



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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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 the loveliest of weeks in school with all children accessing exciting and interesting learning. Please see class pages below for fuller details. We have recently begun a new initiative throughout the school supporting fluency in reading. Each class learns a poem or passage, which they memorise during the course of the week. We are taking turns to celebrate and listen to one another's learning when a class performs their poem in assembly. In past weeks, the Reception children have performed and today will be the turn of Walker Bear class who are reciting 'In This Special Place' which is a poem of praise to the joys and benefits of Forest School.

I'd like to thank everyone for the marvellously generous contributions to our sponsored spell. You have been so kind and we will be able to purchase some fantastic equipment for our children! I will be sure to let you know and thank you again so very, very much!

SATS Presentation for Year 2 parents: 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**

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.

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 the Nursery children have been thinking about the changes that happen in springtime. They went for a chilly walk around the school to look for signs of spring. Oscar M spotted the bulbs flowering and said, "It rained so the flowers grow." Irina looked in the large flowerpot and commented, "I can see a flower, a purple flower."

In expressive art and design, the children enjoyed creating a woolly lamb. They used PVA glue and chose from a variety of different materials to decorate the lamb's fleece. They then added a face and legs. These look wonderful and will be displayed on the spring display soon. The children have sung the new song 'Little Flowers' beautifully this week and learnt the Makaton sign for flower.

In physical development, the children have had lots of fun dancing and weaving in and out of a circle whilst singing 'In and Out of the Dusty Bluebells.' They played a fantastic game of tag with Mr Pullin in the hall before practising underarm throws, bounce passes and rolling a ball to a friend. Great work Ladybirds!

In phonics, the children have enjoyed guessing which adult from Nursery is speaking on a recording. This was a fun challenge! They all showed super listening and thought carefully about the voice that they could hear.

In mathematics, the children practised one-to-one correspondence, carefully pointing to each object as they counted. They counted groups of lambs and used the vocabulary of more and fewer to describe the groups. Charlie showed his peers how to compare groups of lambs and commented, "This pile has more, and this pile has fewer." Next week in PSED, the children will learn how important it is to wash their hands. In expressive arts and design, they will be busy creating a special surprise card.

Reception: *This week, the children have been Super Kittens finding out about the importance of road safety. They have learnt where it is safe to cross the road and what they must do when crossing the road. To help them keep safe, the children learnt the Super Cat Road Safety Rap, and each child is bringing home a copy of the rap to remind them to keep safe when out and about with family and friends. The children have acted out in pairs how to cross a zebra crossing safely using prompts from the rap. When it was her turn to act out crossing the road at the zebra crossing, Zaina in Snowy Owl class said, "You need to look left and right to see if any cars are going," and Millie in Barn Owl class said, "This is my best day ever. I loved crossing the road and being a Super Cat. I stopped and looked both ways and listened and I walked across the road."*

The children have participated in a road safety quiz. The quiz enabled the children to discuss with each other different scenarios about whether the illustration of children and adults crossing the road was a safe place to cross. Tigerlily in Barn Owl class said, "The boy shouldn't cross the road there because he can't see because of the parked car."

In literacy, the children have designed road safety posters showing an aspect of road safety. They have applied their phonic knowledge to write a caption to accompany their road safety picture.

In mathematics, the children have used play dough to demonstrate their knowledge of halves and quarters.

In PSED, the children discussed the importance of eating healthily. During their discussions, they spoke about why it is not good to eat unhealthy food. Lennox in Tawny Owl class said, "You shouldn't eat unhealthy food because it makes your teeth rotten."

In music, the children have listened and responded to Gustav Holst's 'Mars' and in RE, the children have acted out the poem 'The Creation' by James Weldon Johnson and looked at paintings by famous artists. They were able to recall what God created on each day and loved pretending to create our world by acting out the actions from the poem.

Next week, the children will be writing a caption about their favourite traditional tale and drawing the main character. In understanding the world, the children will be using recycled materials to create a bridge for the Gingerbread Man cross over the river. In expressive arts and design and literacy the children will be busy creating something, but it is a surprise!

In RE the children will be looking at listening to a story from the Bible linked to Palm Sunday. The children will be looking at the painting 'Our Lord's Entry into Jerusalem' by Christopher Gosey and talking about aspects of the painting.

In PSED, the children will be discussing why sleep is so important and talk about ways to go to sleep.

Year 1: This week in English, the children have begun their new topic on fairy tales. They shared their knowledge about fairy tales and created posters displaying their ideas. The children generated fairy tale vocabulary such as king, queen, castle, throne, magic, wand and lots more! They enjoyed choosing objects from a feely bag and guessing which fairy tale the item could belong to. The children listened to the fairy tale Cinderella and created a story mountain to retell the story with pictures and keywords.

Phonics this week has continued with alternative pronunciations. The children have revisited the sound /y/ as in 'yes' and 'yet'. They have learnt that the letter 'y' has three alternative sounds - /ee/ in happy, /i/ in gym and /igh/ in sky. They have been phoneme detectives and looked for these alternative sounds in a text, before they sorted them into groups.

In mathematics, the children have been working on recognising and naming common 2D and 3D shapes, to include rectangles, squares, circles, triangles, cuboids, cubes, pyramids and spheres. They have been identifying 2D shapes through their properties and exploring the shapes of the faces on 3D shapes.

In PE, the children have enjoyed developing their bat and ball skills, working with a partner to pass the ball back and forward using rackets. In gymnastics the children have been practising making different shapes, including a pike, straddle, tuck and star.

In computing, the children have enjoyed the next maze explorer challenge using 2Go on Purple Mash. They have navigated a route, inputting the coding needed to complete the journey.

In geography, the children have explored Stevenage using Google Earth. They have looked at different landmarks such as Fairlands Valley Lakes, the Gordan Craig Theatre and our school. The children have found the old and new town of Stevenage on a map and plotted the different places.

In art and design, the children learnt about different gradings of pencil such as 2B, HB, and 6B. They used the different pencils to sketch natural objects in the woodland area.

Next week, the children will begin their measuring unit of work in mathematics. They will be exploring volume, length and mass. In English, the children will continue their fairy tale work and plan an alternative ending to Cinderella.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: This week the children have really enjoyed furthering their learning about the indigenous people of America. They have finished researching about Native Americans and have used the information they found to write non-fiction books. Each day they have written a chapter full of interesting facts and information and have included hand-drawn pictures to match their topic. Luca in Penguin class found that "Native Americans ate squash, pumpkins, sunflowers, wild rice, berries, avocado and chocolate". Teddy in Pelican class wrote, "Native Americans used all of the buffalo,

they even used buffalo tongues as hairbrushes". Eliza in Puffin class included the fact, "Bow and arrows were used for hunting. Skilled Native Americans could even use a bow and arrow for fishing". Next week the children will design attractive covers for their books and create a glossary, index and contents page.

In mathematics, the children have continued to learn about multiplication. They have drawn arrays and written multiplication sentences to match pictures. For instance, drawing an array to represent five baskets, each holding three cats, as five groups of three, $5 \times 3 = 15$. The children have looked at the language of multiplication, including 'multiplied by', 'times', 'groups of' and 'product'. The children also learnt about the commutativity of multiplication, meaning that it can be done in any order. For example, $10 \times 5 = 5 \times 10$.

In mathematics next week, the children will apply their learning about multiplication to solve a variety of problems.

In history, the Year 2 children have been reading the story of Sacagawea, learning how she joined the expedition of Lewis and Clark around Western America. She acted as an interpreter, helped find food and showed the other indigenous people that the explorers were peaceful. The children were able to understand the important events and re-tell the story of Sacagawea's life.

In PSHCE, the children have learned how medicines work in their body and how important it is to use them safely. Next week, they will be learning about healthy eating and understanding what foods their bodies need to stay healthy, as well as sorting foods into the correct groups.

In computing the children have been learning about the different ways to present a story electronically. They have learned about e-books, mind maps and quizzes.

In design and technology, the children investigated vehicles and learnt the terms wheels, axle and chassis. They designed their own multi-terrain vehicle, which they will begin to make next week using simple tools, such as a child's hacksaw and vice. In art and design, the children explored patterns of the indigenous people of America and geometric designs. They created their own geometric designs and used tools to impress them into a clay tile.

To celebrate International Women's Day, the children learned about important women throughout history and reflected on who the important women in their lives are, drawing a picture and saying who their role model is and why.

Next Wednesday 15th March, the Year 2 children will take part in a mini-Olympics competition led by Stevenage Sporting Futures. Please ensure your child arrives to school that day in their PE kit, so they are able to take part.

Have a great weekend,

The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK

WALKER BEAR CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Olaf	<i>for excellent participation in ball skills with Mr Pullin.</i>
	Charlie	<i>for super mathematics finding more and fewer.</i>
	Oscar M	<i>for fantastic observations on the spring walk.</i>
	Maisie	<i>for using robot talk to segment and blend words.</i>
Snowy Owls	Bella	<i>for an excellent road safety poster.</i>
	Alexander	<i>for fantastic knowledge of halves and quarters.</i>
Tawny Owls	Ava	<i>for demonstrating a brilliant knowledge of road safety.</i>
	Zuzanna	<i>for drawing a very detailed picture about how to keep safe when crossing a road.</i>
	Saahirah	<i>for excellent sounding out when writing independently.</i>
Barn Owls	Nikola	<i>for demonstrating fabulous rolling techniques in PE.</i>
	Kara	<i>for fabulous gymnastics in PE.</i>
	Reuben	<i>for brilliant segmenting and blending when writing a caption for his road safety poster.</i>
Red Fox Class	Leia	<i>for super homework. Leia made a fantastic unicorn picture using lots of materials.</i>
	Mikolaj	<i>for a super story mountain to retell the story of Cinderella.</i>
Big Cat Class	Zyva	<i>for fantastic maths work on 2D shapes.</i>
	Elise	<i>for working really hard on her reading.</i>

Walker Bear Class	Maya Finn	<i>for carefully selecting sketching pencils.</i> <i>for identifying properties of materials in science.</i>
Penguin Class	Benedict Aaron	<i>for excellent independent writing about the indigenous peoples of America.</i> <i>for being able to explain his methods in mathematics.</i>
Pelican Class	Miller Amelia	<i>for a good attitude to learning and showing greater independence.</i> <i>for showing the qualities of a superstar learner.</i>
Puffin Class	Isla-May Nikodem	<i>for writing a wonderful non-fiction book on indigenous peoples of America.</i> <i>for always trying his best with all his learning.</i>

*kindest regards,
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*



School Dates

MARCH 2023	
Friday 17 th	Red Nose Day
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	Parent Consultations
Week of 27 th	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