



The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

Spring Term 2026 Newsletter

Foundation Stage Reception Barn Owls, Snowy Owls and Tawny Owls



The topics this term are 'Science Investigations' and 'Food Technology' linked to the traditional tale of *The Gingerbread Man* and safe journeys. Throughout the term, the children will participate in a range of exciting and inspiring activities.



Communication and Language



The children will continue to develop their imaginative storytelling in the different role play areas in Reception. They will listen to different versions of *The Gingerbread Man* and compare similarities and differences. The children will retell the traditional tale of *The Gingerbread Man* using Makaton signs, which supports them to retell the story in their own words. They will sequence story cards, use puppets, props and musical instruments to act out the story.

The children will generate sentences to match illustrations from the story. They will generate WOW words (adjectives) and include them in their sentence writing. The children will interview story characters through hot seating and use WOW words to describe a character of their choice.

Physical Development



The children will continue to experience mark making, tracing handwriting patterns and forming letter shapes. They will practise cutting and threading and explore a variety of small construction materials to develop their fine motor skills.

In PE, the focus is on gymnastics and ball skills. In gymnastics, the children will make shapes with their bodies and learn how to land safely when jumping off low height apparatus. For ball skills, they will learn how to throw a ball, aim at a target, and develop dribbling and kicking skills. The children will move in different ways to create a sequence of movements linked to the story of *The Gingerbread Man*. The children will learn how to be safe and develop their self-help skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Our Jigsaw theme for the first half term is 'Dreams and Goals'. The children will discuss how to stay positive and motivated when faced with challenges, how to work with a partner or in a small group and how to help each other achieve personal goals. After the half term holiday, the theme is 'Healthy Me'. The children will reflect on the importance of keeping healthy through diet, exercise and sleep, building prior knowledge learnt during Science Week.

The children will learn how to travel safely in the local environment, including staying on the pavement, holding hands when walking with a grown up, stopping quickly when on a bicycle or scooter and showing an awareness of other pedestrians on the pavement. During British Science Week, the children will explore the grip and strength of pegs made with different materials and using different mechanisms.

Literacy



Reading: During daily phonics sessions, the children will continue to develop their reading and spelling skills, and their formation of lower-case letters. They will practise segmenting and blending sounds in words and reading decodable sentences. The children will read individually and have other opportunities for reading throughout the week. They will develop their knowledge of rhyming words and hear rhyme in poems and stories. The children will read non-fiction books linked to our topics and compare different versions of the traditional tale of *The Gingerbread Man*.

The children will continue to earn Super Reader certificates, by reading to a grown up at home every day.

Writing: The children will continue to practise forming upper and lower-case letters correctly and see writing modelled by adults. The children will develop their sentence writing to include descriptive and action words. They will write a sentence to match an illustration from the story of *The Gingerbread Man* and use adjectives to create a character description. The children will label different parts of a character and will write a sentence in a speech or thought bubble. They will write a list of ingredients needed to bake a tray of gingerbread men and will create a poster to show how to remain safe when out and about.

Handwriting practice will continue each week. Homework this term will focus on sentences, developing the children's knowledge of sentence structure and using their phonological knowledge to segment and blend words when ordering a sentence.

Mathematics



The children will continue to practise counting, recognising numbers to ten and forming numerals correctly. They will be focusing on the composition of numbers up to ten. The children will subitise up to six. This means recognising an amount without having to count the number of objects. The children will begin to find and make a double and create number bonds to ten. The children will compare objects by length and height and investigate the properties of 3D shapes. The children will recognise and create patterns and look for patterns in the natural world.

Understanding the World



In religious education, the children will discover how people around the world celebrate the start of a new year. They will discuss ways to celebrate Mother's Day and how Christians celebrate Easter, linking it to new life.

The children will use their senses to investigate ginger and other ingredients used in baking a gingerbread man. They will look at the differences and similarities between a baked and a raw gingerbread man. The children will predict and investigate what happens to gingerbread men when they are placed in water, oil, fruit juice and milk.

The children will use their observation skills to search the school grounds for signs of winter and spring and use iPads to take photographs. They will use magnifying glasses to look at the structure of spring flowers.

The children will use applications on the iPads to develop their mathematical knowledge, draw pictures of a gingerbread man, and with adult support, use the internet to find out answers to questions.

They will develop their problem-solving skills by building a bridge for the gingerbread man to cross the river safely. The children will be testing different materials to see how reflective they are and deciding which ones would be best to wear to be seen and safe in the dark.

Expressive Arts and Design



The children will continue to develop their art skills throughout the term. They will use recycled materials to create models and scenery linked to the story and construct a bridge using recycled materials. The children will use a range of props and musical instruments to act out the story of *The Gingerbread Man*. They will take part in many activities linked to the festival of Lunar New Year, including creating shadow puppets to act out the story.

In music, the children will learn more about pulse, pitch and rhythm. They will listen to different songs linked to *The Gingerbread Man* and use musical instruments to help retell the story. The children will listen to different genres of music for 'Musician of the Month', including the music of Abba, James Bay, Bill Hailey and the Comets, and Tchaikovsky.

For more information related to this term's topic please go on to the school website:

www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk



We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any items relating to our topic that we could use, display, or share with the children please let us know.

If you wish to ask any questions, please feel welcome to speak to the Foundation Stage staff at the end of the day. Please, however, inform staff of essential information at the start of the day.

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 make sure all items of school uniform, coats, plimsolls, book bag, shoe bag and PE kit are clearly named.

Please would you make sure your child brings in a named water bottle. No fruit or flavoured drinks please.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Mrs. L. Dacombe

Class Teacher and Foundation Stage Leader

Mrs. D. Clark and Miss A. Busby

Class Teachers

Miss R. Freestone, Miss S. Ward, and Miss K. Beattie

Early Years Practitioners

Miss Julya

Pupil Premium Champion

Miss K. Froude

Apprentice Teaching Assistant