



The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

Year 1 Newsletter Autumn Term 2026

Big Cats, Walker Bears and Red Foxes

Welcome to Year 1. Our topics this term are 'All About Me' and 'Materials and Toys'.

English

The children will take part in shared reading of non-fiction and fiction texts about our topics. Each child will read individually with an adult and begin guided reading sessions with their peers. Please listen to your child read every day and write a comment in the reading record. You may also enjoy reading an online book together through Bug Club. Your child's login details are inside the reading record.



During daily phonics sessions the children will practise blending and segmenting words for reading and spelling. They will consolidate prior learning and learn new phonemes and graphemes.

The children will explore poetry. They will listen for rhyme and perform poetry. They will regularly learn poems to develop reading fluency.

Every child will write their own 'Marvellous Me' book at the start of the autumn term. Throughout the term they will learn to write labels, captions and lists. They will begin to use a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop for sentence writing. In handwriting lessons, the children will develop pencil control and learn consistent letter formation.

Mathematics



Mathematics topics will be place value with numbers up to ten, addition and subtraction for calculations within ten and 2D and 3D shapes. The children will have regular fluency practice with 'Fluency Bee'. Please help your child to use NumBots at home. Log-in details are in your child's reading record. The '1 Minute Maths' app by White Rose is free to download and use.

Science

The children will learn about the senses through practical activities. They will draw and label parts of the body including head, arms, legs, neck, shoulders or elbows. The children will begin to learn about the differences in seasons. They will plant spring bulbs and begin a diary to record observations of the plant's life cycle. They will learn to identify deciduous and evergreen trees. The children will also explore everyday materials and their properties. They will look at different toys and the materials used to make them.



Humanities

Through a focus on 'my town' as part of the 'All About Me' topic, the children will learn about some geographical landmarks in Stevenage. They will learn about the history of the development of Stevenage and why there is an Old Town and a New Town. During the 'Materials and Toys' topic, the children will handle historical artefacts and look for clues to deduce if something is old or new. They will discuss how toys have changed or stayed the same over many years. In RE, the children will discuss the enquiry questions What do Christians believe about God? What gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than in Bethlehem?

They will also learn about religious festivals through assemblies: Sukkot (Judaism), Harvest (Christianity), Diwali (Hinduism), Guru Nanak's Birthday (Sikhism), Hannukah (Judaism).

Computing

As part of e-safety, the children will discuss who is a trusted adult to turn to if they ever feel something is not right when using technology. During Purple Mash computing lessons, the children will complete the units: using my Purple Mash account, creative computing and data explorers.

Creative

The children will create art using natural resources inspired by the sculptural work of Andy Goldsworthy. They will begin to learn about colour-mixing and will create a colour block artwork inspired by the work of Mark Rothko. They will use collage to make a self-portrait. In design and technology, the children will design and make a fruit kebab. They will use split pins to make a paper



figure with moving arms and legs. In music, the children will explore pulse, rhythm and pitch and play various percussion instruments. They will learn good singing technique and sing seasonal songs. They will perform traditional Christmas carols for their families in class concerts. The children will listen to a wide variety of music in daily 'musical moments'.



Physical Education

The children will take part in team building, fitness, yoga and fundamental skills lessons. PE days are Tuesdays and Wednesdays...

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

We use the Jigsaw scheme of work. Our topics are 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference'. Children discuss feelings, caring about each other and developing positive relationships in school with peers and adults.

Forest School

Forest School starts in the second half-term. It will take place once a week in our school woodland.

Homework

Homework is set fortnightly. Children bring it home on alternate Fridays. Please return the homework book by the second Wednesday. Please select one of the activities to do and encourage your child to practise the spellings.

Reminders

- Children need to bring their reading book to school every day.
- Please label all items of clothing with your child's name.
- Year 1 children should wear PE kit to school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Please provide a named water bottle for your child.
- Classroom doors open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am for learning to begin.
- Holidays should only be taken during school holidays. Please note that, by law, headteachers are not permitted to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are very exceptional circumstances.

If you have any questions, please speak to Year 1 staff at the end of the day. Please be sure, however, to inform staff of important information at the start of the day, especially any changes to the collection arrangements for your child.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Collinson and Mrs. Brown Class Teachers

Mrs. Furr, Mrs. Barker, and Mrs. Phillips Teaching Assistants

Mrs. Oakley, Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Pelia Support Staff