



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**25.11.2022**

**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 brilliant week with one of the highlights being the spectacularly successful day-long Toys workshop in Year 1; it was the most enticing imaginable introduction to this topic. Thank you to everyone who joined our INCo/FROG Coffee morning on Tuesday – it was so lovely to see so many new faces! Thank you to our tremendous FROG team and to Mrs McPartland, Miss Stanton and Mrs Ballard for setting everything up.***

***The Christmas season is fast approaching and this coming week we will have an Advent Assembly led by Mrs Dacombe and the following week Year 2 pupils will enjoy a Christmas Journey workshop.***

***Do remember that on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> the school is **CLOSED FOR AN OCCASIONAL DAY.** We hope that you all enjoy the long weekend.***

***Change of Address or Mobile Number: If you moved house or changed your mobile telephone number, please ensure that you let us know via email ([admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk)) so that we can update your child's contact information. Please remember that we need two contact numbers for your child.***

***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 2022. Applications opened on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, and the deadline date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. If you need any assistance to 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 2 Children starting Year 3 in September 2023: Applications for our current Year 2 children who shall move into Year 3 in September 2023 opened with Hertfordshire County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, with a closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Applications can be made via: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx> If you need any assistance in making your application, please contact the school office. Any enquiries about Junior school provision should be made to the school of your choice.***

***Additional Bank Holiday in 2023: His Majesty King Charles III will have his Coronation on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. An additional bank holiday has been granted for the nation on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023; the school will therefore be closed on this day.***

***Nursery: This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed hearing and retelling the story, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. They have had a wonderful time learning to use 'Makaton' to support re-telling the story and joining in with the repeated refrains. The children were extremely excited to go on a bear hunt and were thrilled to find a bear hiding in a cave. Maisie said, "Look, 1 shiny nose, 2 googly eyes, it's a bear!" Georgia commented, "Swirly whirl snowstorm!" In art, the children used sponge painting to create a brown bear, they added 1 nose, 2 ears, and 2 eyes, each bear looks wonderful and unique.***

***In mathematics, the children practised using the vocabulary 'first, second, next and last' to describe a position in a line. They have focussed on the number 4 this week and learnt the rhyme "Down and across, down once more. Now I've made a number 4."***

***In PSHCE, the children have been focussing on what makes them different and what makes them unique. They thought about special people in their lives and shared their special experiences. Isla shared, "My Grandad is special to me because he rides his bike and I ride my scooter, we race, we both go fast!" Archie shared, "at bedtime mummy reads me a story."***

***In phonics, the children have segmented their name and identified the initial sound. They then enjoyed playing a game of 'I spy someone whose name begins with ...'***

***The children had a fantastic time using the parachute in the school hall with Mr Pullen this week to develop their gross motor skills. They practised making small and large waves, keeping the balls bouncing on the parachute and enjoyed a game of apples and pears.***

***Next week we will be celebrating Teddy's 4th birthday. The children can wear party clothes for Teddy's party on Thursday and will be eating honey sandwiches, so please let us know if your child has any allergies. Over the next two weeks we will be sharing our family photos so we can learn about each other's different experiences within the family unit and to have lots of fun celebrating diversity, customs, and traditions. Please could you send in a family picture; we will make a copy and return the original to you shortly.***

***As part of our celebration for Teddy we will also be looking at old and special bears. The children are welcome to bring in a special bear or teddy to show and tell from Tuesday onwards, these will be kept in a special place until home time.***

***Reception: This week in literacy, the children worked in their colour groups to create non-fiction work about wolves. Each group focused on a theme and wrote facts about the wolf's habitat, the animals they hunt for to eat, the differences between male and female wolves and family life for a wolf. When generating a fact about wolves, Hugo applied his phonic knowledge and wrote for the class non-fiction book, "A wolf has thick fur to keep warm.". During class discussions about wolves, Lena in Tawny Owls***

said, "Baby wolves are so cute," and George in Snowy Owl class said, "Wolves start hunting on their own when they get bigger." Next week at Stay and Read you will have an opportunity to look at your child's class non-fiction book on wolves.

In mathematics, the children investigated through play 2D and 3D shapes. They noticed 2D shapes on 3D shapes and enjoyed creating shape pictures. The children have noticed shapes in and around the classroom. In a second mathematical activity, the children used 2D shapes to create a picture of a wolf.

In PE, the children focused on houses and homes. They created different shapes with their bodies to represent a type of home. They enjoyed pretending to press a button for a lift and slowly bending their knees to a squat position and then slowly returning to a standing position as if they were going up and down in an escalator.

Next week in mathematics, the children will be focusing on the terms 'more' and 'fewer' by placing animals in a field. During a second mathematical activity they will be matching a number to an amount.

In RE, the children will be listening to a version of the Nativity story and discussing why the characters gave baby Jesus gifts.

Next week, each class will begin to practise for their class assembly for the following week. They have been enjoying singing the songs and creating some fantastic artwork which will be shown in their assembly.

Year 1: This week, Year One had the most enjoyable 'WOW' day, launching their new cross curricular topic on Toys. They had an absolutely fantastic time taking part in the virtual toy workshop from 'History Off The Page'. They learnt about toys from the past, the materials they were made from and how they moved. The children became toy makers, making and decorating their own selection of toys. They made a teddy with moving parts, a spinning top, a thaumatrope, a peg doll, a table-top footballer and a magnetic fish and rod. Aria in Big Cats said, "I liked making the thaumatrope because it's like magic". Ayaansh in Big Cats explained, "I love making all the toys, I'm so excited to play with them". You can view photographs from the workshop on our school website:

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

In English, the children have been using their phonic knowledge to write lists of toys. They focused on the layout of their list, writing each word on the next line, underneath their previous word. The children learnt about plurals and the spelling rule of adding 's' to turn a singular word into a plural. They learnt that plural means more than one. In phonics the children have been learning the wh, ph and ew digraphs. They have been segmenting and blending words such as wheel, dolphin and phonics and using phoneme frames to record their words.

In mathematics, the children have been introduced to the key vocabulary 'pentomino' (five equal-sized squares connected edge-to-edge). They have been using cubes to make a variety of pentominoes and write the addition calculation to match it.

In computing, the children have continued learning about algorithms. They learnt that an algorithm is a set of instructions that must be followed in sequential order. The children had great fun orally debugging instructions for 'The Wrong Sandwich' and used Purple Mash to create their own correctly sequenced algorithm.

In Forest School, the children had a wonderful time making dens for hedgehogs. They listened to the story 'Don't Hog The Hedge' and discussed friendship and teamwork. They collected leaves and sticks to create homes, working with their peers.

*Due to the wet weather we are experiencing at the moment, please could you provide a spare pair of trousers / leggings, socks and a change of shoes on your child's Forest School Day. If they own waterproof trousers, please do send them in.*

*Please could you also bring in a named glass jar for your child to decorate in Forest School as the week after they will be making lanterns. Many thanks.*

*Next week in Year One, the children will continue to learn about toys old and new. In English, the children will be focusing on using a capital letter to start a sentence. In mathematics, the children will be focusing on subtraction facts using a variety of manipulatives. In science, the children will be continuing their learning on animal classification and be looking in detail at fish.*

*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.*

*Year 2: It has been a lovely week of learning in Year 2. In English, the children have started a new unit of work based on the fairy tale of Rapunzel. They began by sharing what they already know about fairy tales, discussing typical settings, characters and plots. The children thought about characters from well-known fairy tales and deliberated whether they were 'good' or 'bad'. They found it was often difficult to decide, as the characters do good and bad things! In Pelican class, Philip commented that "Daddy bear wants to look after his family and Goldilocks is stealing from him, so it's really tricky to decide who's the bad one and who's the good one."*

*In mathematics, the children learnt about measure and the different resources we use to measure length. They learnt how to use a ruler correctly to measure small items, and how to draw straight lines to an exact measurement. They learnt that larger items can be measured with a metre stick and enjoyed measuring lots of different items in the classroom, including a table, a bookcase, a door and each other! Isaac in Penguin class said, "I've loved measuring different things and finding out how long they are." The children also considered different objects and whether it would be best to measure them with a ruler or a metre stick.*

*In geography, the children talked about the different features of Stevenage and created an information sheet to tell people all about what Stevenage has to offer. Ronni in Puffin class said, "Stevenage has so much to do, it's great to live here!". In computing, the children started a new unit of work, all about making music using computer programs. They explored 2Sequence on Purple Mash and had a go at adding different instruments, changing the volume and changing the speed.*

*Next week in English, the children will continue to look at the fairy tale of Rapunzel. They will read Bethan Woolvin's version of the story and compare it to the traditional tale. The children will learn the suffixes 'ful' and 'less' and how these words can be used to describe characters. They will write exclamations within speech, writing a conversation between the witch and Rapunzel.*

*In mathematics, the children will learn about money. They will revise how to recognise different coins before recording the cost of items in pounds (£) and pence (p). They will explore how to make amounts using different coins. In geography, they will learn about the small Scottish island of Coll and explore some of its key features.*

*In music, the children will continue to learn songs for our special Christmas performances. These will take place as follows:*

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

***Your child may have come home this week talking about their role in the performance. Please be reassured, we provide the costumes for the performance, so you do not need to purchase anything at home. All we ask, is that you come along and enjoy this special occasion with us. These will be our first 'live' Christmas concerts since before covid and we are very excited!***

### **STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	Busby Toby Mya-Jae Archie	for a fantastic drawing of a spider on a spider web. for showing perseverance when using scissors. for excellent effort using 'Makaton' signs. for sharing what makes him special and unique.
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	Aimee Mila	for always using 'Golden Words'. for helping two friends solve a problem.
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	Charles Lauren	for brilliant 2D shape recognition. for demonstrating excellent ball control skills in PE.
<b>Barn Owls</b>	Reuben Veronika	for writing a super fact about wolves using initial sounds. for lovely investigating and recognition of 2D shapes.
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	Kairav Aaron	for fantastic listening and following instructions during our toy workshop. for displaying fantastic ball skills during PE.
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	Adrian Wednesday	for working really hard on his hedgehog fact file. for working with great independence and enthusiasm throughout the day when making a range of toys in the toy workshop.
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	Hanna Nkazi	for being a super role model for learning time on the carpet. for working well with a partner in learning time.
<b>Penguin Class</b>	Toby Chloe	for always staying focused on his learning and trying his very best. for always having a positive attitude to her learning.
<b>Pelican Class</b>	George Eden-Martin	For excellent phonics learning this week. For writing brilliant speech bubbles in English.
<b>Puffin Class</b>	Tyler Philip	for always trying his best with his learning. for writing a wonderful character profile about Granny Mainland.

*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*



### **SCHOOL DATES 2022/23**

<b>NOVEMBER 2022</b>	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> onwards	EVERY THURSDAY morning <b>8.30-9.30am</b> , 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 <sup>th</sup> onwards	EVERY FRIDAY morning <b>8.50-9.20am</b> , Stay and Read in all Reception Classes. Share a book with your child, all welcome.
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Assembly, in school, pupils only
<b>DECEMBER 2022</b>	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Christmas Concert – BARN OWLS, <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Christmas Concert – TAWNY OWLS, <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	M&M Production of SLEEPING BEAUTY
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Christmas Concert – SNOWY OWLS, <b>9.15am</b>
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	OCCASIONAL DAY – <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts: Big Cats, <b>1.30pm</b> Puffins, <b>2.30pm</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts: Red Foxes, <b>1.30pm</b> Penguins, <b>2.30pm</b>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts: Walker Bears, <b>1.30pm</b> Pelicans, <b>2.30pm</b>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am – 12.30pm Follow up Flu Immunisation
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner – FROG kindly decorate
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Christmas Concerts, 10.00am and 2.30pm
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Hanukkah Assembly, in school, pupils only
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon Christmas Parties. Nursery closed in the morning and all Nursery children to come for the afternoon. A Surprise Visitor!
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 visit to All Saints Church
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of term – finish at 2pm