



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher : Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy Headteacher : Mrs Judith Garley

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ
Telephone : 01438 359747
Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk

21.10.2022

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,

The last week of this half term has been Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Week AND Divali celebrations AND a special non-uniform mental health day. It has truly been one of the most educational weeks I can remember! The week has included a Waste Aware assembly, yoga workshops, Divali activities and celebrations including Divali dance workshops for all classes throughout the school.

All pupils have taken part in an enormous range of fantastic experiences focused on learning about caring for their bodies and minds. Please read your child's year-group letter below and check out the website for photos! All classes engaged in mindfulness activities and workshops were held on yoga and meditation. Children and staff alike felt they benefited hugely from these.

I have also been looking at the writing the children produced during the fantastic Big Write Week. The results are stunning. I have looked at samples from every class and will enjoy reading all pupils' work over the break. You will be given your child's Big Write books when they leave our school and I know you will cherish them and be thrilled with the progress your child has made and by the richness and depth of the educational opportunities they have experienced.

All in all, it has been a tremendous half term and the exciting learning that has taken place this week has made the most spectacular finale!

Thank you everyone so very much for your donations today. All donations will be given to the local charity 'Young Minds' which is a mental health charity aimed at supporting young people with mental health issues. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you also for your harvest donations. Miss Busby will kindly distribute these to Feed Up, Warm Up over the half-term break.

Thank you hugely for your contributions to our bake sale – and thank you to our devoted FROG members for organising and running this lovely event. We will notify you soon of the amount raised.

Thank you finally for your bulb and plant donations. This week has been so busy that we have decided to devote the week after half-term to this activity so that the children have some lovely activities when they return to school.

I hope you all have a really refreshing holiday and look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday November 2nd.

Head lice: *These are a perennial problem in schools. Please if everyone can make a special effort over half term to check your child's head for lice or eggs. If you see live lice, please can everyone treat their children over the break. Best practice is for everyone to check children's hair every time it is washed. Please put conditioner on (some say tea tree conditioner is the most effective) and comb your child's wet and conditioned hair with a lice comb to remove eggs before rinsing. Vigilance and regular washing/combing is the key. Thank you everyone for doing your best with this problem. It would be terrific to come back after the break with a 'head fairy'-free school!*

Be Bright Be Seen: *It's that time of the year again and 'Be Bright Be Seen' is an important message for the whole school community, especially as the nights are drawing in.*

The Active and Safer Travel Team are continuing to promote this as a key part of the road safety and active travel programme, especially over the autumn and winter months.

As the days are getting shorter, now is a good time to remind everyone of the importance of wearing bright and reflective clothing when out and about, to make them more visible to traffic.

We kindly remind parents not to park on the double yellow lines outside the school as it can make it difficult for the children to see oncoming traffic (and vice versa).

Open Evening: *Please note in your diaries that Thursday November 10th is Open Evening from 5.30-7pm. This is an opportunity for you 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 start after half term for both our Nursery and Reception classes:

- *Nursery's will be held every Thursday from 8.30am-9.30am (from 3rd November), please come and join your child to share a book or other activity.*
- *The Reception classes will be held every Friday from 8.50am-9.20am (from Friday 4th November), please come and share a book with your child.*

We look forward to seeing you there!

Value for the month: *The value for November is friendship. The children will learn that friends are people that you can have fun with. Friends share, play together, and laugh with each other. A friend likes you for who you are. A good friend can cheer you up when you are sad, and keep you company when you are lonely.*

Non-Uniform Day: *Thank you for your wonderful donations, the children looked fantastic in green. We shall advise you after half term how much was raised for Young Minds.*

FROG Bake Sale: *What a successful bake sale we had on Wednesday! Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and biscuits and to you all for buying them at our first bake sale of the school year.*

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.*

School Photograph Day: *Individual school photographs will be taken during the school day on Thursday 3rd November.*

Please ask the children to bring their biggest smiles to school that day, and wear their smartest uniform.

FROG Christmas artwork fundraiser: *Please check your child's book bag this week for a sheet to complete should you wish to have your child's artwork on a Christmas gift. The deadline for returning these to school is on (enter date). We hope you have fun over the half term creating your Christmas art.*

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.

The Autism and ADHD transformation programme: which includes Hertfordshire County Council, NHS trusts, HPCI and local voluntary organisations, has been working hard to improve services for families and young people.

A key area of work has been ensuring you know where you can go to access support in your local area. This will hopefully help you get access to support as early as you can.

To find out more about the support available please watch this 3-minute animation or visit the Herts Local Offer.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/autismADHDsupporthertfordshire

Nursery: Thank you to the parents who joined us for parent consultations this week. It was a pleasure to speak with you and share how well your children have settled into Ladybird class.

As part of our Healthy Bodies, Healthy Mind Week the children have been learning about healthy foods. They looked closely at a range of fruits and vegetables, including a pineapple, a parsnip, a swede, a passionfruit, green beans and a coconut. The children were fascinated by the coconut, and it inspired fantastic discussions about what was inside and how it could be opened. Many of the children were brave and tried new fruits, including mango, plum, pomegranate seeds and figs. Rory tried the mango and exclaimed 'the mango is very juicy!'

This week the children participated in a fitness workout and enjoyed learning to star clap, squat, jump and lunge. They also enjoyed taking part in an autumn themed Cosmic Yoga, Ayla commented, 'Yoga is amazing'.

In phonics, the children loved singing the 'Roly Poly' rhyme and joined in with the actions to build their awareness of sounds and rhythms. They have continued to practise identifying a wide range of sounds made by percussion instruments and have begun to copy and create patterns of sounds.

This week we shared the story 'Baby Goes to Market' by Atinuke. The children thoroughly enjoyed counting the fruits in the story and counting down by one each time.

In art, the children have learnt about the artist Piet Mondrian. They observed the red, yellow and blue colours used in his art and spotted how he used square and rectangle shapes.

Our next nursery rhyme will be 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star', and we will be starting our number of the week, which will be the number 1. The children will receive a separate keyring for their book bags, with a new number added weekly.

We would like to wish you all a wonderful half term break.

Reception: *This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in many activities during our Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies Week. They have talked about what it is meant by being healthy, listened to the story 'The Carrot Club' and enjoyed tasting a selection of fruit and vegetables.*

The children participated in a very energetic PE session with Mr Pullin. They discussed what happened to their body after an activity and put their hands on their chest to feel their hearts beating quickly. They noticed they were breathing faster and harder. Charlie V in Tawny Owl class said, "If your exercise you will be big and strong and healthy."

The children have also enjoyed taking part in Cosmic Yoga and at the end relaxing their bodies and minds through meditation.

The children looked at the importance of maintaining a good level of hygiene and enjoyed the story 'Supersoap' and singing the 'Supersoap' song to accompany the story. The children loved having 'paint' germs on their hands and singing a rhyme twice whilst washing their hands to ensure all the germs had disappeared.

The children looked at the importance of cleaning their teeth and loved using toothbrushes and toothpaste to clean a set of teeth. Kalanne in Barn Owl class said, "You have to eat fruit and vegetables and clean your teeth morning and night." They also made a smile showing off their pearly white teeth and had their photograph taken. These photographs will be made into a colourful display.

The children also focused on the importance of getting lots of sleep to rest and repair their bodies. Mila in Snowy Owl class said, "Sleep is good for your brain, heart and lungs, it keeps them healthy!" The children loved playing with the dolls and taking part in preparing them for bed. They pretended to bath the dolls, clean their teeth and wrapped them up in a blanket. The children either sang a lullaby to their doll or read them a bedtime story and finished off by giving their doll a goodnight kiss.

This month the Musician of the Month has been Louis Armstrong. The children have learnt a range of facts, such as Louis Armstrong played the trumpet and was the leader of a band. He had several nicknames, such as 'Pops', 'Satchmo' and 'Ambassador Satch'. The children have listened to Louis Armstrong singing his most

famous song 'What a Wonderful World' and other hit songs, such as 'We have All the Time in the World' and 'When the Saints go Marching in'.

After the half term holiday, in literacy, the children will be writing a caption in a speech bubble. This will be linked to their work about the Big, Bad Wolf. In expressive arts and design, the children will be looking at the work of the artist Al Agnew, an American naturalist painter who has created many paintings of wolves. The children will be using their observational skills to paint pictures of wolves. They will be using a paint palette to mix the colours needed for their painting.

Year 1: The children have had a wonderful week reflecting on the importance of looking after our bodies and minds, and learning a range of ways in which we do this. Please look at the photo galleries on our class page on the website:

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

The calm tranquillity of the yoga workshop on Tuesday run by Jane from Happy Little Yogi was a highlight of the week. The yoga workshop formed part of a lively carousel of gross and fine motor activities including dance, parachute games and bikes, as well as making their own stress balls with balloons and rice.

In preparation for a range of activities involving eating fruit, the children learnt about the importance of food hygiene, kitchen safety and washing hands. They had a super time taking part in a range of activities to emphasise the message, including a fascinating experiment with pepper, water and washing up liquid. Theo in Walker Bear class said, 'I had the best day of my life!'

The children enjoyed investigating the sense of taste through a fruit tasting session. They learnt that our tongues can identify four different taste groups: sweet, sour, bitter and salty. They enjoyed coming up with a range of adjectives to describe textures and tastes of a variety of fruits. They made a class chart to find out which was the most popular fruit to recommend to a hungry giant. Having tasted the fruits, the children used their knowledge of their own personal preference to design themselves delicious, healthy fruit kebabs. They followed their own plans to make their kebabs and, having eaten them, they evaluated their recipes. Thea in Walker Bear Class said, 'I liked the fruit kebab because I had never made one before.'

In RE, the Year 1 children considered the foods they are grateful for. They learnt how Christians offer thanks for harvest and participated in their own quiet harvest reflection. They also had an amazing experience taking part in the Diwali dance workshop run by West End in Schools, and hearing the story of 'The Ramayana'.

We hope you enjoy the window displays made by the children as part of Black History Month. The children found out about the lives of Martin Luther King Jr, Maya Angelou, Marcus Rashford and Barack Obama.

The children have worked tremendously throughout their first half term in Year 1. We wish you all a restful half term holiday and look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Tuesday, 1st November.

The Year 1 Team.

Year 2: The Year 2 children have had a fabulous time in our final week before the half term break. It has been Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies Week, which has focused on well-being.

The children learnt how we change as we grow up and the different stages of the human life cycle. They looked at the needs of babies and compared them to their own.

The children thought about the different ways we can keep healthy, including keeping clean to avoid the spread of germs.

As part of our design technology curriculum, the children designed and made a healthy salad. They learnt the steps to complete before preparing food and how to chop safely using a knife, using the bridge and claw grips. Logan in Penguin class enjoyed making the salad and said, "Now I can cut things safely."

The children took part in activities focusing on healthy minds, learning how they can make good choices that will make them feel happy. They learnt that it is okay to have negative feelings sometimes and thought of some strategies to help them if this happens, using an emotions tool kit. The children learnt about mindfulness and some useful techniques to help them focus 'in the moment'. They also took part in a calming yoga session, which helped them to focus on their breathing and calm their minds. Kayden in Pelican class really enjoyed the yoga session, saying, "I loved it because it was relaxing."

In preparation for the Diwali festivities taking place on Monday 24th October, the children have enjoyed learning about the festival. They made diya lamps and rangoli patterns. They also took part in a Diwali Dance Workshop and showed off their wonderful dance moves. Finley in Puffin class said, "The workshop was fun and I got to learn different dance moves!"

During the week the children had a fantastic Waste Aware Workshop. They learnt how to reduce, reuse and recycle waste as a way of protecting the environment. They looked at different waste items and sorted them into the correct bin; for example, a glass bottle goes in the glass recycling and a yoghurt pot goes in the general recycling bin because it is made of a hard plastic.

October is Black History Month and this week our assemblies have looked at how it came about, why it is so important and how it is celebrated. The children have found out about the lives of significant black people in history, including Matthew Henson and Bessie Coleman.

When we return after half term, the children will learn about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. They will learn about the features of non-fiction books, including the contents, index and glossary. In art and design, the children will learn shading techniques to sketch a portrait of Guy Fawkes, and quilling techniques to create a firework silhouette picture.

In mathematics, the children will learn how to find one/ten more and one/ten less using a number square to help them. They will revise how to work out how many tens and ones make up a number and explore how 2-digit numbers can be partitioned in different ways. For example; $34 = 30 + 4$ or $20 + 14$ or $10 + 24$.

The children will start new units in PE, focusing on gymnastics and ball skills. In music, the children will think about how music can help us to make friends. In PSHCE we will start a new unit called 'Celebrating Difference'. Our first lesson will explore how people make assumptions about girls and boys and some ways in which they are different. In computing, the children will continue to explore coding. They will learn about collision detection, using a timer, different object types and debugging.

We have not set homework for the half term break. The children have worked incredibly hard and deserve a good rest! If you would like to continue with some work over the holiday, please read with your child, either their school reading book or library books. If you would like to work on developing your child's mathematics skills, please log on to Numbots.

Thank you all for your wonderful support in this first half term. Please do have a look on the website to see photos of your child's learning experiences. You can follow this link to access the Year Two class pages:

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/year-2-pelicans-penguins-and-puffins/>

We wish you all a fantastic half term break. Enjoy!

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Irina	<i>for excellent control and balance during yoga.</i>
	Amber	<i>for participating in a wider range of activities.</i>
	Darcie	<i>for giving new fruits a try.</i>
	Afna	<i>for a super piece of art inspired by the artist 'Piet Mondrian'.</i>
Snowy Owls	Odin	<i>for showing a good understanding of the importance of washing your hands after going to the toilet.</i>
	Bella	<i>for designing a fantastic sports vest.</i>
	Luca	<i>for participating in all class activities.</i>
Tawny Owls	Sara	<i>for demonstrating a fantastic knowledge of how to keep healthy.</i>
	Arlowe	<i>for brilliant segmenting and blending during phonics.</i>
Barn Owls	Betsy	<i>for designing a fantastic sports vest for the athlete Mo Farah.</i>
	Phoebe	<i>for super knowledge about how to keep healthy in different ways.</i>
Value of the month	Snowy Owls: James and Mila Tawny Owls: Jacob, Zuzanna and Ruben Barn Owls: Leo, Veronika and Zachary	
Red Fox Class	Hareem	<i>for trying so hard with her phonics</i>
	Leia	<i>for producing a lovely piece of writing for 'Big Write'.</i>
Big Cat Class	Maryam	<i>for working really hard in her 'Big Write'.</i>
	Kaden	<i>for always showing his school values.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Nayla	<i>for fantastic progress in phonics.</i>
	Dollie-Rae	<i>for great participation in the Diwali Dance workshop.</i>
Value of the month	Red Foxes: Isabella and Emma Big Cats: Wednesday and Albert Walker Bears: Harper and Chloe	
Penguin Class	Zaynah	<i>for always listening carefully during carpet time.</i>
	Harry	<i>for a super effort to make a diwa lamp out of clay.</i>

<i>Pelican Class</i>	<i>Emily</i>	<i>for being a confident learner all week.</i>
	<i>Kayden</i>	<i>For being a confident learner all week.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Daniel</i>	<i>for making a wonderful diwa lamp.</i>
	<i>Evie Beth</i>	<i>for making a lovely salad.</i>
<i>Value of the month</i>	<i>Penguins: Ayana and Woody Pelicans: Elizabeth and Alfie Puffins: Ajwa, Finley and Asfiya</i>	

Next week is half-term, followed by an inset day on Monday 31st October. I hope you all have a fantastic week and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 1st November.

*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	
Tuesday 1 st	Safari Stu visits Year 1 classes
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 (consent forms will be sent out before half term).
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	Last Day of term – finish at 2pm