



# The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

## Spring Term 2024 Newsletter

### Foundation Stage Reception Barn Owls, Snowy Owls, and Tawny Owls



The topics this term are 'Science Investigations' and 'Food Technology' linked to the traditional tale of *The Gingerbread Man* and safe journeys. Throughout the term, the children will participate in a range of exciting and inspiring activities.



## Communication and Language



The children will continue to develop their imaginative storytelling in the different role play areas in Reception. They will listen to different versions of *The Gingerbread Man* and compare similarities and differences. The children will retell the traditional tale of *The Gingerbread Man* using Makaton signs, which supports them to retell the story in their own words. They will sequence story cards, use puppets, props, and musical instruments to act out the story.

The children will generate captions to match illustrations from the story. They will generate WOW words (adjectives) and include them in their caption writing. The children will interview story characters through hot seating and use WOW words to describe a character of their choice. They will write a caption in a speech or thought bubble. The children will create rhyming strings linked to the characters from the story. They will write a list of ingredients needed to bake a tray of gingerbread men. They will create a poster to show how to remain safe when out and about.

During daily phonics sessions, the children will continue to develop their reading and spelling skills, and their formation of lower-case letters. They will practise segmenting and blending sounds in words and reading decodable sentences. Handwriting practice will continue each day. Homework this term will focus on sentences, developing the children's knowledge of sentence structure and using their phonological knowledge to segment and blend words when ordering a sentence.

## Physical Development



The children will be mark making, tracing handwriting patterns and forming letter shapes. They will practise cutting and threading and explore a variety of small construction materials to develop their fine motor skills. In PE, the focus is gymnastics and ball skills.

In gymnastics, the children will make shapes with their bodies and learn how to land safely when jumping off low height apparatus. They will learn how to throw a ball, aim at a target, and develop dribbling and kicking skills. The children will move in different ways to create a sequence of movements linked to the story of *The Gingerbread Man*. The children will learn how to be safe and develop their self-help skills.

# Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Our Jigsaw theme this half term is 'Dreams and Goals'. The children will discuss how to stay positive and motivated when faced with challenges, how to work with a partner or in a small group and how to help each other achieve personal goals. After the half term holiday, the theme is 'Healthy Me'. The children will reflect on the importance of keeping healthy through diet, exercise, and sleep, recalling prior knowledge learnt during Science Week.

The children will learn how to travel safely in the local environment, including staying on the pavement, holding hands when walking with a grown up, stopping quickly when on a bicycle or scooter and showing an awareness of other pedestrians on the pavement.

## Literacy



Reading: The children will participate in daily phonics lessons, completing activities and reading sentences to develop their reading skills. They will practise reading a range of decodable and common exception words. The children will read individually and have other opportunities for reading throughout the week. They will develop their knowledge of rhyming words and hear rhyme in poems and stories. The children will read non-fiction books linked to our topics and compare different versions of the traditional tale of *The Gingerbread Man*.

The children will continue to earn Super Reader certificates, by reading to a grown up at home every day.

Writing: The children will continue to practise forming upper and lower-case letters correctly and see writing modelled by adults. The children will develop their caption writing to include descriptive and action words. They will write a caption to match an illustration from the story of *The Gingerbread Man* and use adjectives to create a character description. The children will label different parts of a character and write a speech and thought bubble for a character of their choice. They will write a list of ingredients needed to bake gingerbread men and design a safety poster.

## Mathematics



The children will continue to practise counting, recognising numbers to ten and forming numerals correctly. They will practise counting accurately and match an amount to a number. They will learn to find one less and estimate. The children will focus on the number four, making it in different ways and recognising that the total remains the same. They will learn to subitise, which is to recognise the number of objects in a small group without the need to count them; for example, recognising the number of spots on dice.

The children will measure the length of different sized gingerbread men using non-standard units of measurement. They will cut play dough gingerbread men or shapes into halves and quarters. They will create patterns with numbers, shapes, colours, and objects. To celebrate Easter, the children will create repeating patterns using different coloured eggs.

## Understanding the world



The children will discover why people around the world celebrate Chinese New Year and Mother's Day. They will find out about the wedding ceremonies of different faiths and how family members help them to feel safe and happy. The children will look at the Creation story and listen to the Easter story, finding out why it is important to Christians.

The children will use their senses to investigate ginger and grow ginger in a pot, observing the signs of growth and when it needs water. They will use their senses to investigate ingredients and look at the differences and similarities between a baked and a raw gingerbread man. They will predict and investigate what happens to gingerbread men when they are placed in water, oil, vinegar, fruit juice and milk.

The children will use their observation skills to search the school grounds for signs of winter and spring and use iPads to take photographs. They will use magnifying glasses to look at the structure of spring flowers.

The children will use applications on the iPads to develop their mathematical knowledge, draw pictures of a gingerbread man, and with adult support, use the internet to find out answers to questions.

The children will investigate light and shadows using torches when celebrating Chinese New Year and explore transparency in a range of materials. They will develop their problem-solving skills by building a bridge for the gingerbread man to cross the river safely and creating a boat to float across the river.

## Expressive arts and design



The children will continue to develop their art skills throughout the term. They will use their fine motor skills to manipulate clay to create a gingerbread man and use recycled materials to create models and scenery linked to the story. The children will construct with recycled materials to build a bridge and design a boat to float across a river. They will take part in many activities linked to the festival of Lunar New Year, including creating shadow puppets to act out the story.

The children will use a range of props and musical instruments to act out the story of *The Gingerbread Man*. As a class, they will act out helicopter stories generated with their own ideas.

In music, the children will learn more about pulse, pitch, and rhythm. They will listen to different songs linked to *The Gingerbread Man* and use musical instruments to help retell the story. The children will listen to different genres of music for 'Musician of the Month', including the music of Adele, James Bay, Bill Hailey and the Comets, and Tchaikovsky.

For more information related to this term's topic please go on to the school website:  
[www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk](http://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk).



We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any items relating to our topic that we could use, display, or share with the children please let us know.

If you wish to ask any questions, please feel welcome to speak to the Foundation Stage staff at the end of the day. Please, however, inform staff of essential information at the start of the day.

## Reminders



**Please make sure all items of school uniform, coats, plimsolls, book bag, shoe bag and PE kit are clearly named.**

**Please would you make sure your child brings in a named water bottle. No fruit or flavoured drinks please.**

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Mrs. L Dacombe  
Class Teacher and Foundation Stage Leader

Mrs. D Clark and Miss A Busby  
Class Teachers

Miss R Freestone, Miss S Ward and Miss K Beattie  
Early Years Practitioners

Mr. T Pullin  
Sports Apprentice