



The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

Autumn Term 2026 Newsletter

Foundation Stage Reception Barn Owls, Snowy Owls and Tawny Owls

A warm welcome to our new children and parents! The first couple of weeks this term will be spent making sure the children are happily settled into the routine of their reception class.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



The first theme focuses on 'Being Me in My World'. The children will learn how to help each other to feel welcome in class and will be working together to make the school a better place. They will understand why it is good to be kind and how to use gentle hands. The children will understand why it is important to work well with others and learn how to become a responsible person. They will design class rules and be introduced to the red/green behaviour chart which encourages them to make appropriate choices for a happy learning environment.

After the half-term holiday, the theme will be 'Celebrating Difference'. The children will identify something they are good at and understand that everyone is good at different things. They will understand that being different makes them special. The children will begin to know they are all different but the same in some ways. They will learn how to solve problems with others and understand it is important to use kind words and know how to give and receive compliments. During Science Week, the children will find out through a range of practical activities about the importance of keeping healthy through exercise, diet and self-care.

Communication and Language



Activities will include learning to talk about stories and pictures and looking in more depth at the main characters. The children will be retelling the traditional tale of 'The Three Little Pigs' and will be introduced to Makaton signs, which will support them in retelling this story in their own words. They will sequence story cards and use puppets, props, and musical instruments to act out the story. The children will listen to different versions of the story and use their imagination in class role-play areas. There will be an opportunity for your child to bring items which are special to them in the class 'My Special Box' for 'Speaking and Listening'. Please look for the date of when it will be your child's turn. A letter will be sent home and displayed on the classroom door.

Physical Development



Fine Motor skills: The children will be mark-making and practising their handwriting. They will also be cutting, threading and rolling different materials to continue developing their fine motor skills.

Gross motor skills: The children will have many creative activities to develop their gross motor skills. During outside play sessions, they will use a range of apparatus to develop their use of space, balance and coordination. In addition to this, they will have two PE sessions in the hall each week and these sessions will be on Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

Literacy



Reading: Daily phonic lessons will teach initial letter sounds and how to use them to read and spell simple VC and CVC words, such as at, in, cat, sat, pin and tin. In addition, they will learn to read common exception words, which are words they will recognise by sight but are not decodable. The children will be heard reading individually twice a week and other opportunities for reading will be available daily. They will develop their knowledge of rhyme and learn how to create a simple rhyming string through rhymes, poems and rhyming activities. The children will participate in 'Poem of the Week', practising daily reading of the poem and at the end of the week they will bring a copy of the poem home to read to family and friends.

To begin with, the children will be bringing home reading books with no text. When your child shares their reading book, please encourage them to use the illustrations to create their own story. This helps them to develop their language and storytelling skills. In the next couple of weeks, the children will receive a reading book with simple decodable sentences. Please encourage your child to use a 'reading finger' to point to each word when reading.



Bug Club: In addition, the children can access 'Bug Club', an online reading scheme. On the inside of your child's reading record book is a sticker detailing your child's username, log-in code and school code. A letter will be sent out providing more details of this super online reading scheme.

Writing: The children will be learning how to hold a pencil correctly using the 'pick and flick' technique and learning how to form lower case letters correctly. They will see writing modelled by the adults and explore mark-making through a range of emergent writing activities. The children will be learning how a caption is structured, including finger spaces between words and checking the caption makes sense. The children's use of captions will develop to include descriptive and action words. They will be writing shopping lists, labelling parts of a wolf and writing a factual caption about wolves. They will be designing a 'WANTED' poster and writing a speech bubble for a character of their choice from the tale of 'The Three Little Pigs'.

Mathematics



The children will be participating in daily activities to develop their mathematical fluency. Activities include counting forwards and backwards, ordering of numbers, and recognising one more or one less. They will develop strategies and knowledge to solve mathematical problems. The children will be sorting and matching objects and begin to apply sorting techniques. They will be comparing amounts and stating which have 'more' or 'fewer'. The children will be comparing size (large/big and small), mass and capacity as well as

exploring simple patterns. They will be focusing on numbers 1 to 5 and investigating simple addition and subtraction. The children will look at the properties of 2D shapes and use descriptive words for the position of objects.



Numbots: In addition, the children can access 'Numbots', an online mathematics educational platform. On the inside of your child's reading record book is a sticker detailing your child's username, log-in code and school code.

Understanding the World



The children will be using a 'wolf' hairdryer to investigate which building material of the three little pig's homes can withstand the wolf's breath. They will be using natural materials to create the different habitats wolves live in and finding out how wolves hunt for food, their appearance and family life. The children will be investigating the immediate environment to learn about the changes in the natural world during the seasons of autumn and winter and using iPads to record the changes. They will begin to create a 'Seasonal Changes of a Tree' book which focuses on one tree in the school grounds throughout the year. The children will look at the colours of autumn and investigate leaves and seeds from trees using magnifying glasses. They will be learning about how their class peers celebrate the festivals of harvest and Diwali. The children will learn about the journey made by Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and find out how Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus around the world.

Expressive Arts and Design



The children will learn action rhymes and play a variety of percussion instruments. They will learn to listen and respond to music based on the featured stories. The children will have opportunities to use a variety of materials and techniques to create artwork linked to the traditional tale of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They will use recycled and natural materials to create a little pig's home and garden. The children will be looking carefully at photographs of wolves, learning how to mix colours using a palette and how to apply the brush to the paper to create the texture of the wolf's fur. They will be using 2D shapes to create a wolf and using an app on an iPad to draw a wolf. The children will learn action rhymes and use props and musical instruments to act out 'The Three Little Pigs' story.

For more information, please see the topic planning which is displayed on our parents' noticeboards and on the Parents' Reception Class Page of our website:
www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative for your child's learning this term. 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 reception staff at the end of the day. Please, however, inform staff of essential information at the start of the day.

Reminders



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

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Miss Busby

Class Teacher and Reception Leader

Mrs Morris and Miss Hunter

Class Teachers

Miss Freestone, Miss Ward, Miss Brett and Miss Beatty

Early Years Practitioners

Miss Julia

Pupil Premium champion

Miss Froude

Apprentice Teaching Assistant