



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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

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03.03.2023

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,

Children have had a truly magical Book Week with the highlight being yesterday's fabulous World Book Day. The children looked fantastic, and every class enjoyed the assembly led by Miss Hill and loved seeing one another's costumes.

Children have been immersed in hearing stories in a variety of ways and engaging in activities connected with books all week and we hope very much that wonderful educational experiences of this kind help to make books dearly loved by the children and a part of their lives. Research shows the huge benefits of parents reading to and with their children every day so help us to help your children by making this a part of your daily routine.

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

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

Year 1

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

Year 2

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

Value of the month for March is: Forgiveness. The children will be learning to understand the feelings of others and show empathy. They will learn that forgiveness is something we give when someone has upset or hurt us.

Weather News: We have been informed by HCC that the Met Office have issued a level 2 Weather Alert for cold weather/icy conditions/heavy snow between Monday and Wednesday next week. This covers the whole of the East of England. Should this affect our school then we will post a note on the school website and circulate information via email / text.

World Down Syndrome Day – Tuesday 21st March: Children and staff may wear odd/bright coloured socks to help raise awareness. Donations are welcome.

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 children have loved listening to the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. They enjoyed using brightly coloured paint and tissue paper to make repeating pattern caterpillar pictures. Noah B commented, "It's a pattern. I need orange next. I think I'm a superstar." The children were excited to print patterns with different fruits from the story and recalled which fruit the caterpillar ate on each day. They have been learning to sing the days of the week song and say the days of the week in the correct order.

In understanding of the world, the children have discussed the life cycle of a butterfly. Maisie learnt, "The butterfly comes out of the chrysalis." Oscar M remembered, "The mummy lays the egg, it turns into a caterpillar, builds a home and comes out as a beautiful butterfly." Samuel A flapped a butterfly and said, "Butterflies have wings."

In phonics, the children have been introduced to a robot called Metal Mike. They learnt that Mike will only eat the words if they use robot talk to say each sound and then blend them together. This is an important skill called segmenting and blending. Segmenting focuses on breaking up words into their individual sounds and blending is the process of combining sounds together to create a word. For example, the word dog is made up of three sounds – d-o-g. Together these sounds produce the spoken word dog.

In PE this week, the children showed excellent sportsmanship when playing a game of 'hats or bowls'. They competed against another team to see who could turn over the most cones. The children gave the winners a big round of applause. They continued to practise the core skill of throwing with Mr Pullin and were introduced to making a bounce pass.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Book Week, listening to a range of stories, making bookmarks, and creating their own books. They have had a fantastic time in the new Giles Library role play area, being a librarian, keeping the books tidy and using the computer to run the library. Nieve said, "What story do you want? I'm using the computer to buy books." Jeremiah sat on the big comfy cushions and said, "I like listening to the story."

Next week we will be thinking about spring and identifying some of the popular spring flowers that start to grow during this time of year.

Reception: *This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in activities linked to Book Week. Some of the stories the children have listened to are The Enormous Turnip, Anansi the Clever Spider, Little Red Riding Hood, the Runaway Chapati, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Jack and the Beanstalk and the Three Billy Goats Gruff.*

There has been a such a wide range of activities for the children to enjoy this week. Some of the activities were creating spiders and making a web from wool linked to the story of Anansi the Clever Spider. The children enjoyed using cubes to measure the height of different sized beanstalks and enjoyed making paper plate chapatis for the story The Runaway Chapati.

The most exciting activity was the grow a turnip experiment linked to the story of The Enormous Turnip. The children were science detectives and found out what happens to a balloon when vinegar and bicarbonate of soda react with each other. Ava in Barn Owl class said, "The bicarbonate of soda and vinegar made the balloon turnip grow and the air went into the turnip." The children loved listening to this story and when talking about how the people in the Enormous Turnip felt after it popped out of the ground, Zenny in Tawny Owl class said, "They would be feeling very sweaty!"

In RE, the children recalled the daily events of the creation story. They listened to The Creation of the World by Hector Perez and took turns to talk about all the natural things Christians believe God created. Leo in Barn Owl class told the children about when he saw the Northern Lights on his holiday to Lapland at Christmas.

The Musician of the Month for March is Bill Hailey and the Comets. The children have enjoyed dancing to Rock around the Clock, and after listening to the song, Kian-Marc in Snowy Owl class said, "I like the song. They get to dance on the sofa!"

Next week, the children will focus on how to be a safe pedestrian and in literacy, they will be designing a road safety poster and adding a caption. In mathematics, the children will be dividing a mass into halves and quarters.

*In RE, the children will be acting out the poem *The Creation* by James Weldon Johnson and looking at paintings by famous artists.*

In PSED, the children will be discussing what the word healthy means and deciding which foods are healthier than others.

Year 1: *What a fabulous day the children had yesterday celebrating World Book Day! They enjoyed listening to a range of stories and shared experiences of their favourite books. The children enjoyed showing their costumes to each other and parading around the playground. Thank you for all your wonderful outfits and costumes. The children had an absolutely wonderful experience.*

Throughout the week in mathematics, the children have enjoyed learning about odd and even numbers. They have been using tens frames, Numicon and even a few pairs of socks! They could spot that odd numbers cannot be split equally into two groups because there is always an odd one left over. Having identified odd and even numbers, they sequenced them and looked for patterns.

In English, the children have been continuing with their learning about Goldilocks. They have explored the use of the exclamation mark and practised expressing surprise, shock or emphasising a point. They have made their own exclamation marks from lollypop sticks and thought about what the three bears might have said when they discovered their porridge had been eaten or their chair broken!

Phonics this week has continued with alternative pronunciations. The children have revisited the sound /a/ as in rat, sat, mat and cat. They have learnt that there are three further alternative sounds; for example, /ai/ in acorn, /o/ in was and /ar/ in fast. They have been phoneme detectives, looking carefully in a piece of text for these alternative sounds.

In science, the children continued with their learning about materials. They drew objects and labelled the object with the material it is made from. The children looked closely at objects made of wood, plastic, metal, glass, and rock. The children discussed why materials are suited for different purposes. Lavinia commented in her homework that, "a football should not be made of glass. It would break easily. Leather would be a better material."

In Forest School, the children had a wonderful time participating in a scavenger hunt as part of their science learning. They had to look for a range of natural materials that were shiny, dull, bumpy, smooth, bendy, soft, and hard.

Next week in English, the children will begin a new topic on fairy tales. They will hear a range of fairy tales and become familiar with their characteristics. In mathematics, the children will learn about 2D and 3D shapes.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

The Year One Team

Year 2: *It has been a lovely week of learning in Year 2. In English, the children thought of questions about the lifestyle and traditions of indigenous people of America. They completed research, using the world wide web and fact sheets to answer*

their questions. They learned about the features of a non-fiction text, including headings, sub-headings, captions and labels and began to write their own non-fiction book using their research. Next week, the children will continue to write their non-fiction books and finish them with a front cover, contents page and glossary.

In mathematics this week, the children have been learning about multiplication. They revised their work from Year 1, recalling how to count in twos, fives and tens and practising repeated addition. They learned how to find the multiples of two, five and ten and explored how repeated addition could be describe as 'groups of' a number. They went on to learn how the multiplication symbol (x) can be used instead of 'groups of'. For example:

$$\begin{aligned}2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 &= 14 \text{ (repeated addition)} \\7 \text{ groups of } 2 &= 14 \text{ (groups of)} \\7 \times 2 &= 14 \text{ (multiplication)}\end{aligned}$$

Next week, the children will continue to learn about multiplication, using arrays and making multiplication table puzzles.

In art and design, the children explored patterns and geometric designs traditionally used by the indigenous people of America. They created their own geometric designs, which they will etch into a clay tile next week.

In geography, the children used Google Earth to look at our school from an aerial view before they created sketch maps of the playground and school site. They have developed their mapping skills by exploring symbols and creating a key for their maps.

In PSHCE, the children have been recognising different feelings and emotions and coming up with strategies they can use to help regulate their own emotions. Next week, they will learn what they need to keep their body healthy and be motivated to make healthy lifestyle choices.

The children had a lovely time celebrating World Book Day and dressing up as their favourite characters. The adults thoroughly enjoyed themselves too! During the day, the children designed their dream library, thinking about how it would look and feel. They decorated bookmarks to use in their favourite books and played a name that story quiz. Photographs from the day will appear on the class pages on the school website shortly.

This week's homework is to design an alternative cover for your favourite book. All homework should be returned to school by the following Thursday.

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

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Noah B	<i>for super recall of the lifecycle of a butterfly.</i>
	Toby	<i>for creating a fantastic repeating pattern caterpillar.</i>
	Ella	<i>for listening carefully in phonics and hearing the target sounds.</i>
	Diana	<i>for showing confidence to try new activities.</i>
Snowy Owls	Abigail	<i>for trying really hard with her phonics and reading.</i>
	David	<i>for enjoying the different story activities during World Book Week.</i>
Tawny Owls	Zenny	<i>for thinking really carefully about the importance of sharing wisdom and knowledge when reading Anansi the Clever Spider.</i>
	Nadia	<i>for being very kind and caring towards her friends.</i>
Barn Owls	Connor	<i>for having such a positive attitude towards writing.</i>
	Kalanne	<i>for thoroughly enjoying participating in the activities during World Book Week.</i>
Value of the month for thoughtfulness	Snowy Owls: Fatima, Odin, Milla Tawny Owls: Lennox, Amelia, Evie Barn Owls: Millie, Tigerlily, Reuben	
Red Fox Class	Fredrick	<i>for huge improvement in his reading.</i>
	Ivy	<i>for trying so hard and showing improvement in her independent writing.</i>
Big Cat Class	Albert	<i>for super work on odd and even numbers.</i>
	Archie	<i>for super partner work in PE when bouncing the large balls.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Jaxon	<i>for working well with a partner to pass and catch a ball.</i>
	Neithan	<i>for working hard to identify odd and even numbers.</i>
Value of the month for thoughtfulness	Big Cats: Aria, Maryam Walker Bears: Zayana, Dollie-Rae Red Foxes: Bobby, Belle	
Penguin Class	Moonis	<i>for excellent research into the lives of indigenous peoples of America.</i>
	Kinga	<i>for designing an imaginative dream library.</i>

<i>Pelican Class</i>	<i>Phillip</i> <i>George</i>	<i>for a careful repeating pattern design for his clay tile.</i> <i>for an excellent attitude to learning.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Daniel</i> <i>Evie-Beth</i>	<i>for creating a fantastic indigenous peoples of America landscape picture using pastels.</i> <i>for designing a wonderful dream library.</i>
<i>Value of the month for thoughtfulness</i>	<i>Penguins: Andrei, Logan, Jett</i> <i>Pelicans: Elizabeth, Joshua</i> <i>Puffins: Billy-Joe, Harper, Ever</i>	

Kindest regards,
Rouane Mendel, Headteacher



School Dates

MARCH 2023	
Wednesday 8 th	Holi Assembly, Hindu Festival of Colours, pupils only
Thursday 9 th	Nursery Open Evening, 4.30-5.30pm for children due to start September 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 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