



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

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10.05.2024

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,

The weather has finally begun to shine on us and I hope you have all enjoyed its return to brighten our spirits at last! It has been a shorter week owing to the welcome Bank Holiday Weekend and children have enjoyed the sunshine. Everyone is doing so well with the Sponsored Spell and we thank you in advance for any donations. Reception children are performing their Sponsored Doubles this week and are doing absolutely brilliantly!

Next week is the Big Write, led by our phenomenal English lead, Miss Hill. This is always an exciting week in school and the children produce some wonderful writing at the end of it. We like to keep the Big Write themes a surprise, so there will be more information in next week's newsletter.

Welcome new School Secretary: We would like to welcome a new face in our office – Mrs Mandy Corney, who has taken over from Mrs Moran. Welcome, Mrs Corney and we hope you will be very happy working in our lovely, friendly school.

Leaving messages or sending emails regarding your children: We would be so grateful if you could include the name of your child's class – or else the name of your child's teacher – to help ease processing. Thank you.

Census Day is Thursday 16th May: We will as usual swap the Thursday and Friday school meals around. Please encourage your child to have a school meal on Thursday even if they don't usually have one and want to have a packed lunch as well. We get our funding for the school meals from the numbers of children who have one on Census Day so it's very important. Thank you for helping.

Transition from our Nursery to Reception September 2023: For children who currently attend our Nursery and will be joining our Reception in September 2024, we will be holding a stay-and-play session after school on Tuesday 18th June 2024 from 3.45-4.30pm and we ask that you please attend. Further information and key dates will be sent to you soon.

Packed Lunches – safety note: *If you are including grapes in your child's packed lunch, please would you ensure that they are cut in half, this reduces the choking hazard and has the added benefit that they can't roll away!*

Nursery school places for September 2024: *There are a few places available in our Nursery Class from September 2024 – if you would like to visit, please contact the school for an appointment. We ask our families to share this information with friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2024. Eligible children will have birth dates between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021.*

Suncream: *Now that it is becoming warmer, please apply suncream when wished to your child before they come to school in the morning. Long-lasting suncream or spray is best as unfortunately adults are not permitted to apply sunscreen while children are in school. Thank you.*

Nursery Closed on Friday 21st June: *The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 21st June 2024. This is in order to allow the children who will be joining us in September 2024 an opportunity to visit with their parents. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.*

Reception and Junior School (September 2024) Allocation Day: *Allocation Day was Tuesday 16th April, when parents will have received notification from Hertfordshire County Council with their child's school allocation for September 2024. The deadline for the acceptance of places is Friday 3rd May 2024. If you have any questions regarding your allocation, please contact Hertfordshire Admissions, as we are unable to assist with this.*

*****  Bike Marking Event @ Fairlands Valley Park  *****

We have been informed that Stevenage Neighbourhood Policing Team are holding a free bike-marking event at Costello's Café in Fairlands Valley Park tomorrow (Saturday 11th May), between 12pm and 3pm.

The police advice is that bike marking helps to make them less attractive to thieves, as they are harder to sell on. It also means they can be reunited with their rightful owners more easily should they ever be lost or stolen. There's no cost and it will give you peace of mind that yours is more secure. Top tips for bike security: use a chain and D-lock combination and avoid cable locks as these are easy to cut; lock your bike where you can see it – ideally in a busy area or under CCTV; register your bike on www.bikeregister.com. This is a free online property database which we (the police) use to check stolen property. That way, if your bike is stolen, you have more chance of it being returned to you.

Nursery: *This week in Nursery the children continued to explore pond life and learnt about animals that live at the pond. They learnt that a baby duck is called a duckling, female ducks lay eggs and they have webbed feet to help them swim in the water.*

In expressive art and design, the children were excited to make a frog. They chose to independently paint a frog, use a paper plate or create a frog with concertina legs. These will be on display in the Nursery very soon. The children looked at the painting 'Water Lilies' by Claude Monet and used chalk to create a pond picture. Tillie commented, "It's really pretty, I like the pink flowers."

In understanding the world, the children observed changes in the weather. They noticed the weather is sunny and cloudy or sunny this week and it has stopped raining. As a class, we have recorded the weather each day and compared the weather in the morning to the afternoon. Elijah commented, "I saw the mist when I got up!"

Now it is sunny.” The children have thought about the clothes they need to wear now it is getting warmer. They agreed they don’t need to wear their warm coats anymore and can wear summer dresses or shorts to Nursery. Please remember to apply sun cream in the morning as all of the children love to play outside.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the story ‘Come on Daisy’ by Jane Simmons. They listened beautifully to the story of a little duck who chases dragonflies and bounces on lily pads before realising she has lost her mummy. Harrison commented, “She got lost because she didn’t stay with Mumma duck when she shouted her.” The children sang ‘Five little ducks went swimming one day’ and joined in with the actions.

In phonics, the children have learnt the letter sound /p/ and practised saying ‘peg’, ‘pig’, ‘paintbrush’, ‘purse’ and many more. They also learnt the song ‘Puff out the candles on the pink pig cake. /p/ /p/ /p/, /p/ /p/ /p/. Puff out the candles on the pink pig cake. Puff! Puff! Puff!’, sung to the tune of ‘The Wheels on the Bus’.

Next week, the children will enjoy a range of exciting activities linked to the story of ‘The Rainbow Fish’ by Marcus Pfister. In phonics, the children will learn the letter sound /i/.

Reception: *In literacy this week, the children generated sentences from their experience of holding the chicks. They looked at photographs of the chicks and used WOW words to describe what the chicks felt like, their size and weight when holding the chick in the palm of their hand.*

In mathematics, the children were adding on from a given number. First, they had to listen to how many marbles were dropped into a jar and then count on from that number. The children used a tens frame to display their answer.

In understanding the world, the children found out about five of the most common breeds of chicken living in Britain. Did you know there are ninety-three different breeds of chicken in Britain and the Orpington hen is the best hen to have around children? The children found out a range of facts about these breeds and discussed each of the breed’s plumage. When remembering facts about the Dorking hen, Reid in Tawny Owl class said, “The Dorking chicken is tasty to eat.” The children created collage hens using a variety of materials. When choosing which breed of chicken to draw, Noah in Snowy Owl class said, “I am going to draw the Orpington hen because it lays lots of eggs.”

Next week in literacy, the children will be writing sentences about a hen. In mathematics, they will be investigating 2D shapes using a tangram. In understanding the world, the children will be creating a map to help the little red hen reach the windmill and in art and design, they will be using the app ‘Sketchbook’ to draw a picture in the style of the artist, Claude Monet.

Year 1: *This week in English, the children continued to use ‘The Gruffalo’ by Julia Donaldson for their learning. They learnt how an apostrophe is used to show a contraction of two words, for example ‘have not’ becoming ‘haven’t’. They enjoyed being detectives looking for apostrophes in an extract from ‘The Gruffalo’. The children also learnt that a verb is a ‘doing word’. They considered the characters in the story and generated verbs to describe how they move, such as ‘slither’, ‘fly’, ‘stomp’, ‘tiptoe’ and ‘jump’.*

In phonics, the children revised the digraphs ‘ey’, and ‘au’, and began to review the split vowel digraphs. They practised reading real and alien words, as well as completing other activities such as phoneme spotters, and reading games.

The children also took part in the sponsored spell. Thank you for all the practise you have done with your children. The children were very proud of their achievements. Thank you for your generous sponsorship of the children. They feel empowered by it to contribute to the continual improvement of our school.

Our Book of the Week was 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. What do you do when a lost penguin shows up at your door? Please click on the link to listen to the story - [Lost and Found](#) and find out what happens next.

In mathematics, the children continued to practise their subtraction strategies, including counting back, using number bonds, and finding the difference. They also learnt how to use addition and subtraction strategies to solve missing number problems, by telling 'first, then and now' stories, identifying the parts and whole in a calculation and beginning to understand that addition and subtraction are related. They will continue to embed this learning and deepen their understanding throughout the summer term. The children will shortly be starting their new unit of learning on place value within 50.

In science, the children learnt the names of some common plants that they may find in the garden. The children listened to the story 'Errol's Garden' by Gillian Hibbs and thought about how gardens make them feel. They then used their knowledge of garden plants to design their own garden.

The children learnt about special books in RE. They learnt about the Torah and how Jewish people consider it a sacred text to guide their lives. They listened to the story of Abraham and Sarah. The children made their own scrolls of the story of Abraham and Sarah.

In art and design, the children experimented with a range of media, in preparation for making sunflower pictures inspired by the painting 'Sunflowers' by Vincent Van Gogh.

Next week in English, the children will learn about adding the suffix '-ed' to verbs to show that an action has happened in the past. They will also learn about the suffix '-ing' and practise writing verbs with the suffix '-ing' in a sentence. They will also take part in Big Write, writing about how the characters move in the story of 'The Gruffalo'. In mathematics, the children will show their teachers how they can use all their learning about addition and subtraction to reason and problem-solve. They will also begin to learn about place value within 50 by making sure they can count securely forwards and backwards between 0 and 50. They will use number squares to assist them.

We invite the children to bring in their own special book from home for our RE learning next week. The children will need these for their Forest School days. You may like to talk with your child about why it is a special book for them. Can they say what values they have learnt from it? Please ensure your child's book is labelled with their name.

Thank you for all the empty fruit punnets sent in so far. Please do keep collecting them for us, ready for planting our own little gardens the following week.

Have a lovely weekend.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: It has been a lovely week in Year 2, with some fantastic learning taking place. The children started to learn about the Great Fire of London and have spent the week being historians, finding out about life in 1666, the events of the Great Fire of London and how to use different historical sources. The children were so inspired by this topic

and it has been a real joy to see them so engaged. They are very excited for the Great Fire of London workshop, led by History Off The Page, which takes place on Monday. We encourage children to come in costume for this immersive learning day. For ideas, please visit: [Great Fire of London - costume ideas](#)

The children took part in the Sponsored Spell on Friday, practising the words that were sent home for them to learn. They all did incredibly well, and we are very grateful for the sponsorship money that has been returned so far. If you haven't done so already, please return to your child's class teacher or the school office by next Friday 17th May. Thank you.

In mathematics this week, the children have learnt about mass. They have compared mass using the vocabulary 'lighter' and 'heavier' and learnt why we use standard units to measure mass. They have learnt how to measure mass in grams (g) and kilograms (kg) and solve problems involving mass.

In science, the children learnt how animals are camouflaged to provide them with protection in their habitat. They investigated if all animals are the same colour as their habitat by finding minibeasts in the school grounds and recording their results. In RE, the children learnt about the Sikh turban-tying festival of Dastar Bandi. In PSHCE, the children talked about secrets, when they should be kept, and when they should be shared. In art and design, they looked at the work of Claude Monet and created tissue paper flower meadows.

In English next week, the children will write a historical recount, imagining they survived the Great Fire of London. In mathematics, they will learn about capacity and temperature. In science, the children will choose an animal and create a factsheet about its habitat. In RE, the children will find out about Hindu weddings and in computing, they will learn how to use a database to find information. In PSHCE, they will learn to recognise and appreciate people who can help them in their family, school and community. In design and technology, the children will create houses to recreate a street during the Great Fire of London.

The last Stay and Read of the year (and infants' school!) will take place next Thursday 16th May from 2.45pm in children's classrooms. We look forward to seeing you there.

We hope you have a wonderful, sunny weekend.

The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

WALKER BEAR CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	<i>Bertie for fantastic listening and recall in phonics.</i> <i>Myles for a wonderful painting of a frog.</i> <i>Andrew for growing in confidence and answering questions at carpet time.</i> <i>Kennedy for making a brilliant paper plate frog.</i> <i>Alfie B for making a fantastic paper plate frog.</i>
Snowy Owls	<i>Evie for fantastic counting on from a given number.</i> <i>Toby for making a wonderful collage hen.</i>
Tawny Owls	<i>Joshua for generating super WOW words to describe the chicks.</i> <i>Esther for creating an amazing collage hen.</i>
Barn Owls	<i>Oliver for creating a wonderful collage hen.</i> <i>Charlie for being a fantastic team member when playing kick rounders in PE.</i> <i>Blaze for super segmenting and blending when reading.</i>
Red Foxes	<i>Connor for a fabulous garden drawing.</i> <i>Nikola for great improvement in reading.</i>
Big Cats	<i>Mason for excellent teamwork in PE whilst playing rounders.</i> <i>Parth for excellent participation in music, keeping the beat whilst playing the glockenspiel.</i>
Walker Bears	<i>Sabah for always participating in class discussions and sharing your ideas.</i> <i>Alexander for writing a fantastic diary entry.</i>
Pelicans	<i>Eleanora for being kind and helpful to others.</i> <i>Dollie-Rae for recalling lots of excellent facts learned about the Great Fire of London.</i>
Puffins	<i>Madison for creating a wonderful picture of a mini beast using printing.</i> <i>Leia for having a wonderful understanding of the Great Fire of London.</i>
Penguins	<i>Ashlee for wonderful enthusiasm about the Great Fire of London.</i> <i>Isabella for always being an excellent role model to others.</i>

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

MAY 2024	
Monday 6 th	BANK HOLIDAY
w/c May 13 th	BIG WRITE
Monday 13 th	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop – children to dress up please
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.
w/c May 20 th	Walk to School week
Monday 20 th	Cricket workshop in Years 1 and 2
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
Sunday 16 th	<i>Fathers Day – diary note</i>
Tuesday 18 th TBC	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 8 th Date TBC	ARK Farm Visit (Reception classes)
Tuesday 9 th	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 10 th TBC	Walton on Naze trip – date to be confirmed, dependent on tides
Thursday 11 th	Moving Up Day
Friday 12 th TBC	Sports for Schools Athlete visit
Friday July 12 th	Nursery Pirate Day
W/C 15 th July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Monday 15 th	FROG / PTA Nursery Bedtime Stories
Monday 15 th TBC	Indian Dance Workshop
Tuesday 16 th	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th TBC	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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November '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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June '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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November '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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July '25						
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August '25						
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- = Term Time
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