



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher : Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy Headteacher : Mrs Judith Garley

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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,

This has been a very busy week in school and the children enjoyed a fabulous Poetry Day yesterday with marvellous poems created and generated across the school with a focus on the environment. Thank you so much to Nicola Wood who sent in some terrific environmental poems which were shared across the school. We will sing 'Recycling Song' in our assembly today.

I would like to introduce our new School Caretaker, Andy Bonney. All of his children attended our school, so he is well known to many of you. Andy is already proving to be the most wonderful caretaker and I know everyone in our kind school community will welcome him.

Harvest Table: Thank you so very much to everyone who has contributed dry and canned goods for the Harvest Festival. Children have been placing your offerings on our beautiful harvest table and will continue to do so until half-term when all contributions will be distributed to those in need. Thanks to Miss Hadley and her daughter Claire for creating this lovely display and thank you for your generosity.



Census Day Lunch: Many thanks to everyone who ordered a school dinner on Thursday! We had lots of additional pupils partaking that day, so thank you as this helps our budget.

Next week is our Big Write and the following is our Healthy Bodies, Healthy Mind week with all children across the school taking part in yoga workshops and Divali Workshops run by the fabulous West End in Schools Company, so this should be a terrific learning week for all the children. During this week, children will also be doing lots of flower and bulb planting and we hope to have some lovely displays both throughout the winter and also in spring.

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.

Bulbs or plants donations will be gratefully received. These will be used for our Queen Elizabeth 11 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 Divali 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!

FROG Bake Sale: The FROG has planned lots of new exciting events this year including a **Bake Sale** at 3.15 pm Wednesday October 19th in the school dining hall. Donations are very welcome – please give contributions either to your child's class teacher or to the office. Proceeds will go, as ever, to projects supporting our children.

Nursery January 2023/September 2023 Intake: We are happy to advise that we shall 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 every Thursday at 4pm, starting on 3rd November, and applications 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 shall be holding parent/carer tours for September 2023 intake of children. Tours will run every Thursday at 4pm, starting on 3rd November. Applications with Hertfordshire County Council open on 1st November 2022, and close on 14th 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 14th 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.

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 October 19th

3.00pm - 7.00pm Thursday October 20th

Reception

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

Nursery: This week the children have had a fantastic time in the 'Giles Bakery' role play area. They have taken on the role of a customer by writing lists and using coins to pay for different types of bread, biscuits and cakes. The shopkeeper used the till, wrote receipts and ordered supplies on the computer and telephone. Our new nursery rhyme this week was 'Five Currant Buns'; the children have loved practising and performing the song together as a class, in their shape groups and during play with their friends.

The children have enjoyed exploring the music area and learning the names of different instruments. They played the drums, tambourine, cymbals and bells following directions to play fast/slow and quiet/loud.

In phonics, the children continued to practise their listening skills, identifying animals by the description and then making the correct animal noise.

This week the children enjoyed the story 'Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg'. The children were keen to find characters from well-known nursery stories, such as 'The Three Bears', 'Mother Hubbard' and 'Tom Thumb'. For National Poetry Day, they enjoyed listening to a range of autumn themed poems.

Next week the children will be learning the rhyme '1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive'. As part of Black History Month, we will read the story 'Big Hair, Don't Care' by Crystal Swain-Bates. The children will take part in an autumn walk to the school forest area, please ensure your child has a coat and suitable footwear.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children have celebrated National Poetry Day by focusing on rhyming words through stories, poems and nursery rhymes. Their literacy activity was to sort words which rhyme with the word 'pig'. Yesterday the children listened to poems and rhymes linked to the environment. During a discussion on recycling, Blue in Snowy Owl class said, "Recycle means they get re-made."

In mathematics, the children investigated 'one more than' in relation to numbers on a number line by using their finger to make one jump forward to discover the next number.

In art and design, the children made character puppets from the story 'The Three Little Pigs' and all had a fantastic time in the Enchanted Garden retelling the story using their puppets. When Seth in Barn Owl class was acting out the story using his puppet in the brick house, he said, "Quick! Put the water on the fire!"

In RE, the children have been discovering which seeds and berries can be harvested from trees and hedgerows. They found out which woodland creatures could eat seeds and berries and discovered they too could eat berries, such as blackberries and elderberries. Leo in Barn Owl class talked about being able to pick blackberries at the end of his grandmother's garden. The children also found out which seeds and berries are poisonous to humans but are okay for woodland creatures to eat. Arlowe in Tawny Owl class said, "We can't eat acorns as they are poisonous."

Next week in literacy, the children will be focusing on the story of 'The Healthy Wolf' by David Bedford. This story introduces them to aspects of healthy living which the children will explore further during Healthy Bodies, Healthy Mind Week. The children will be labelling parts of Wilfred the Wolf and writing a caption to accompany their labelling.

In phonics, the children will be introduced to the final sounds in Phase 2. They will be learning three digraphs next week: 'ff', 'll' and 'ss'. Inside your child's red reading record book there is a Bug Club label detailing your child's username, password and school code to access an online reading scheme. This reading scheme is a fantastic way to support your child's reading. Please take a look with your child. Bug Club can be accessed on a computer or a tablet.

Next week in literacy, the children will need to bring in an empty cereal box as they will be using this to make a house. They will be using their phonic knowledge to blend the sounds of words linked to parts of a house; for example, r-oo-f, w-all.

In RE, the children will be continuing to find out why the festival of harvest is important around the world.

In PSED, the children will be discussing the importance of rules in a classroom setting and what the consequences will be if the rules are broken.

In music, the children will be listening to 'Happy Birthday' by Stevie Wonder and continuing to practise and perform the nursery rhymes they have been learning.

Next week the children will be participating in the National Reception Baseline Assessment. This focuses on your child's literacy and mathematical skills and knowledge through games and interactive tasks.

Year 1: This week in Year 1, the children have enjoyed learning all about how we can be careful with rubbish and recycling and have learnt a song about recycling for Poetry Day. The theme of Poetry Day was the environment. The children walked around different areas of the school grounds, tidying and caring for the playgrounds and woodland area that they use. They enjoyed finding out about machines that are used as part of the recycling process. The children were able to practise their rhyming string skills, using the word 'bin' as a starting point. Do take a look at the website to see some photos. <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/year-1-red-foxes-walker-bears-and-big-cats/> In art, the children found out about the land artist Andy Goldsworthy. They learnt about how he uses natural materials to make sculptures that then change

as the weather affects them. The children had a go at making their own land art pictures, finding stones, twigs and leaves to do so.

In English, the children have learnt to read and identify captions. They have practised their new skill of using finger spaces between words when writing. They have written their own captions for a picture from 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves' by Julia Rawlinson, to encourage others to read the book. In handwriting, the children have practised writing the digraph 'll'. They recapped the formation pattern for the letter 'l' and learnt to repeat it. They were careful to always 'start at the top'.

Having begun to learn about the five senses last week, starting with hearing, this week the children explored the sense of sight. They found out how eyes work and looked closely at their own eyes using mirrors. They drew their eyes and labelled different parts, and had fun playing games such as spot the difference and noticing what was missing from a selection of objects.

In mathematics, the children have explored the concepts of more and less and finding one more or one less than a given number. They have used bead strings as a resource to help them, counting on one more or back one. The children are continuing to practise counting forwards and backwards.

Music lessons this week have continued a focus on hip-hop music. The children listened carefully to 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air', and enjoyed using a range of percussion instruments to mark the beat whilst singing a hip-hop version of 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'.

Next week will be our exciting and immersive Big Write week, but the theme is top secret! What will your child guess it might be?

The Year 1 Team.

Year 2: We have had a wonderful week in Year 2. In English, the children have applied what they learnt last week to write their own set of instructions explaining how to clean a crocodile's teeth. They have drawn diagrams, written a title and a list of items that are needed, before writing a set of numbered instructions with time conjunctions and bossy verbs. They really have done an amazing job!

In mathematics, the children have learnt about odd and even numbers, doubling and halving. They found out that even numbers can be shared equally between two, but there will always be one left over in an odd number. The children explored doubling with ladybird spots before moving on to partitioning to double two-digit numbers. For example; double 23 = 23 + 23 = 20 + 20 + 3 + 3 = 40 + 6 = 46. The children have looked at halving as sharing between two. They have used practical apparatus and the part, part whole model to support them.

In computing, the children continued to learn how to code. They explored events and how these can be used in code to make something happen at a specific point. The children then explored adding events to objects and actions. For example; when touched (event), the bubble (object) will pop (action). In science, the children set up an investigation to find out the effect of different drinks on our teeth. Using eggs to represent teeth, the children predicted what would happen when left in cola, lemonade, orange juice, blackcurrant, milk and water. They will check the results next week. In RE, the children learnt about the Jewish festival of sukkot and designed their own sukkah.

Thursday was National Poetry Day and the children spent the day exploring the poem, 'The Word Bird' by Sally Crabtree. Before they heard the poem, they imagined what a word bird might look and sketched a drawing. They listened carefully to the poem and

noticed that the word bird was creating the world. They made a list of things the word bird sang to life before coming up with their own ideas and writing their own verse to add to the original poem. They made their own word bird to present their poem. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and gave it a big thumbs up! The poem has been uploaded on to the Year 2 class pages of our website if you wish to look at it with your child at home.

Next week is our Big Write, which is our whole school approach to writing around an unusual event or a particular story. We don't want to spoil the surprise for the children but we can say it's going to be a very exciting week! In mathematics, the children will be learning about 2D shape. They will revise the name and properties of 2D shapes, including the number of sides and vertices (corners). They will sort shapes according to their properties and explore pattern and lines of symmetry.

In science, the children will look at the investigation they set up this week, record the results and make conclusions. In computing, the children will look at how code executes when a program is run. In RE, the children will hear the Buddhist story of 'Prince Siddhartha and the Swan' and reflect on what the story teaches us about looking after animals. The children will also enjoy lots of art and design activities linked to our Big Write theme.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Parker	<i>for excellent role play in the 'Giles Bakery'.</i>
	Noah Q	<i>for independently coming into Nursery.</i>
	Hannah	<i>for her fantastic shape knowledge when creating a shape picture.</i>
	Andrew	<i>for listening carefully and identifying the animals.</i>
Snowy Owls	Connie	<i>for fantastic rhyming.</i>
	Samuel	<i>for making a wonderful puppet and acting out the 'Three Little Pigs' story with his friends.</i>
	Isaac	<i>for fantastic retell of the 'Three Little Pigs'.</i>
Tawny Owls	Rose-Marie	<i>for amazing sorting of the '-ig' rhyming words.</i>
	Alannah	<i>for incredible independent cutting skills.</i>
Barn Owls	Leo	<i>for excellent work on rhyme when sorting '-ig' words and playing rhyming bingo.</i>
	Rauri	<i>for demonstrating lovely skills when moving through the 'forest' in PE.</i>
Red Fox Class	Lucas	<i>for a fantastic drawing and labelling an eye in science.</i>
	Nirvana	<i>for practising hard and showing a huge improvement in her reading.</i>
Big Cat Class	Adrian	<i>for working hard in science using his sense of sight.</i>
	Lavinia	<i>for being a super classroom helper.</i>

	<i>Erika</i>	<i>for working as part of a team to keep Big Cats tidy.</i>
<i>Walker Bear Class</i>	<i>Maya</i> <i>Kan-Kan</i>	<i>for settling in well to Walker Bear Class.</i> <i>for super subitising and subtraction.</i>
<i>Penguin Class</i>	<i>Amelia</i> <i>Jacob M</i>	<i>for a beautiful 'Word Bird' poem.</i> <i>for always being enthusiastic about mathematics.</i>
<i>Pelican Class</i>	<i>Amelia</i> <i>Meadow</i>	<i>for working hard and always trying her best.</i> <i>for working hard and always trying her best.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Stephanie</i> <i>Clay</i>	<i>for writing a lovely set of instructions on how to clean a crocodile's teeth.</i> <i>for always trying his best with all his learning.</i>

Have a wonderful weekend.

*Kindest regards,
Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*



TERM DATES 2022-23

PLEASE NOTE THAT FULLER DATES WILL COME OUT NEXT WEEK

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]

[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]

[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]

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