



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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14.11.2025

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

'There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.'
Nelson Mandela

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an absolutely super week in school. A truly lovely Well Being Week, organised by our dear Miss O'Regan, started on Monday with yoga workshops led by Happy Little Yogi for all classes. This was followed on Tuesday by the most splendid 'Aladdin' pantomime for Years 1 and 2. The panto was such a treat and the children knew all the words and loved singing along! Year 1 had their first Forest School sessions which they thoroughly enjoyed and overall it has been a tremendous week.

Children in Need: *Thank you all for your generosity today to support Children in Need. The children looked amazing and a lot of money has been raised for the important work done by this charity.*

FROG AGM: *Thank you so much to those parents who joined us on Tuesday morning for the FROG AGM. I'm delighted to announce that Shelley Ancell, mum of Hadley in Big Cat class and Adam Searle, dad of Kaitlin in Snowy Owls class, have been elected as co-chairs of our PTA. I'm also pleased to share that Alex Grant, mum to Rowan in Big Cats, has taken up the role of treasurer.*

I look forward to working with you all. Thank you for your dedication, enthusiasm and continued commitment to our school.

FROG Clothing Collection: *This will take place on Friday 3rd December. Please see the flyer further in the newsletter for information.*

INCO/Senco/FROG Coffee Morning: *This took place on Tuesday from 8.50-9.30am in the dining hall. Thank you to everyone who came along. I hope it was an enjoyable and supportive occasion.*

Individual and sibling photographs take place this Thursday 20th November: *Please can all children come to school in school uniform and with their best smiles, ready for their individual and sibling photographs on Thursday.*

Open Evening Thursday 20th November: Next week is our Open Evening. We look forward to you joining us with your children any time between 5.00-6.30pm to look round our beautiful school, see the amazing children's work displayed on walls and to visit past and future teachers.

Remembrance Day: All children took part in Remembrance Day learning and shared the silence. I hope you all appreciate the fantastic wreaths on the gates and in class windows, and that you have taken the opportunity to walk round the school with your child to remember those who gave their lives.



Occasional Day: Do remember that Friday 28th November is our annual Occasional Day, and school is closed for the day.

Absence Procedures: Please remember to call the school or send a message via Arbor first thing in the morning if your child will not be in school. This applies to Nursery and Infant children and should be done each day of a child's absence. We have a safeguarding duty to follow up on unexplained absence. Chasing up parents takes up a lot of staff time, so we would very much appreciate you leaving us a short message to keep us informed. Thank you.

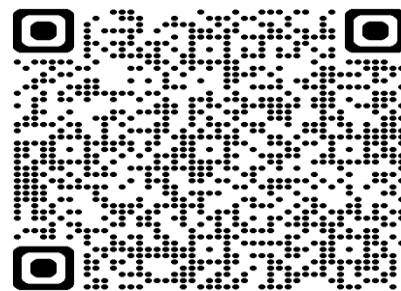
Westgate Centre Christmas Trail: Led by Mrs Humphrey, the children have completed a truly spectacular work of art to be displayed in the shopping centre as part of an art installation to which many Stevenage schools have contributed.



The Westgate Centre will be providing booklets for families to follow a Christmas trail around the shop windows in the Westgate Centre and find clues to solve a puzzle. Once completed, the booklet needs to be posted in a special box in the Westgate Centre and each completed puzzle is entered into a prize draw. We hope you have fun taking part.

Parking: We kindly remind parents not to park on the double yellow lines outside the school as it can make it difficult for the children to see oncoming traffic (and vice versa). Please also be mindful and do not block neighbours' driveways.

Prospective Parent Tours: Applications are being accepted for Nursery places to start January/September 2026. Applications with Hertfordshire County Council for Reception places to start September 2026 open on 3rd November 2025 and close on 15th January 2026.



Tours of our Nursery and Reception classes available by appointment on: Wednesday 26th November, Tuesday 9th December and Thursday 8th January – 3.45 to 4.30pm – please use the QR code to book your tickets or call us on 01438 359747.

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 begun their topic on bears by sharing the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. They have listened to the story being read by Michael Rosen and learnt several facts about bears. Ladybirds have learnt that baby bears are called cubs, there are eight different types of bears, and the sloth bear sometimes eats insects. Reggie S remembered, "Bears eat fish and plants!" Mila shared, "They sleep for a long time. They hibernate."



To commemorate Remembrance Day, the children watched a beautiful CBeebies animation, 'Poppies', which depicts war through the eyes of animals on the battlefields during the First World War. The children used a range of materials to create their own poppies which have been proudly displayed in the Nursery window and on the main school gates.

In mathematics, the children focused on the numbers one and two and learnt to say the rhymes, "A downward stroke, my that's fun, now I've made the number one." and "Half a heart says, 'I love you'. Add a line. Now I've made the number two." They have shown great interest in learning to count, and the teachers are very proud to see their confidence and understanding of numbers develop.

The children will continue learning about bears next week, sharing the story of 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?' by Bill Martin Jr. The children will learn to retell the story using Makaton signs and learn all about different bears. The children will also be learning a poem focused on the numbers three and four.

There will be no Stay-and-Play next Thursday 20th November as individual photographs will be taking place. Stay-and-Play will resume on Thursday 27th November.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children generated captions for a speech bubble for the Big Bad Wolf or one of the Little Pigs from the 'Three Little Pigs' story. All the children wrote their speech bubble caption independently. Some children are beginning to segment the sounds they have learnt in phonics, whilst other children are writing letter shapes or mark making. All children were able to read their written caption back to an adult.

This week in phonics, the children have learnt the phonemes: 'y', 'z', 'zz', 'qu' and 'ch'. Please see below the patten the staff use to help the children form the letters correctly.

'y' – Start at the top, come all the way down and curve. Go back up, come all the way down and curve to the left.

'z' – Go across, slope, go back across.

'qu' – Make a curve, go up to the top, come all the way down and flick. Lift. Start at the top, come down and curve. Go back up, come back down and flick.

'ch' – Make a curve. Lift. Start at the top, come all the way down, bounce halfway back up, go over, down and flick.

In mathematics, the children focused on 'one less' and loved singing the song 'Five Little Ducks Went Swimming One Day'. By taking one away one duck each time, they were able to work out one less from the total. Some children even had a go at writing the subtraction calculation on a whiteboard.

In expressive arts and design, the children used 2D shapes to create a wolf. Whilst they were making their wolf, the children were encouraged to discuss the properties of the shapes. When Harry in Barn Owl class was creating his wolf, he said, "I'm really trying to do this and I'm not going to give up even if I struggle."



This week's poem is 'The Big Bad Wolf', poet unknown.

*I'm the Big Bad Wolf,
I'm the Little Pig.
You're very small,
You're very big!
But now I've got you in my pot,
The water's getting very hot!
I'll cook you up and make a stew,
Why, that's an awful thing to do!*

On Monday, the children had a wonderful time taking part in yoga and meditation with the Happy Little Yogi company. Reuben in Snowy Owl class said, "I liked moving like a monkey." and Arlo said, "I liked the snake move." When Harper in Barn Owl class returned to her classroom, she said, "When I get home, I'm going to do my breathing and close my eyes and sit crossed legged on the floor just like we did in yoga."

Next week in expressive arts and design, the children will look at the work of the artist Al Agnew, an American naturalist painter who has created many paintings of wolves. The children will use their observational skills to paint pictures of wolves. They will use a paint palette to mix the colours needed for their painting.

In mathematics, the children will pretend to be celebrating a birthday and match a number of candles to a numeral.

Please remember your child has log in codes for the online learning platforms 'Bug Club' and 'Numbots'. Both platforms provide your child with fun and informative activities to allow their 'brains to grow'.

Now the colder weather is fast approaching, we are encouraging the children to have a go at putting their coats on by themselves. An easy way to do this is to place the coat on the floor and get your child to stand behind the hood or collar of the coat. Then get your child to place their hands into the coat sleeves and then flip the coat over their

head. Please would you show your child how to pull their coat sleeves if they are inside out and encourage them to have a go at doing up their coat zip. Thank you.

Year 1: *It has been another busy week in Year 1. The children made a beautiful observance of the two-minute silence for Remembrance Day and made poppies for the classroom windows and the wreaths on the school gates.*

It has been Wellbeing Week in key stage one. In Year 1, the children enjoyed a super yoga workshop led by the Happy Little Yogi on Monday. They carried out a range of activities throughout the week as they considered ways to stay healthy, maintain their wellbeing and to care for our world. They learnt about the solar panels on the school roof and how they are providing our school with electricity. The children enjoyed looking at the effect of soap in helping to lift germs from our hands when we wash them.

A real highlight of the week was the fabulous 'Aladdin' pantomime. The children were amazed and captivated! They joined in with all the singing and calling out "over there" or "behind you".

The children had their first Forest School session too. They showed great resilience as it was certainly dramatic, with rain and mud galore! The children were absolutely in their element, exploring the woodland, playing in the mud kitchen, collaborating to make dens, playing with the obstacle course equipment, digging holes and of course jumping in muddy puddles. This term the children are learning the skill of whittling, by using a vegetable peeler to whittle a carrot. They worked with their teachers to learn to scrape the peeler away from their bodies, supporting their elbows on their knees to give themselves firm control.



In science this week, the children started to learn about animal classification. They learnt about the key features of mammals and identified animals that are mammals. In PSHCE, the children thought about what makes them different to their friends and celebrated the fact that everyone is unique.

The children started to learn ways to do research in English. They thought of asking an expert like Safari Stu, using the internet, and looking in books. They began to research facts about hedgehogs in preparation for writing a fact file next week. Our 'Book of the Week' was 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr.

In mathematics, the children used their knowledge of number bonds to help them identify a missing part as an introduction to subtraction. If you would like to help your child to consolidate their knowledge of number bonds, you could play 'guess what I am hiding'. Choose a starting number between two and ten. Count out together that number of dried pasta pieces. Take the ten pieces and hide them behind your back. Show in one hand some of the ten. Can your child tell you how many you have in your other hand?

Next week, the children will write their hedgehog fact files in English, they will continue to explore subtraction in mathematics and in science they will learn about reptiles.

We would like to remind you that Thursday is the day for individual photographs to be taken. It is also Open Evening on Thursday from 5.00-6.30pm. Please do come and have a look around the school. The children love to visit their old classrooms in Reception and Nursery, as well as their current classrooms in Year 1. They often want to peep into Year 2 as well!

Finally, please will you return homework books to school by Wednesday 19th November.

Year 2: It has been a thoroughly enjoyable week in Year 2, with the pantomime on Tuesday afternoon as the highlight! The children were enthralled by the performance of 'Aladdin' and had a great time joining in with songs and jokes. Their audience participation was second to none! It really was a fun and entertaining afternoon.

Tuesday was also a day of reflection in Year 2, as the children learnt about the importance of Remembrance Day and the people it commemorates. All classes joined in with the two minutes' silence and made some beautiful Remembrance Day crafts, including a split pin poppy and a poppy wreath. Thank you to all who purchased poppies from the school office, in aid of the Royal British Legion.



The children's learning in English this week focused on the Gunpowder Plot. The children learnt how to identify key words about a topic, and how to use a contents and index page in a non-fiction book.

In mathematics, the children continued to learn about addition and subtraction. They practised adding ones to a two-digit number, using number lines and base ten equipment for support. They also learnt how to 'look for ten' to solve tricky additions; for example, $8 + 7$ is the same as $8 + 2 + 5$, which is the same as $10 + 5 = 15$.

As part of Wellbeing Week, the children enjoyed a super yoga workshop led by the Happy Little Yogi on Monday. They carried out a range of activities throughout the week as they considered ways to stay healthy, maintain their wellbeing and to care for our world. They learnt about the solar panels on the school roof and how they are providing our school with electricity. The children enjoyed looking at the effect of soap in helping to lift germs from our hands when we wash them.

Next week, the children will begin a new unit of learning in English, based around the 'Katie Morag' stories by Maire Hedderwick. In mathematics, they will continue to learn different strategies for addition and subtraction. In geography, the children will continue to learn about the countries of the United Kingdom. In design and technology, they will learn some useful techniques to help them make a castle and in art and design, they will learn about pointillism.

Please may we remind you that individual photographs will be taken on Thursday next week. The school Open Evening is also taking place next Thursday from 5.00-6.30pm.


This is a great opportunity for you to come into the Year 2 classrooms and see some of the work the children have completed this term. We look forward to seeing you then.

We wish you a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

*Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHIES
TROPHY-BEARING CLASSES WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

<i>Reception</i>	<i>Key stage one</i>
Barn Owls	Walker Bears
99.3%	99.6%
FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!	
	

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybirds Class	<i>Zadie-Mae for fantastic tidying and being a super helpful member of Ladybird Class.</i> <i>Reggie S for recognising numerals and counting out the correct corresponding amount.</i> <i>Dotty for creating a beautiful polar bear.</i> <i>Mila for fantastic knowledge and recall of the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.</i>
Snowy Owl Class	<i>Josiah for joining in with phonics.</i> <i>Amelia for finding 'one less' in mathematics.</i>
Tawny Owl Class	<i>Frankie for lovely sharing of the 'Hammer and Tap' toys.</i> <i>Aliyah for amazing independent reading.</i>
Barn Owl Class	<i>Maeve for super segmenting and blending when writing a speech bubble caption.</i> <i>Harry for persevering when creating his 2D shaped wolf.</i>
Big Cat Class	<i>Chayson for always trying his best in phonics.</i> <i>Mina for super subtraction in mathematics.</i>

Red Fox Class	<i>Kiara for always trying her best in all her learning.</i> <i>Albert for super mathematics, adding and writing number sentences.</i>
Walker Bear Class	<i>Amari for being very resilient in Forest School and concentrating well when whittling a carrot with a vegetable peeler.</i> <i>Teddy for super understanding of how to find a missing part in mathematics.</i>
Pelican Class	<i>Stefan for demonstrating lovely enthusiasm for his mathematics learning.</i> <i>Katie for making excellent progress in mathematics.</i>
Penguin Class	<i>Joshua for always trying hard with his handwriting</i> <i>Afna for fantastic work with number bonds to ten.</i>
Puffin Class	<i>Irina for practising mindfulness in our Yoga workshop.</i> <i>Beau for working hard ordering key words into alphabetical order.</i>

AUTUMN TERM

Event	New Date	Time
Bridge Builders Advent Assembly – children only	Tuesday 18/11/25	
Individual Photographs – Kittle	Thursday 20/11/25	8.00am
Open Evening	Thursday 20/11/25	5.00pm-6.30pm
Flu Vaccinations	Monday 24/11/25	8.30am-1.00pm
Christmas Festival Journey Year 2 – Puffins	Tuesday 25/11/25	9.30-11.00
Christmas Festival Journey Year 2 – Pelicans	Wednesday 26/11/25	1.00-2.30
Reception and Nursery Tour	Wednesday 26/11/25	3.45pm-4.30pm
Christmas Festival Journey Year 2 – Penguins	Thursday 27/11/25	9.30-11.00
Year 1 History of Toys Workshop	Thursday 27/11/25	
OCCASIONAL DAY	Friday 28/11/25	SCHOOL CLOSED
Advent (Christian) Assembly – children only	Monday 01/12/25	
Reception Christmas Concert – Barn Owls	Tuesday 02/12/25	9.15am
FROG Christmas Fete	Tuesday 02/12/25	3.15-4.15pm
Reception Christmas Concert – Snowy Owls	Thursday 04/12/25	9.15am
Reception Christmas Concert – Tawny Owls	Friday 05/12/25	9.15am
Year 1 Nativity in Church	Tuesday 09/12/25	
Reception and Nursery Tour	Tuesday 09/12/25	3.45pm-4.30pm
Rocksteady Concert – by invitation only	Wednesday 10/12/25	9.30am
Christmas Concert – Year 2	Thursday 11/12/25	9.30am

Christmas Concert – Year 2	Thursday 11/12/25	6.00pm
Nursery Christmas Concert	Thursday 11/12/25	11.00am
Nursery Christmas Concert	Thursday 11/12/25	2.30pm
Non-Uniform Day in support of the Garden House Hospice	Friday 12/12/25	
Hanukkah (Jewish) Assembly – children only	Sunday 14/12/25 – Monday 22/12/25	
Orca Christmas Celebration	Tuesday 16/12/25	1.00pm
Christmas dinner	Wednesday 17/12/25	
Afternoon Christmas parties	Thursday 18/12/25	
Nursery closed in the morning	Thursday 18/12/25	NURSERY CLOSED AM
Nursery Christmas party	Thursday 18/12/25	12.00pm-3.10pm
END OF TERM	Friday 19/12/25	School closes 1.00pm



SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

More clothes - more funds for your organisation
1 kg = £0.45

YOUR COLLECTION IS ARRANGED ON:

3 DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY

FILL ANY BAGS WITH CLOTHING AND BRING THEM TO SCHOOL/ORGANISATION WE WILL COLLECT AND WEIGH THEM

WE ACCEPT

- Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's, baby)
- Shoes (paired)
- Bags
- Hats & scarves
- Belts
- Fashion accessories
- Swimwear, lingerie
- Jewellery
- Perfumes

WE DON'T ACCEPT

- Uniforms
- Dirty, wet, ripped, damaged clothing
- Traditional clothing
- Duvets & pillows
- Single shoes
- Toys, stationery
- Bric-a-brac & electrical items
- Books, CDs, DVDs
- Workwear
- Carpets, rugs, mats, curtains
- Hygiene items, diapers
- Linen & towels

PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL BY GIVING AWAY YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES

hello@thelittlerecyclers.co.uk • 0330 043 0550 • thelittlerecyclers.co.uk

£1 ENTRY
CHRISTMAS MARKET
NOVEMBER 29TH
13:00-16:00

COME JOIN US FOR A DAY OF CHRISTMAS FUN!

SANTAS GROTTO (FEES APPLY)
 AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES
 CRAFT STALLS
 TOMBOLA
 FOOD
 DRINKS
 MUSIC

HAMPSON PARK
 PLAYCENTRE
 SG1 5QU

STEVENAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2025, 12pm - 5:30pm

Supporting Act (4:30pm):
CHANNY
 (support slots for artists such as Jess Glynne, Sigala & Olly Murs)

MEET THE GRINCH
 2pm - 2:30pm
 3:15pm - 3:45pm
 4:30pm - 5pm

PERFORMING LIVE (4:55pm):
MEMBERS OF SO SOLID CREW:
LISA MAFFIA, ROMEO & HARVEY

MEET: SANTA + receive a free gift

Guest Appearance: Logan and his mum Gemma, who inspired the #1 bestselling inclusive book series 'The Abilities in Me'

•Lights •Live Music •Stalls •Mobile Bar •Free face Painting •Fair Rides
 •Free Balloon Modelling •Christmas Market •And More

Event Island Stevenage HEADLINE SPONSOR **tollers** solicitors SUPPORTING SPONSOR **REDROW** **Stevenage TOWN CENTRE**

TERM DATES 2025-26

Autumn Term: Thursday 4th September 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025

[Half term: Monday 27th October 2025 – Friday 31st October 2025]

Monday 3rd November 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 4th November 2025

Friday 28th November 2025 – OCCASIONAL DAY SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 19th December 2025 at 1.00pm

[Christmas Holidays: Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026]

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Spring Term: Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026

[Half term: Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026]

School finishes on Friday 27th March 2026 at 1.00pm

Summer Term: Monday 13th April 2026 – Thursday 23rd July 2026

Monday 4th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 25th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026]

Monday 1st June 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Friday 3rd July 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Thursday 23rd July 2026 at 1.00pm

2025 / 26 School Calendar

September '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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				

October '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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

December '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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29	30	31				

January '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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February '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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28	29	30	31			

March '26						
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30	31					

April '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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27	28	29	30			

May '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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27	28	29	30	31		

August '26						
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						

- = Term Time
- = 24/25 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2025/26 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
- = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)

