



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 despite the unseasonal cold weather. I do hope things warm up in time for Mothering Sunday so that all our mothers and special people can have the wonderful day they deserve. The biggest thanks ever go to our amazing FROG team. The flowers this year are beyond compare – they are so beautifully arranged in bunches with a gorgeous ribbon and a poem that will move you to tears. Thank you to our phenomenal FROG team.

Sponsored Spell and Count and Move: We are all quite overwhelmed by your marvellously generous contributions! You have raised a whopping £2,666.00 for the school! This will enable us to purchase some fantastic resources and equipment for your children. An amount like that really makes a difference, so we will consult with our pupils, using our School Council members as class representatives, and will let you know plans as they unfold.

Thank you also everyone for your kind contributions to Red Nose Day. There are rather a lot of charitable events that seem to take place in the spring term, so please don't feel you need to give to each.

Stay and Read for Year 1 and Year 2 - Wednesday 22nd March: Please join us in your child's classroom from 2.45pm – 3.10pm to read with your child or a small group of children, all are welcome.

SATS Presentation for Year 2 parents: This will take place after school on Thursday 23rd March in the school hall from 3.30.

World Down Syndrome Day: Please support this event by letting your child wear brightly-coloured odd socks to school next Tuesday 21st March. The main aim of this event is to raise awareness, but if you would like to make a donation to this important charity, we will of course send on your contributions.

Useful Information: We have created a page on the school website to share useful information about workshops for families run by external agencies. Please have a look. This page will be updated as information is received.

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/useful-information/>

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS: *these will take place in school the week of March 27th. Please book your place in the usual way either by emailing the office or signing the form outside the classroom to choose your slot. Thank you all.*

If you would prefer to have your consultation via Zoom, please speak to your child's class teacher or call the school office to arrange.

Nursery

- *Wednesday 29th March, 12.40 – 6.30pm*
- *Thursday 30th March, 12.40 – 6.30pm*

Please would parents use the school entrance adjacent to Nursery, rather than the main foyer entrance to school.

Reception (will be held outside of their classrooms in the corridor)

- *Tuesday 28th March, 3.30 – 6.00pm*
- *Wednesday 29th March, 3.30 – 6.00pm*
- *Thursday 30th March, 3.30 – 6.00pm*

Year 1 (will be held in the main school hall)

- *Monday 27th March, 3.30 – 6.30pm*
- *Tuesday 28th March, 3.30 – 6.30pm*

Year 2 (will be held in the main school hall)

- *Monday 27th March 1.20 – 3.00pm and 3.40 – 5.30pm*
- *Thursday 30th March 3.40 – 6.00pm*

End of term: *Just a reminder that school finishes at 2pm on Friday 31st March for the Easter holidays. There will be no after school club that day.*

Volunteer Positions Available: *Thank you so much to parents who have approached me – it is hugely appreciated! If anyone would be interested in helping out in our Nursery from 11.30am - 12.30pm please let me know as additional help at that time would be much appreciated!*

Please speak to me or email me on head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk if you are interested in doing some volunteer work in our lovely school. We value our volunteers so very much and you add immensely to the children's learning and enjoyment in school. Readers in particular would be very welcome.

Notifying Us of Your Child's Absence: *Please notify us by 9.15am if your child is going to be absent from school. You can notify us by either calling the school on 01438 359747 and selecting Option 1, or via email to admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk.*

Nursery School Places for September 2023: *If you are a prospective parent, please make contact with the school office to arrange a visit. Application forms may be downloaded from <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> or by request from 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: *This week in Nursery, the children have been busy creating a surprise and learning a song for Mother's Day. Please ask them to sing their special Mother's Day song on Sunday. They listened to different stories about mummies including My Mum*

is Fantastic by Nick Butterworth. It was incredibly special to hear the children share all the wonderful things their mummies do to help them, and how much they cherish the special hugs and kisses you give them.

In phonics, the children have been introduced to a special soft toy puppet. They were amazed to find out that when the puppet whispers into the adult's ear it only speaks in 'sound talk.' The children were excited to try speaking in sound talk too, saying 'ch-ee-se - cheese' and 'f-i-sh - fish.' As they became familiar with sound talk, they began to join in and help blend the puppet's sound talk.

In expressive art and design, the children have been creating wonderful spring flowers, using a variety of media. They enjoyed using cereals to create a flower and then painted a stem and leaves. The children loved using loose parts to create flowers, creating detailed petals made from cupcake cases and pompoms.

In PSHCE, the children discussed why it is important to wash their hands after they go to the toilet and before they eat. Reid commented, "If you don't wash your hands, you will get a tummy ache." Ivy remembered, "You need to wash your hands when you eat food, or the germs will get into your tummy."

In mathematics, the children have ordered gifts by size, using the vocabulary small, smallest, large, and largest.

Next week, the children will take part in a session of yoga and continue to develop their ball skills with Mr Pullin. In mathematics, they will continue to subitise and practise one to one counting. In phonics, the children will play a fun game of cross the river to develop their blending and segmenting skills.

We wish you all a lovely weekend and a very happy Mother's Day!

Reception: *This week in understanding the world, the children had the challenge of using recycled materials to build a bridge for the Gingerbread Man to cross so he did not need to ask for the help of the sly old fox. The children had a variety of resources to use, and it was great to see them persevering even when the construction of their bridge did not go according to plan. After Kairi in Barn Owl class had crossed the Gingerbread Man over her bridge, she reflected by saying, "The ladder was the hardest, it kept falling down but I didn't give up."*

In literacy, the children wrote captions linked to a favourite character from a traditional tale. They applied their phonic knowledge to segment and blend words when writing. When thinking about her favourite part of the traditional tale Beauty and the Beast, Ava in the Tawny Owl class said, "My favourite part is when the Beast puts Belle's Dad in the tower!"

The children have been focusing on someone special in their life. When making her Mather's Day card, Kian-Marc in Snowy Owl class said, "My mummy is special because she gives me cuddles and sweets," and Veronika in Barn Owl class said, "My mummy is brilliant at cooking. She doesn't burn anything, but my daddy does!"

Next week, the children will be focusing on creating rhyming strings and listening to many rhyming stories. In understanding the world, the children will continue to learn about seasonal changes and will go for a seasonal walk around the school grounds looking for signs of spring. The children will use iPads to take photographic evidence of the season. They will be using recycled materials to create a boat for the gingerbread man to use to help him float across the river, instead of relying on the help of the sly fox.

Year 1: This week in English, the children have started to plan their own ending to the fairy tale Cinderella. They have learnt about story settings and decided where Cinderella might choose to go in her carriage instead of the royal ball, and who she might meet. They decided if their new character would be a hero or villain, and listed adjectives to describe their personality.

Phonics this week has continued with alternative pronunciations. The children have revisited the sound /ou/ as in 'out' and 'shout'. They have learnt that there are three further alternative sounds. These are /oa/ in boulder, /oo/ in group and /u/ in could. They have learnt the mnemonic 'oh you lucky duck' to support them in remembering the spellings for could, would and should.

In mathematics, the children have been exploring length, height, mass and speed. They used the language of tall, taller, tallest, short, shorter and shortest to compare the height of towers they built. The children used cubes to measure the length of a range of objects and used the language of short, shorter, shortest, long, longer and longest. They enjoyed being human balance scales to compare the mass of different objects in the classroom before using real balance scales, using the language of lighter and heavier. They investigated speed by racing toy cars.

In science, the children had a fantastic time testing a variety of materials to see how they behaved. They carried out an investigation to see if the items were bendy or not bendy and used water to test materials to see if they were absorbent or not.

In PSHE, the children have learnt how we keep ourselves clean and healthy. They have learnt that there are some cleaning products and medicines that are unsafe for children to handle. They have sorted out bathroom and kitchen products into safe and unsafe categories.

We are delighted to see how much the children are enjoying our history and geography focus on Stevenage this half term. This week they learnt about the history of the clock tower in the town centre.

In art and design, the children have been using their knowledge of different grades of pencils, to make some observational drawings, shading the petals and stems on their daffodil pictures.

In PE, the children had great fun learning how to hit a ball over a net. They practised bouncing a ball with a racket and then developed this skill by bouncing the ball and hitting it over a tennis net.

In RE, the children have talked about belonging to a group. The children talked about what it means to be part of a club and features of a club such as wearing a uniform for karate or beavers or a football kit to represent the team you play for.

Next week in English, the children will finish writing their alternative version of Cinderella. They will learn about the days of the week and months of the year in mathematics. If you would like to, please encourage your child to name the days of the week and discuss the order they come in, looking at the key words today, tomorrow and yesterday. In science, the children will conduct a fair test to find a suitable material for an umbrella to keep teddy dry.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: It has been another great week in Year 2, with children taking part in a mini-Olympics competition led by Stevenage Sporting Futures on Wednesday morning. During the mini-Olympics competition, children enjoyed a range of activities including throwing and aiming, weaving between cones and speed jumping. Laiton from Pelican class exclaimed, "I love this!", while Chloe in Penguin class said, "I liked running in and out of the cones and putting the balls in the basket."

This week in English, the children have worked extremely hard to edit their drafts of their non-fiction work to produce a final book. They have designed attractive covers to encourage readers to pick up their book, made edits for improvements, created a glossary to explain vocabulary and added other non-fiction features such as an index and a table of contents.

Next week, the children will be starting a new English topic based on the story of Traction Man by Mini Grey. Traction Man is a superhero who dresses in different clothing to go on some exciting adventures in a household setting. Through this work, the children will develop their understanding of verbs, adverbs and dialogue. They will present their work in a comic strip format.

In mathematics, the children have continued with multiplication and learnt a variety of methods to solve problems. They have used bar models, money and arrays to find the product. The children learnt that multiplication is commutative and were all able to write their own number sentences to represent this. Next week, the children will begin work on division and will explore the relationship between division and multiplication. They will also look at what happens when an amount can't be shared equally, and you are left with a remainder.

In PSHCE, the children learnt about being healthy and the importance of a balanced diet. They worked with the 'eat well plate' and sorted food into different categories. Next week, they will look at how different foods support our bodies and how to make healthy choices.

In design technology, the children learnt how to use a vice and hacksaw safely and used the saw to cut dowelling rods to the correct size to make axels for their vehicles, with close adult supervision. Benjamin in Puffin class said, "It was easy to use the saw, I enjoyed making my car."

In science this week, the children started a new topic on plants and growing. They explored seeds and bulbs and looked at similarities and differences, as well as identifying the different parts of a plant. The children identified what a plant needs to grow and made predictions what would happen if one or more of these elements was removed. They set up an investigation and will check the results in the coming weeks. This week's homework is about getting out in the fresh air and going for a spring nature walk. The children are asked to draw any spring flowers they see and label the parts of the plant.

An information letter for the Year 2 trip to Rye Meads is being sent out this week. All parents and carers need to give consent on Arbor if you would like your child to attend. This opens in Arbor at 4pm on Saturday 1st April 2023.

Have a great weekend,

The Year 2 Team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK

PUFFIN CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

<i>Ladybird Nursery Classes</i>	<i>Evelyn</i>	<i>for being a fantastic partner when practising ball skills with Mr Pullin.</i>
	<i>Nancy-Mae</i>	<i>for excellent segmenting and blending in phonics.</i>
	<i>Freddie</i>	<i>for fantastic listening during story time.</i>
	<i>Hunter</i>	<i>for super work ordering gifts by size and using the vocabulary; small, smallest, medium, large, and largest.</i>
<i>Snowy Owls</i>	<i>George</i>	<i>for making a wonderful bridge.</i>
	<i>Alana</i>	<i>for identifying her favourite traditional tale, Rapunzel.</i>
<i>Tawny Owls</i>	<i>Ruben</i>	<i>for speaking confidently and knowledgeably about the items in his Special Box.</i>
	<i>Evie</i>	<i>for remembering lots of facts about our Musician of the Month, Bill Haley.</i>
	<i>Charlie</i>	<i>for demonstrating good sitting and excellent listening on the carpet.</i>
<i>Barn Owls</i>	<i>Noah</i>	<i>for persevering when his bridge for the Gingerbread Man collapsed.</i>
	<i>Jamal</i>	<i>for creating a fantastic bridge using recycled materials.</i>
	<i>Isabelle</i>	<i>for writing a brilliant caption about her favourite character, Little Red Riding Hood.</i>
<i>Red Fox Class</i>	<i>Ernie</i>	<i>for super observational drawing of daffodils.</i>
	<i>Hareem</i>	<i>for working hard and showing a huge improvement in her reading.</i>

Big Cat Class	Ela	<i>for working really hard on her Cinderella story setting work.</i>
	Megan	<i>for super investigating in science.</i>
	Sol	<i>for fantastic shading in art using different grades of pencils.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Amelia	<i>for excellent drawing of daffodils in art.</i>
	Theo	<i>for super progress with his handwriting.</i>
Penguin Class	Luka	<i>for showing enthusiasm for all subjects.</i>
	Milly	<i>for excellent progress with her independent writing.</i>
Pelican Class	Hazel	<i>for her careful attention with her joining in handwriting.</i>
	Emily-	<i>for her beautiful non-fiction book.</i>
Puffin Class	Finley	<i>for a fantastic understanding of multiplication.</i>
	Tyler	<i>for always trying his best with his handwriting.</i>

*kindest regards,
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*



School Dates

MARCH 2023	
Monday 20 th	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.
Wednesday 22 nd	Stay and Read, Years 1 and 2, 2.45-3.15pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Tuesday 21 st	World Down Syndrome Day (Wear odd/bright socks), donations welcome
Thursday 23 rd	Assessment and SATs presentation for Year 2 parents, 3.30-4.30pm
w/c Monday 27 th	Easter activities throughout school
Monday 27 th	Easter assembly in school, pupils only
Week of 27 th Week of 27 th	Parent Consultations SCIENCE WEEK
Tuesday 28 th	Year 2 – Native American Dance workshop
TBC	FROG / PTA Easter Stay and Play, 3.30-4.30pm
Friday 31 st	Easter Bonnet Parade, whole school, pupils only
Friday 31 st	Last day of term – finish at 2pm

TERM DATES 2022-23

Spring Term: Thursday 5th January 2023 – Friday 31st March 2023

[Half Term: Monday 13th February 2023 – Friday 17th February 2023]

Children return to school on Monday 20th February 2023

[Easter Holidays: Monday 3rd April 2023 – Friday 14th April 2023]

Children return to school on Monday 17th April 2023

Summer Term: Monday 17th April 2023 – 21st July 2023

[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]

Monday 25th December 2023 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 26th December 2023 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Thursday 4th January 2024

Spring Term: Thursday 4th January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024

Monday 1st January 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[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

Friday 29th March 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 1st April 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[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