



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 the most marvellous, magical week in school. The Year 2 children played their parts in their Nativity performances with such seriousness and both they and our wonderful Year 1 children sang with such musicality that there was hardly a dry eye in the house. A huge well done goes to all our staff for their hard work and to our lovely children. This has really set the tone for the season!

The Nursery class concerts were absolutely fantastic and it was clear that the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They all sang beautifully and we are so incredibly proud of our youngest children.

Our much-appreciated FROG parents came in this week to decorate the hall in real style for Christmas dinner – and also gave of their time to help out and serve for the duration of the meal. That was kindness itself and I thank them on behalf of the school from the bottom of my heart.

Still to come is the Year 1 Nativity in Church as well as parties with perhaps a visit from the Old Gentleman himself armed with class presents for our well-deserving, hard-working children.

Tuesday is the last day of term and school closes at 2pm.

Advent Reading Tree: Each year at Christmas time, we put together an advent reading tree in the entrance to the school. As well as being decorated with baubles and ornaments, the tree has lots of special reading book gifts that are given out each day of advent. The names of every child in the nursery and school go into a hat. Each day, a name is drawn out and a child wins one of the books. This year, the lucky winners were:

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Blaze	Theo - Tawny Owls Reuben - Barn Owls David - Snowy Owls	Ivy - Red Foxes Archie - Big Cats Sol - Big Cats Alfie - Walker Bears	Asfiya – Puffins Ollie – Pelicans Amelia – Penguins Toby - Penguins

We hope the children enjoy reading and sharing their book with everyone at home!

Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking around the school: *Sadly, this week we have received a complaint of inconsiderate parking in the cul-de-sac opposite the school entrance. Please can we kindly ask that you do not block our neighbours' drives, and that if they do ask you to move that you are not rude to them. Please do not park on the double yellow lines that have been introduced around the school site for everyone's safety.*

Christmas Parties: *On Monday 19th December we will be holding our class parties. Children may come dressed in party clothes or in a Christmas jumper. It's back to usual school uniform on Tuesday, however, for the last day of school. Because of allergies, classes are organising party food in different ways this year, so if you are unsure please speak to your child's teacher or call the office.*

It is just possible that there will also be a Special Visitor bearing gifts!

Morning of Monday December 19th Nursery is closed *as all children will attend for the party in the afternoon. All children should arrive at 12.30pm.*

Tuesday 20th December last day of term: *Please remember that school will finish an hour earlier for all classes and that there is no After School Club on the last day of the term. School will close at 2pm on this day.*

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

Further information has been sent out this week on how to login to the Arbor Parent App, and details on when parents can start making bookings for the Spring Term clubs. Please bear with us whilst we all get used to this new system.

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 1st 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 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. 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 for 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: This week the children have been working hard practising singing Christmas songs ready for their special concerts. They were all fantastic in their Christmas concerts and we are so proud of them all! We hope you enjoyed it as much as we all did. The children have enjoyed making some lovely Christmas cards for you this week and these were inside their special folder with their wonderful work from this term. They have also enjoyed sharing a variety of Christmas stories and thinking again about the Nativity story.

The children have continued to enjoy playing in Santa's workshop this week, busily wrapping presents, and making cards for their friends and family. Muna commented, "I'm making a card for everyone, it's kind to give presents." Teddie made cards for all her friends and Blaze said, "Aw wow, thank you!"

The children are all looking forward to the Christmas party on the afternoon of Monday 19th December as there is no morning Nursery. Please can everyone arrive in party clothes at 12.30pm; we kindly ask that you take your child's coat home with you, they will not need to change their shoes.

Reception: This week the children have listened to many stories linked to Christmas and have enjoyed participating in a range of activities linked to this festive season. Some of the activities were labelling parts of Rudolf the reindeer's body, scrunching up tissue paper to create paper plate Christmas wreaths, searching the classrooms for the hidden snowman and painting their hands to make angels. The children have enjoyed saying Christmas rhymes and singing Christmas songs, and were very excited today about eating the Christmas dinner with their friends.

In mathematics the children used 2D shapes to fill a Christmas tree template. They placed the shapes carefully ensuring the shapes did not go over the lines. As they were placing the shapes the children chatted about the shapes they were using, and it was great to hear them using mathematical vocabulary to describe the properties of the shapes. The children also enjoyed creating repeating patterns using Christmas decorations and other colourful resources. They enjoyed the challenge of working out which shape came next on the pattern train (www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/shape-patterns)

This week's poem of the week is called 'Winter Poem' by Dorothy Aldis. Please encourage your child to read the poem to a member of your family. These weekly poems are to aid your child's fluency in reading. The children really enjoy learning the poems each week.

On Monday the children will be celebrating Christmas by having a party. They can wear their Christmassy party clothes and will need to bring in small bag of party food with a drink. If your child has a packed lunch, the bag of party food needs to be separate from their packed lunch. Please can all party bags be clearly named as in each Reception class there are children with food allergies.

Next term the children will be focusing on science investigations and food technology linked to a traditional tale and how a character can travel safely when on a journey.

All the staff and children in Reception would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 1: The children have had a fantastic week in school, participating in a range of festive activities. The amazing Christmas concerts performed by the children have been a true highlight. We are so proud of all of them, singing beautifully with such spirit. We hope you enjoyed the performances.

In English this week, the children have been learning and reciting the poem 'Peppermint Stick' by an unknown poet. They have practised and performed it to their peers to develop reading fluency and performance skills.

In design and technology, the children investigated moving mechanisms of sliders and split pins. They made a Father Christmas with moving parts and practised using a sliding character from the traditional tale 'The Gingerbread Man'. The children designed a Christmas card, which included a moving element of a slider. The children look forward to bringing their cards home to their families.

In history, the children looked at toys from the past. They discussed how the toys worked and the materials they were made from. The children then looked at photographs of themselves playing with a toy as a baby, comparing it to the toys they play with today, identifying the changes over time.

In science, the children revisited the characteristics of mammals, reptiles, fish and amphibians. They shared their knowledge and recalled all the interesting facts they have learnt this half term. They will learn about birds in the spring term.

In RE, the children have enjoyed making a Christingle to learn how Christians celebrate Advent. They learnt about what the different parts represent and followed a series of instructions to create their own.

The children enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner today and look forward to their parties on Monday. On party day your child may come to school in party clothes. We ask that these are appropriate for school especially with sensible shoes. We have a number of pupils in school with food allergies or special dietary requirements, so please could we ask that you send your child to school with a named pack of party food for their individual consumption; for example, a sandwich, some crisps, a piece of fruit and a carton of drink etc. This is in addition to their packed lunch, if your child is bringing one in on that day. Thank you so much for helping with this. It should be a lovely afternoon, with traditional party games and a visit from a special visitor bearing gifts!

Next week, the children are also visiting the church. Please could you return your child's permission slip to their teacher if you have not yet done so. We shall be walking together to and from the church, so if you can, please do join us for some wonderful Christmas singing.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: It has been wonderfully festive in Year 2 this week. Each class performed 'A Miracle in Town' for their Christmas concert, accompanied by a Year 1 class as the choir. The performances were spectacular! The acting and singing was fantastic, and we hope the performances put you all in a very festive mood. It has been such a pleasure for the Year 2 staff to be able to put on their first Christmas concerts with an audience since before Covid and we would like to thank you all so much for coming and giving the children your support.

As well as lots of rehearsals in the lead up to the concerts, the children have been enjoying lots of different festive activities in class. The children have made beautiful Christmas cards, calendars and tree decorations, which will be sent home before the Christmas break.

The children have enjoyed hearing lots of Christmas stories, including 'Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present', 'Snow Lambs' and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'.

Today the children have enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers and eating a delicious Christmas dinner. Thank you to the Herts Catering team for all their hard work preparing the food and to the members of FROG who helped to decorate the tables and serve the children. A wonderful time was had by everyone!

Next week, the children will have their end of term parties. These will take place on Monday 19th December in the afternoon. Children can come into school in party clothes, but we ask that you keep outfit choices sensible, as they will still be going outside to play during the day. Due to the number of food intolerances and different diets, we are asking parents to provide children with an individual party picnic pack that they can enjoy during the party. This should be separate from a packed lunch and brought in a named bag or container. Tuesday is the last day of the autumn term and school will close at 2pm.

Thank you to those of you who have sent in gifts and cards. We are so very grateful for your kindness and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Year 2 team

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Eshaal	<i>for taking part in a wider range of activities.</i>
	Oscar	<i>for fantastic effort when singing Christmas songs.</i>
	Neive	<i>for super participation when singing Christmas songs.</i>
	Emmie	<i>for excellent creativity when painting and for making a wonderful star.</i>
Snowy Owls	Fatima	<i>for making very good progress with her reading.</i>
	Blue	<i>for always using his golden words.</i>
Tawny Owls	Hollie	<i>for generating and continuing her own complex Christmas pattern.</i>
	Mason	<i>for always showing the five signs of learning on the carpet.</i>
	Samuel	<i>for super 2D shape recognition.</i>
	Saahirah	<i>for always using her 'golden words' at lunchtime.</i>
Barn Owls	Ariana	<i>for fabulous segmenting and blending when reading.</i>
	Tigerlily	<i>for always being a kind friend in class.</i>
	Noah	<i>for lovely letter formation during phonics lessons.</i>
	Marliya	

	Kalanne	<i>for her lovely sense of humour and making the teachers smile.</i> <i>for always including her friends when playing.</i>
Value of the month	Snowy Owls: Connie and Clark Tawny Owls: Jacob, Reggie and Juliette Barn Owls: Phoebe, Xavier and Jamal	
Red Fox Class	Jose Ernie	<i>for good recall of different mammals in science.</i> <i>for being determined with his reading.</i>
Big Cat Class	Big Cat Class	<i>Everyone for an amazing Christmas concert.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Hanna	<i>for always engaging well with learning during carpet time.</i>
Value of the month:	Red Foxes: Chiara and Virat Big Cats: Ela Walker Bears: Elenora and Luan	
Penguin Class	Penguin class special awards go to the whole class	<i>for a fantastic performance in the Christmas concert.</i>
Pelican Class	Pelican class special awards go to the whole class	<i>for a fantastic performance in the Christmas concert.</i>
Puffin Class	Puffin class special awards go to the whole class	<i>for a fantastic performance in the Christmas concert.</i>
Value of the month (responsibility)	Penguins: Milly and Jacob M Pelicans: Merin and Chloe-Bonnie Puffins: Mia and Billy-Joe	

kindest regards,
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher



TERM DATES 2022-23

Autumn Term: Thursday 1st September 2022 – 21st December 2022

Children return to school on Friday 2nd September 2022

[Half Term: Monday 24th October 2022 – Friday 28th October 2022]

Children return to school on Tuesday 1st November 2022

[Christmas Holidays: Thursday 22nd December 2022 – 4th January 2023]

Children return to school on Thursday 5th January 2023

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]

*Children return to school on Tuesday 6th June 2023
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

SCHOOL DATES 2022/23

NOVEMBER 2022	
Thursday 3 rd onwards	EVERY THURSDAY morning 8.30-9.30am , Stay and Play in the Nursery. Come in & join your child to share a book or other activity in the Nursery. All welcome.
Friday 7 th onwards	EVERY FRIDAY morning 8.50-9.20am , Stay and Read in all Reception Classes. Share a book with your child, all welcome.
DECEMBER 2022	
Monday 19 th	Hanukkah Assembly, in school, pupils only
Monday 19 th	Afternoon Christmas Parties. Nursery closed in the morning and all Nursery children to come for the afternoon. A Surprise Visitor!
Tuesday 20 th	Year 1 visit to All Saints Church
Tuesday 20 th	Last Day of term – finish at 2pm (no After School Club)