



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Assistant Heads: Miss Lisa Hill and Mrs Tania Dalton

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

11.10.2024

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 glorious week in school with the highlight being the African Dance Workshop which all children from Reception through Year 2 engaged in with great excitement and pleasure.



Thank you to all Year 1 parents who attended Stay-and-Play and I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to visit your child's beautiful classroom and spend time with them. Next week is Big Write, led by our inspirational English lead, Miss Hill. More news to follow as we don't want any spoilers!

Bake Sale: Next week is also FROG's first bake sale of this academic year. It will take place at 3.15pm Thursday 17th October and as usual we are so grateful for any donations! Please bring cakes to the office or give them to your child's class teacher. Thank you so very much for your generosity!

The final week before half term is our Nature and Nurture Week. We would be so grateful for any donations of spring bulbs or winter flowers.

Year 2 Autumn Concerts also take place this week.

Puffin Concert: 2.30pm Wednesday 23rd October

Pelican Concert: 9.15am Thursday 24th October

Penguin Concert: 2.30pm Thursday 24th October

Sponsored Spell money: Following on from the Sponsored Spell event last academic year, which raised an amazing total of £2,364.36, year-groups have decided to purchase the following items:

Nursery is purchasing an entire new outdoor construction role play area complete with a work bench, storage area and tools galore! The children will love this new area!

Reception has chosen some fabulous small world resources including a wooden Fire Station, a pirate ship, a general hospital and Artic Mountain Play pack x 3 – all with lovely accessories.

Year 1 has decided to purchase some exciting playground toys including balls, skipping ropes, bean bags and foam flyers. They have also bought role play toys such as dolls, pushchairs and dressing up clothes. These are all items that the children have said they would like to be able to play with.

Year 2 have chosen a fantastic castle construction set and some knights and dragons props, both excellent resources to support the children's learning in their next topic.

Thank you for your incredible generosity, which has allowed us to enrich our curriculum even further for the children.

Additional dates (added to list at bottom):

Tuesday 10th December – Year 1 Nativity in Church

Reception and Nursery Tours: We are offering tours of Reception and Nursery approximately every other Tuesday, with the next one taking place 3.45pm to 4.30pm next Tuesday 22nd October. If you have a child entering these classes next September (or know anyone else who does!), please visit [The Giles Nursery and Infants' School - Prospective Parent Tours](#) to book a place or call or visit the school office.

Children due to start Reception in September 2025: The application process for Reception year to start in September 2025 will open on 1st November 2024 and close on 15th January 2025. Applications can be made via [Primary, junior and middle school places | Hertfordshire County Council](#).

Children due to start Nursery in September 2025: Applications/admissions are managed by the school. Applications open on 1st November 2024. An application form will be available on the school website from this date.

Parent/teacher consultations: Consultations will be held during the week of 21st October for Reception and Nursery.

*Reception: Tuesday 22nd October 3.30pm to 5.50pm
Wednesday 23rd October 3.30pm to 5.50pm
Thursday 24th October 3.30pm to 5.50pm*

Nursery: Wednesday 23rd October 3.00pm to 7.00pm and other appointments to be arranged individually.

Open Evening Wednesday 13th November 5.30pm to 7.00pm: This is a lovely opportunity for you to come into school with your children and have a good look round not only your child's current class but also previous classes as well as the year-group your child will be in next year. This occasion is a really strong part of transition as the children love visiting their previous teachers and key workers – and it's also a chance for them to have a little visit to next year's classes. You will also be able to have a chat with staff and to celebrate all the fantastic work on the walls, and the fabulous learning environment.

After-school Club: We are aware that Giles Junior School will no longer be taking any of our students into their after-school club after the half-term. We appreciate how upsetting this must be for parents and we are looking into how we can accommodate more children within our club. Once we have any further information, we will update you.

Volunteer work in school: We appreciate our volunteers so greatly and it is a role that in turn can give those who volunteer in school a lot of happiness. Our children are so fantastic and the teaching staff so incredible – it's an opportunity to make new friends and to pick up new skills at the same time as supporting our children's learning. Please speak to me if you are interested in doing some volunteer work in our school. Some volunteers also go on to do apprenticeships with us so if you are interested in this, do please speak to me.

Nursery: This week, the children have been fascinated to learn facts about spiders. They looked at non-fiction books about spiders, discussed many facts and watched a timelapse video of a spider web being spun. The children learnt about different spiders, explored how spiders catch their food and learnt that spiders have eight legs and eight eyes. Amelie remembered, "Spider webs are made from silk."

In understanding of the world, the children explored the Nursery garden looking for spider webs. They thought about where to look before going and agreed to look on the walls, under the shelter, around the windows and in the bushes. Freya R was fascinated to see a spider in its web on the window and commented, 'Fly stuck in web.' Andrew was curious to look at a large garden spider in the bush and said, 'I can see the legs.' Whilst hunting for webs, Arlo shared, 'We have a web outside my house. It stretches all the way across.'

Our nursery rhyme this week was 'Incy Wincy Spider'. The children enjoyed creating sparkly spider webs with glitter, handprint spiders and spiders from tubes, adding googly eyes. They thoroughly loved using the playdough to make 3D spiders and used a range of resources for the legs. The children worked well as a group to create a large spider web by carefully throwing a ball of wool to each other to make the spider web strands. Incy Wincy Spider then came to balance on the web. Well done, Ladybirds!

In phonics, the children played a game of Grandma's Footsteps. First, they decided what movement goes with which sound, for example: shakers for walking on tip-toe, a triangle for fairy steps and a drum for giant strides. Then the children had lots of fun identifying the instrument being played and responding with the correct movement.

Next week, the children will be observing seasonal changes of autumn. They will take an autumn walk to the school nature area and enjoy a wide range of autumn themed activities.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children continued to listen to different versions of 'The Three Little Pigs'. When reading an alternative version of the story, Cody in Tawny Owl class said, 'This one is so funny!' They generated captions linked to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', focusing on the big bad wolf. The children continued to

develop their knowledge about how a caption is structured by using their fingers to count how many words were in their caption. When the children had finished ordering their caption, they used their 'reading finger' to check it made sense.

In art and design, the children made character puppets from the story 'The Three Little Pigs' and all had a fantastic time in the Enchanted Garden using their puppets to retell the story. Joshua in Barn Owl class said, 'The wolf knocked at the door and the pigs said, "Not by the hair on my chinny chin chin!"'

In mathematics, the children thoroughly enjoyed investigating 'more' and 'less' in a capacity activity using a range of different sized containers. They loved filling pots with water and comparing the amounts in their containers. In a second mathematical activity, the children created repeating patterns using natural resources such as fir cones, conkers, and shells.

Yesterday, the Reception children were excited to participate in an African Dance workshop. The dance teacher showed them how to move in a variety of ways to different tempos inspired by African styles of dancing.

This week's poem 'Colours' by Sheldon Silverstein celebrates inclusivity and diversity:

*My skin is kind of brownish,
Pinkish yellowish white.
My eyes are greyish blueish green,
But I'm told they look orange in the night.
My hair is reddish blondish brown.
But it's silver when it's wet.
And all the colours I am inside,
Have not been invented yet.*

Next week in literacy, the children will be participating in their first ever 'Big Write', focusing on the story of 'The Healthy Wolf' by David Bedford. This story introduces them to aspects of healthy living which the children will explore further the following week during Nature and Nurture Week. The children will be labelling parts of Wilfred the Wolf and writing a caption to accompany their labelling.

For literacy, the children will also need to bring in an empty cereal box please. They will be using this to make a house. They will have a go at writing labels for different parts of a house.

In mathematics, the children will be representing numbers 1, 2, and 3 using actions and objects in a counting game.

Year 1: It was lovely to see so many of you at Stay and Play this week. The children were tremendously excited to show you their classrooms and learning. Thursday was a very special day because the children also took part in a wonderful dance workshop on African styles of dance as part of Black History Month. Mia in Walker Bear Class said, 'We did a beautiful dance.' Darcie in Walker Bear Class explained, 'We did movements up high and down low.'

This week in English the children applied all their knowledge of captions and finger spaces to write about a picture of the tree in the story 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves' by Julia Rawlinson, illustrated by Tiphonie Beeke. They remembered to leave spaces between words and generated adjectives to describe the tree.

In phonics, the children learnt about three-consonant strings such as 'scr', 'str' and 'spr'. They practised reading the common exception words 'do', 'when', 'out' and 'what'. The children learnt to spell the words 'it's' and 'from'.

Our Book of the Week was 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryon, illustrated by Dapo Adeola. The children enjoyed researching Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space, and following the draw along session with the illustrator Dapo Adeola to create the character Luna the cat. Click on the link if you'd like to share this story and have a go - [Look Up Draw Along](#).

In mathematics, the children began their new unit of learning on addition and subtraction. They explored how a number can be split into parts. They rehearsed talking about the 'whole' and the 'parts'. They used a part-whole model and manipulatives to physically split a number into two parts.

The children continued to learn about the senses by focussing on the sense of smell. They took part in an entertaining investigation to see if they could identify several different smells. They learnt about the nose as the part of the body that receives smells and how the brain then interprets them.

In computing, the children learnt how to search for different activities in Purple Mash using the search bar. They also learnt how to find a piece of work they had previously saved in their work area.

In RE, the children enjoyed learning about the Jewish new year festival of Rosh Hashanah and some of the joyous traditions, such as hearing the shofar and eating apples with honey.

Thank you for all the beautiful home-learning you have done with your children. We love seeing the activities you do. There is a new homework sheet this weekend. Please return homework books by Wednesday 23rd October.

Next week is Big Write week. There is always a real buzz about the school during Big Write week, with an exciting, top-secret theme. In mathematics, the children will continue to learn about addition and subtraction by writing number sentences and learning about addition fact families. They will also take part in a special drama workshop. In science, the children will explore the sense of taste and take part in a fruit tasting session. If your child has any allergy to fruits, please do let your class teacher know by Monday afternoon.

*Have a wonderful weekend.
The Year One Team.*

Year 2: It has been a lovely week in Year 2, learning about harvest and how it is celebrated across the world. The children have enjoyed lots of harvest themed activities, including making scarecrows, sorting foods into different food groups, completing harvest reading comprehensions and making a harvest wreath.

On Tuesday, the children learnt about Black History Month in assembly, followed with an African dance workshop on Thursday afternoon.

In mathematics, the children learnt how to compare amounts of objects using the language of 'more' and 'less'. They compared pictures and numbers and learnt how to use the 'greater than' and 'less than' symbols. They also learnt about 'equal to'.

In computing, the children learnt about different object types in code. They created their own scene, added some objects and added code to make their objects move. In science, the children set up an investigation to find out the effect of different drinks on our teeth. Using eggs to represent teeth, the children predicted what will happen when the eggs are left in cola, lemonade, orange juice, blackcurrant, milk and water. They will check the results next week. In design technology, the children recalled what they know about healthy eating and chose ingredients to make a salad.

Next week is our Big Write, which is our whole school approach to writing around an unusual event or a particular story. We don't want to spoil the surprise for the children, but we can say it's going to be a very exciting week! In mathematics, the children will learn how to order objects and numbers, and how to count in twos, fives, tens and threes.

In science, the children will look at the investigation they set up this week, record the results and make conclusions. In computing, the children will learn about the function of buttons in a program. In design technology, the children will learn how to peel, cut and chop safely using children's knives.

The children will also be preparing for our class concerts, which will take place as follows:

Puffin class – Wednesday 23rd October at 2.30pm

Pelican class – Thursday 24th October at 9.15am

Penguin class – Thursday 24th October at 2.30pm

Please add the date to your diary if you haven't already done so.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PUFFIN CLASS

98.26%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

<i>Ladybird Nursery Classes</i>	<i>Amelia for super recall of spider facts.</i> <i>Lyra for a fantastic spider web picture.</i> <i>Tito for excellent recall of spider facts.</i> <i>Marley for a lovely spider web picture.</i>
<i>Snowy Owls</i>	<i>Heidi for super repeating patterns.</i> <i>Harrison for fantastic reading.</i>
<i>Tawny Owls</i>	<i>Mollie for independently creating and continuing repeating patterns.</i> <i>Ayla for amazing dancing in the dance workshop.</i>
<i>Barn Owls</i>	<i>Maya for fantastic use of 'more' and 'less' during a capacity activity.</i>

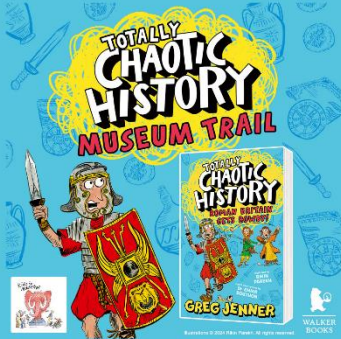
	<p><i>Vincent for creating some super repeating patterns using natural resources.</i></p> <p><i>George G for enjoying using your puppet to retell the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' in the Enchanted Garden.</i></p>
<i>Red Foxes</i>	<p><i>Francesca for trying so hard in all your learning.</i></p> <p><i>Beau for excellent independent writing.</i></p>
<i>Big Cats</i>	<p><i>Ivy for trying your best in mathematics.</i></p> <p><i>Olaf for writing a wonderful sentence about a wintry tree.</i></p>
<i>Walker Bears</i>	<p><i>Lylac-Mai for listening carefully to the beat to play your glockenspiel in time with the music.</i></p> <p><i>Charlie for fantastic use of phonics for spelling when writing a sentence.</i></p>
<i>Pelicans</i>	<p><i>Ariana for putting such effort and creativity into your crocodile homework this week.</i></p> <p><i>Nikola for putting such effort and creativity into your crocodile homework this week.</i></p>
<i>Puffins</i>	<p><i>Arlowe for excellent participation in the African dance workshop.</i></p> <p><i>Mateo for working hard in mathematics.</i></p>
<i>Penguins</i>	<p><i>Wynter for writing a beautiful treasure poem.</i></p> <p><i>Blue for fantastic effort in mathematics.</i></p>

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

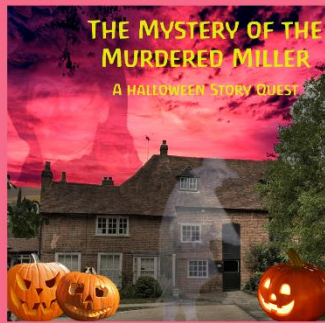
Kindest regards,

*Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

Autumn Half Term for Families



Welwyn Roman Baths joins the national celebration of the launch of 'Romans get Rowdy' by Greg Jenner. We will be hosting the museum family trail included in general admission prices (£6 for adults, £2 for children) Learn all about the Romans with this fun activity!



The Watermill at Mill Green has its popular 'Spooky Sunday' event on 27th October. Start with an interactive story quest followed by slime making, mill tours, craft activities, face glitter and much more. £8.40 per child. Adults go FREE!



Both sites offer a range of children's activities including 'Clay Monsters', 'Frankenstein pom-pom shooters' crafts and a special Halloween afternoon of 'Horrorifying Howls and Spooky Stories' to get you in the mood for Trick and Treating!. All £6 per child.

See our websites and social media for further details:

www.millgreenmuseum.co.uk/whats-on

www.facebook.com/millgreenmillandmuseum

www.millgreenmuseum.co.uk/roman-baths

www.facebook.com/welwynromanbaths

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SCHOOL DATES AND EVENTS AUTUMN TERM 2024-25

OCTOBER – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Week of 14th October: BIG WRITE

Wednesday 16th October Sukkot Assembly celebrated in school, pupils only

Wednesday 16th October – Perform Workshop in school

2.50-3.10 Thursday 17th October Stay and Play Year 2

Week of 21st October: NATURE AND NURTURE WEEK
including Yoga workshops on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October

Week of 21st October: Parent/Teacher consultations, Reception:
3.30-5.50 Tuesday 22nd October
3.30-5.50 Wednesday 23rd October
3.30-5.00 Thursday 24th October

3.45-4.30 Tuesday 22nd October Nursery Tour for parents applying for a September 2025 place

2.30 Wednesday 23rd October – Puffins Autumn Concert

3.00-7.00 Wednesday 23rd October Nursery Parent Consultations. Other appointments to be arranged individually.

9.15 Thursday 24th October – Pelicans Autumn Concert

2.30 Thursday 24th October – Penguins Autumn Concert

HALF TERM Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER – INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER – CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

Tuesday 5th November Diwali Assembly celebrated in school, pupils only

3.45-4.30 Tuesday 5th November Reception Tour for parents applying for a September 2025 place

9.00 Wednesday 6th November FROG AGM – please come to front office, all parents welcome to join our FROG/PTA

Wednesday 6th November Safari Stu Visit – Year 1

Thursday 7th November – Year 2 trip to Mountfitchet Castle

8.45 Friday 8th November Reception Stay and Read begins – parents invited to come into class each week

Monday 11th November Remembrance Assembly and silence in school, pupils only

8.50-9.50 Tuesday 12th November INCo Coffee Morning

Wednesday 13th November PM Peter Pan Pantomime Year 1 and Year 2

5.30-7.00 Wednesday 13th November – OPEN EVENING

Thursday 14th November – Nursery Stay and Play begins – 8.30-9.20 every Thursday

Friday 15th November Guru Nanak's birthday celebrated in school, pupils only

Tuesday 19th November KITTLE individual photos

Tuesday 19th November Bridge Builders Advent Assembly in school, pupils only

Friday 22^d November Year 1 History of Toys Day

1.00-2.30 Tuesday 26^h November Festive Journey off-site Pelican class

3.45-4.30 Monday 25^h November Nursery Tour of parents applying for a September 2025 place

3.45-4.30 Tuesday 26^h November Reception Tour for parents applying for a September 2025 place

1.00-2.30 Wednesday 27^h November Festive Journey off-site Puffin class

1.00-2.30 Thursday 28^h November Festive Journey off-site Penguin class

Thursday 28^h November Advent Assembly in school, pupils only

Friday 29th November – Occasional Day – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

9.15 Tuesday 3^d December – Barn Owl Christmas Concert

9.15 Wednesday 4th December – Tawny Owl Christmas Concert

9.15 Thursday 5th December – Snowy Owl Christmas Concert

Tuesday 10th December – Year 1 Nativity in Church

3.45-4.30 Tuesday 10th December Reception Tour for parents applying for a September 2025 place

9.30 Wednesday 11th December Year 2 Christmas Concert

6.00 Wednesday 11th December Year 2 Christmas Concert

10.00 Thursday 12th December Nursery Christmas Concert – by invitation

2.00 Thursday 12th December Nursery Christmas Concert – by invitation

1.00 Tuesday 17^h December Orca class invites parents in for Christmas celebration

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Dinner

Thursday 19th December – Christmas Parties with possible surprise visitor

***Friday 20th December – END OF TERM
SCHOOL CLOSSES 1.00 PM***

TERM DATES 2024-25

Autumn Term: Monday 2nd September 2024 – 20th December 2024

[Half Term: Monday 28th October 2024 – Friday 1st November 2024]

Monday 4th November 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th November 2024

Friday 29th November 2024 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 20th December 2024 at 1.00pm

[Christmas Holidays: Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025]

Children return to school on Monday 6th January 2025

Spring Term: Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 4th April 2025

[Half term: Monday 17th February 2025 – Friday 21st February 2025]

Children return to school on Monday 24th February 2025

School finishes on Friday 4th April 2025 at 1.00pm

[Easter Holidays: Monday 7th April 2025 – Monday 21st April 2025]

Children return to school on Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Summer Term: Tuesday 22nd April 2025 – Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Monday 5th May 2025 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 26th May 2025 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025]

Monday 2nd June 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Monday 30th June 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 1.00pm



2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October '24						
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28	29	30	31			

November '24						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

December '24						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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)

