

The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

Spring Term 2026 Newsletter

Year 1

Big Cats, Walker Bears and Red Foxes

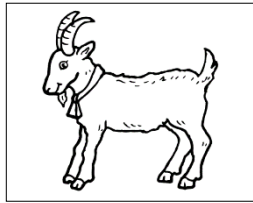


Our topics this term are **Winter, Traditional Tales, Fairy Tales,** and **Our Local Area.**

The children will be investigating signs of winter. They will be encouraged to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in January.

English

In English, the children will begin the term listening to a wintry tale called 'Bear and Wolf' by Daniel Salmieri. They will look at the characters and write their own character description. The children will listen to and retell traditional tales. They will focus on the story of 'Goldilocks'. They will make a puppet theatre and act out the story using Pie Corbett signs. After half term, the children will learn about fairy tales. They will focus on the story of Cinderella. The children will continue to take part in daily phonics lessons. They will learn about alternative pronunciations. The children will practise blending and segmenting words for spelling. They will continue to practise reading and spelling the Year 1 high frequency words and common exception words. In handwriting, they will continue to practise correct letter formation and develop pencil control.



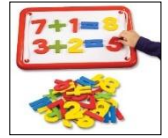
Individual reading takes place on a regular basis in Year 1, as well as the children taking part in shared whole class reading sessions, reading for fluency, and guided reading.



We cannot stress enough how important it is for your child to read regularly with you at home in these early stages of their reading development. Please feel free to comment on your child's reading at home in their reading record book.

Mathematics

We follow the White Rose Mathematics scheme. The children will learn about place value within 20 and within 50, addition and subtraction within 20, and measure, including length, height, mass and volume.



Science

The children will investigate the season of winter and observe seasonal changes through time. They will examine the bulbs they planted in the autumn for any signs of growth. They will identify and name common British birds. The children will also study materials. They will sort and classify materials according to their properties. They will investigate the properties of a range of materials through simple investigations.



Karen Arnold from Pixabay.

Computing

This term, the children will collect data and present it using pictograms in the program '2Count' on Purple Mash. They will go on to further explore algorithms and debugging instructions. They will use iPads throughout the curriculum, becoming fluent in logging on to Purple Mash, saving work and logging off. The children will continue to develop their understanding of e-Safety. They will take part in Safer Internet Day, discussing the importance of being safe online..



Humanities

In history, the children will learn about the development of Stevenage and the significance of the famous clock tower.



In geography, the children will explore the local area and consider the amenities Stevenage offers. They will look at maps of Stevenage.

In RE, the children will discuss the importance of belonging and share their experiences of belonging to a family, school, religion, or out-of-school activity group. They will also learn about the Christian festival of Easter. They will listen to the story of 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes and discuss giving up something for love.

Art and Design

Art and design activities will include colour mixing using cool colours, adding white paint to make a tint, and using tints to create an effect. After half term, the children will practise sketching skills.



Music

In music, the children will explore pitch, rhythm and dynamics. They will listen for high and low notes, short and long sounds and soft or loud sounds. They will use a range of percussion instruments. The children will also listen to and appraise music.

Design and Technology

In design and technology, the children will design and make a clock tower and a puppet theatre. They will use a variety of resources and tools and find ways to strengthen their models.

Physical Education

The children will develop ball skills such as throwing, catching, rolling and dribbling a ball. They will learn basic principles of invasion games and target games. They will also take part in gymnastics. **Please make sure your child wears PE kit to school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.**



Forest School

Forest School will continue throughout the term on the days below. Please ensure your child has warm winter outdoor clothes and a change of shoes on their Forest School day.

Big Cats and Walker Bears – Monday
Red Foxes – Thursday

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education)

As a school, we follow the Jigsaw scheme of work. Through group discussion, the children are encouraged to take turns and listen to each other, talk about their feelings and the feelings of others. This helps them to care about each other and build positive relationships with peers and adults in the school. Our topics will be 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'.

Homework

Homework is set fortnightly on a Friday. The

homework will have a selection of activities for your child to choose from. Please return the homework on the second Wednesday.

You may wish to encourage your child to use one of the online platforms they can access. Their log-in details are inside their reading records. The platforms available are Bug Club (for reading), Numbots (for mental arithmetic skills) and Purple Mash.

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.

Reminders

Please ensure your child brings in a book bag each day and their reading book and reading record.

Please ensure all items of clothing, book bag, and PE kit are clearly named.

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to speak to the Year 1 staff at the end of the day. Please communicate any changes to collection arrangements at the start of the day.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Dalton, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Brown and Mrs Collinson, Class teachers

Mrs Furr, Mrs Barker, Mrs Duarte, Teaching Assistants

Miss Watson, Apprentice

Mrs Scantlebury, Miss Humphrey, Mrs Pelia, Mrs Dimova, Mrs Oakley, Learning Support Assistants