



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel

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**13.01.2023**

**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,***

***I would like to wish you all a very, very Happy New Year. I hope that 2023 brings each and every one of you health and happiness.***

***The children have had a really lovely return to school; they have all settled so happily and this is a term in which they can make great progress academically. Do please remember to try to read with your child each evening as this is the very best way of ensuring a life-long love of reading and learning.***

***Some year-groups will be receiving their class termly newsletters and topic webs today; some year-groups will be receiving these next week. All will also be placed on the website. As ever, if you have any queries – or specialist interests that can contribute to the new topics – do let your child's class teacher know.***

***Change of Address or Contact Information: Please could we ask that if you have moved or changed your contact information over the Christmas break that you let us know so that we can keep your child's record up to date.***

***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](mailto:admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk).***

***Arbor Parent Portal: At the end of December 2022, we ceased using School Gateway for our communications and wrap around club bookings.***

***Information was sent out in December on how to login to the Arbor Parent App, and details on when parents can start making bookings for the Spring Term clubs. If you are having trouble downloading and using the app, please do come and see the school office.***

***Census Lunch Change, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023: It is really important that as many children as possible have school lunch on this day as the number of participants is used to assess the level of our annual funding from government. So, if your child doesn't normally have school lunches, we would be hugely grateful if they can on Thursday. If you like, they can bring in a packed lunch as well!***

*If they have a lunch on Census Day, the government gives us money for their meals for the rest of the year which really helps our finances. If they bring a packed lunch and later switch to school meals, the school has to pay for their meals (which gives us less money for everything else!).*

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January lunch choices will be:** Fish fillet fingers (R), cheese and tomato pizza (G), jacket potato (W) or egg roll (Y).

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January lunch choices will be:** Beef burger in a bun with potato wedges (R), cheese, potato and broccoli bake (G), jacket potato (W) or chicken mayo baguette (Y).

*Please help raise money for the school by encouraging your child to order a school dinner for your child on CENSUS day.*

**Nursery school places for September 2023:** *If you are a prospective parent, there are a few tour sessions remaining, please click on the following link:*

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>

*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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, and places are offered on a first-come, first served basis.*

**REMINDER TO NURSERY PARENTS re. Reception School Place – September 2023:** *An important email was sent to our current Nursery families regarding making an application for starting in Reception in September 2023. The applications opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, and the deadline date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. If you need any assistance in making your application, please speak to the school office who will be happy to help. If you are a prospective parent, we have a number of tours scheduled, please following the following link:*

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>

**REMINDER TO YEAR 2 PARENTS re. Year 3 Junior School Place – September 2023:** *An important email was sent to our current Year 2 families regarding making an application for starting Year 3 at a new junior school in September 2023. The applications opened on 1st November 2022, and the deadline date is 15th January 2023. If you need any assistance in making your application, please speak to the school office who will be happy to help.*

**Nursery:** *It's been a wonderful week in Ladybird class and the children have settled back beautifully. They have enjoyed being back with their friends and have told us all about the wonderful time they had during the holidays.*

*This week the children have been thinking about changes during the winter season and learnt a song about winter. Nancy-Mae noticed, "The trees have got no leaves and the animals have gone to sleep." They had the opportunity to explore ice and enjoyed holding it in their hands, chipping and stroking it with brushes and watching the ice change to water as it melted. In art, the children learnt about cold colours before making beautiful winter collages of snowmen, winter trees or snowflakes.*

*The children have been fascinated to learn more about hibernation. They learnt which animals hibernate, why they need to hibernate and how some animals make a den to hibernate in. Ivy shared, "You need to feed the hedgehogs in the garden at night. They need to eat so they can sleep for a long time. They will be hungry when they wake up."*

*In phonics, the children practised finding rhyming pairs and identified the odd one out. Reid challenged himself to make a rhyming string and said, "Cat, hat, mat, rat, pat. They all rhyme!"*

*In PSHCE, we have begun our new topic 'Dreams and Goals'. Jigsaw Genie challenged the children to put on their coat by themselves, or to zip up their coat. They have shown a tremendous effort in the challenge, and we are so proud of how hard they have tried. Andrew exclaimed, "Mr Genie would be so proud of us, we all put our coats on!"*

*Our topic this term is animals, and next week we will be reading *Walking Through the Jungle* by Julie Lacombe. The children will learn about different jungle animals and make a jungle animal painting. In phonics, they will consolidate their learning about syllables and begin to tap out the syllables in words; for example, 'croc-o-dile' and 'e-le-phant'.*

*Reception: The children have begun their new topic, focusing on the traditional tale of *The Gingerbread Man*. The children were detectives and used clues to work out the story by looking at different objects. They listened to a version of the story and were introduced to some Makaton signs to support them retelling the story in their own words. The children created some wonderful story maps and used these to retell the story to their friends. Ellie in Barn Owl class began her story of *The Gingerbread Man* with, "The gingerbread man ran out of the oven and jumped off the tray too. He ran so fast out of the cottage."*

*In mathematics, the children used their knowledge of numbers to order numbered gingerbread men from zero to ten.*

*In understanding the world, the children found out about seasonal changes. They visited the woodland area to look for signs of winter. The children used iPads to take photographs. During their walk, Leo in Barn Owls saw a holly bush and said, "That's a prickly bush." The children used charcoal to draw a picture of a tree in the school grounds, which was added to their *Seasonal Changes of a Tree* book.*

*In RE, the children began to look at weddings and enjoyed watching a royal wedding ceremony acted out by children ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s\\_FK3Zt4q7A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_FK3Zt4q7A)). The children were asked why two people get married and Mila in Snowy Owl class said, "They just want a baby and they like the look of each other!" The children discussed aspects of the wedding ceremony and thought of promises the bride and groom could make. Zenny in Tawny Owl class said the groom could promise to "keep her safe."*

*Next week in literacy, the children will be listening to different versions of *The Gingerbread Man* and looking at illustrations from the story. They will be writing a caption to accompany a picture of their choice.*

*In mathematics, the children will be finding one less and recording their calculation using numbered tiles or on a whiteboard. They will learn how to make sensible estimations by looking at the number of gingerbread men in a tin. They will learn to sing the subtraction song 'Five Gingerbread Men on a Tray'.*

*In understanding the world, the children will be science detectives and investigate what happens to a gingerbread man when placed in oil, water, milk, fruit juice and vinegar.*

*In RE, the children will listen to the story *A Wedding Day Wish for Puddles* by Gill Vaisey. They will discuss the importance of a being a good friend.*

*In PSED, the children will talk about ways they persevered when faced with a challenge.*

***Year 1:*** The children have had a wonderful start to the first full week back. This week in English, the children have used role play to imagine a winter walk and thought of some exciting wintry adjectives. They have enjoyed listening to the story *Bear and Wolf* by Daniel Salmieri.

Throughout this term in handwriting, the children will be practising the curly caterpillar letters. These include c, a, o, d, e, g, q, s and f.

In phonics, the children have been recapping and applying their knowledge of the split vowel digraphs a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e and u-e.

In mathematics, the children have been finding the difference between two numbers. They have used cubes to support them and solved word problems by finding the difference. The children have continued to explore using the language of more, fewer and less to describe quantities.

In science, the children have been learning about the season of winter. They have been on a winter walk and made careful observations noting how the woodland area has changed since autumn. In Forest School, the children enjoyed the opportunity to make bird feeders from cereal. They hung the feeders in the trees, and we shall visit next week to see if the birds have eaten any!

In art, the children have been learning about cool colours and adding white to lighten a colour to make a tint. They are beginning to create a wintry tree scene and have started by painting a cool colour background.

The children have started a new unit in PE, focusing on team building to develop their communication and problem-solving skills. They will work individually, in pairs and in small groups, learning to take turns and work collaboratively. They will also learn skills that are used in invasion games, such as football. They enjoyed learning to be attackers and defenders this week.

Next week, the children will continue to explore the story of *Bear and Wolf* by Daniel Salmieri. They will look at adjectives and describe a character from the book. In mathematics, the children will be learning vocabulary to explain equivalent ways of making the same total. In science, they will begin learning about animal groups, starting with birds.

A new piece of homework is coming home today. We would be grateful if you could support your child to practise their number bonds for numbers up to 10.

Please could your child bring in a cardboard tube, like those found inside a kitchen roll, to make binoculars in Forest School and an empty cereal box ready to make a puppet theatre. Thank you for your help with this.

We wish you a wonderful weekend.

The Year 1 Team

***Year 2:*** In English, the children have enjoyed the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, *The Snow Queen*, which is our key text for this unit of work. This unit focuses on creating and describing a setting for a story. This week, the children have learnt how to describe different times of day, they have sorted pictures for an icy landscape setting, and they have learnt some exciting new vocabulary to describe different types of cold weather.

*In mathematics, the children have been counting in twos, fives and tens and looking for patterns in the multiples. They have applied their counting skills to solve word problems.*

*In computing, the children have learnt how to use Purple Mash to refine a search, and to share their work electronically using display boards. They revised how to search and share safely on the internet. In design technology, the children learnt about castles and the features used in their design that protect their inhabitants. In art and design, the children examined how artists achieve perspective, before creating a winter scene using charcoal. In geography, the children learnt about the polar regions and the equator and located them on a map. In history, the children looked at photos of Captain Robert Falcon Scott, who led expeditions to the Antarctic, and answered questions based on what they could see. In science, the children revised their knowledge of materials and their uses, which they learnt about in Year 1.*

*In RE, the children began a new unit of work about places of worship. They drew a place that is special to them and explained what makes it so important. In PSHCE, the children started a new topic about dreams and goals. This week, they talked about the things they have already achieved and how these achievements made them feel. Following on from their work on New Year's resolutions last week, the children thought of a goal they would like to work towards and how they might go about achieving it.*

*In English next week, the children will continue to learn how to create an exciting setting before writing their own. In mathematics, the children be revising different methods to add and subtract using a hundred square and a number line. They will be focussing on adding eleven and nine to two-digit numbers before exploring subtraction. In PSHCE, the children will think about how they learn and what they are good at. They will learn the importance of persevering even when they find things difficult.*

*We hope you have a restful weekend.*

*The Year 2 Team*



**Angels**  
AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT

**MEET UP AND CHAT**

**TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER.**

Come along to our friendly group meetings and share what is difficult or what is going well. Have a coffee and chat to other parents/carers.

Angels can support you with:

- \*Education - getting your child's needs met
- \*Understanding the conditions \*Emotional Impact On Families \*Emotional Regulation
- \*Understanding Sensory Needs \*Toileting \*Sleep
- \*Eating \*Anxiety \*Emotionally Based School Refusal \*Diagnostic Process and Pathways \*Disability Discrimination and Understanding Your Child's Rights

[www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk](http://www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk)



**Angels**  
AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT

**Come and talk to us about Education Issues!**

**7th February, 10am - 12noon on Zoom**

There will be Q&A and the opportunity to feedback these issues to DSPL 1 and have your voices heard!

Q A

**Angels**  
AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT

**Executive Function Dysfunction**  
10th January, 10am-12noon via Zoom

Executive functioning skills help you get things done! These skills are controlled by an area of the brain called the frontal lobe. It's common for those with Autism and ADHD to struggle with this.

Executive function helps you:  
Manage Time, Pay Attention, Switch Focus  
Organise, Remember Details, Avoid Saying or Doing the Wrong Thing, Multitask

Executive Function Dysfunction can affect your ability to: Work or go to School, Do things Independently & Maintain Relationships

Come to our informative and helpful workshop to learn about strategies to help with this.

[www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk](http://www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk)

SPRING TERM 2022 - PROGRAMME

x	Virtual Meeting Via Zoom x	x	Face to Face Meeting in Stevenage Virtual Evening Meeting via Zoom x
Week: Beginning of 9th January x	10th Jan - 10am - 12noon Workshop: Executive Function Dysfunction x	11th Jan x	12th Jan - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones x
Week: Beginning of 16th January x	17th Jan - 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones x	18th Jan x	19th Jan - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Meet up and Chat 7:30pm - 8:30pm Evening Parent/Carer Support: Group x
Week: Beginning of 23rd January x	24th Jan - 10am - 12noon Workshop: Emotionally Based School Avoidance x	25th Jan x	26th Jan - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones x
Week: Beginning of 30th January x	31st Jan - 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones x	1st Feb x	2nd Feb - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Meet up and Chat x
Week: Beginning of 6th February x	7th Feb - 10am - 12noon Q&A on Education Issues - EHCP's, Graduation response etc, including the chance to feed these back to DSPL 1 to get your voices heard x	8th Feb x	9th Feb - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones 7:30pm - 8:30pm Evening Parent/Carer Support: Group x
<b>Half Term x</b>	<b>Half Term x</b>	<b>Half Term x</b>	<b>Half Term x</b>
Week: Beginning of 20th February x	21st Feb - 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones x	22nd Feb x	23rd Feb - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Meet up and Chat x
Week: Beginning of 27th February x	28th Feb - 10am - 12noon Workshop: Getting your point across in a meeting and Knowing your Rights x	1st Mar x	2nd Mar - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones 7:30pm - 8:30pm Evening Parent/Carer Support: Group x
Week: Beginning of 6th March x	7th Mar - 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones x	8th Mar x	9th Mar - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Meet up and Chat x
Week: Beginning of 13th March x	14th Mar - 10am - 12noon Workshop: How to support your child's sensory needs x	15th Mar x	16th Mar - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones x
Week: Beginning of 20th March x	21st Mar - 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support: Group with Lorraine Jones x	22nd Mar x	23rd Mar - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Meet up and Chat x
Week: Beginning of 27th March x	28th Mar - 10am - 12noon Workshop: Women and Girls on the Spectrum and ADHD x	29th Mar x	30th Mar - 10am - 12noon - Stevenage Parent/Carer Support: Group 7:30pm - 8:30pm Evening Parent/Carer Support: Group x

**STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Luka</b>  <b>Aadam</b>  <b>Sumayyah</b>  <b>Kobi</b>	<i>for creating a beautiful winter collage.</i>  <i>for super sharing and turn taking.</i>  <i>for being a kind and helpful friend.</i>  <i>for fantastic counting and number recognition.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Zaina</b>  <b>Isaac</b>	<i>for fantastic ordering of the numbers from 0-10.</i>  <i>for a fantastic story map and retelling the story of 'The Gingerbread Man' in his own words.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>Hollie</b>  <b>Bela Saffiya</b>  <b>Parth</b>	<i>for brilliant common exception word recognition during phonics.</i>  <i>for settling so well into the Tawny Owl class.</i>  <i>for demonstrating an excellent knowledge of the Gingerbread Man story when creating a story map.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Hugo</b>  <b>Zachary</b>	<i>for using his story map to retell a wonderful story of the Gingerbread Man.</i>  <i>for fantastic running every day when participating in the daily mile.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<i>for fantastic understanding of finding the difference between two numbers.</i>

	<i>Lylah-Mae</i>	<i>for reading out loud and trying hard using her phonics.</i>
<i>Big Cat Class</i>	<i>Ashlee</i>	<i>for excellent work in maths when finding the difference between two numbers.</i>
	<i>Aleksander</i>	<i>for fantastic reading using his phonics carefully.</i>
<i>Walker Bear Class</i>	<i>Alfie</i>	<i>for super progress in reading.</i>
	<i>Thea</i>	<i>for super progress in phonics.</i>
<i>Penguin Class</i>	<i>Boris</i>	<i>for challenging himself in mathematics.</i>
	<i>Jett</i>	<i>for working independently and making a fantastic effort.</i>
<i>Pelican Class</i>	<i>Charlie</i>	<i>for excellent progressing in reading.</i>
	<i>Eden-Martin</i>	<i>for showing good learning behaviours in class.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Hunter</i>	<i>for fantastic effort with his phonics.</i>
	<i>Scarlet</i>	<i>for writing a wonderful description about a snowy setting.</i>

*Kindest regards,  
Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*



**TERM DATES 2022-23**

***Autumn Term: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022***

*Children return to school on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022*

*[Half Term: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022]*

*Children return to school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022*

*[Christmas Holidays: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023]*

*Children return to school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023*

***Spring Term: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023***

*[Half Term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023]*

*Children return to school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

*[Easter Holidays: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023]*

*Children return to school on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023*

***Summer Term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023***

*[Half Term: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023]*

*Children return to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023*

*School finishes on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 2.00pm*

**INSET DAYS 2022/23**

*Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED*

*Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED*

*Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED*

***Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED***

***Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED***

***Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED***