



# The Giles Nursery and Infants' School



## Autumn Term 2025 Newsletter Year 1

### *Big Cats, Walker Bears and Red Foxes*

Welcome to our Year 1 children and parents. Our topics are 'Ourselves and our Senses', 'The Natural World', 'Animals' and 'Toys'.

## English

During the first half of the autumn term, the children will learn about rhyme, using labels and writing short captions, whilst remembering to leave spaces between words. They will learn about writing sentences using capital letters and full stops in the second half-term. Their writing will be inspired by our topics about our bodies and our senses, animals, toys and seasonal change. They will research facts about animals, learn how to write a list, and how to make nouns plural by adding 's' or 'es'. They will regularly learn poems to recite. The children will have the opportunity to use role-play areas. Daily phonics sessions will include hearing and recognising initial and end sounds of simple CVC and CCVC words. They will practise blending and segmenting words for reading and spelling. They will also learn new phonemes and graphemes. The children will be learning handwriting patterns, developing pencil control and letter formation.



Each child will read individually with an adult and begin guided reading sessions with their peers. We cannot stress enough how important it is for your child to read regularly at home in these early stages of their reading development. Please share your comments about their reading in the reading record book. We also use an online reading scheme called Bug Club. This is another opportunity to enjoy reading a book together or listening to an audio book. There are short games and activities within each book. You will find your child's login details inside the reading record book.

## Mathematics

In mathematics, the children will be exploring place value with numbers up to ten. They will begin to use addition and subtraction for calculations within ten and they will explore 2D and 3D shapes. The children will take part in regular fluency sessions with 'Fluency Bee'. You can support your child to develop their mathematical fluency by logging on to NumBots. Their log-in details are in their reading record book.



## Science

The children will learn about the five senses through practical activities to explore each one. They will learn about the human body and use scientific vocabulary by drawing and labelling body parts such as head, arms, legs, neck, shoulders or elbows. The children will begin to learn about the differences in seasons with the focus this term on autumnal changes. They will plant spring bulbs and begin a diary to observe the change as the plant grows. After half-term, the children will learn about animals and classify them as mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.



## Humanities

In geography, the children will explore the natural environment around the school grounds and go on a local walk to a place of worship as part of the cross-curricular learning with RE.

In RE, the children will learn about religious festivals in Christianity and Judaism, including Harvest, Sukkot, Christmas and Hanukkah. They will also reflect on their own experiences of the natural world and belonging to a community.

The history topic will be 'Old and New Toys'.



## Computing

The children will begin to understand the importance of e-Safety. They will discuss who is a trusted adult and learn how to log in safely to Purple Mash. They will build an avatar and learn how to search and find resources. In the second half of the term, children will learn that an algorithm is a precise step-by-step set of instructions. They will follow and create simple instructions on the computer.

## Creative

Art and craft activities will include using natural resources inspired by the sculptural work of Andy Goldsworthy and beginning to learn about colour-mixing. They will create their own colour block artwork inspired by the work of Mark Rothko.



In design and technology, the children will design and make a fruit kebab. They will make a slider mechanism. As part of the history topic, they will make replicas of old toys.

In music, the children will explore pulse, rhythm and pitch and play a variety of percussion instruments. They will also listen to music and explore composition and improvisation. They will learn good singing technique and learn seasonal songs to celebrate harvest and as part of the RE learning about Christmas. They will perform traditional Christmas carols for their families.



## Physical Education

In the first half term, the children will take part in team building lessons and fitness sessions. In the second half term they will do yoga sessions and fundamental skills lessons.



## Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

Our school follows the Jigsaw scheme of work. Through group discussions, children will be encouraged to take turns and listen to each other, talk about their feelings and the feelings of others, to share and care about each other and build positive relationships with peers and adults in the

school. Our topics this term will be 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference'. Forest School starts in the second half-term and will take place once a week in all weathers in our own school woodland.

## Homework

Homework is set fortnightly and sent home on alternate Fridays. There will be a selection of activities for your child to choose from as well as spellings to practise. Please return the homework book on the second Wednesday.

### Reminders

- **Please ensure your child brings their reading book in each day.**
- **Please make sure all items of clothing are clearly named.**
- **PE kit to be worn to school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for Year 1.**
- **Please make sure your child brings in a named water bottle.**
- **In the morning, classroom doors open at 8.45am and close at 9.00am for learning to begin.**

Holidays should only be taken during school holidays and **not** during term time. Mrs. Mendel will only authorise a holiday if exceptional circumstances apply.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful for your child's learning this term. If you have any questions, please speak to the Year 1 staff at the end of the day. Please be sure, however, to inform staff of important information at the start of the day, especially any changes related to the collection of your child.

### Thank you for your support.

**Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Collinson and Mrs. Brown** Class Teachers

**Mrs. Furr, Mrs. Barker, and Mrs. Duarte** Teaching Assistants

**Mrs. Hayhurst** Teaching Assistant / PPG Champion

**Mrs. Oakley and Mrs. Dimova** Support Staff

**Miss Watson and Miss Cooke** Apprentices

