



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,

The children have had a happy, hard-working and productive week – greatly helped by the beautiful autumnal weather. We all shared reflections on the beautiful funeral service and the children gave perceptive and thoughtful insights.

The last week of this half-term, we will have a collapsed curriculum well-being week entitled **Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies**. I will give you fuller details nearer the time, but during this week, one activity in which all children will engage, will be planting. We would like the children to experience a range of planting methods including bulbs and perennials or spring flowers. Staff would love to create a memorial garden for the Queen. If anyone would like to contribute bulbs or plants to help us, we would be so grateful.

The Inco Drop-in was extremely well-attended and thank you to Mrs McPartland and Miss Stanton for introducing themselves as our Special Needs/Inclusive Team and for providing information about a range of local support.

Thank you also to our wonderful FROG (Friends and Relatives of Giles – our special word for our PTA) members for a brilliant start to the new year with their Tears and Tissues Coffee morning and to everyone who came. The PTA's AGM will be held next Tuesday 24th September at 2pm here. Everyone is most welcome to join us - it's a great opportunity to meet new people.

Harvest Assembly: The children will be celebrating with a Harvest Assembly led by Mrs Dacombe in school Friday 7th October. We collect dried goods items, tins and the like which Mr Pathan kindly distributes to local families in need and the hospice. Miss Busby will also be taking contributions to the Feed Up Warm Up charity. Please bring any donations to your child's class teacher from Monday onwards. Miss Hadley will make the most beautiful harvest table in the hall which will allow us all to remember those in need at this time of year. Thank you very much for your generosity.

CENSUS day is the week after next -Thursday October 6th. It is really important that as many children as possible have school lunch on this day as the number of participants is used to assess the level of our annual funding from government. So, if your child

doesn't normally have school lunches, we would be hugely grateful if they can on Thursday. If you like, they can bring in a packed lunch as well!

If they have a lunch on Census Day, the government gives us money for their meals for the rest of the year which really helps our finances. If they bring a packed lunch and later switch to school meals, the school has to pay for their meals (which gives us less money for everything else!)

On that day, children will have Friday's school meal (Salmon and Sweet Potato Fishcake (R), Cheese and Tomato Pizza (G), Jacket Potato (W) or Egg Roll (Y). They will have Thursday's meal on the Friday instead (Organic Beefy Pasta Bake (R), Savory Quiche (G), Jacket Potato (W) or Ham Baguette (Y). Please help raise money for the school by encouraging your child to order a school dinner for your child on CENSUS day.

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS: *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

Year 1

3.30pm – 6.30pm Tuesday 27th September

3.30pm – 6.30pm Wednesday 28th September

Year 2

1.15pm – 3.00pm and 3.30pm - 7.00pm Wednesday September 28th

3.30pm – 6.00pm Thursday September 29th

Nursery: *This week the children have been fascinated to learn about ladybirds through stories and facts. They have learnt about the life cycle of a ladybird and Remi recalled that, "The girl ladybird lays the eggs". The children have learnt the Makaton sign for ladybird and enjoyed singing their first nursery rhyme this week ('One Little, Two Little Ladybirds') which is attached to their book bag for further practice at home. They have created wonderful paintings of ladybirds, taking great care to add spots, legs and eyes.*

This week we enjoyed the story 'Apples and Honey', by Jonny Zucker, which is about celebrating the Jewish new year festival of Rosh Hashanah. The children loved trying apple slices dipped in honey for a special snack, Ivy commented, 'It's yummy, the honey is sweet!' They also enjoyed printing with apples and creating stars for our 'Celebrations' display.

The children participated in a listening walk outside to develop their listening skills and to distinguish sounds within the outside environment. They all tried incredibly

hard to practise good listening skills to identify the different sounds that they heard, well done everyone.

Next week on Monday, the children will choose a library book to take home during our morning group activities. Please return on the following Monday so their books can be changed. We will be learning the 'Humpty Dumpty' rhyme and have planned lots of fun activities around this theme. The children will be reading the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' by Bill Martin, Jr, which follows a repetitive refrain for the children to have fun joining in with.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children have been generating and ordering a simple caption about a pig. They were encouraged to say their caption out loud a few times and used their fingers to count how many words were in their caption. The children watched an adult model writing their caption before it was cut up for them to order. Once they had ordered their caption the children used their 'reading finger' to read their caption to an adult.

In mathematics, the children have enjoyed recognising numbers to 10 and to 20. They sung many number rhymes and participated in a range of activities linked to numbers, as well as playing mathematics games in and around the classroom.

The children have continued to discover more about the season of autumn. This week, the children have investigated the school grounds and in particular the woodland area for signs of autumn. They used iPads to take photographic evidence of this season. When Phoebe in Barn Owl class was in the woodland area looking for signs of autumn she said, "Toadstools! I think there are fairies nearby!"

During child initiated learning, Isaac in Snowy Owls said, "When I grow up I want to be a palaeontologist. They study fossils and dinosaurs."

In RE, the children were introduced to the characters the Reverend Freddie Fisher and his cat, Puddles. They loved the story 'A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles' by Gill Vaisey, especially when Puddles tipped the vase of flowers over and got soaking wet! The children talked about which fruit and vegetables would be good to collect for a harvest festival.

Next week in literacy, the children will be ordering and writing a simple caption about a wolf. They will be continuing to develop their knowledge of creating a caption by making sure they have the correct numbers of words in their caption when ordering it. They will include finger spaces between each word and will read their ordered caption to check it makes sense.

In mathematics, the children will be playing numbers games by counting a number of objects accurately. In expressive arts and design, the children will be in the Enchanted Garden acting out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', taking turns to be one of the pigs or the Big Bad Wolf!

In RE, the children will again be listening to the story 'A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles' and participating in a quiz linked to the story.

In music, the children will be enjoying practising the pulse of a well-known nursery rhyme and moving in time to a piece of popular music.

Year 1: This week, the children in Year 1 have designed a new stamp for King Charles III. They looked at current stamps and realised that they all have Queen Elizabeth II on them. The children looked at photographs of King Charles III to inspire their drawings, and worked carefully and thoughtfully to represent him.

In English, the children have listened to the poem 'Sometimes' by Lilian Moore. They have rehearsed it and performed it, thinking carefully about their voice, rhythm and pace. They have also worked together to make rhyming strings and explored rhyme through a range of games and activities.

In mathematics, the children have been using ordinal numbers to identify positions in a queue or a race; for example, 1st, 2nd, 3^d, 4th etc.

The children have continued to learn about parts of the human body in science. They matched body parts to their names and drew and labelled body parts.

In art, the children have begun exploring 3D shape and form using art straws. They learnt how to shape and join the art straws and described their creations using vocabulary such as cut, tear, fold, bend, attach, model, tall and short. Next week, the children will listen to the story 'Funnybones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and create a skeleton picture from art straws using different techniques.

The children worked very diligently in handwriting to form the lower case letters l, i and t in their new handwriting books. They paid attention to the size of the letters and their positions on the lines.

Next week in mathematics the children will be representing numbers in a range of ways. They will also practise subitising. This is when you can identify the amount being represented without having to count the total because of the way it is represented; for example, the pattern of 3 dots on a dice or 5 lines in a tally. In English, the children will begin to read the story of 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves' by Julia Rawlinson and Tiphonie Beeke. This will begin a unit of work on writing captions.

Homework – We have enjoyed receiving your homework over the last week. Please return the homework books to school by Wednesday 28th September for marking. We look forward to seeing you all at parent consultations next week.

*Have a lovely weekend.
The Year 1 Team.*

Year 2: What a lovely week we have had in Year 2! In English, the children have been writing poems about vegetables. They looked at lots of different vegetables and used their senses to generate adjectives to describe them; for example, rubbery, wrinkly cabbage; long, fuzzy beans. They learnt how alliteration can improve their poem; for example, crunchy carrots and smelly, squishy mushrooms.

In mathematics, the children have continued to learn about place value, focusing on two-digit numbers. They learnt how to look at the tens and ones in numbers to work out which is smaller and which is larger, before putting numbers in order. They used their knowledge of tens and ones to find numbers 'in between'; for example, 24 comes in between 23 and 25. The children also learnt how to use the greater than and less than symbols to compare numbers.

In art and design, the children looked at still life paintings of fruit by Paul Cezanne and painted their own careful, still life pictures of vegetables. They tried hard to get the perspective of vegetables in front of and behind each other. They also drew detailed sketches of the cross-sections of different vegetables, using different colours and patterns to add texture. In computing, the children learnt what coding is and tried creating a simple code to move pictures of fish from left to right.

Next week in English, the children will hear the story of 'The Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl. They will begin to learn how to write a set of instructions, starting with

how they might catch the crocodile if he appeared on the Year 2 playground! In mathematics, the children will be exploring number bonds (two numbers that add together to make the same total), using the part, part whole model to help them.

In art and design, the children will use collage techniques to make a mixed media crocodile. In RE, the children will learn about the Christian harvest festival and find out how it is celebrated. In PSHCE, the children will learn why we have rewards and consequences in school and how these work in Year 2, so they can help to make our classrooms a safe and fair place. In computing, the children will start to code by programming fish to move in a tank on Purple Mash. In science, the children will learn why exercise is important to keep us healthy and think of different ways we can enjoy exercising.

Year 2 parent consultations are taking place on Wednesday and Thursday next week. If you haven't already, please speak to your child's class teacher to make an appointment.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Remi	<i>for fantastic recall of ladybird facts.</i>
	Rory	<i>for coming in independently in the morning.</i>
	Oscar W	<i>for always being a good role model to his peers.</i>
	Jaxon	<i>for coming in with a smile each day</i>
Snowy Owls	Isaac	<i>for being a kind friend and sharing the toys.</i>
	George	<i>for finding some acorns when looking for signs of autumn.</i>
	Benjamin	<i>for completing activities independently.</i>
Tawny Owls	Lena	<i>for amazing number recognition and ordering.</i>
	Zachary	<i>for recalling lots of facts about autumn.</i>
Barn Owls	Jamal	<i>for beautiful letter formation in the phonics lessons.</i>
	Kara	<i>for always helping to keep the Barn Owl class tidy.</i>
Red Fox Class	Chiara	<i>for excellent focus during yoga.</i>
	Leia	<i>for super science work labelling and drawing parts of the body.</i>
Big Cat Class	Wednesday	<i>for excellent labelling in science.</i>
	Archie	<i>for super knowledge about the body.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Amelia	<i>for beautiful drawing and labelling of parts of the body.</i>
	Jaxon	<i>for making a super rhyming string.</i>
Penguin Class	Freddie	<i>for writing an excellent descriptive poem.</i>
	Millie	<i>for always being a kind and thoughtful friend.</i>

Pelican Class	Teddy	<i>for always putting his hand up to answer questions on the carpet.</i>
	Laiton	<i>for completing all the mathematics challenges and presenting his work beautifully in English.</i>
Puffin Class	Benjamin	<i>for writing a fantastic poem about vegetables.</i>
	Rosie	<i>for always trying her best with all her 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

SCHOOL DATES 2022-23

SEPTEMBER 2022	
<i>Thursday 1st</i>	<i>INSET DAY</i>
<i>Friday 2nd</i>	<i>Children return to school</i>
<i>Monday 5th</i>	<i>Year 1 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm</i>
<i>Monday 5th</i>	<i>Year 1 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 5.30pm</i>
<i>Thursday 8th</i>	<i>Year 2 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm</i>
<i>Thursday 8th</i>	<i>Year 2 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 5.30pm</i>
<i>Monday 12th</i>	<i>Reception Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm</i>
<i>Monday 12th</i>	<i>Reception Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 5.30pm</i>
<i>Monday 19th</i>	<i>BANK HOLIDAY</i>