



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 is one of the loveliest times of the school year and our children have enjoyed a wonderful, sparkling week! The Reception Christmas Concerts brought tears to many an eye. This was the very first performance in front of an audience for our children, as during the pandemic everything was done remotely. Families expressed such delight in the concerts and many parents spoke to me about what a lovely school this is and how well their children are doing. We were so very, very proud of our Reception children!

The elves in many classrooms have been playing tricks and in Tawny Owl class their elf was so impressed by the children's fantastic performance in their Christmas Concert that he hid a chocolate for each child in a magical box! On Wednesday afternoon, children attended a splendid theatrical production of 'Sleeping Beauty'. Today, our Year 2 pupils will go on a virtual Festive Journey. This experience is organised by Bridge Builders and is always one of the highlights our year and a keystone in the Year 2 RE programme. More details are below in the year-group section and do please check the website for photographs.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9th SCHOOL IS CLOSED: Every year the government gives schools one 'occasional day'. We hope you all enjoy the long weekend this week!

Cost of living crisis: We sent an email out this week with some useful contact information should you require any assistance. Please also know that local advice can be sought through the local Citizen's Advice Bureau through one of their specialist advisers they can fill in an enquiry form via www.Stevenagecab.org.uk and then select get advice.

Christmas Jumper Day: In our school this year we will celebrate Christmas Jumper Day on Friday December 16th which is the day we have our Christmas dinner.

Children can wear a Christmas jumper on this day if they have one; alternately, they can wear any jumper and we will add tinsel and decorations when they come to school.

This is optional, however, and if preferred children can come in school uniform or in simple non-uniform.

We have signed up to 'Save the Children' where Christmas Jumper Day originated. If you would like to support mothers and children to receive food and medicine in Kenya

then please donate using the link below. The UK government is going to match every £2 raised!

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>

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.*

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.*

Friday 16th December, Christmas Lunch: *On the 16th December we will be holding our Christmas School Lunch for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, supported by our amazing FROG. Please see the menu below:*

Red Option: Sliced turkey breast with chipolata sausage

Green Option: Quorn fillet

Both options served with: Sage and onion stuffing, gravy, roast potatoes and choice of seasonal vegetables

Pudding: Christmas themed pudding. (A separate pudding will be served to those children with known allergies).

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

We will be sending out further communications over the coming weeks including information on how to install and use the Arbor Parent Portal.

FROG Christmas Card Project: *Thank you to those of you that returned your child's art work, the slips will have gone home this week with information on how you can place an order. All orders must be completed by 12th December to allow time for them to be delivered to school before we break for Christmas.*

Spring Term 2023 Milk: *An email was sent earlier this week with information on how to order milk for the spring term (5th January – 31st March 2023). If you require milk for your child, please ensure that you make your payment or indicate consent through the school gateway app, no later than Friday 16th December 2022.*

Nursery school places for September 2023: *If you are a prospective parent, we have a number of tours scheduled, 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.

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/>

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.



A poster for 'Coats 4 Kids' with a teal background and yellow text. It features four stars in the corners. The text reads: 'Coats 4 Kids', 'FREE, PRELOVED WINTER COATS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED. ZERO COST. ZERO JUDGEMENT.', 'Coat Bank', 'THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER 4PM - 6PM', 'MARRIOTTS SCHOOL, STEVENAGE', 'COME ALONG AND GET YOUR FREE KIDS WINTER COATS', 'PLEASE SHARE ♡'. At the bottom, there is a Facebook icon and the text: 'JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP FOR REQUESTS & DONATIONS WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/COATS4KIDSHERTS'.

Nursery: It has been a wonderful week in Nursery continuing with the advent celebrations, having the Christmas tree shining bright and spotting the class elf each day. The children have learnt the Makaton sign for Christmas and practised the sign for celebration. They have enjoyed listening to the Nativity and sequenced pictures to help re-tell their own version of the Nativity story.

The children loved our Santa's workshop this week in our role play area. They enjoyed writing a special Christmas card, practised wrapping presents and wrote out gift tags. Ivy commented, "Santa's elves are great, they help Santa to wrap the presents, we can be elves!"

In art the children enjoyed making sparkly Christmas craft. The Nursery was busy with children making stockings, robins, stars, trees or baubles. They also merrily printed stars and shook glitter to make a folder to bring home their special arts and crafts from this term - these will be given out on Thursday next week.

In phonics each group had a special box with objects beginning with the same sound, they all practised good looking and excellent listening skills waiting for each object. The children were challenged to remember as many items as they could from the box.

The children have been excited to practise singing Christmas songs ready for the concert on Friday 16th December. A letter was sent out this week for your child's concert time, please let us know if you didn't receive a letter.

Next week the children will practise singing the songs from their rhyme rings ready for the concert. They will continue to enjoy festive arts and crafts and take part in festive gross motor games. Please can all library books be returned on Monday 12th December; we will start the library again after the Christmas break.

Reception: The children performed their class assemblies this week and all the staff in Reception were so proud of the children. It was so lovely to see so many people in the audience and the children loved the grown ups joining in singing, 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'.

This week the children found out why Christmas is celebrated around the world and have listened to a range of Nativity stories by different authors. They really enjoyed listening to and participating in the Nativity story with actions. The children had the opportunity to meet different characters from the Nativity story through 'hot seating' and enjoyed asking them questions.

When talking about the Nativity story, Sabah in Snowy Owl class said, "The Wise Men brought perfume." The children created story maps of the Nativity and used their maps to retell the story in their own words saying some lovely quotes. Zenny in Tawny Owl class said, "After baby Jesus had been born, an angel appeared to the sheep-men and said, "There's a new King been born,"" and Fred in Barn Owl class said, "The Wise Men brought baby Jesus gold, frankin-smell and myrrh."

In RE, the children looked at an illustration of the Wise Men giving Jesus gifts. They talked about what gifts they could give other people and thought carefully about what gift they could give which would not cost a single penny. As a class, the children shared gifts such as a smile, a hug or saying kind words to their friends in class.

Our poem of the week is 'Away in a Manger'. Please encourage your child to read or sing this to you, a member of the family or a family friend. These weekly poems are to aid your child's fluency in reading. The children really enjoy learning the poems each week.

Next week the children will be discussing the properties of 2D shapes placed on a Christmas tree and using decorations to create Christmas patterns. They will be listening to a variety of Christmas themed stories and participating in many Christmas activities.

Year 1: This week the children had a wonderful experience watching the interactive panto of Sleeping Beauty from the visiting theatre company M&M. It was the most engaging show with singing, dancing and lots of laughter!

In English, the children have begun their topic on 'The Nativity'. They have listened carefully to the story, learning the characters names, such as Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Wise Men and Angel Gabriel and sequenced the events. They have continued with their work on sentence structure, writing about the Nativity story using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

In phonics the children have begun learning about the split vowel digraph i-e and o-e. They have been segmenting and blending words such as time, pine, home and note, and using sound buttons to demarcate each sound. The children have also been practising reading and spelling the words time, like, Mr and Mrs.

In mathematics, the children have been working on word problems using the part, part, whole model to show their answers. They have also been introduced to bar models as a way to represent an answer.

In PE, the children have been developing their listening skills. They have played a series of games, listening carefully to the instructions. The children have continued to develop their ball skills, rolling, dribbling or throwing the ball to a partner through a gateway.

In Forest School, the children had a wonderful time making their lanterns. They decorated them with fallen leaves, tied ribbon and raffia to their jars and added a tea light. Please do follow the link below to take a look.

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/year-1-red-foxes-walker-bears-and-big-cats/>

Next week, as part of our history learning, please could your child bring in a photograph of them as a baby/toddler playing with a toy and then an up-to-date photograph of them playing with a modern day toy. These photographs will be stuck in their topic books to create a timeline. They will be comparing the changes over time. Thank you for your support with this.

The children will also be learning about Christingle and taking part in their Christmas concerts. Year One will be the choir, supporting Year Two with their performance. Everyone is most welcome.

- *Tuesday 13th Christmas Concerts: Big Cats, 1.30pm*
- *Wednesday 14th Christmas Concerts: Red Foxes, 1.30pm*
- *Thursday 15th Christmas Concerts: Walker Bears, 1.30pm*

You will have also received a letter regarding the trip to the church, taking place on Tuesday 20th December. The children will be singing and acting out the story of the Nativity. If you would like to attend this trip, please could you complete the consent form and return to school next week. You are most welcome to walk with us to and from the church.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Year 1 Team

Year 2: This week the Year 2 children have worked hard to finish their English unit about Rapunzel. They wrote a diary entry as if they were Rapunzel, expanding noun phrases with adjectives to make their writing sound exciting to the reader and grip their attention. Amelia in Pelican class wrote, "Every day the witch brushed my luscious, long hair." Quinn in Puffin class wrote, "I saw a sneaky fox behind a bush." The children remembered to add the suffix '-ed' to the verbs they used to ensure their diary entry was written consistently in the past tense. Well done to all the children for creating such lovely work.

In mathematics, the children have continued to learn about money. They have added together the prices of different toys to work out how much they would cost to buy in total and have made the amounts using different coins. The children have also learnt about ordinal numbers, for example, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and used this information to describe the finishing position of different racing cars in a race.

On Wednesday the children enjoyed a pantomime version of 'Sleeping Beauty'. This was great fun and has inspired them with their own performance of the Nativity. The children have practised saying their words loudly and clearly and have been working

to project their voices so that the audience can hear them speaking. They have also enjoyed practising singing all the songs and trying on their costumes. You are invited to attend your child's class performance next week.

On Thursday the children joined in the virtual Festive Journey provided by the Bridge Builders' Trust. They enjoyed hearing the Nativity story from the point of view of all the different characters and made some keepsake tokens as a reminder of their special activity. We thank the Bridge Builders for providing this enjoyable event for our Year Two children.

Next week the children will focus mainly on rehearsing for their Nativity performances, which they are very excited about. This focuses on the drama and public speaking element of the English curriculum and the singing aspect of the music curriculum. You are invited to attend your child's class performance as follows:

- Puffin class: Tuesday 13th December 2.30pm*
- Penguin Class: Wednesday 14th December 2.30pm*
- Pelican class Thursday 15th December 2.30pm*

The children will complete word problems with a Christmas theme in mathematics and will continue their Christmas craft activities, including making cards, calendars, hats and decorations.

Friday 16th December is our Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day. Children can wear a Christmas jumper on this day if they have one; alternately, they can wear any jumper and we will add tinsel and decorations when they come to school. This is optional, however, and if preferred children can come in school uniform or in simple non-uniform.

We hope you have a lovely, long weekend.

Year 2 Team

STARS OF THE WEEK

<i>Ladybird Nursery Classes</i>	<i>Lylac</i>	<i>for excellent balance whilst doing the beanbag challenges.</i>
	<i>Isla</i>	<i>for fantastic participation in Santa's Toy Workshop role play.</i>
	<i>Aston</i>	<i>for excellent sharing and turn taking.</i>
	<i>Maisie</i>	<i>for super recognition of the initial sounds in words.</i>
	<i>Ahmed</i>	<i>for sharing his ideas at group time.</i>
	<i>Olaf</i>	<i>for having confidence to try more activities at Nursery.</i>
<i>Snowy Owls</i>	<i>All the children in Snowy Owl class</i>	<i>for performing a brilliant class assembly.</i>
<i>Tawny Owls</i>	<i>All the children in Tawny Owl class</i>	<i>for performing a wonderful class assembly.</i>

Barn Owls	All the children in Barn Owl class	for performing a fantastic class assembly.
Red Fox Class	Aaron	for always trying his best.
	Matthew	for a fantastic version of the Christmas story.
Big Cat Class	Finley	for showing great kindness to his friends.
	Sol	for working really hard in maths using a part, part, whole model.
Walker Bear Class	Harper	for an excellent piece of English when writing about the Nativity.
	Nkazi	For excellent listening skills in PE.
Penguin Class	Luka	for a super effort with all of his work this week.
	Naisha	for excellent effort in her mathematics this week.
Pelican Class	Lenny	for showing good learning behaviours this week.
	Amelia	for fantastic reading and contributing well to class discussions about books in class.
	Orla	for careful and detailed work in art.
Puffin Class	Quinn	for writing a fantastic diary entry about Rapunzel.
	Nikodem	for always being a super friend and helping others.

**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	
Tuesday 13 th	Christmas Concerts: Big Cats, 1.30pm Puffins, 2.30pm
Wednesday 14 th	Christmas Concerts: Red Foxes, 1.30pm Penguins, 2.30pm
Thursday 15 th	Christmas Concerts: Walker Bears, 1.30pm Pelicans, 2.30pm
Friday 16 th	8.30am – 12.30pm Follow up Flu Immunisation
Friday 16 th	Christmas Dinner – FROG kindly decorate
Friday 16 th	Nursery Christmas Concerts, 10.00am and 2.30pm
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