



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**15.09.2023**

**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,*

*The children across the school seem so settled and happy in their new classes! This has been greatly helped by the beautiful autumnal weather. Thank you to all those who attended the Talks for Parents held by each year group. The power points for all the talks are available on the school website as the first item on each of the year group pages. It was so wonderful to see so many of you and we hope you found them useful. For parents who were unable to join us due to other commitments, please see the links below for the presentations:*

*Nursery: <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/giles-nursery-and-infants/UploadedDocument/1ccf2c01-a17e-41cf-837d-802e642eae01/nursery-autumn-presentation-to-parents.pdf>*

*Reception: <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/reception-barn-owls-tawny-owls-and-snowy-owls/>*

*Year 1: <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/year-1-red-foxes-walker-bears-and-big-cats/>*

*Year 2: <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/year-2-pelicans-penguins-and-puffins/>*

*Tears and Tissues Coffee meeting: Tuesday September 19th 8.30-9.30am. Come and meet our Special Educational Needs Team, Mrs Ballard and Miss Stanton.*

*We shall also have second-hand uniform available for a small donation.*

*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](mailto: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.*

**Parent governor:** *There is currently a space for a parent governor. If you are interested in applying to this voluntary position, please speak to me or email me on: [head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk) Thank you.*

**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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 and closes on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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!*

**Nursery:** *The Nursery children are continuing to settle well, including our new starters this week. They have been introduced to the Nursery routines and have been thinking about rules to help them stay safe and look after each other. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing 'roll the ball' and are beginning to learn the names of all their new friends.*

*The children have shared the story 'Apples and Honey', by Jonny Zucker, which is about celebrating the Jewish New Year festival of Rosh Hashanah. They loved trying apple slices dipped in honey for a special snack. Molly commented, "It's nice, like blueberries!" The children also enjoyed printing with paint to create stars for our Celebrations display.*

*Next week the children will be learning about ladybirds through stories, learning facts about the life cycle of a ladybird, creating a painting of a ladybird, and moving like a ladybird.*

*Thank you to those parents who joined us for the parent information session. A copy of the presentation is available on the school website.*

**Reception:** *This term the children will be focusing on the traditional tale of 'The Three Little Pigs.'*

*In literacy, the children used Makaton signs to help them retell the story of the Three Little Pigs. They sequenced pictures from the story to create a story map and used it to retell the traditional tale to a friend. The children have generated lovely talking points. Parker in Barn Owl class said, when finishing his version of the story, "The wolf snuggled down the chimney and he splashed, and he ran away, and the pigs were all smiley and happy."*

*In understanding the world, the children have begun to learn about seasonal changes. The children have been observing signs of autumn in the school grounds and the nature area. They have created tissue paper trees using autumnal colours and these will be displayed on the windows in each classroom. The children have begun to create a 'Seasonal changes of a tree' book. During the year they will be focusing on one tree in the Reception playground and will use different forms of media to record the seasonal changes. For autumn, the children used crayons to draw the tree. Whilst they were drawing the tree, they noticed the leaves on the tree have begun to change colour. When looking at pictures of signs of autumn, Alice said, "I have seen a mouse getting acorns for when it is cold." and when discussing signs of autumn, ChloeElla in Snowy Owl class said, "In autumn the leaves change colour and fall off the tree."*

*Each week the children will be learning a poem. By practising reading a poem each day, the children will develop their reading skills as well as their fluency of reading. To begin with, your child will memorise parts of the poem. Please encourage your child to read the poem with you and other family members and friends, and of course give them lots of praise. This will develop their self-esteem and self-confidence and make them eager to learn to read.*

*This week's poem is titled 'Welcome to our classroom.'*

*Welcome to our classroom,  
Come and sit down.  
We are all here together,  
So, take a look around.  
Here inside our classroom,  
There's lots of things to do.  
I am happy being here,  
And making friends with you.*

*Next week in literacy, the children will be generating a caption about one of the little pigs from the story. They will be using their fingers to count out the number of words in their caption and watching an adult model writing their caption for them to order it.*

*In mathematics, the children will be recognising numbers zero to ten and ordering numbers zero to ten.*

*In RE, the children will be listening to the story 'A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles' by Gill Vaisey. They will be finding out how people prepare for celebrating harvest and learning a harvest song.*

*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.*

*In PSED, the children will be learning to recognise and manage their feelings.*

*Next week, the children will begin PE. On Wednesday 20th September, the Reception children will be participating in National Fitness Day, so they can come to school in their PE kit. They will be working out to achieve their Rainbow Reach Badge by completing a Hey Duggee and Joe Wicks workout.*

*PE lessons are on Thursdays and Fridays. On PE day, the children come to school in their PE clothes, wearing suitable trainers as PE will be taught outside if the weather is good. On Thursday mornings, the Barn Owl class door will open at 8.45am as their PE lesson begins at 9.00am.*

***Year 1:*** This week in English, the children have been learning about labels. They discussed why labels are useful and enjoyed spotting labels in a variety of non-fiction texts. They learnt that a label is short and needs to be connected to its item. They labelled parts of the body to apply their learning. Fatima in Walker Bear class found labels on the children's workbooks. Eliot found labels on the trays of resources. Our Book of the Week has been 'Cleversticks' by Bernard Ashley. Please do ask your child about the text and discover what Ling Sung could do in the class. You can listen to the story by clicking on the link here - [Cleversticks - Written by Bernard Ashley - Read by Mrs Smalley.](#)

*In handwriting, the children have begun to learn the long-legged giraffe letters. They thoroughly enjoyed using playdough to warm up their fingers during Dough Disco and learnt the correct formation for lower case letters l, i and t.*

*The children have practised sorting and grouping in mathematics. They enjoyed listening to the story 'The Button Box' by Margarette S. Reid and thought of many ways to group classroom objects such as by colour, shape and size.*

*In science, the children have been identifying different parts of the body, using the key vocabulary head, neck, arms, elbows, legs, knees, face, ears, eyes, hair, mouth and teeth. They will be using this knowledge next week to draw and label.*

*The children have begun to make tissue paper faces in art. They have been tearing and ripping tissue paper to make a layer on a paper plate, ready to add their facial features next week.*

*In PSHE, the children have discussed their rights and responsibilities as members of a class, and what that means. They have thought about how we work together to create a calm and safe learning environment.*

*Next week in English, the children will be learning a poem and developing rhyming strings. In mathematics, they will be counting objects from a larger group. In computing, the children will begin their new unit on online safety and think about who they could ask for help when working on the internet. They will learn that you must always ask a grown up before going online and to speak to a trusted adult if they have any worries.*

*Next Friday, the children will be bringing their homework books 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 in the week of 25th September. Please look out for a clipboard outside your child's classroom to book an appointment time. We look forward to meeting you all.*

***Year 2:*** This week in Year 2, the children started their topic for this half term, 'Healthy Me'.

*To tie in with Roald Dahl Day, the children listened to a shortened version of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. They found out how Charlie and Grandpa Joe sneakily tried Willy Wonka's 'fizzy lifting drinks' and had a go at making their own using cream soda, ice cream and sprinkles. Luckily, none of the children floated away!*

*Maria in Puffin class said, "It tasted so nice!" while Lyra in Pelican class exclaimed, "I enjoyed the part where we got to drink it and burb!" Ayyansh in Penguin class agreed, saying, "It was all bubbly in my mouth."*

*Before writing a recount, the children learnt how to include time conjunctions (first, next, then, after that, finally) to explain the order something happened. They had a really good try at writing their recount, including when it happened, who was there and what they did. Some children finished their recount with their opinion.*

*In mathematics, the children revisited learning from Year 1 on numbers to 20. They counted objects to 100 by making tens and learnt how to recognise tens and ones in different representations. They also learnt how to use a place value chart to record how many tens and ones are in a number.*

*In science, the children learnt about the healthy food plate and the different food groups. In computing, the children revised how to stay safe online, particularly when playing games. They recalled how they should speak to an adult they trust if anything online gives them a 'funny feeling in their tummy'. They created posters to remind themselves of how to stay safe. Should this be a new paragraph?*

*Next week in English, the children will explore different vegetables and come up with exciting adjectives (describing words) to write a poem about autumn vegetables. In mathematics, the children will continue to learn about place value. They will learn 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 will learn about the life and work of Paul Cezanne. They will make observational drawings of fruit and vegetables, along with still life paintings. In computing, the children will learn what an algorithm is and create their own algorithms. In PSHCE, the children will be looking at how to be a good friend.*

*Our autumn newsletter and topic web were sent via email this week. They are also available to view in the class section on our website. A copy of the slides from the parent information session held last week are also available. Each of the Year 2 teachers regularly adds photographs of the learning taking place in the classrooms. We recommend taking a look every once in a while, to see what your child has been learning and the fun they have been having.*

*Parent consultation booking sheets will be available outside your child's classroom next week. The consultations are being held on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th September. If you would prefer a consultation over the telephone, please note this on the booking sheet.*

*We wish you all a restful weekend.*

## CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

**TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK**

### **RED FOX CLASS**

**FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!**



### STARS OF THE WEEK

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Daisy</b>	<i>for being a kind friend and helping others.</i>
	<b>Misha</b>	<i>for helping his peers to settle at Nursery.</i>
	<b>Kennedy</b>	<i>for being a kind friend and helping others.</i>
	<b>Eshaal</b>	<i>for helping her peers to settle at Nursery.</i>
	<b>Mollie</b>	<i>for helping her peers to settle at Nursery.</i>
	<b>Bowie-Moon</b>	<i>for being a kind friend and helping others.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Emmie</b>	<i>for creating a wonderful story map.</i>
	<b>Oscar W</b>	<i>for making a beautiful autumn tree.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>Maisie</b>	<i>for an amazing retelling of 'The Three Little Pigs' story.</i>
	<b>Olaf</b>	<i>for contributing brilliant ideas on the carpet.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Parker</b>	<i>for using his story map to retell a fantastic story of 'The Three Little Pigs'.</i>
	<b>Noah</b>	<i>for being a kind and considerate friend.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Zac</b>	<i>for super counting and reasoning in mathematics.</i>
	<b>Millie</b>	<i>for fantastic body labelling in English.</i>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Alannah</b>	<i>for super sorting in mathematics.</i>
	<b>Lena</b>	<i>for excellent reading and discussion.</i>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Kristof</b>	<i>for always being ready for learning.</i>
	<b>Milla</b>	<i>for working very carefully to label parts of the body in English.</i>
<b>Penguin Class</b>	<b>Sol</b>	<i>for confidently discussing a book in guided reading.</i>
	<b>Zain</b>	<i>for settling into Penguin class so beautifully.</i>
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<b>Zayana</b>	<i>for super learning of tens and ones.</i>
	<b>Luan</b>	<i>for reading back his work and checking it makes sense.</i>
<b>Puffin Class</b>	<b>Lorenz</b>	<i>for fantastic counting in tens and ones in mathematics.</i>
	<b>Leia</b>	<i>for writing a wonderful recount.</i>

*Have an absolutely wonderful weekend!  
Kindest regards,*

**Rouane Mendel**  
**Headteacher**

**School Dates – Autumn 2023**

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Flu Vaccinations 8.30am-12.30am (more information to follow).
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 Stay-and-play/meet keyworkers Nursery square, circle and oval groups 2.30 square afternoon and oval afternoon groups
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.30 Stay-and-Play/meet keyworkers Nursery Triangle, Star and Rectangle groups
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations, <b>Year 1 &amp; Year 1 Orca children, 3.30-6.30pm</b>
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations, <b>Year 1 &amp; Year 1 Orca children, 3.30-6.30pm</b>
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations, <b>Year 2 and Year 2 Orca children, 3.40-6.30pm</b>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations, <b>Year 2 and Year 2 Orca children, 3.40-6.30pm</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, <b>3.30 – 5.50pm</b>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, <b>3.30-5.50pm</b>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, <b>3.30-5.50pm</b>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations, NURSERY, <b>3.00-7.00pm</b>

**TERM DATES 2023-24**

***Autumn Term: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023***

***Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED***  
***Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED***

***Children return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023***

***[Half Term: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023]***

***Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED***

***Children return to school on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023***

***Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED***

***School finishes on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm***

***[Christmas Holidays: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024]***

***Children return to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024***

***Spring Term: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024***

***[Half term: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024]***

***Children return to school on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024***

***School finishes on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm***

***[Easter Holidays: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024]***

***Children return to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024***

***Summer Term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024***

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**[Half term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024]**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**  
**Children return to school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**  
**School finishes on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 2.00pm**