



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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School Aims: our school is a place where we aim to develop:

- ▶ Positive attitudes to learning
- ▶ Creativity and a sense of self-confidence and self-esteem
- ▶ Equality of opportunity, independence, individuality, tolerance, sensitivity and cooperation
- ▶ Good relations, respect for others and the environment
- ▶ A broad and balanced creative curriculum
- ▶ Pupil achievement by providing quality experiences

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a fantastic first half of the summer term in school and very busy for children and staff. This week has been Big Write which for Year 2 has involved the most glorious bubble-making, for Year 1 writing about one of our favourite stories, the Gruffalo, which started with an exciting visit to the Forest Area searching from clues and eventually being excited to discover the Gruffalo himself hiding behind a bush! Reception children have been doing writing inspired by Eric Carle's 'The Tiny Seed'. The children have been absolutely captivated and the written work they have subsequently produced demonstrates really fantastic progress. You will be thrilled to see this when you receive these books when your children leave the school at the end of Year 2 – and this time is coming nearer for our Year 2 pupils!

The Year 2 pupils have worked tremendously hard on their SATs; these are now all completed and we are so proud of our Year 2 children. Everyone deserves a fabulous half term holiday and I hope you all have lots of fun as well as a real rest with your families.

Do remember that Monday 5th June is an inset day and that children return to school on Tuesday June 6th.

Sports Day: Sports day is the morning of Tuesday 11th July. More information will follow nearer the time.

Pop-up Dentist: Stevenage and North Herts Family Centres Service will be running a pop-up dental service on Wednesday 31st May 9.30-12.00 1.30-4.00 at Strawberry Fields Family Centre, Round Diamond School, Whitehorse Lane, SG1 6NH

Transition from our Nursery to Reception September 2023 (Wednesday 21st June): For children who currently attend our Nursery and will be joining our Reception in September 2023, we will be holding a stay-and-play session after school on Wednesday 21st June 2023 3.45-4.30pm and we ask that you please attend. Further information and key dates will be sent to you soon.

Nursery Closed on Friday 23rd June: The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 23rd June 2023. This is in order to allow the children who will be joining us in

September 2023 an opportunity to visit with their parents. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Open Evening and Book Fair (Thursday 22nd June): Please note this date for your diary: we will be holding a whole school Open Evening on Thursday 22nd June, 6.00pm– 7.30pm. The Book Fair will also be here. This is a wonderful opportunity to come along and visit the whole school including of course your child's classroom and also all the classrooms in the year-group where they'll be in September.

Next year's classes:

- *Barn Owls will go to Red Fox class (teacher Mrs Collinson, TA Mrs Long)*
- *Tawny Owls will go to Big Cats class (teachers Mrs Edwards and Miss O'Regan, TA Mrs Fulton)*
- *Snowy Owls will go to Walker Bear class (teacher Mrs Dalton, TA Mrs Furr)*
- *Red Fox class will go to Puffin class (teacher Mrs Brown, TA Mrs Wilkinson)*
- *Big Cat class will go to Penguin class (teacher Miss Hill, TA Miss Lee)*
- *Walker Bear class till go to Pelican class (teachers Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Trott, TA Mrs Zanelli)*

Reception classes will be announced after we have met the new children who are joining us from other schools.

Nursery School Places for September 2023: *If you are a prospective parent, please contact the school office to arrange a visit. Application forms can be downloaded from <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>. Alternatively, you can request one by contacting the school office.*

Please kindly share this message with parents, friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2023. Applications opened on 1st November 2022, and places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Nursery: *Nursery have had a wonderful week continuing our 'Sand and Water' topic. They thoroughly enjoyed listening to the story, 'The Odd Fish' by Naomi Jones, and had fantastic discussions about caring for our world. Hannah told her friends, "We need to save the Earth so don't put rubbish in the sea." Maisie shared, "The bottle goes in the recycling, at home we recycle all of our bottles and tins, they aren't supposed to go in the ocean!" They learnt a new 'Rainbow Fish' song and sang with great enthusiasm.*

In expressive art and design, the children have explored our exciting new 'Under the Sea' role play. They were amazed to see so many sea creatures, take part in a deep sea explorer challenge and discover coral, shells, and sea plants. Isla said, "A stingray lives in water under the sea." Rory explored the water and commented, "I'm very deep, to the floor of the water." Kobi was excited to explore and said, "I found a crab, a shark and a killer whale!"

In PSHCE, the children continued to think about how to be a good friend, and shared why they are a good friend. Jason shared, "I am kind to my friends." Reid said, "We can take turns and then we won't get sad." They discussed how the Rainbow Fish felt when he had no friends and remembered the importance of sharing with their friends.

In mathematics, the children were eager to complete an underwater fish scene using their number skills. First, they subitised numbers and then they matched the number of spots on each fish to the correct numeral. Fantastic maths, Ladybirds!

In phonics, the children have learnt the letter sound 'n' and practised saying nappy, nail polish, needle, net and many more! They also learnt the song 'Hear the aeroplane, /nnn/! Hear the aeroplane, /nnn/! Hear the aeroplane, /nnn/! ... making lots of noise!' Sung to the tune of Skip to my Lou.

After the half term break, the children will continue the topic of 'Sand and Water'. They will listen to the story of 'The Clumsy Crab' by Ruth Galloway and participate in a range of activities. In phonics, the children will consolidate the letter sound 's.'

We wish you all a wonderful half term break.

Reception: *This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed 'Big Write.' They watched and listened to the story of 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle and in talking partners told each other what they knew about plants. Over the course of the week, the children have put together a fantastic piece of work linked to the story. First, they used tearing and overlapping skills to create a paper flower just like Eric Carle did when creating his illustrations for his books. Next, they labelled the different parts of the flower and last of all wrote facts describing what they knew about seeds and plants. When Isabelle in Barn Owl class was writing her fact about flowers, she said, "The flower drinks water and nutrients."*

The children acted out the story of 'The Tiny Seed' and included a range of yoga poses. Some children found the flamingo pose very challenging to do! Here is the link for the story of the Tiny Seed with yoga poses:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu8Jlppls4E>.

In mathematics, the children focused on doubling a number using counters or pom-poms on a ladybird and then writing the double calculation on a whiteboard. The children enjoyed singing a doubles song to the tune 'She'll be coming round the mountain':

1 and 1 is 2

2 and 2 is 4

3 and 3 is 6

4 and 4 is 8

5 and 5 is 10, once again.

6 and 6 is 12

7 and 7 is 14

8 and 8 is 16

9 and 9 is 18

10 and 10 is 20, that is plenty.

In expressive arts and design, the children found out about the artist, Claude Monet, and his painting 'The Haystacks.' The children used the app 'Sketchbook' on the iPads to create a picture of a haystack in the style of this artist.

After the half term break the children will be participating in Money Week. The children will be participating in some super activities and discovering the importance of money linked to Citizenship.

In expressive arts and design and mathematics, the children will be investigating 3D shapes and using Pringle tubes to create a windmill. We would be grateful if your child could bring in a Pringles tube to make a 3D windmill.

Everyone in Reception wishes you all a lovely half-term break!

Year 1: *This week in English, the children have begun their poetry unit based on the story 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. They have been generating adjectives to describe the mouse and have written wonderful shape poems. The children have also had the opportunity to show their independent writing skills in 'Big Write'. They*

thought about how animals in 'The Gruffalo' moved and used their new knowledge about the suffix -ing.

In phonics, the children have been recapping the split vowel digraphs a-e and e-e. They have been using their robot arms to segment a selection of real and pseudo words, adding sound buttons and generating sentences.

In maths, the children have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. They have been spotting patterns, identifying the missing numbers and labelling the multiples of 5 on a number line.

In art, the children have learnt about the artist Axel Scheffler, the illustrator of 'The Gruffalo'. They looked carefully at his artwork in the book and made a large, collaborative painting of the Gruffalo. The children experimented with a range of tools to apply the paint to their picture. As they applied the paint, they thought carefully about the colours, textures and shapes that each tool created.

In computing, the children have continued with their learning about spreadsheets, using 2calculate on Purple Mash. They have been inserting images and learning how to highlight several cells at once and duplicate the picture. They have also learnt how to lock a cell and move an image.

In design and technology, the children have planned, made and evaluated a Gruffalo snack. Using rice cakes and cream cheese as the base of their snack, the children had the opportunity to add various fruit and vegetables to make a fox or owl. They followed their plans carefully, checking the ingredients and utensils they needed.

In religious education, the children had the opportunity to bring in a special book from home or choose a special book from school. They shared these books with their peers and talked about why it was special to them.

After half term, the children will begin their topic on the seashore. They will begin to make a nonfiction book all about rockpools and sandy and rocky beaches. In maths, the children will be learning about measures. They will be comparing volumes in containers of the same size and comparing the same volume in different shaped containers. They will also be measuring lengths using Cuisenaire rods. The children will be revising all the phonic sounds, segmenting and blending real and pseudo words, and adding sound buttons. The phonics screening check will take place in the week beginning 12th June and be carried out on a 1:1 basis with the class teacher.

We would like to wish all our Year 1 children and families a lovely half-term break!

Year 2: What a fun week we have had in Year two, immersing ourselves in the topic of 'Bubbles' for our Big Write week. The children watched a beautiful clip about a young girl who goes on an adventure in a bubble. We then went outside to use the bubble machine and blow bubbles of our own to imagine what it would be like travelling inside a bubble. This inspired the children to write their own bubble adventures to their very own fantasy land. The children's' creativity this week was so amazing to see, with pupils creating imaginary worlds such as: Animal land, Cloud world and Land of the Cheeseburgers. They have used their knowledge of word classes-adjectives, verbs and even adverbs to make their stories detailed and engaging for the reader. We have intertwined our 'Bubble' theme throughout our curriculum this week creating amazing bubble wrap print art, bubble paintings-where we blew bubbles; allowing them to pop on our paper to create beautiful designs and colourful bubble drawings with chalk and pastels.

In mathematics this week the children have been learning about equivalent fractions and how to find equivalent fractions for quarters and halves. The children understood

that equivalence means the same value and were able to find equivalent fractions to represent halves and quarters. eg: $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{5}{10}$ and $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{8}$.

After the half term, we will be learning about symmetry understanding that shapes and pictures that are facing each other are the same and creating symmetrical designs.

In Science this week, we have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and how it grows and changes. The children have used some fantastic vocabulary such as: egg, chrysalis, caterpillar and butterfly and have been able to order and explain the process.

The children continued their learning in RE by exploring different religious ceremonies with a focus this week on creating their own ceremony. The children created a fantastic 'Year 2 Graduation' ceremony where Mali took on the role of 'Mr. Mendel' and handed out scrolls to all the Year two graduates. All of the children had so much fun role-playing this ceremony and cannot wait for their own Year two leavers ceremony in July.

In computing the children have been creating data bases of information by answering yes/no questions based around a topic. They will then use these databases to create their own binary trees when they return after the half term. In PSHE we have been discussing important relationships and the children have been acknowledging who they can talk to if they need something. The children then created 'circles of trust' where they identified the people in their lives that are safe to them.

Have a great half term break,

The Year 2 Team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

BIG CAT CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Theo	<i>for a wonderful painting of the Rainbow Fish.</i>
	Harrie	<i>for showing good focus during group time.</i>
	Rory	<i>for super subitising and recognition of numerals in maths.</i>
	Jeremiah	<i>for showing fantastic imagination in the 'Under the Sea' role play.</i>
	Neive	<i>for always being a kind friend.</i>
	Archie	<i>for brilliant subitising in maths.</i>

Snowy Owls	Eliot	<i>for fantastic doubling.</i>
	Abigail	<i>for a wonderful 'Haystack' picture.</i>
Tawny Owls	Bela Saffiya	<i>for demonstrating a fantastic knowledge of doubling.</i>
	Alannah	<i>for brilliant independent sentence writing during Big Write.</i>
Barn Owls	Phoebe	<i>for independently writing a marvellous sentence about a flower.</i>
	Connor	<i>for creating a fantastic picture of haystacks in the style of the artist, Claude Monet.</i>
Value of the month: Trust	Snowy Owls: Alexander and Kristof Tawny Owls: Zuzanna, Samuel and Alannah Barn Owls: Kairi, Fred and Olivia	
Red Fox Class	Lorenz	<i>for excellent maths when recalling his 5's.</i>
	Belle	<i>for a super shape poem using lots of different adjectives.</i>
Big Cat Class	Zyva	<i>for working really hard on her adjectives when writing a poem about the mouse from the story 'The Gruffalo'.</i>
	Erika	<i>for a wonderful piece of 'Big Write' work, writing sentences using the suffix 'ing'.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Finn	<i>for thinking creatively and with resilience during the Big Write.</i>
	Jaxon	<i>for challenging yourself to write several sentences during the Big Write.</i>
Value of the month: Trust	Red Foxes: Vienna and Chiara Big Cats: Maryam and Albert Walker Bears: Nayla and Holly	
Penguin Class	Nahila	<i>for making a wonderful minibeast sculpture.</i>
	Benedict	<i>for a super 'Big Write' story.</i>
	Joseph	<i>for joining in with mathematics and English.</i>
Pelican Class	Eden-Martin	<i>for sharing his idea effectively with his peers during English this week.</i>
	Laiton	<i>for displaying good learning behaviours this week.</i>
Puffin Class	Harry	<i>for writing a fantastic story about the boy and the bubbles.</i>
	Billy Joe	<i>for using pastels to create a wonderful bubble picture.</i>
Value of the month: Trust	Penguins: Nahila, Dariush and Naisha. Pelicans: Billy, Hazel and Lucas Puffins: Ever, Harper and Clay	

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break!

*Kindest regards,
Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*

SCHOOL DATES

HALF TERM: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

JUNE 2023	
Monday 5 th	INSET DAY – school closed
Tuesday 6 th	Children return to school
Week 12 th June	MONEY WEEK
Tuesday 13 th	Reception Summer Concert, Barn Owl, 9.15am
Wednesday 14 th	Reception Summer Concert, Tawny Owl, 9.15am
Thursday 15 th	Reception Summer Concert, Snowy Owl, 9.15am
TBC Tuesday 20th	SEN/Inclusion team Drop-In, 8.50-9.30am . If you have something you would like to discuss with our specialist team, do drop by for coffee.
Thursday 22 nd	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, 6.00-7.30pm
Tuesday 27 th	Big Cats Summer Concert, 2.30pm
Thursday 29 th	Walker Bears Summer Concert, 1.30pm Red Foxes Summer Concert, 2.30pm

JULY 2023	
Monday 3 rd	INSET DAY – school closed
Tuesday 4 th	Inco Coffee morning
Tuesday 11 th	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 12 th	Year 2 – Great Fire of London workshop
Thursday 13 th	Moving Up Day
TBC Friday 14th	Sports for Schools Athlete visit
W/C 17 th July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Tuesday 18 th	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 21 st	Last day of term – finish at 2pm

TERM DATES 2022-23

[Half Term: Monday 29th May 2023 – Friday 2nd June 2023]

Monday 5th June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th June 2023

Monday 3rd July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 21st July at 2.00pm

INSET DAYS 2022-23

Thursday 1st September 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 31st October 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 9th December 2022 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 21st December 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 5th June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 3rd July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

TERM DATES 2023-24

Autumn Term: Friday 1st September 2023 – 20th December 2023

Friday 1st September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 4th September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th September 2023

[Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2023 – Friday 27th October 2023]

Monday 30th October 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 31st October 2023

Friday 24th November 2023 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Wednesday 20th December at 2pm

[Christmas Holidays: Thursday 21st December – Wednesday 3rd January 2024]

Children return to school on Thursday 4th January 2024

Spring Term: Thursday 4th January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024

[Half term: Monday 19th February 2024 – Friday 23rd February 2024]

Children return to school on Monday 26th February 2024

School finishes on Thursday 28th March at 2pm

[Easter Holidays: Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April 2024]

Children return to school on Monday 15th April 2024

Summer Term: Monday 15th April 2024 – Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Monday 6th May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 27th May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024]

Monday 3rd June 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 4th June 2024

Monday 1st July 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Tuesday 23rd July at 2.00pm