how to write a set of instructions, starting with how they might catch the crocodile if it appeared on the Year 2 playground! In mathematics, the children will revisit their learning so far this term. They will practise key skills to build their mathematical fluency.

In art and design, the children will use collage techniques to make a mixed media crocodile. In PSHCE, the children will learn why we have rewards and consequences in school and how these work in Year 2, so they can help to make our classrooms a safe and fair place. In computing, the children will learn about the 'collision detection' event and create a program that uses it. They will learn how to read blocks of code to predict what will happen when they are run. In science, the children will learn why exercise is important to keep us healthy and think of different ways we can enjoy exercising.

Year 2 parent consultations are taking place on Wednesday and Thursday next week. If you haven't already, please speak to your child's class teacher to make an appointment. We look forward to seeing you then.

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	Naomi	<i>for being a kind friend and helping others.</i>
	Theo	<i>for being a kind friend and helping others.</i>
	Mina	<i>for a fantastic ladybird painting.</i>
	Tillie	<i>for a super ladybird painting.</i>
Snowy Owls	Hashir	<i>for a wonderful ladybird painting.</i>
	ChloeElla	<i>for fantastic letter formation.</i>
Tawny Owls	Jude	<i>for being a kind friend.</i>
	Muna	<i>for brilliant ordering of numbers from zero to ten.</i>
Barn Owls	Mauro	<i>for amazing ordering of his caption about the little pigs.</i>
	Mason	<i>for always using his 'golden words' at lunchtime.</i>
Red Fox Class	Eva	<i>for fantastic recognition and ordering of numbers.</i>
	Ariana	<i>for fantastic rhyming words in English.</i>

	<i>Yamihle</i>	<i>for super reading this week.</i>
<i>Big Cat Class</i>	<i>Teddy</i>	<i>for a fantastic discussion during our reading of the spine book 'Hey You'.</i>
	<i>Nadia</i>	<i>for keeping a steady beat in music and singing beautifully.</i>
<i>Walker Bear Class</i>	<i>Roman</i>	<i>for showing everyone how to be ready for learning.</i>
	<i>Aimee</i>	<i>for a super demonstration of rhyming words.</i>
<i>Penguin Class</i>	<i>Adriana</i>	<i>for thinking of interesting adjectives to describe vegetables.</i>
	<i>Aleksander</i>	<i>for a detailed vegetable painting in the style of Cezanne.</i>
<i>Pelican Class</i>	<i>Theo</i>	<i>for growing confidence to work independently.</i>
	<i>Leon</i>	<i>for a super water colour vegetable painting.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Fredrick</i>	<i>for writing a wonderful vegetable poem.</i>
	<i>Bobby</i>	<i>for always trying his best with all his learning.</i>

Have an absolutely wonderful weekend!

Kindest regards,

*Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

School Dates – Autumn 2023

SEPTEMBER	
Tuesday 26 th	Parent Consultations, Year 1 & Year 1 Orca children, 3.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 27 th	Parent Consultations, Year 1 & Year 1 Orca children, 3.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 27 th	Parent Consultations, Year 2 and Year 2 Orca children, 3.40-6.30pm
Thursday 28 th	Parent Consultations, Year 2 and Year 2 Orca children, 3.40-6.30pm
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