

The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

Spring Term 2024 Newsletter



Year 1 Big Cats, Walker Bears and Red Foxes

Our topics this term are Winter, Traditional Tales, Fairy Tales, and The Local Area.

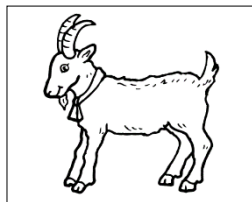
The children will be investigating signs of winter and will have the opportunity to make a bird feeder ready for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.



Karen Arnold from Pixabay

English

In English, the children will begin the term listening to a wintry tale called 'Bear and Wolf' by Daniel Salmieri. They will look at the characters and write their own character description. The children will listen to and retell traditional tales. They will make a puppet theatre and act out a range of stories using Pie Corbett signs. After half term, the children will learn about fairy tales and begin a new topic looking at the local community. As part of their phonics work, the children will continue to take part in daily phonics lessons. They will continue to learn about split vowel digraphs and alternative pronunciations through a variety of activities and games. The children will practise blending and segmenting words for spelling. They will continue to practise the Year 1 high frequency words and common exception words. In handwriting, they will continue to practise correct letter formation and develop pencil control.



Individual reading takes place on a regular basis in Year 1, as well as the children taking part in shared whole class reading sessions, reading for fluency, and guided reading.



We cannot stress enough how important it is for your child to read regularly with you at home in these early stages of their reading development. Please feel free to comment on your child's reading at home in their reading record book.

Mathematics

In our mathematics activities, the children will be learning about addition and subtraction skills. They will find a part, using a part, part, whole model and learn how to use a number line when subtracting from a given number. The children will also learn about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes through creative activities.



Science

This half term, the children will investigate the season of winter and observe the changes through time. They will identify and name common British birds and make a bird feeder in Forest School. After half term, the children will sort and classify materials according to their properties. They will experiment and carry out simple investigations.



Computing

This term, the children will collect information and present it using 2Count on Purple Mash. They will continue to use the iPads throughout the curriculum, logging on, saving and printing work. The children will continue with their e-Safety learning and take part in Internet Safety Day, discussing the importance of being safe online.



Humanities

In history, the children will learn about Stevenage and the famous clock tower.



In geography, the children will explore the local area and look at the local amenities. The children will look closely at houses and homes in the local area and around the world. They will look at maps and learn about their address.

In RE, the children will discuss the importance of belonging and share their experiences of belonging to a family, school, religion, or out-of-school group.

Creativity

Art and design activities will include colour mixing using cool colours, adding white paint to make a tint, and using tints to create an effect. After half term, the children will look at spring flowers and use a variety of media to draw them.



In music, the children will explore tempo and dynamics. They will listen to the speed of a piece of music and recognize how soft or loud it is. They will use a range of percussion instruments.

Design and Technology

In design and technology, the children will design, make and evaluate a puppet theatre. They will use a variety of resources and tools and find ways to strengthen their models.

Physical Education



On Wednesdays, the children will have ball skills with Mr. Pullin. They will explore and develop their fundamental ball skills such as throwing and catching, rolling and dribbling with both hands and feet. They will also take part in gymnastics. They will explore and develop basic actions on the floor and using low apparatus. **Please make sure your child wears PE kit to school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.**

Forest School Days:
Walker Bears – Monday
Red Foxes – Thursday
Big Cats – Friday

PSHE (Personal, social, health and economic education)



As a school, we follow the Jigsaw scheme of work. Through group discussion, the children will be encouraged to take turns and listen to each other, talk about their feelings and the feelings of others. This will help them to share and care about each other and build positive relationships with peers and adults in the school.

Our topics this term will be 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'.

Homework

Homework is set on a fortnightly basis and will be sent home on a Friday.

The homework will have a selection of activities for your child to choose from and enjoy.



Please return the homework book on the second Wednesday, ready for marking.

Reminders

Please ensure your child brings in their book bag each day.

Please make sure all items of clothing, book bag, and PE kit are clearly named.

The children will continue to have access to their Bug Club accounts, an online reading scheme through which the children can enjoy and share books at home. Their login codes can be found in the front of their reading record book.

The children also have access to Purple Mash, our online homework and remote learning platform and Numbots our mathematics platform. Their login codes can also be found in the front of their reading record book.

We must please remind you that the school cannot authorise absence for family holidays during term time and parents / careers are legally required to bring their children to school during the school term unless their child is deemed medically unfit to attend. The children are continually engaged in a range of activities that are carefully planned to ensure they learn in the correct sequence. Each piece of learning builds on previous learning and time away can lead to significant gaps in your child's knowledge, skills and understanding. We very much appreciate your understanding in this matter.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative for your child's learning this term. If you have any items relating to our topics which we could use, display or share with the children please let us know!

If you wish to ask any questions, please feel welcome to speak to the Year 1 staff at the end of the day. Important information, however, should be told at the start of the day. This includes any changes to the collection of your child.

Thank you for your support.

**Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Dalton, Miss O'Regan
and Mrs. Collinson** Class teachers

Mrs. Furr, Mrs. Long and Mrs. Fulton
Teaching Assistants

Mrs. Hayhurst – PPG champion

Mrs. Scantlebury and Mrs Oakley - Support
staff