



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ
Telephone: 01438 359747
Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

09.02.2024

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,

It has been a fantastic week in school. Mrs Edwards led us all through eSafety Week and all pupils have engaged in an eSafety assembly, lessons and activities throughout the week that will help them to keep safe online. We hope that you find the eSafety Newsletter we sent you useful in supporting your work to keep your children safe when they're on laptops or mobile phones at home. Children in our school are very aware of what it means to be safe online and display their understanding in conversation and in their work.

Reception had Big Write this week and so much of the work produced shows the most incredible progress! We are so proud of how hard our Reception children have worked this week!

Nursery children have been engaged in activities in readiness for Lunar New Year which takes place on Saturday. Reception classes will celebrate next week. We wish the very best to all families who celebrate this occasion.

eSafety: This week in our eSafety feature, we focus on the importance of knowing about the age restrictions on apps and games.

In the UK, PEGI ratings are used to help distinguish what games are suitable for different ages. This article by Internet Matters explains how it works - [Age Ratings Explained](#). Games such as Poppy Playtime and Five Nights At Freddy's, have received a PEGI rating 12 and are a 12+ in the Apple App store. They feature moderate violence, fantasy characters and scenes of moderate horror that younger players could find disturbing. Please take time to have a read of these articles by Common Sense Media and The National Collage - [Poppy Playtime Game Review](#) | [Common Sense Media](#) and [Five Nights At Freddy's](#).

School closes at usual time on Friday 16th February ready for our half-term. We hope you all have a lovely restful week, and we shall see you all back at school on Monday 26th February 2024.

Bags2School: We have just been told how much was raised by donating unwanted clothing which was collected on 26th January. You all donated 460Kg in weight which raised £230!! Keep an eye out for more information on our next planned date for this event.



Bake Sale: Thank you to our amazing FROG team for Wednesday's bake sale and to everyone who so kindly donated cakes. Thank you also to Mrs Hayhurst who helped to organize all the secondhand uniforms! There are so many and in such good condition! Our fantastic FROGs managed to raise £290.90 for the school. Thank you all so much.





No one to be on bikes or scooters on the school playground: There was a near miss this week when a Nursery-aged child was almost hit by a pupil on a scooter, only escaping because a parent was able to pull their infant out of the way in time.

Being knocked over by someone on a bike or scooter can in fact result in serious injury. This cannot be happening on a school playground. From this point on, all bikes and scooters must be dismantled and pushed from the side while children move them through the school. Not following this rule might result in a scooter and bike ban from school premises.

Nursery school places for September 2024: If you are a prospective parent, we have a number of tours scheduled, please click on the following link:

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>

Please kindly share this message with parents, friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2024. Applications opened on 1st November 2023.

 <p>CLOTHES BANK</p> <p>→ Clothes Available for children age 3-18</p> <p>→ Saturday 27th January Saturday 24th February Saturday 23rd March</p> <p>→ Time: 11am - 12:30pm</p> <p>→ Venue: Grace Community Church Hydean way, Stevenage SG2 9XJ</p> <p>→ To collect clothes, please contact clothesbank@gccstevenage.church for sorting out referrals</p> <p>CHILDRENS CLOTHES BANK LTD</p> <p>Looking forward to partnering with you</p> 	<p><i>Please contact Mrs Mendel (head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk) or your class teacher if you would like us to make a referral on your behalf.</i></p>
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Nursery: This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the Lunar New Year. They recalled the Makaton sign for 'celebrate' and learnt how people around the world celebrate the Lunar New Year. The children were fascinated to find out how Chinese families celebrate the New Year and loved watching a Chinese dragon parade. They learnt red is the luckiest colour in Chinese culture and during a celebration, people will have red lanterns, new red outfits, and red envelopes for gifts of money. Darius remembered and shared with his friends, "Red is the lucky colour."

In physical development, the children enjoyed working together as a team to move like a dragon. They held a scarf and moved up and down to create wonderful flowing movements.

In expressive arts and design, the children were excited to create a Chinese dragon. They worked hard to fold a strip of paper to create a body, practised their mark making to decorate and added lollipop sticks. We hope the children enjoyed sharing their dragon craft with you, they were all very excited to make their dragons dance!

The children enjoyed the story 'Cleversticks' by Bernard Ashley and were eager to have a try at using chopsticks to eat noodles. Ava commented, "I have chopsticks at my home." Kennedy shared, "My mummy brought me some noodles so I could use my chopsticks at home." They had a wonderful time in the Chinese takeaway role-play area, taking on a role as a shop keeper or customer. Ariella enjoyed serving her friends and said, "Here is your prawn crackers, noodles and egg fried rice, that will be £31 please."

In mathematics, the children consolidated their knowledge of number five. They thoroughly enjoyed playing 'fastest fingers', everyone was quick to show one hand is five fingers. The children are doing brilliantly at remembering the number rhyme, 'Draw the back and the belly, then the hat. It's a five! Watch out, it might come alive!'

Next week, we will read the story 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' by Jan Fearnley and eat some delicious pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

Reception: *This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed Big Write linked to the story 'The Gingerbread Girl' by Lisa Campbell Ernst. The children loved the story and predicted the Gingerbread Girl would end up being gobbled up by the fox, but they had a pleasant surprise! Lola in Barn Owl class said, "I really like this book and I've told my mum all about it." The children applied their phonic knowledge to label parts of the Gingerbread Girl such as her liquorice hair and biscuit shoulders. They wrote a caption about the character and read their caption back to an adult.*

In mathematics, the children enjoyed investigating length. The children had to search in their classrooms for either a long or short object and place it in the correctly labelled hoop. They children found the story, 'I Can Only Draw Worms' by Will Mabbitt very funny! For the main activity, the children ordered pieces of ribbon by length and made comparisons.

In expressive arts and design, the children have enjoyed manipulating and moulding clay to create a gingerbread man using clay tools to sculpture parts of his body and added buttons or currants for his features.

As part of eSafety week, the children listened to a story about Digiduck who found out ways to keep himself safe when using a tablet, a mobile device, or a laptop. When listening to the story about Digiduck, the children discussed sharing passwords and whether you should use a password without a grown up knowing.

Next week in literacy, the children will be using their phonic skills to write a speech bubble for one of the characters from 'The Gingerbread Man' story. In mathematics, the children will be focusing on height and in understanding the world, the children will be celebrating Lunar New Year.

Year 1: *You may have noticed over the last few weeks some intriguing work going on in the Year 1 playground. Finally, this week, after great curiosity, excitement and anticipation, we were able to hold an opening ceremony led by Mrs Mendel for the Year 1 children. They were absolutely delighted to climb our very own castle and to develop their balancing skills on the new trim trail. It is a huge treat to have such beautiful equipment in the playground and the children are learning how to use it safely. The castle is enhanced with our own school flag and several facts about the history of the town of Stevenage.*



On Tuesday, the children joined with schools and organisations across the world to celebrate Safer Internet Day. This is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at The Giles Nursery and Infants' School and by celebrating Safer Internet Day it was a great opportunity for us to emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. This year, the children focused on how we like to use the internet and what we can do if we see something that worries us. The children took part in a Key Stage 1 assembly and listened to the important messages through stories and discussion.

During Forest School, the children continued their online safety learning. They listened to the story 'Hanni and the Magic Window' and discussed the importance of having a trusted adult to talk to. The children then made viewfinders and looked through the 'magic window' to identify pictures of beauty. This provided opportunity to discuss who our trusted adults are and who we can talk to if we see something that scares or upsets us.

If you would like to read 'Hanni and the Magic Window' it is available online: [Hanni and the Magic Window | Childnet](#). The school website also has a range of information leaflets and web links that you may find useful: [eSafety](#)

This week in English, the children have begun their new topic of traditional tales. They revisited old favourites such as 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and enjoyed making puppets and putting on their own performance for their peers to watch. They identified familiar story openers such as 'Once upon a time' and enjoyed joining in with repeated phrases such as 'not by the hair on my chinny, chin, chin'. They are beginning to look at some of the characteristics of traditional tales.

Our Book of the Week was 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear' by Martin Waddell. It's bedtime, and Little Bear can't get to sleep. He's frightened of the dark, the dark all around, which not even Big Bear's largest lantern can light up. Big Bear finds a way to show Little Bear that there is no need to be afraid. If you would like to take a listen, please click the link here: [Story time - Can't You Sleep Little Bear](#).

Phonics this week has continued with alternative pronunciations. The children revisited the digraph 'er.' They recalled the unstressed vowel sound known as a schwa, pronounced /er/ as in 'letter' and 'farmer' and learnt that it can also make the stressed sound as heard in the word 'herb'. Similarly, they learnt that the 'ch' in 'chip' can sound like /sh/ in 'chef' and /c/ in 'Christmas'.

In mathematics, the children continued learning all about 2D and 3D shapes. They sorted shapes by a variety of criteria, stacked and rolled shapes and made repeating patterns.

The children have begun their new design and technology sequence to design and make a puppet theatre. These will be made next week and used as a prop for retelling the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.'

Next week in English, the children will continue their learning about traditional tales. They will listen to the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. They will be writing a balanced sentence, using the conjunction 'and'. In mathematics, the children will complete their unit of work on 2D and 3D shapes.

New homework will be coming home today. The children will have the opportunity to consolidate their learning about 2D and 3D shapes. This homework will be due in the week after half term, on Wednesday 28th February.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Year 2: We have had a lot of exciting things happening this week in Year 2.

In English we began our new unit of work based around the book 'Last Stop on Market Street' by Matt De La Pena. The children have really enjoyed exploring the text and were mesmerised by the powerful vocabulary used to create vivid images. They discussed how careful word choice can support the reader in visualising beautiful pictures in their mind and practised this by using powerful verbs and expanded noun phrases in their writing. Next week, the children will step into the main character's shoes and write a diary entry from his perspective. They will then write about a familiar journey they take.

On Tuesday, the children took part in Safer Internet Day, with this year's theme being 'Together for a better internet' which focuses on raising awareness of how to stay safe online. The children really enjoyed learning about technology throughout history and sorting through pictures of older phones, computers and music players. They then discussed what they should do if something upsets them online and identified who their trusted adults are. They ended the session by designing their own item of technology for the future.

In mathematics, the children worked incredibly hard on their end of unit assessments and were eager to begin their new unit of work learning about money. They have practiced counting money in pence and in pounds. Next week they will begin to add and compare different amounts of money.

In geography, the children have compared life in Stevenage to life in Antarctica, looking at the human and physical features of both places. In science, the children have learned about the negative impact plastic pollution has on our planet, and what we can do to help. In RE, the children discussed the similarities and differences between the places of worship they have looked at in this unit of work, comparing Mosques, Gurdwaras and Buddhist Temples.

In art and design, the children used wax resist techniques to paint colourful patterned umbrellas using crayons and watercolour paints.

Next week the children will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year is 'My Voice Matters'. This week exists to empower, equip and give a voice to every child to ensure that they feel listened to and know that they're not alone. The children will learn about why positive mental health is important and take part in different mindfulness activities throughout the week.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend,

The Year 2 Team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PELICAN CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Alexandra	<i>for working carefully to create a beautiful dragon.</i>
	Clara	<i>for playing imaginatively in the Chinese restaurant role play.</i>
	Alex	<i>for a great effort writing Chinese numbers.</i>
	Ellis	<i>for showing fantastic control using chopsticks.</i>
	George	<i>for super work writing Chinese numbers.</i>
	Ariella	<i>for playing imaginatively in the Chinese restaurant role play.</i>
Snowy Owls	Kobi	<i>for making fantastic progress with his independent writing.</i>
	Maeesha	<i>for making good progress with her reading.</i>
	Rory	<i>for using mathematical language to compare length.</i>
Tawny Owls	Luka	<i>for brilliant sounding out when writing a caption about 'The Gingerbread Girl'.</i>
	Hannah	<i>for amazing ordering by length.</i>
Barn Owls	Ayla-Kaye	<i>for brilliant labelling and caption writing linked to the story of 'The Gingerbread Girl'.</i>
	Teddie	<i>for fantastic mathematical language when discussing different lengths of ribbon.</i>
Red Fox Class	Olivia	<i>for a fabulous retell of the story of 'The Three Little Pigs.'</i>
	Casey	<i>for trying your best and showing a huge improvement in phonics.</i>
Big Cat Class	Evie	<i>for working really hard in her phonics and reading.</i>
	Zachary	<i>for excellent work in mathematics learning about 3D shapes.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Wynter	<i>for writing a very creative story in English.</i>
	Aimee	<i>for using the correct technique to master a forward roll in PE.</i>
Pelicans	Dollie-Rae	<i>for always listening and being actively involved in lessons.</i>
	Darcie	<i>for always being kind and helpful.</i>

Puffins	Ernie	<i>for designing a wonderful coat, thinking about the properties of the materials.</i>
	Mikolaj	<i>for having a fantastic attitude to all his learning.</i>
Penguins	Aria	<i>for lovely descriptive writing in English.</i>
	Zain	<i>for working hard on our new mathematics topic of money.</i>

We wish you all a wonderful weekend!

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

FEBRUARY 2024

HALF TERM: Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February 2023

Monday 26 th	Children return to school
Tuesday 27 th	Shrove Tuesday Assembly in school, pupils only
Wednesday 28 th	FROG/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.

MARCH 2024

Tuesday 5 th	Year 1 Phonics Workshop, 3.30-4.15pm
Week of Monday 4 th	<i>BOOK WEEK</i>
Thursday 7 th	World Book Day - non-uniform Day, children dress as their favourite character, donations for charity
Thursday 7 th	Nursery Open Evening, 4.30-5.30pm for children due to start September 2023
<i>Sunday 10th</i>	<i>Mother's Day – diary note only</i>
Friday 15 th	Red Nose Day
Week of 18 th	<i>SCIENCE WEEK</i>
Week of 18 th	<i>Parent-Teacher Consultations time tba nearer the time</i>
Monday 18 th	Nursery Open Evening, 4.30-5.30pm
Wednesday 20th TBC	Great Fire of London Workshop for Year 2
Tuesday 26 th	Stay and Read, Year 1 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Wednesday 27 th	Stay and Read, Year 2 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Thursday 21 st	Holi Assembly, Hindu Festival of Colours, pupils only
w/c Monday 25 th	Easter Activities throughout school
Tuesday 26 th	Easter Assembly in school, pupils only
Week of 25 th	Parent Consultations, times tbc
Wednesday 27th TBC	FROG / PTA Easter Stay and Play, 3.30-4.30pm
Thursday 28 th	Easter Bonnet Parade, whole school, pupils only
Thursday 28 th	Last day of term, school closes 2pm
Thursday 28 th	Last day of term – finish at 2pm

EASTER HOLIDAY: Friday 29th – Friday 12th April 2024

APRIL 2024

Monday 15 th	Children return to school
Week of the 15 th	MATHS WEEK
Thursday 18 th DATE TBC	Eid-al-Fitr Assembly in school, pupils only

Wednesday 24 th TBC	Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Meads – 2 x classes
Thursday 25 th TBC	Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Meads – 1 x class
Friday 26 th	Sponsored spell words given out
Friday 26 th	FROG Bags2School Collection
w/c Monday 22nd tbc	Living Chicks Project
Tuesday 23rd - TBC	M&M Production of The Jungle Book followed by workshop.
w/c 29 th w/c 29 th	Year 1, Class visits to Sishes Wood, each class to be confirmed MATHS WEEK INCLUDING POTENTIAL WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS TBC

MAY 2024	
Monday 6 th	BANK HOLIDAY
w/c May 13 th	BIG WRITE
Wednesday 15 th	Stay and Read, Year 1, 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Wednesday 15 th	Buddha's Birthday Assembly
Thursday 16 th	Stay and Read, Year 2, 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Wednesday 22 nd	FROG Bake sale and Uniform Sale

HALF TERM: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2024

JUNE 2024	
Monday 3 rd	INSET DAY
Tuesday 4 th	Children return to school
Week 10 th June	MONEY WEEK
Tuesday 11 th	Reception Summer Concert, Barn Owl, 9.15am
Wednesday 12 th	Reception Summer Concert, Tawny Owl, 9.15am
Thursday 13 th	Reception Summer Concert, Snowy Owl, 9.15am
<i>Sunday 16th</i>	<i>Fathers Day – diary note</i>
TBC Monday 17th	Circus Workshops and Assembly date tbc
TBC Tuesday 18th	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.
Thursday 20 th	Class Photograph Day with Kittle
Thursday 20 th	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, 5.30-7.00pm
Friday 21 st	NURSERY CLOSED TO ALL CURRENT CHILDREN
Wednesday 26 th	Big Cats Summer Concert, 2.30pm
Thursday 27 th	Walker Bears Summer Concert, 1.30pm
Thursday 27 th	Red Foxes Summer Concert, 2.30pm

JULY 2024	
Monday 1 st	INSET DAY
Week of 1 st	Olympic Presentations
Tuesday 2 nd	Inco Coffee morning
Friday 5 th	Sports Day practice
Monday 8th Date TBC	ARK Farm Visit (Reception classes)
Tuesday 9 th	Sports Day in morning
TBC Wednesday 10th	Walton on Naze trip – date to be confirmed, dependent on tides
Thursday 11 th	Moving Up Day
TBC Friday 12th	Sports for Schools Athlete visit
Friday July 12th	Nursery Pirate Day
W/C 15 th July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Monday 15 th	FROG / PTA Nursery Bedtime Stories
TBC Monday 15th	Indian Dance Workshop
Tuesday 16 th	Reserve Sports Day
TBC Wednesday 17th	Drumming workshop
Monday 22 nd	Class Parties

Monday 22 nd	Puffins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Monday 22 nd	Pelicans Leavers Assembly – 10.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Penguins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Last day of term – finish at 2pm



2023 / 24 School Calendar

September '23						
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October '23						
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November '23						
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December '23						
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January '24						
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February '24						
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March '24						
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April '24						
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May '24						
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July '24						
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August '24						
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- = Term Time
- = 22/23 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2023/24 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
- = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)



2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
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October '24						
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December '24						
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January '25						
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February '25						
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March '25						
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



April '25						
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May '25						
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June '25						
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July '25						
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August '25						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

-  = Term Time
-  = 23/24 Pupil Holidays
-  = Bank and Public Holidays
-  = 2024/25 Pupil Holidays
-  = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
-  = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)

