



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Acting Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ
Telephone: 01438 359747
Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

19.05.2023

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,

It has been a tremendous learning week in school and most of our amazing Year 2 children have finished their SATs! Everything was conducted so calmly and smoothly, in small groups, by our caring staff and the children did unbelievably well. The progress they have made is frankly phenomenal and we are anticipating that many COVID gaps have now been bridged. We are so proud of our children and their fantastic teachers!

Everyone has been wondering why it's taken so long for the Ofsted report to arrive. It has finally come through – after 12 weeks of waiting. Now that we have finally received the official report, the school has an opportunity to complain, and I wanted to let you all know that I have done so. This means we have to wait for Ofsted's response before we can share the final judgement and report with you.

Thank you for your patience and also for your incredible support. You'll remember that one piece of feedback during Ofsted's visit was the unprecedented degree of support expressed by the parent body for the school. I hope very much that you will continue to support me and the school as we contest what we believe was an unjust judgement and unfair process.

Next week is Big Write Week, planned by Miss Hill and a lovely way to end this thoroughly productive half-term.

Half Term and Inset Day: Half term is from Monday 31st May till Friday 4th June. The school is closed on Monday 7th June for an Inset day. School finishes at the usual time on Friday 28th May.

Open Evening and Book Fair: Please note this date for your diary: we will be holding a whole school Open Evening on Thursday 22nd June, 6.00pm – 7.30pm. The Book Fair will also be here. This is a wonderful opportunity to come along and visit the whole school including of course your child's classroom and also all the classrooms in the year group where they'll be in September.

Sports Day: Sports day is the morning of Tuesday 11th June.

Pop-up Dentist: Stevenage and North Herts Family Centres Service will be running a pop-up dental service on Wednesday 31st May 9.30-12.30 1.30-4.00 at Strawberry Fields Family Centre, Round Diamond School, Whitehorse Lane, SG1 6NH

Transition from our Nursery to Reception September 2023: For children who currently attend our Nursery and will be joining our Reception in September 2023, we will be holding a stay-and-play session after school on Wednesday 21st June 2023 3.45-4.30pm and we ask that you please attend. Further information and key dates will be sent to you soon.

Nursery Closed on Friday 23rd June: The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 23rd June 2023. This is in order to allow the children who will be joining us in September 2023 an opportunity to visit with their parents. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Packed Lunches – safety note

If you are including grapes in your child's packed lunch, please would you ensure that they are cut in half, this reduces the choking hazard and has the added benefit that they can't roll away!

Nursery School Places for September 2023: If you are a prospective parent, please contact the school office to arrange a visit. Application forms can be downloaded from <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>. Alternatively, you can request one by contacting the school office.

Please kindly share this message with parents, friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2023. Applications opened on 1st November 2022, and places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Nursery In Nursery this week the children have been listening to the story, 'The Rainbow Fish', and talking about sharing and being kind to others. They learnt a special 'Rainbow Fish' song and counted the numbers on their fingers superbly whilst singing!

In expressive art and design, the children painted a beautiful rainbow fish with lots of bright colours, placed a shiny scale in the middle and added a googly eye. Ivy said, "The Rainbow fish shared his scales with the little blue fish, and he was happy." After hearing the story, Darcie pointed out, "If you share you are kind and you will have friends."

The children have participated in a fantastic yoga session linked to under the sea. They held a surfboard pose, looked for treasure and played football like a crab. Super balancing Ladybirds!

This week, the children enjoyed playing team games with Mr Pullin and showed excellent sportsmanship. They were thrilled to learn a new tag game where when they got caught, they held a banana pose and waited for a friend to put down their arms and set them free. Kennedy helped set her friends free and commented, "I will help you!"

In PSHCE, the children discussed their feelings and shared what helps them to calm down. Many of the children shared how cuddles from the grown-ups make them feel calm. Hunter shared, "I go to the role play area, it makes me feel calm." Parker commented, "I talk with my friends and tell them."

In phonics, the children have learnt the letter sound 'i' and practised saying insects, igloo, injection, itchy and many more! They also learnt the song 'Inky the mouse is my pet. She spilled the ink and got wet. The ink it spread all over the desk. /i/-/i/-/i/ - Inky's wet!' Sung to the tune of Hickory Dickory Dock.

Next week, the children will continue to enjoy a range of exciting activities linked to the story of 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister and the role play area will be transformed into an under the sea world. In phonics, the children will learn the letter sound 'n.'

Reception: *This week in literacy, the children have revisited the story of Little Red Hen and reminded themselves of the Makaton signs linked to the story. The children generated and wrote a sentence linked to one of the characters focusing on the structure of a sentence. They used a visual prompt to check whether they had begun a sentence with a capital letter, included finger spaces between each word, checked their sentence made sense and completed the sentence using punctuation.*

In mathematics, the children have been working on dividing an amount in half. They were given a number of objects and had to divide the number in half. When learning about how to find half of four, Raphael in the Tawny Owl class said, "You have to give two to them and two to them, so they both have the same." Some of the children were given an odd number of objects and gave some particularly good explanations as to why the amount could not be divided equally in half. When Connor in Barn Owls was given five bears, he said, "You can't find half, it's three and two. Maybe he can stay in the middle, and everyone can share him."

Whilst learning the digraph 'qu' in phonics, Isaac in Snowy Owl class said, "A quill is a pen from a long time ago and you use ink with it."

In understanding of the world, the children created a simple map to help the little red hen travel from the farm to the windmill. They used basic map symbols to show what the little red hen had to pass on her journey to the windmill. The children loved discovering places on Google Earth. First, they looked at where the school was situated and then identified roads, roundabouts, and local landmarks such as a church and parks.

In RE, the children listened to Aesop's fable 'Brown Fox Tricks Stork.' The children discussed whether the characters were right to trick each other. Charles in Tawny Owl class said, "They both made red choices. They both should not have tricked each other." This story can be found on Bug Club if your child would like to read it again. Their log in details can be found on the inside of their red reading record book.

Next week the children will be participating in Big Write. They will be focusing on the story of 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. The children will be listening to the story, using musical instruments as sound effects when the story is being read and participating in yoga moves to act out the story. The children will be making a collage of a flower in the style of Eric Carle's illustrations of his book and then labelling parts of a flower. They will be writing a fact about either seeds or flowers.

In mathematics, the children will be doubling a number of objects and in expressive arts and design, they will be looking at the painting 'The Haystack' by Claude Monet and using the iPad app 'Sketchbook' to create a picture in the style of the artist.

Year 1: *This week in English, the children have continued with their learning on 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. The children generated a range of verbs to describe how the characters move in the story. They thought of verbs such as slither, fly, stomp, tiptoe and jump. The children learnt about adding the suffix 'ed' to verbs to show that an action has happened in the past. They then went on to learn about the suffix 'ing' and practised writing verbs with the suffix 'ing' in a sentence. The children focused on punctuating their sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.*

In phonics the children have been recapping the split vowel digraphs o-e, i-e and u-e. They have been using their robot arms to segment a selection of real and pseudo words.

In maths, the children have been comparing values using 1:1 and familiar structures. They have been finding the difference between values and problem-solving involving comparison and difference.

In science, the children have continued learning the names of common plants that they may find in the garden. They thought about how gardens make them feel and shared a garden that made them feel happy. Sol in Big Cats explained that his garden makes him feel relaxed and calm. They have started to use their knowledge of garden plants to design a garden. In Forest School, the children planted a range of vegetables to include tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, and onions. We hope these will grow into delicious vegetables for you to pick and eat.

In RE, the children have been learning about special books. They have learnt all about the Torah and listened to the story of Abraham and Sarah. The children have then made their own Torah scrolls.

In computing, the children have been learning about spreadsheets, using 2calculate on Purple Mash. They have been entering numbers into cells and making their own calculations, changing the cell colour.

In PSHE, the children have been discussing who they know that can help them in school and out of school. The children thought about the roles of nurses, teachers, lunchtime supervisors etc and how different people help us in our everyday lives.

Next week, the children will be taking part in Big Write. They will be writing sentences about how the characters in the Gruffalo move, using their new knowledge of adding the suffix 'ing' to a verb. In maths, the children will be learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s.

In RE, we invite the children to bring in their own special book from home. Please could this be labelled with their name.

Have a lovely weekend.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: This week, it has been hard to contain the excitement of the year 2 children when they found out they would be creating their own cushions in DT! After designing their cushions last week, the children started this week with learning about the sewing equipment they would need and the type of stitch they would be learning. They practiced using a running stitch on cardboard, before then sewing their own decorative cushions to bring home.

In English, the children have continued looking at the language and features employed in the story 'How to Catch a Star.' The children were very excited to create their own settings for their adventure stories to take place, with so much creativity shown with choices like: Unicorn Land, Chip World, The Alien King's Moon and Monkey Island. The children have begun writing their adventure stories for 'the boy and the star', ensuring they have a clear beginning, middle and end and including a variety of word classes such as adjectives, verbs and adverbs. Next week is our Big Write week, where the children will be doing work around bubbles.

In mathematics this week the children have continued learning about money and completing word problems discussing amounts of money and finding change. They also

have been fine-tuning their time-telling skills by learning how to tell the time to the nearest five minutes. Next week, the year twos will be learning about equivalent fractions and how to find equivalent fractions for quarters, halves and thirds.

In Science this week, the pupils have been looking at the importance of animal habitats and understanding what things an animal needs to survive and raise their young. The pupils then chose an animal and researched its climate, what it eats, how it protects itself and whether it is a predator, prey, or both. The children did some fantastic work, with Emma in Pelican class completing an amazing and detailed piece of work on the Komodo dragon.

The children continued their learning in RE by exploring different religious ceremonies with a focus this week on the features of a Hindu wedding. The children learned about the importance of the bride and groom's horoscopes, the Mendhi patterns drawn with henna on the bride's hands, the kum-kum powder, saptapadi, flowers, the mandap and the sacred fire.

In computing the children have been working on creating binary trees. A binary tree is a simple way to sort information into two categories based on information given and answering yes/no questions. The children have learned how to use a database to answer questions, they then used this information to create binary trees of their own.

The end of Key Stage 1 statutory assessments will continue, with some children coming out of the classroom to complete 'special work' with their teacher. The children are making good progress with the assessments and are really trying their very best. Making sure your child has a good night's sleep and a healthy, hearty breakfast is a great way to prepare them.

Have a great weekend,

The Year 2 Team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THE LAST WEEK

BIG CAT CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



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	Cooper	<i>for a wonderful painting of the Rainbow Fish.</i>
	Andrew	<i>for excellent participation in yoga.</i>
	Samuel J	<i>for super recall of the story 'The Rainbow Fish.'</i>
	Joey	<i>for fantastic listening and control when doing yoga.</i>
	Oscar W	<i>for brilliant control and balance in yoga.</i>
	Kennedy	<i>for great participation in team games with Mr Pullin.</i>
Snowy Owls	Kian-Marc	<i>for demonstrating a great understanding of dividing a number of objects in half.</i>
	Connie	<i>for making a wonderful map for the 'Little Red Hen' and recognising the symbols.</i>
Tawny Owls	Amelia	<i>for amazing independent reading.</i>
	Zuzanna	<i>for writing a fantastic sentence about the 'Little Red Hen' story.</i>
Barn Owls	Casey	<i>for demonstrating a super understanding of dividing a number of objects in half.</i>
	Rauri	<i>for having a go at segmenting and blending words when writing a sentence.</i>
Red Fox Class	Hareem	<i>for trying hard and making huge progress in her reading.</i>
	Elysia	<i>for fantastic phonics this week and applying this to her reading.</i>
Big Cat Class	Charin	<i>for great enthusiasm during his computing lesson on spreadsheets.</i>
	Wednesday	<i>for working really hard on her split vowel words in phonics.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Leon	<i>for always being ready for learning.</i>
	Theo	<i>for fabulous calculation to find the difference.</i>

Penguin Class	Isaac	<i>for a brilliant re-telling of 'How to Catch a Star'.</i>
	Harry	<i>for making a super effort during phonics</i>
Pelican Class	Emma	<i>for designing an excellent animal habitat in science.</i>
	Billy	<i>for excellent learning behaviours and sharing ideas during whole class discussions.</i>
Puffin Class	Youssef	<i>for always trying his best with all his learning.</i>
	Asfiya	<i>for writing a wonderful retell of the story 'How to Catch a Star'.</i>

SCHOOL DATES

MAY 2023	
w/c May 22 nd	BIG WRITE WEEK
Friday 26 th	Buddha's Birthday Assembly

HALF TERM: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

JUNE 2023	
Monday 5 th	INSET DAY – school closed
Tuesday 6 th	Children return to school
Week 12 th June	MONEY WEEK
Tuesday 13 th	Reception Summer Concert, Barn Owl, 9.15am
Wednesday 14 th	Reception Summer Concert, Tawny Owl, 9.15am
Thursday 15 th	Reception Summer Concert, Snowy Owl, 9.15am
TBC Tuesday 20th	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.
Thursday 22 nd	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, 6.00-7.30pm
Tuesday 27 th	Big Cats Summer Concert, 2.30pm
Thursday 29 th	Walker Bears Summer Concert, 1.30pm Red Foxes Summer Concert, 2.30pm

JULY 2023	
Monday 3 rd	INSET DAY – school closed
Tuesday 4 th	Inco Coffee morning
Tuesday 11 th	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 12 th	Year 2 – Great Fire of London workshop
Thursday 13 th	Moving Up Day
TBC Friday 14th	Sports for Schools Athlete visit
W/C 17 th July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Tuesday 18 th	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 21 st	Last day of term – finish at 2pm

TERM DATES 2022-23

[Half Term: Monday 29th May 2023 – Friday 2nd June 2023]

Monday 5th June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th June 2023

Monday 3rd July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 21st July at 2.00pm

INSET DAYS 2022-23

Thursday 1st September 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 31st October 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 9th December 2022 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 21st December 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 5th June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 3rd July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

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