



The Giles Nursery and Infants' School



Spring Term 2026 Newsletter

Year 2

Pelicans, Penguins and Puffins

We are excited to welcome the children back to school and to begin our exciting new topic, 'A Land Far, Far Away,' in which we focus on Antarctica and the indigenous people of North America.

Key dates in Year 2 this term

- Tuesday 13th January: Midnight in the Toyshop drama workshop
- Week commencing Monday 26th January: Big Write Week
- Thursday 29th January: Stay and Read in Year 2
- Monday 2nd February: Junk Percussion workshop
- Week commencing Monday 9th February: E-Safety Week
- Tuesday 10th February: Safer Internet Day
- Thursday 5th March: World Book Day – children can dress up as a book character
- Week commencing Monday 9th March: Oracy Week
- Tuesday 10th March: Circus Skills workshop
- Wednesday 11th March at 3.20pm: Year 2 mathematics workshop for parents
- Monday 16th March: Science Week
- Wednesday 18th March at 2.50pm: Stay and Play in Year 2
- Friday 20th March: Red Nose Day
- Tuesday 24th March: Parent/teacher consultations
- Wednesday 25th March: Parent/teacher consultations
- Wednesday 25th March: Class photographs

English

This term, children will learn to write a story setting, create a fact file, write a diary entry, research and create a non-fiction text, and write a narrative based on a familiar story. Our key texts are *Rapunzel* by Bethan Woolvin and *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña.



The children will have daily phonics lessons, focusing on alternative spellings for known phonemes. They will continue to learn to read and spell the key stage one common exception words.

The children will continue to learn to form letters accurately and join their handwriting correctly.

The children will have the opportunity to read each day. This could be as a whole class, as part of group guided reading or individually with an adult.

It is important for you to hear your child read at home and we request you do this at least three times a week and make a note in your child's reading record. Not only does this have a significant impact on their progress, but each time you read at home, your child receives a reading ticket that enters them into the weekly raffle to take home our reading teddy, Elmer, as well as earning reading certificates.

Mathematics



In mathematics, the children will continue to explore addition and subtraction, including adding and subtracting two-digit numbers. They will learn about 2D and 3D shape and they will learn to identify coins and notes and work with money mathematically. They will be introduced to multiplication and division using arrays and grouping. They will learn how to measure length and height.

You can support your child at home by practising counting in steps of two, five, ten and three. This will really help to develop your child's mathematical fluency.

Science

The children will complete some exciting work this term. This will include learning about materials and their properties and investigating the suitability of materials for different purposes. After half term, the children will learn about seeds and bulbs including planting, care, observations, and descriptions of growth. They will also investigate how plants survive in harsh conditions such as Antarctica.



Computing



In computing, children will learn about online safety. They will find out how to search for information and share work electronically using display boards on Purple Mash and understand what it means to share information more globally on the internet. They will be introduced to email using the Purple Mash programme, '2Respond'. They will learn about their digital footprint and identify steps to keep personal information secure. The children will also learn about effective internet searching. They will learn the terminology associated with the internet and searching. They will gain a better understanding of searching on the internet, before creating a leaflet to help someone search for information. After half term, the children will learn how to present ideas in different ways, including as a quiz, a fact file and a presentation.

Humanities

During the term, the children will develop their geographical knowledge and understanding of contrasting locations, including polar regions and the equator. This will be taught using stories, photographs, maps, books, and the internet. The children will compare life in Stevenage to life in Antarctica. They will put together their own maps and explore compass points.



In history, the children will learn about famous people, focusing on polar explorers, such as Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen, who raced each other to be the first to reach the South Pole. In contrast, the children will learn about the indigenous people of North America.

Creative

This term in music, the children will invent a musical story about their neighbourhood. In design and technology, the children will investigate, design, make and evaluate a vehicle. They will also weave a dream catcher. In art and design, the children will learn techniques for drawing with charcoal before creating winter art scenes exploring perspective. After half term, they will explore printing and photography.

Physical Education

As well as outside play sessions, the children will have two PE lessons a week, one on Monday and one on Friday. It is important that they wear school PE kit and appropriate footwear. Lessons will include ball skills, gymnastics, invasion games and dance. If your child has pierced ears, please cover earrings with micropore tape on PE days.

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship & Economic Education)

Our themes across the school for this term are 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'. In the first half term, the children will talk about their achievements and how success makes them feel. They will consider their strengths as a learner and how working with others can help us learn. They will work in a group to solve problems and reflect on how it feels to work together to achieve an outcome. In the second half term, the children will learn about healthy lifestyle choices, medicine safety and how to manage stress through relaxation and mindfulness.



Religious Education

This term the children will learn about places of worship. They will explore what makes a place special, find out about places of worship and compare them.

Speaking and Listening

As a school, we are strengthening the oracy provision for our children with support from the Voice 21 project. Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through speaking, listening and communication.

This term we are trialling a new idea for speaking and listening. Children will be asked to share their favourite book with the class, using sentence stems and prompts to support their presentation. Your child will receive a sticker in their reading book on a Friday informing them of their turn the following week. We kindly ask that you send your child into school with their favourite book on the Monday. It will be stored safely, and your child will have the opportunity to present their book during the week.

Attendance

Attending school regularly helps children to achieve stronger academic outcomes, build friendships and develop social skills, strengthen emotional wellbeing and resilience, establish positive habits for future education and employment and engage fully in school life and activities.

We ask that all families support the following expectations:

- Children attend school every day it is open, unless they are unwell or have a valid statutory reason.
- Children arrive on time at 8.45am and ready to learn.
- Families follow the school's attendance policy.
- Parents/carers notify the school promptly when their child is absent unexpectedly.
- Medical appointments are scheduled outside of school hours where possible.
- Requests for leave of absence are made in advance and only in exceptional circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative for your child's learning this term. If you wish to ask any questions, you are welcome to speak to the teachers at the start or end of the day.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs. M. Humphrey
Mrs. K. Simmons
Mrs. J. Peace
Miss H. Wright
Mrs. E. Owen
Class teachers

Miss L. Hill
Year group lead

Mrs. G. Philips
Mrs. T. Verschuren
Mr. T. Pullin
Miss E. Mills
Mrs. S. Pentiu
Miss K. Szczypiorowska
Support staff

