



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Judith Garley

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18.11.2022

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,

It has been, as ever, a tremendous learning week in school. Reception children have been fascinated by the work they are doing on different habitats in which wolves live and they thoroughly enjoyed the Pudsey sporting activity events today!

Next week Year 1 will have a History of Toy workshop on Tuesday and please do join us for coffee morning earlier that day after dropping your children.

Thank you all for your generosity today for the non-uniform day in support of Children-in-Need. The children look amazing and a lot of money has been raised for the important work done by this charity. I will let you know the final amount raised when we have finished counting - if you were unable to leave a donation today, do feel free to drop one by the office on Monday or Tuesday next week.

Thank you also to all those who walked round the perimeters of both our school and the Junior school last Friday to admire the Remembrance displays in the windows. The children have learnt so much history during this period; thank you for your kind comments.

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

INCO/Senco/FROG Coffee Morning: Our wonderful FROG team will join our INCO/SENCO Coffee morning on Tuesday 22nd November 8.50am – 9.30am in the dining hall. The coffee morning will offer you a good opportunity to socialise and meet new and old parents.

Please also consider introducing yourself to Victoria Aldwinckle, our amazing Chair of FROG. FROG does so much for our school and your children. They organise so many terrific events - and are hoping to introduce (new this school year) film showings on 2nd and 9th March as well as bake sales, Easter Activities, Nursery Bedtime Stories Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day gifts and much more.

We do need more members. Please come to the coffee morning and introduce yourself to Victoria - or else email her on: aldwinckle@me.com to let her know you'd like to get involved in some way.

Mrs Humphrey's Baby: Mrs Humphrey gave birth to a beautiful little boy on Saturday 12th November at 9.58am, weighing 8lb 11oz. Welcome to the world Zachary!

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 will open with Hertfordshire County Council on 1st November 2022, with a closing date of 15th 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.



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Nursery and Reception Open Visits

Applications are being accepted for
Nursery places to start January/September 2022
Reception places to start September 2022

Tours of our Nursery and Reception classes
every Thursday at 4.00pm till 13th January 2022

Prospective Parent Evenings
Wednesday 24th November
Thursday 2nd December
30 minute tours at 5.30pm, 6.00pm and 6.30pm

Please visit the school website for further details
of how to book your visit or call us on 01438 359747

www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk



Nursery: Our nursery rhyme this week was 'Incy Wincy Spider.' The children enjoyed creating sparkly spider webs with glitter and loved creating 3D spiders using playdough and pipe cleaners. They also worked well as a group to create a large spider web by carefully throwing a ball of wool to each other to make the spider web threads.

This week the children have been fascinated to learn facts about spiders, they have looked at non-fiction books about spiders, discussed many facts and watched a timelapse video of a spider web being spun. They have learnt about different spiders, explored how spiders catch their food and learnt that spiders have 8 legs and 8 eyes. Evelyn said, "The spiders in the garden are garden spiders, they spin webs on the bushes." Alice recalled that baby spiders are called "spiderlings."

In mathematics, the children practised subitising to 3 and counting to 10. They have focused on the number 3 this week and learnt the rhyme "Around the tree, around the tree, now I've made the number three."

In PSHCE, the children have practised mindful breathing, by touching their noses as they breathe in and putting their hands in front of their mouths as they breathe out so they can feel their rainbow breath. They then chose to share something they are good at and say why they are good at it. Parker shared, "I'm good at finding my name card, I can read my name."

In phonics, the children have practised identifying words that rhyme. They played the game 'Odd One Out' where they were shown three objects and needed to find the rhyming pair. In triangle group, they were shown a box, a fox and a car, they then identified the rhyming pair 'box and fox' and spotted that the 'car' was the odd one out. Noah B was excited to learn "log and frog" rhyme and clapped his hands together when he found the rhyming pair.

Our story for next week is 'Going on a Bear Hunt,' by Michael Rosen and the children will be going on a bear hunt of their own. They will also learn to retell the story using Makaton signs. The children will receive a number 4 card for their ladybird number rings next week.

Reception: In literacy, the children discovered facts about different environments wolves live in and worked in groups to create these environments using a range of natural and recycled materials. When talking about what a habitat is, Charlie in Tawny Owl class said, "It's the wolf's home." The children talked about a wolf hiding to protect themselves from predators. Theo in Tawny Owl class said, "Camouflage means to hide in the grass." When recalling a fact about wolves, Bella in Snowy Owl class said, "Wolves have sharp claws."

In mathematics, the children investigated one less than in relation to numbers on a number line. They used their finger to make it move back one jump. The children enjoyed singing songs such as 'Five currant buns in a baker's shop' and 'There were ten in a bed' to support the learning of one less. They enjoyed rhyming stories by the author Mike Brownlow which also helped the children with this mathematical concept.

In understanding of the world, the children loved investigating the force of the Big Bad Wolf's huffing and puffing on building materials. They used a hairdryer for the wolf's huffs and puffs to blow down a straw, stick and brick house. Before beginning her investigation, Ava in Barn Owl class predicted, "The hairdryer wolf will break the straw house because it's soft and crunchy. The stick house will be blown down because it does not have cement and the brick house can't be blown down because it has cement between the bricks." When evaluating her investigation, Phoebe in Barn Owl class said, "The wolf blew the straw house down. Actually, the wolf blew the straw house and the stick house down. It shows he has the strongest breath in the town!"

Next week in literacy, the children will be making a class non-fiction book about wolves. They will be using their phonic knowledge to write facts about a wolf's appearance, their diet, how a wolf hunts and a wolf's family.

In mathematics, the children will be investigating 2D and 3D shapes and using 2D shapes to create a wolf.

Now the colder weather is fast approaching we are encouraging the children to have a go at putting their coats on by themselves. An easy way for a child to do this is to place the coat on the floor, get your child to stand behind the hood or collar of the coat, then get your child to place their hands into the coat sleeves and then flip the

coat over their head. Please would you show your child how to pull their coat sleeves if they are inside out and encourage them to have a go at doing up their coat zip.

Year 1: This week in English, the children have continued with their learning about hedgehogs. They have used their research to write sentences about where hedgehogs live and what they eat. They should all feel incredibly proud of their writing and the independence they have shown in using their writing checklist to remember to use finger spaces and full stops and to read their work to check that it makes sense.

In mathematics, the children have explored the language of addition. They have learnt about the addition symbol and associated vocabulary such as plus, sum, add, total and altogether. They have explored ways to split a number into 3 parts and practised writing addition calculations to match the part, part, part, whole models.

In PE, the children continued to practise throwing at a target using beanbags. They worked hard to apply the following steps to develop throwing underarm with accuracy: keeping their eyes on the target and throwing with their writing hand; standing with their legs split and putting their opposite leg to throwing arm forwards; adjusting the power and carefully timing the release of the throw. The children also began to learn about an overarm throw and compared it to an underarm throw.

The children also had a fantastic time in their first Forest School session! They learnt how to keep themselves safe in the woodland area and then enjoyed playing a hide and seek game. They listened to the story 'The Scarecrow's Hat' by Ken Brown, which explores the theme of friendship and helping one another. The children then worked with their partner to create friendship bracelets. They had to find the colourful wool that was hanging on the trees, left behind by the chicken in the story.

Next week, we are excited to reveal that we will be hosting a virtual toy workshop provided by 'History off the Page'. The children will be learning about toys from the past, how they moved, and the materials used to make them. They will also have the opportunity to make and play with their own toys! In mathematics, the children will focus on 'Think 5' and subtraction. In science, the children will be continuing with their learning on animal classification, focusing on reptiles.

Year 2: It has been another wonderful week of learning and exciting activities in Year 2, culminating in a colourful non-uniform day with donations made to Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who made a donation towards this worthy cause.

Thank you also to the parents who joined us for our first 'Stay and Share Work' session of the year this week. The children are very proud of their work and were delighted to have the opportunity to share it with you.

In English this week, the children have continued the unit of work based on the Katie Morag stories by Maire Hedderwick. They learnt how to use the possessive apostrophe to write sentences to describe Katie Morag and how to use 'and' to join two sentences together; for example, Katie Morag's hair is red and her hair is curly. The children applied this new learning to write a character profile for one of Katie Morag's grandmothers.

In mathematics, the children have continued learning how to calculate one more and one less, and ten more and ten less. They learnt how to use a tens frame to help them calculate one more and less, including regrouping a ten for ten ones when necessary. Then, they learnt how to use a part whole model to help them calculate ten more and ten less.

In geography, the children learnt about the countries of the United Kingdom and their capital cities. In art and design, the children used fabric to create a collage portrait of

Katie Morag. In PSHCE, the children learnt about Children in Need and how their fundraising goes towards helping others who are less fortunate than us. They created some new designs for Pudsey bear too!

Next week in English, the children will begin a new unit of work exploring two versions of the story of Rapunzel. They will share what they know about good and bad characters in fairy tales and act out the traditional version of Rapunzel. The children will read Bethan Woolvin's version of Rapunzel and compare the two versions of the story. They will learn the suffixes '-ful' and '-less' and how these words can be used to describe characters. They will also write exclamations within speech, writing a conversation between the witch and Rapunzel.

In mathematics, the children will learn about measure and the different resources we use to measure length, height and mass. In geography, they will learn about Stevenage and explore some of its key features. In PSHCE, the children will think about bullying and how it is sometimes related to difference. They will talk about how being bullied might feel and how they can support someone if they think they are being bullied. In music, the children will begin to learn songs for our special Christmas performance.

Your child's targets for this term have been sent home today. Please look in your child's book bag if they haven't handed them directly to you. Your child has targets for reading, writing and mathematics. We will be focusing on your child's targets in school and appreciate your support at home.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Teddie	<i>for excellent work identifying rhyming pairs.</i>
	Alice	<i>for fantastic effort writing the number 3.</i>
	Georgia-Grace	<i>for being a kind friend and helping others.</i>
	Beau	<i>for super work creating a playdough spider.</i>
Snowy Owls	Milla	<i>for making a wonderful tree when designing a 'forest environment' for a wolf.</i>
	Roman	<i>for using a number line and being able to recall one less for numbers to 10.</i>
Tawny Owls	Lennox	<i>for recalling lots of interesting facts about wolves.</i>
	Amelia	<i>for incredible effort during the team game in our 'Pudsey PE'.</i>
	Teddy	<i>for brilliant sounding out during phonics.</i>
Barn Owls	Casey	<i>for providing many interesting facts about how wolves live in the arctic tundra.</i>
	Miya	<i>for confidently demonstrating one less on a number line with numbers up to 10.</i>
Red Fox Class	Fredrick	<i>for your amazing writing about hedgehog facts.</i>
	Mikolaj	<i>for working hard in mathematics working with the part-whole model.</i>
Big Cat Class	Megan	<i>for writing superb hedgehog facts in English.</i>
	Aria	<i>for super algorithm work in computing.</i>

Walker Bear Class	Theo	<i>for super addition work in mathematics.</i>
	Holly	<i>for working hard in handwriting to form her letters neatly.</i>
Penguin Class	Riley	<i>for confidently applying new strategies in mathematics.</i>
	Kinga	<i>for excellent writing to describe Katie Morag.</i>
Pelican Class	Emma	<i>for carefully selecting materials and creating a very effective collage of Katie Morag.</i>
	Joshua	<i>for excellent mathematics work finding 10 more and 10 less.</i>
Puffin Class	Isla-May	<i>for making a wonderful collage of Katie Morag.</i>
	Aiden	<i>for a fantastic understanding of 10 more and 10 less in mathematics.</i>

*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.
Tuesday 22 nd	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 30 th	Advent Assembly, in school, pupils only
DECEMBER 2022	
Tuesday 6 th	Reception Christmas Concert – BARN OWLS, 9.15am
Wednesday 7 th	Reception Christmas Concert – TAWNY OWLS, 9.15am
Wednesday 7 th	M&M Production of SLEEPING BEAUTY
Thursday 8 th	Reception Christmas Concert – SNOWY OWLS, 9.15am
Friday 9 th	OCCASIONAL DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
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