



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,

Children have returned back to school after what has clearly been a terrific break for everyone ready to return to learning and to work hard. It has been a busy learning week for the children in school.

It was Diwali during half-term, and we would like to wish all our families who celebrated a very happy Diwali. All children in school took part in activities and Diwali dance workshops on the last day of term and Nursery had a special Diwali celebration on Tuesday when the children returned to school. Children engaged in a number of Diwali activities including songs and dance, creating rangoli patterns and learning about this beautiful Hindu Festival of Lights.

The Year 1 pupils enjoyed a visit from Safari Stu on Tuesday which introduced them to the most extraordinary array of animals – several of which I have never seen before in my life! What a tremendous ‘hook’ into their new Animal topic for this half-term.

Year 2 had a full day of learning focused on the Gunpowder Plot and were fascinated to learn about the history behind the celebration of Bonfire Night.

Thank you so much to all families who very kindly and generously contributed bulbs, compost or plants for our planters and garden areas. Classes will continue to plant and sow next week. Our school will look so beautiful in the spring!

What a fabulous start to the new half-term!

I would like to share with you the joyous news that Miss O'Regan was safely delivered of a beautiful baby boy on Sunday October 30th. Remy was born on the 30th October at 7.45 am weighing 7 pounds 15 ounces. We wish Miss O'Regan and her beautiful son all the happiness in the world.



School Photographs: Kittle Photography came to school on Thursday 3rd November to take individual photographs of your children. Your child came home with a photo slip which gives information on how you may view and order your child's photograph. Please allow till Thursday 10th November for the photographs to be uploaded by Kittle.

Parent Open Evening: Please note in your diaries that next Thursday November 10th is Open Evening from 5.30-7.00pm. This is an opportunity for parents to come into school with your children and look round the classes, seeing the beautiful displays, having a chat with your children's class teachers and support staff and generally to have a really good look round our wonderful school.

Stay and Plays for Nursery and Stay and Read for Reception: Thank you to all family members who attended these sessions, and we hope you enjoyed them.

Healthy School: As a Healthy School, we encourage the children to eat healthily and make good food choices. The school lunches which we provide are in line with Hertfordshire County Council's recommendations for nutrition.

If your child has a packed lunch at lunch time, we ask that you support us by providing a packed lunch that is healthy, balanced and nutritious; for example, a healthy sandwich/wrap/salad/ dip and breadsticks; a piece of fruit/ carrot/cucumber sticks; a yogurt or fruit; a few crisps or similar snack, but not every day and a small cake or biscuit occasionally as a treat. The lunch should also include a healthy drink or water. We are aware how tricky it is to feed a child who may be a fussy eater and want to help if we can. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Please can we also ask that you do not give your child chocolate spread or any other products that may contain nuts as we have a number of children with severe nut allergies in school. Even the slightest exposure to these products can cause a life-threatening reaction for these children. Thanks for your support and cooperation with this very important issue.

Poppy Appeal: From Tuesday 1st November, we will have poppies and other items available to purchase from the school office. The children may also bring a donation into class and they will have the opportunity to visit the school office, to purchase an item, during school time. There will be stick-on poppies available as well as accessories, such as bracelets and keyrings.

Charity Event: Andy Bonney, our new caretaker, sadly lost his daughter Gracie aged 16 in 2020 to Haemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH). HLH is a severe systemic inflammatory syndrome that can be fatal. This syndrome can occur in normal people with medical conditions, which can cause a strong activation of the immune system, such as infection or cancer.

Histiocytosis UK is dedicated to promoting and funding scientific research into uncovering not only the causes of all histiocytic diseases but also ensuring early diagnosis, effective treatment, and a cure.

Histio UK also aims to support patients and their families as well as raise public and professional awareness of histiocytic disorders.

The family are hosting a gala night to raise money for the charity. Please see the information leaflet below should you wish to attend the event, or make a donation to the raffle and auction.

Histio uk
GRACIE'S
BLACK TIE
GALA NIGHT

NOVEMBER 26TH
NEEDHAM HOUSE HOTEL
254 BLAKEMORE END RD LITTLE
WYMONDLEY SG4 7JJ
FULL NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT
£50 PER PERSON
THREE COURSE MEAL & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
RESERVE TICKETS AT
FOREGRACIE@GMAIL.COM

Date change: The FROG/PTA AGM will now take place after half-term at 9am on Wednesday 16th November. This way it will be after the Open Evening (5.30-7pm on Thursday 10th November). FROG will have a table at this event and will hope to recruit interested parties so do look out for them!

Nursery January 2023/September 2023 Intake: We are happy to advise that we will be holding parent/carer tours for our next intake(s) of children for January and September 2023. Children may join our Nursery in the term after they turn 3 years old. Tours will run on Thursdays at 4pm, starting on 3rd November, and applications for places will be accepted from 1st November 2022. Please do kindly share this information with your family and friends. Tours may be booked by following this web link – <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> We shall also be holding a prospective parent open evening on 10th November 5.30pm-7.00pm.

Reception September 2023 Intake: We will be holding parent/carer tours for the September 2023 intake of children. Tours will run on Thursdays at 4pm, starting on 3rd November. Applications with Hertfordshire County Council open on 1st November 2022, and close on 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. Tours may be booked by following this web link – <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> We shall also be holding a prospective parent open evening on 10th November 5.30pm-7.00pm.

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.

Nursery: The children had a fantastic start to the week celebrating Diwali. They learnt Diwali is a festival of lights and had the opportunity to use coloured rice and paints to create rangoli patterns, make lanterns and a celebration card.

Our nursery rhyme this week was 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.' The children loved using the night-time role play area, looking at the stars, enjoying the night sky and exploring using torches to make shadows. Ella held a torch under her chin and commented, "Look, I'm spooky." The children have thought about animals that sleep during the day and come out at night. In the creative area, the children used glitter and paint to create a starry night picture.

In PE, the children have continued working with Mr Pullin to develop their gross motor skills. This week they have taken part in fun games to improve movement, coordination and balance. The children showed fantastic listening skills and confidence in taking part, well done everyone!

In phonics, the children enjoyed playing the game 'Noisy Neighbour', the story starts 'Early one morning, the children were all fast asleep... when all of a sudden they heard a sound from the house next door.' The children listened carefully to the sound and worked hard to identify what might make the sound. Harrie heard the noise and said, "That's a hair dryer, my mum uses a hair dryer."

This week the children have been introduced to the number of the week. They enjoyed learning a rhyme to say as they write the number one, 'A downward stroke, my that's fun. Now I've made the number one!'

Our next rhyme is 'Five little Rockets' (sung to the tune of Ten Green Bottles), so please remember to bring book bags in on Monday to collect the new rhyme and number cards for your ring.

Thank you to all the parents who came to the first Stay and Play session, it was wonderful to have you join us. We will have Stay and Play every Thursday from 8.30am-9.30am, please come and join your child to share a book or other activity.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children have generated captions for a speech bubble for the big bad wolf from the 'Three Little Pigs' story. All the children wrote their speech bubble caption independently and for some children, they are beginning to segment and blend sounds they have learnt in phonics, whilst other children are writing letter shapes or mark making. All children were able to read their written caption back to an adult.

In expressive arts and design, the children used their observational skills to paint the most fantastic pictures of wolves. When looking at photographs of different wolf's faces, the children generated a lot of discussion. James in Snowy Owl class said, "Wolves are very territorial because they are meat eaters." The children looked very carefully at the structure of the wolf's face, the direction of how the wolf's fur grew and the tints and shades of wolf's fur. They used a paint palette to mix the colours needed for their painting. When Leo in Barn Owl class had finished his painting, he said, "My wolf looks like it is alive!"

In RE, the children reflected on Diwali and recalled the story Rama and Sita. They sat around the edge of the carpet whilst a candle was placed in the centre and reflected on how a candle made them feel. Bella in Snowy Owl class said, "The candle reminds me of Rama and Sita, when they were going home."

Each week the children will be bringing home a poem or a rhyme to read to their family and friends to develop their fluency in reading. They have been practising reading the poem every day. This week's poem is 'Fireworks' by Tony Mitton. Please give them lots of praise as this is their first attempt at reciting a poem.

Next week in literacy the children will be writing captions to describe parts of the wolf's body to create a 'WANTED' poster.

In mathematics, the children will be using wolves to make the quantity three in different ways. They will record their addition calculations.

In understanding the world, the children will be using icing sugar to create a cement-like mixture to join biscuits together to build a simple house. They will also be finding out about Remembrance Day and why people wear poppies and why on Remembrance Day there is a two-minute silence.

Year 1: What a fantastic start to the new half term the children have had, with the Year One WOW Day! The children were so excited to meet Safari Stu and to see all the wonderful animals that he brought with him. He talked about each animal, explaining where it would be found in the wild, its habitat, diet, lifespan, and classification. Do take a look at the website to see pictures of the children holding the animals. They encountered hissing cockroaches, a lesser tenrec, a tortoise, a royal python, a sand boa, a chuckwalla, a common tenrec and the most beautiful chameleon named Diego.

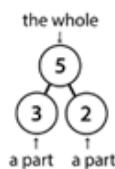
Lavinia in Big Cats commented that tortoise was very heavy and Finley in Big Cats thought the lesser tenrec was very cute, it reminded him of a hedgehog with its spikes. Please visit the Year 1 page to see some wonderful photos from Safari Stu's visit:

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

Safari Stu's visit launched our new science topic for this term on animals. The children have reflected on what they already know about animals, and what they would like to find out. Next, they will begin to learn about the animal classifications mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish.

In English, the children have learnt about where to use a full stop. They have identified full stops at the end of sentences. They have listened to their teacher reading aloud some animals facts and identified where the full stop would come. Finally, they wrote their own sentences remembering to put a full stop at the end. They were also encouraged to leave spaces between their words, consolidating the learning from last term.

Mathematics has focused on regrouping objects and representing numbers to 10 this week. The children have explored the key vocabulary more than, less than, fewer, most, least, same, different and grouping. They have been introduced to the part, part, whole model and practised regrouping 5 or 6 resources, splitting them in different ways.



In phonics, the children have started to learn the phase 5 graphemes. This week they have learnt about ay, ou and ie.

In PE, the children practised aiming and throwing bean bags to a partner. They learnt the importance of asking if their partner was ready to receive the bean bag and listening for the answer. They also practised hitting a target with their beanbag. The children have begun a new topic in PSHCE, celebrating similarities and differences. This week, the children worked with a partner to identify similarities between themselves and began making their clothes for their gingerbread man.

In art, the children have been investigating colour, learning to identify and name the primary colours.

Next week, the children will continue to explore animal classifications in science. In mathematics they will continue to work with the part, part, whole model to split numerals. In English, the children will focus on writing factual sentences about hedgehogs, with the children putting into practice their knowledge of how to use full stops and finger spaces.

Whilst you are out and about over the weekend, please keep an eye out for any pebbles. We shall be painting stones next week as part of our Remembrance Day activities and welcome any donations of smooth pebbles or stones you may find along the way.

There is also a new homework set this week, focusing on our animal topic. Please keep an eye out for your child's green homework book coming home today. This homework will be due in by Wednesday 16th November please.

We wish you all a wonderful weekend.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: We hope you all had a wonderful half term break. The children have returned to school well rested and eager to get back to learning.

In Year 2 this week, the children have learnt about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. They started the week by becoming history detectives, looking at portraits of Guy Fawkes and making a note of what they observed. Next, they used an information presentation to answer questions about the Gunpowder Plot. In art and design, the children learnt shading techniques to sketch their own portrait of Guy Fawkes.

In English, the children learnt about the features of non-fiction books and practised using the contents and index pages. They sorted key words into alphabetical order and found definitions to create a glossary.

In mathematics, the children revised place value, using a tens frame and part, part whole model to show how numbers are made up of tens and ones. They learnt how numbers can be partitioned in different ways, using base ten equipment before recording as addition sentences; for example, $43 = 40 + 3$, $43 = 30 + 13$, $43 = 20 + 23$, $43 = 10 + 33$, $43 = 0 + 43$.

In PSHCE, the children explored how people make assumptions about girls and boys and some ways in which they are different and some ways they are the same. In art and design, the children learnt quilling techniques to create a firework silhouette picture.

Next week, the children will enjoy the Katie Morag stories by Maire Hedderwick. We will read the stories in class and watch some episodes of the CBeebies television series. The children will think of adjectives to describe Katie Morag's appearance. They will learn how to use the possessive apostrophe, for example Katie Morag's hair, before writing a character description.

In mathematics, the children will learn different methods to find one and ten more than a number. They will also learn different methods to find one and ten less than a number.

The children will be introduced to our new topic for this half term, 'An Island Home'. They will learn some new geographical vocabulary, including beach, harbour, cliff, port, ocean, pier, hill and mountain. In PSHCE, the children will continue to think

about the stereotypes we have about boys and girls and how it is ok to have likes and dislikes that are different to others.

The children will also be busy rehearsing for their autumn concerts. These will take place in the school hall, as follows:

Puffin class – Wednesday 9th November at 2.30pm

Pelican class – Thursday 10th November at 9.15am

Penguin class – Thursday 10th November at 2.30pm

We look forward to seeing you and sharing some of the wonderful work your children have completed this term.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Noah B	<i>for showing excellent rhythm when using instruments.</i>
	Ivy	<i>for super listening when playing 'Noisy Neighbour'.</i>
	Hunter	<i>for sharing his knowledge of the night-time in the role play area.</i>
	Noah B-F	<i>for fantastic focus during group carpet time.</i>
Snowy Owls	Sabah	<i>for painting a wonderful wolf.</i>
	Alexander	<i>for applying his phonic knowledge to generate a speech bubble.</i>

Tawny Owls	Zenny	<i>for speaking knowledgeable and confidently about the items in her 'Special Box'.</i>
	Raphael	<i>for fantastic independent writing in literacy.</i>
Barn Owls	Ellie	<i>for using her phonic knowledge to write a fantastic speech bubble.</i>
	Nikola	<i>for a wonderful painting of a wolf.</i>
	Frederick	<i>for applying his phonics knowledge to write an amazing speech bubble.</i>
Red Fox Class	Lorenz	<i>for using his big voice during carpet time.</i>
	Ivy	<i>for an improvement in her reading and phonics.</i>
Big Cat Class	Finley	<i>for super listening during Safari Stu's visit.</i>
	Zyva	<i>for excellent work on the 'ay' digraph in phonics.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Kathryn	<i>for settling in beautifully to your new class.</i>
	Neithan	<i>for a super first week in Walker Bear class.</i>
Penguin Class	Noah	<i>for a super effort showing the tens and ones in a number.</i>
	Andrei	<i>for being very enthusiastic to learn about the Gunpowder Plot.</i>
Pelican Class	Georgina	<i>for paying excellent attention to detail when sketching a portrait of Guy Fawkes.</i>
	Merin	<i>for excellent writing about Guy Fawkes.</i>
Puffin Class	Evie- Beth	<i>for always helping others and being an excellent friend.</i>
	Finley	<i>for a wonderful drawing of Guy Fawkes.</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 8 th	Guru Nanak's Birthday Assembly in school, pupils only
Wednesday 9 th	Puffins Autumn Concert, 2.30pm
Thursday 10 th	Pelicans Autumn Concert, 9.15am
Thursday 10 th	Penguins Autumn Concert, 2.30pm
Thursday 10 th	Open Evening, Prospective Parents, 5.30 – 7.00pm
Friday 11 th	8.30am – 12.30pm Flu Immunisations
Friday 11 th	Remembrance Assembly, in school, pupils only
Tuesday 15 th	FROG AGM, 2pm
Wednesday 16 th	Stay and Share your Child's Work – Year 1, 2.45-3.10pm . All very welcome
Thursday 17 th	Stay and Share your Child's Work – Year 2, 2.45-3.10pm . All very welcome
Friday 18 th	Non-uniform day in support of Children in Need. Small donation requested.
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