

# The Chorus Schools Federation

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Nichols, BEd Hons, NPQH, NASENCO, NPQEL



## St Giles' Primary School

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## This Week....

**Hedgehogs** have been busy using their growing phonics knowledge to write cvc, cvcv and cvcc words this week to label pictures. They are becoming increasingly confident and independent in using their sound mats to support their writing which is fantastic! In maths we have been comparing groups and saying when there is an equal number, too many (more than) or not enough (fewer than)



**Badgers** After Mrs Nichols' assembly on Monday, Badgers spent time thinking about what gifts they would bring to Jesus. Badgers knew that Jesus was a very special baby so they knew they would bring something very special for him. We also spoke about what things we already have that we could give to Jesus like our kindness, our very funny jokes, the games that we play together and our love.



Badgers also had lots of fun in the snow on Monday while it lasted!



**Squirrels** have been learning about symbolism in RE. We discussed what water meant to us and how important it is. We made connections to Christianity and how water plays a big part in stories in the bible and in important ceremonies such as baptisms. Using the symbol of a water droplet we recorded our ideas about water.



**Muntjacs** have begun our Liquids, Solids and Gases topic with Mrs Panting. It snowed just in time for our Captain Scott topic, and no one got frost-bite! Year 5 had their first week of forest school, it was very beautiful and very cold! Our class book this term is The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe.



- Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Closing date for Reception Year Applications 2026
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Half Term
- 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Mar  
Muntjac Class PGL Residential Trip
- 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Mar-Parents to lunch dates-details to follow
- Weds 25<sup>th</sup> Mar  
Hedgehogs Boydell's Farm (more info to follow)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mar – 10<sup>th</sup> Apr  
Easter Holidays
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Apr  
Spring Term Starts
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Apr  
Nation Offers Day Reception Year 2026
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May  
Bank Holiday
- **Yr5 Swimming dates-**  
15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Mar
- **Yr5 Forest School-**  
21<sup>st</sup> Jan, 4<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Mar
- **Hedgehogs Forest School-**  
14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Mar





## Star of the week – Headteachers Award!



Orla in Hedgehogs for her fantastic writing this week, showing excellent effort in segmenting words, hearing the sounds clearly, and recording them with increasing independence.

Dusty in Badgers for her enthusiasm in Maths. We have been super impressed by her confidence when explaining how she has worked out her answers.

Emmy in Squirrels for being a great role model to her peers.

Ethan in Muntjacs for his compelling writing.



## Area SEND inspection for Essex Local Area Partnership

[Ofsted](#) and the [Care Quality Commission \(CQC\)](#) are visiting the area to inspect the local arrangements for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). The inspectors want to know about the help and support that children and young people with SEND get. Parents and/or children can use the links below to complete a survey. The information you give will be treated in confidence. The surveys will close at 9am on Tuesday 13 January 2026.

[Take the parent and carer survey](#)

[Take the parent and carer survey \(Easy Read version\)](#)

[Take the children and young people survey](#)

## Children's Commissioner –

### A Guide for Parents on Managing Children's Digital Lives

Parenting today can feel overwhelming - especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide from the Children's Commissioner aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence. Click here to view the guide:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>



## Nits / Head Lice General Guidance

Head lice and nits are very common in young children and particularly in primary schools. There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. Treat lice as soon as you spot them with wet combing or applying medicated lotion. There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice, one of the best ways to reduce the risk is having hair tied back, particularly in a bun or plait is one of the most effective ways of keeping them at bay. With the hair tied back, it makes it more difficult for the lice to grab hold of the hair. Thank you for your support. For further guidance visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

## Coming Up...

- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Jan- Hedgehogs Forest School
- Thur 15<sup>th</sup> Jan- Yr5 Swimming
- Thur 15<sup>th</sup> Jan - Closing date for Reception Year Applications 2026

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Jinnie Nichols  
**Executive Headteacher**

