



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher : Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy Headteacher : Mrs Judith Garley

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14.10.2022

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,

This week in Years 1 and 2 we have celebrated 'Big Write', led inspirationally by Miss Hill. The best way of finding out about this amazing week is to ask your children whether they have been experiencing and writing about anything to do with erupting beanstalks this week! Check out the website too. The children have been drawn into the topic and have completed what for many of them is their first attempt at extended writing. We will give you these books to keep when your child leaves the Infants' School and we're sure you will treasure them.

I was here for the start of the week but have missed you all very much over the past few days as I have unfortunately finally succumbed to my first bout of Covid. I am recovering well, however, and hope very much to be back in school on Monday.

Please join me in wishing Miss O'Regan and Mrs Humphrey a wonderful maternity leave and we all look forward to welcoming their babies into the world! Mrs Humphrey's job share role will be covered by Mrs Henry who has been a teacher at the school for many years and who knows the children very well. She has been doing handover work in the class since September and is looking forward to her new role.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 21st October: Next week is a collapsed curriculum week of which the theme is 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' and the children will have a fantastic learning week including visitors leading yoga workshops, sessions on 'Mindfulness', planting and growing, learning about healthy eating and much more!

The last day before half-term, Friday 21st October, we will have a non-uniform day when children can wear green as the colour of mindfulness and awareness of the environment.

If you don't have any green clothes, we have plenty of green school jumpers and will provide children with one when they come to school. Children will engage in circle time in their classes on that day and share special kind thoughts about one another. 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.

Harvest donations: Thank you all again for your great generosity. All donations will be distributed over the half-term.

Nut free school: Please be reminded that we are a nut free school. We have many children with nut allergies. The most difficult food item is chocolate spread, as it's impossible to tell the difference between Nutella and a plain nut-free chocolate spread. We therefore apologise but kindly ask that these type of spreads are not used. Thank you for your understanding as nuts can be fatal for some children.

FROG Bake Sale: Our fabulous FROG volunteers will be hosting our first Bake Sale of the school year on Wednesday 19th October at 3.15pm in the dining hall. We welcome your kind donations of homemade or shop bought cakes. Please kindly give them to the school office on the morning of Wednesday 19th October.

Notifications of head bumps: Children sometimes bump their head and we will send you a message to advise of this should it occur. Please note that if you have the school gateway app downloaded, the message will go into your messages area, therefore we recommend that you have the push notifications turned on in the settings on your phone, so that it appears on your screen like a text message would. If you do not have school gateway, the message will be delivered as a text message.

Please be assured if a head bump is serious, we would always make a telephone call to the parent(s).

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

October is Black History Month and we will be celebrating across the school the achievements of inspirational leaders, sportspeople, musicians, poets, writers, artists and other role models from across black communities with special assemblies, shared reading, lessons and activities.

Donations of bulbs or plants would be gratefully received. These will be used for our Queen Elizabeth II memorial garden and all the school planters which will be sown and re-potted during our Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies collapsed curriculum well-being week starting October 17th. Yoga workshops and Diwali workshops will be held over the course of this week for all the children.

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.

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS FOR THE EYFS: Time-slots for consultations will be displayed in classes for you to select a time-slot that is convenient. If you do not drop your children in school, please either call the office on 01438 359747 to ask for a time, or email me on head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk.

We will let class teachers know that you've been in touch so that they can call you back to arrange a time to meet.

Parent/Teacher slot timings will be:

Nursery

3.00pm- 7.00pm Wednesday 19th October

3.00pm - 7.00pm Thursday 2th October

Reception

3.30pm - 5.50pm Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th October

Nursery: The children have enjoyed another fantastic week in Nursery. They have experienced a variety of autumnal activities including a lovely autumn walk in our school nature area. Whilst walking in the nature area, Hunter told his friends ‘that’s an apple tree and that’s a big apple’. The children loved collecting natural resources including different coloured leaves, sycamore seeds and acorns.

The children were very excited to learn about hedgehogs this week. They learnt that hedgehogs sleep during the day and wake up at night and that they are good at running, climbing and can even swim! Teddie remembered ‘baby hedgehogs are called hoglets’.

In art, the children have created a range of wonderful autumn themed art. They have created beautifully decorated pinecones, foil trees, conker rolling art, leaf printing and hedgehogs.

In phonics, the children played a game of ‘Grandma’s Footsteps’. First, they decided what movement goes with which sound for example, shakers for walking on tip-toe, triangle for fairy steps and a drum for giant strides. Then the children had lots of fun identifying the instrument being played and responding with the correct movement.

This week the children have learnt the rhyme ‘1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive’ and this has been added to their rings.

In mathematics, the children have practised subitising up to 3. Subitising is recognising the number of objects in a group without counting. They enjoyed using their superhero subitising skill to say how many conkers were in a group without counting.

Next week we will read the story ‘Baby Goes to Market’ by Atinuke. The children will be joining the school for Healthy Bodies, Healthy Mind week. They will be thinking about how to stay healthy, learning about oral hygiene and have the opportunity to taste different fruits, including figs, mango, and pomegranate. If your child has any allergies, please let us know.

Reception: This week in Big Write, the children enjoyed listening to a story about a wolf called Wilfred in ‘The Healthy Wolf’ by David Bedford. They found out Wilfred did not look after himself and after years of not eating healthily, not looking after his teeth and not doing any exercise, he was a very unhealthy wolf. When Ava looked at the illustration of Wilfred’s fridge, she exclaimed, “He hasn’t even got an apple in his fridge!” When the Snowy Owl children were discussing aspects of the story, Odin said, “He had to eat yucky porridge because his teeth fell out.” For the Big Write activity, the children used phonic mats as means of support to label parts of Wilfred the wolf’s body and wrote a caption about him or about being healthy.

The children have looked at different types of houses and homes such as a treehouse, tent and igloo and used recycled materials to create a house. They labelled different parts of a house such as door, window, wall and roof. The children loved this activity deciding whether they were going to have a flat roof or a pitched roof and whether or

not to add on a chimney. When adding the door to her house, Nadia in Tawny Owl class said, "If you go to work, you can open the door to go out!"

This week the children have taken part in the national baseline assessment which focused on their skills and knowledge linked to literacy and mathematics. The Reception staff are so proud of all the children as they were so keen to use their 'robot arms' to sound out words and use the yellow bears to count, add and take away.

Next week is Science week and the focus is 'Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies'. The children will be participating in a range of activities to find out how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. They will be listening to the story 'Ready, Steady, Mo!' by the athlete Mo Farah and participating in some fun and energetic activities with Mr Pullin to discover the importance of exercise.

The children will be answering questions by the character 'Supersoap' when reading the story about the importance of washing hands. They will be finding out why they should clean their teeth twice a day and about the importance of having a healthy diet. One of the activities linked to healthy diet will be to taste a selection of fruit and vegetables. The children will be acting out a bedtime routine using dolls, making sure they have cleaned their teeth and each will read a bedtime story to a doll. They will be participating in activities to relax their bodies through meditation and mindfulness.

As part of Black History Month the children will be finding out what makes them all the same and what makes them different.

Year 1: It has been Big Write this week. In Year 1, the week started with a captivating timelapse video of a bean germinating and growing into a beanstalk, producing flowers and subsequently beans. The children were amazed to see how tall the beanstalk grew and to watch how the bean pods emerged from the flowers. Having witnessed this amazing natural process, the children went outside to see what other wondrous signs of nature they could discover. Having taken some photos, and practised using rich, descriptive vocabulary to discuss how things looked, felt, smelt or sounded, the children returned to the classrooms and annotated the photographs with keywords including adjectives. They listened to the song 'What a Wonderful World', sung by Louis Armstrong, and heard the story of The First Musician by Amanda Graham. The children thoroughly enjoyed working as a team to select instruments from the music trolley that they thought would evoke the events in the story. They worked in groups to compose a musical soundtrack to accompany a narration of the story. The groups then took turns to perform in front of each other. In preparation for the Big Write day, the children rehearsed the skills they learnt last week of leaving finger spaces between words and writing captions that are relevant to a picture. On the Big Write day, the children concentrated carefully to do their best writing. We hope you will enjoy seeing their work in their Writing Progress Books.

In RE, the Year 1 children listened to the story 'Sammy Spider's First Sukkot'. They watched a video of a Jewish child and his family preparing to celebrate the Jewish festival of Sukkot. The children learnt that the festival celebrates harvest and that Jewish people celebrate God's care for them during 40 years when they wandered in the desert after leaving Egypt, until they arrived in Israel. They learnt that there are special symbols, including a sukkah (a temporary shelter where Jewish families eat their meals during the festival of Sukkot), a lulav (a collection of three branches) and an etrog (a type of citrus fruit). They learnt that the lulav and Etrog symbolise all growing plants and God's presence everywhere. The children each made their own picture of a sukkah.

The children have investigated how numbers are sequenced in their mathematics lessons. They have learnt to find one less than a number using a number line. They have sequenced numbers and have tried to identify missing numbers in a sequence.

Science was very exciting this week. The children had a great deal of fun investigating the sense of smell with a 'blind' smelling test. They had to identify tomato ketchup, lemon, vinegar and onion from their smells alone. They were encouraged to reflect on whether or not they liked the smells.

Next week will be our Healthy Body and Healthy Mind Week. In science, the children will investigate the sense of taste, by tasting a range of fruits. They will decide which fruits they like best and will be able to use these to make their own fruit kebabs in Design and Technology. A separate letter informing you of the choice of fruit that will be available for these activities has been sent to all the Year 1 parents. Please do inform your child's class teacher if your child has any allergies that need to be taken into account. The children will also take part in a day of sports activities.

We wish you a relaxing weekend.

The Year 1 Team.

Year 2: It has been a very exciting week in Year 2, following on from some unusual activity that was captured on the school's CCTV over the weekend. While all of the children and adults were enjoying a rest, two beanstalks erupted in school – one on the Year 2 playground and one on the Year 1 playground! Miraculously, they had completely disappeared before school began on Monday, with no hint that they had ever been there.

Immy in Penguin class confided that she had heard something suspicious over the weekend. "I was in bed and I heard a big rumble and looked out my window and saw something green", she explained. Billy-Joe in Puffin class thought the footage was "really exciting and cool!" Billy in Pelican class exclaimed, "It was very good! The branches were twisting and turning and one broke the security camera!"

Because of these extraordinary events, the Year 2 teachers decided to share the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' with the children. The children learnt actions to help tell the story and made a story map to help them remember it. The children focused in on the part of the story where Jack takes the giant's hen and harp and thought whether they would've climbed the beanstalk. If anyone was brave enough, they needed instructions to tell them how to steal from a giant, so the children went about planning and writing them. They did an excellent job for their first Big Write piece of Year 2!

In mathematics, the children have learnt about 2D shapes. They have revised the names of some 2D shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle, pentagon and hexagon) and explored their different properties. They have sorted shapes according to their properties, for example; shapes with curved sides and shapes without curved sides. The children have also looked at repeating patterns, completing patterns and having a try to design their own. They have also investigated lines of symmetry in 2D shapes.

This week, our creative curriculum has been themed around beanstalks. The children used collage and painting techniques to create a beanstalk picture. They used scrap paper to make the tallest freestanding beanstalk and they have planted their own beans.

Next week is Wellbeing Week in school. The children will learn about keeping clean, how to make good choices to help their physical and mental health, some simple strategies for managing difficult emotions and how mindfulness can help them. As part of their design technology curriculum, the children will design and make a healthy salad. They will also collate the results of their investigation into the effect of different substances on teeth and look at any changes to the beans they have planted this week. As a special treat, the children will take part in a Diwali dance workshop and explore the festival of Diwali.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Blaze	<i>for super repeating patterns using conkers and leaves.</i>
	Cooper Myra	<i>for participating in a wider range of activities.</i> <i>for coming into nursery independently with a smile.</i>
	Muna	<i>for being a fantastic helper at tidy up time.</i>
Snowy Owls	Clark	<i>for applying his phonic knowledge to label a wolf.</i>
	Aoife	<i>for making and labelling a fantastic house.</i>
Tawny Owls	Charlie V	<i>for working together with a friend to build a model.</i>
	Jacob	<i>for speaking so knowledgeably about the items in his 'Special Box'.</i>
	Reggie	<i>for always independently using his manners when getting his lunch.</i>
Barn Owls	Hugo	<i>for super independent work when creating a model of a house using recycled materials.</i>
	Xavi	<i>for always using his manners when choosing his school lunch.</i>
Red Fox Class	Chiara	<i>for creating a fantastic collage of natural material inspired by Andy Goldsworthy.</i>
	Bobby	<i>for having a positive attitude to coming into school.</i>
Big Cat Class	Adriana	<i>for working really hard on her reading and phonics.</i>
	Aleksander	<i>for being a kind friend.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Lyra	<i>for always working hard to do your best learning.</i>
	Leon	<i>for very attentive listening in RE.</i>
	Freddie-Joe	<i>for a positive attitude and kindness.</i>
Penguin Class	Lucas	<i>for brilliant learning about 2D shapes in mathematics.</i>
	Isaac	<i>for a colourful beanstalk collage picture.</i>
Pelican Class	Chloe-Bonnie	<i>for writing a super set of instructions for the 'Big Write'.</i>
	Malachi	<i>for being enthusiastic towards our learning all week.</i>
Puffin Class	Ronni	<i>for fantastic teamwork building a beanstalk.</i>
	Harry	<i>for fantastic teamwork building a beanstalk.</i>
	Amelia -	<i>for creating a fantastic beanstalk picture using different materials.</i>

Have a wonderful weekend.

*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

OCTOBER 2022	
w/c Monday 17 th w/c Monday 17 th	WELL-BEING WEEK (HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND DIWALI dance workshops and Yoga workshops
Tuesday 18 th	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm
Wednesday 19 th	FROG Bake Sale, 3.15pm
Wednesday 19 th	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm
Wednesday 19 th	Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm
Thursday 20 th	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm
Thursday 20 th	Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm
Friday 21 st	Diwali Assembly & activities, in school, pupils only

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