



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

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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 fabulous week in school with so much terrific learning going on. Children have enjoyed the summer weather – and so have all the adults!

The Year 1 Summer Concerts were absolutely delightful - children behaved and performed beautifully, the range of work demonstrated was really impressive – and the children’s memorisation and internalisation of the inspirational story, ‘The Gruffalo’ was awe-inspiring! Hugely well done to our children – we are so proud of them! And enormous thanks to our fantastic, caring, inspirational staff!

Our inspirational Early Years Team – all of Nursery and all the Reception classes – received a day-long Hertfordshire County Council inspection on Monday. The inspector thought the learning environment was exceptional and she was deeply impressed by the care given to children by our loving staff and also by the standards in learning. Several kind parents spoke to her and were such advocates for the school that when she gave us verbal feedback she actually had tears in her eyes!

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Mrs Stockley, Mrs Breckenridge and Mrs Jordan - the mothers of Lola, Mia and Sophie respectively. Parents felt that they all knew how to support the children; they felt that staff go above and beyond for their children; they felt that transitions were so carefully thought-through that they are seamless. Parents also commented that they loved that I am so visible and setting a model of kindness to children - thank you for that and for all your wonderfully supportive comments. You did all the staff, the children and our community proud! Thank you.

She commented that she noticed everyone’s close attention to detail which matters so much when dealing with younger children; she was impressed by the knowledge of the children; liked the fact that all staff got down to the children’s level – for example sitting down on the carpet to talk to children and engaging in lengthy, high-level interactions.

She noted the independence that was encouraged – for example by having resources on open shelves so that children could access what they needed for themselves and the level of independence was high throughout all classes. Children were given the

opportunity to go outside and practise their learning so that all learning styles were catered too – she thought this flexibility and inclusivity was fantastic.

She loved the way all teachers and key workers sit together at snack time to talk; she felt that all staff work really well together as a team to support one another and the children.

Overall, she felt that staff work absolutely tirelessly to give our children the best start to school life! I'm sure you will join me in sending immense thanks to our stupendous Early Years Team.

Please remember that that the school is closed on Monday 1st July for a staff inset training day.

Non-uniform Day/Dress Down: Children have had a fantastic day today and thank you everyone for your contributions. Thank you to our FROGS and thank you everyone for your generosity!



Book Fair: Thank you so much to everyone who made a purchase from our book fair. You have helped to earn £187 to spend on new books for the school.

Warm Weather: If you are going out in the heat remember to:

- Keep hydrated.
- Wear sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat.
- Stay in the shade as much as you can.
- Remember to take care of your furry friends in the heat.

For more information on how to cope in a heatwave visit <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/heatwave-how-to-cope-in-hot-weather/>

Sports Day: Sports Day will be on the morning of Tuesday 9th July. Please be prepared for cancellation in the event of the school field being too wet. We will text/send an email and put a message on the school website if a decision to cancel is taken in the morning. The reserve date will be Tuesday 18th July.

Dress: Please dress children in their PE kits (polo shirts, shorts and training shoes) in the morning. They will need to wear a hat and sunscreen. Please supply your child with a water bottle.

Times of events:

- Reception: 9.05am - 10.00am
- Year 1: 10.05am - 11.10am
- Year 2: 11.15am - 12.20pm

Access to school field: At 9.00am, the school caretaker will lock all external gates as usual except the nursery entrance gate which will be kept open all morning. Please enter/exit the school premises through this gate. Please enter the sports field by walking along the Year 1 playground, then through the field gate.

Spectator rules: We'll be marking off with barrier tape the spectator area which we would ask you to stay inside please. Some chairs will be placed for use and FROG will be providing a refreshment stall.

Children must stay with their classes and not go off with parents, for example, to the toilet, etc.

The event should be conducted in the same way as an assembly – you are there as spectators and should not approach your child, including at the end when they are walking back to class.

We did have incursions last year so please be aware that this year I will stop the races if any adults come outside of the allocated areas.

I know this is difficult and we understand that you're very proud of your children but this is a big event and we need to keep all the children safe. This event taking place as it does on the sports field outside is the one time in the year when the school is not in control of who turns up to watch. We therefore have to make incredibly sure that we are keeping a clear gap between spectators and the children.

There will be a refreshment stall with water and juice run by our fantastic FROGs so please bring loose change.

Nursery Pirate Day on Friday 14th July: We will all be dressed in pirate costumes, and it would be wonderful if your child could dress up too. There will be lots of exciting pirate related activities for the children to enjoy. Nursery staff will be manning the different activities, so children do need to be accompanied by an adult. If you are able

to attend, it would be wonderful if you could come and enjoy this adventure together with your child.

AM session 9.00 – 11.30am

PM session 12.30 – 3.00pm

If your child attends all day, you may come with your child to either session. As the activities are repeated, you may wish to keep your child at home with you for one of the sessions.

Year 2 Leavers' Assemblies: *Please note that the Year 2 Leavers' assemblies will take place on:*

- *Monday 22nd July at 9.15am – Puffins*
- *Monday 22nd July at 10.15am – Pelicans*
- *Tuesday 23rd July at 9.15am – Penguins*

We look forward to seeing you on this very special occasion which will celebrate your children's time in our school. Extended family members such as grandparents are most welcome too.

Value of the month for July: *Our value of the month for July is charity. Charity is taking the time to think of people who are not as lucky as us and sharing what we have when we can. Charity doesn't have to mean giving money. Giving up our time to help others and make a difference is just as important.*

Nursery: *This week in Nursery, the children took part in an investigation to find out which items float or sink. They thought carefully about each item and made a prediction before testing it in the water tray to see what happened. They tested a rock, a stick, a bottle lid, a magnet, a pencil and many more objects. Kennedy said, "The cotton wool will sink because the water makes it heavy and it has no air."*

In expressive art and design, the children were eager to paint their amazing air dough starfish. The details and patterns look amazing now that they have been painted. The children enjoyed a range of art and craft activities about sharks. They created a spilt pin shark, used bubble wrap to print the sea and created wonderful ocean scene pictures.

In understanding the world, the children were keen to learn the Makaton sign for 'shark' and find out facts about sharks. They learnt there are over 500 species of sharks, a baby shark is called a pup and they are born swimming. The children wanted to learn the names of different sharks and find out how big they were. They learnt a whale shark is the largest shark and a dwarf lantern shark is the smallest shark.

The children loved singing the seaside song 'I Enjoy Myself at the Seaside' and exploring the new seaside role play area. The children have used their imaginations brilliantly, sitting reading stories and writing postcards with their friends. Marnie commented, "I'm writing a postcard for Mummy." Vincent loved playing imaginatively and said, "This is so much fun, can we stay in here forever?"

In mathematics, the children learnt how to use bucket balance scales to compare the weight of objects. They discovered that the heavier object would push the arm of the scale down more than the lighter object. The heavier object will always be lower, and the lighter object will be higher. The children used the vocabulary 'heavy', 'light', 'heavier' and 'lighter' superbly as they modelled with their arms what would happen with different objects in the scales.

Next week in expressive art and design, the children will be creating sand paintings. In phonics, they will practise using their 'robot arms' to segment and blend words. In

PSHCE, they will share memories from their time in Nursery and think about their favourite experiences.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children wrote a list of the six ingredients needed to make a loaf of bread. In child-initiated learning, they have enjoyed creating different types of lists including favourite foods, favourite colours and farm animals.

In mathematics, the children loved playing the double caterpillar game and using a doubles spinner on the interactive whiteboard. They played the mathematical game 'Reverse Bingo', where they were given the answer and had to work out its double. The children really enjoyed calling out 'Bingo!' when they placed the final counter on their board.

In understanding the world, the children tasted three types of bread from around the world. They looked at a world map or a globe to discover where pitta bread, ciabatta and croissants came from. The children were encouraged to use their senses before eating each type of bread. Cormac in Snowy Owl class said, "Croissants come from France," and Zoe in the Tawny Owl class said, "Pitta bread is from Greece!"

Next week in literacy, the children will be writing sentences about what they like in their sandwiches. In mathematics, the children will be creating and continuing a repeating pattern and in understanding the world they will be using fine brushes to paint a tree in summer bloom.

Year 1: We are enormously proud of all the Year 1 children this week. They presented the most wonderful concerts, showcasing such a variety of work. The children spoke their words clearly, sang with such enthusiasm and retold the story of 'The Gruffalo' with great pride and achievement. Thank you to all our families and friends who came to support the children and to share in their joy and pride in their learning.

In English, the children have begun reading the text 'Barnaby Bear at the Seaside' by Elaine Jackson. They have thought about where Barnaby might be going on his holiday by using their observation skills. The children have also started to talk about beach safety and made posters with captions to promote safety at the seaside.

In phonics, the children have continued with the Phase 5 unit on alternative spellings. They have reviewed the spelling of 'n' as in 'net' and learnt the new alternative spelling 'gn' as in 'gnome' and 'kn' as in 'kneel'. They have also reviewed 'j' as in 'jet', 'jobs', and 'Jim' and learnt the alternative spellings 'dge', 'g' and 'ge' as in 'lodge', 'gym' and 'large'.

Our Book of the Week was 'Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom.' The children discussed how Nelson Mandela was a significant individual who challenged the system of apartheid in South Africa to make it a fairer place for all its citizens. We used the abridged picture book version by Chris Van Wyk and Paddy Bouma.

In mathematics, the children have learnt about repeated addition and arrays. They have learnt to identify the rows and columns in an array and to use them to help them to see repeated equal groups. They have learnt how to then write the related repeated addition sentence to describe the array.

In history, the children used their observational skills to look closely at Victorian seaside postcards. They looked for clues in the pictures to identify differences between modern day seaside traditions and seaside traditions from the past. The children spotted the bathing machines, donkey rides and the long clothing that the Victorians wore.

In computing, the children have been working on their animation books, using 2Create a Story on Purple Mash. They learnt how to use a range of tools to draw a picture, add text and then add animation to their work.

Next week, the children will continue to find out all about keeping safe at the beach and learn about the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) in their English lessons. They will watch how a lifeboat is launched and write questions to find out more about the lifesaving work the coastguards do. In mathematics, the children will use their knowledge of twos, fives and tens to solve a range of multiplication word problems.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 2nd July, as school is closed on Monday for an inset day.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: This week in English, the children started to learn the traditional African story of 'The Papaya That Spoke'. The children listened to the story several times and carefully watched the actions that accompany it. They rehearsed telling the story themselves and they are doing a wonderful job of learning it by heart. The children also practised writing descriptive sentences, including similes.

In mathematics, the children have learnt about position and direction. They revised the language of position, including 'left', 'right', 'between', 'above' and 'below'. They learnt how to describe movement of objects on a grid, extending their vocabulary to include 'backwards' and 'forwards'. They learnt to describe turns using the terms 'clockwise' and 'anticlockwise'. Finally, they practised using the new vocabulary to describe shape patterns with turns.

In computing, the children explored the designs of William Morris and used a program on Purple Mash to create a repeating pattern. In music, the children continued to learn how to play the glockenspiel accompaniment to 'The Sunshine Song'. In design and technology, the children finished making their cushions, filling them with soft stuffing before sewing up the last edge of fabric. In PSCHE, the children learnt the scientific names for the body parts and the physical differences between boys and girls. In geography, they revised the continents and oceans of the world and learnt how to use an atlas to locate different countries.

Next week in English, the children will choose characters and settings to write their own version of 'The Papaya That Spoke'. In mathematics, they will start a new unit on statistics. In geography, the children will use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features. In computing, they will explore surrealist art and use e-collage to create their own surrealist picture. In PSCHE, they will learn how to be confident to say what they like and don't like and how to ask for help.

Please may we remind you that school is closed on Monday for an inset day. We wish you a fantastic weekend and look forward to seeing the children on Tuesday.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

Pelicans Class

98%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	<p><i>Bowie for super turn taking when playing a game.</i></p> <p><i>Elijah for making excellent comparisons when weighing objects.</i></p> <p><i>Marnie for fantastic imagination in the seaside role play.</i></p>
Snowy Owls	<p><i>Hannah for making good progress with her reading.</i></p> <p><i>Oscar W for applying his phonic knowledge to write a list.</i></p>
Tawny Owls	<p><i>Afna for always helping to keep our classroom clean and tidy.</i></p> <p><i>Hannah for fantastic recognition of reverse doubles.</i></p> <p><i>Oscar for demonstrating a brilliant knowledge of breads around the world and where they come from.</i></p>
Barn Owls	<p><i>Aadam for super recognition of reverse doubles.</i></p> <p><i>Mia for using her phonic knowledge to write a list of ingredients for making bread.</i></p> <p><i>Ayla-Kaye for writing a fabulous list of ingredients for making bread.</i></p>
Value of the month - Humour	<p><i>Snowy Owls – Ishanvi, Kikiiyin, Noah</i></p> <p><i>Tawny Owls – Luka,</i></p> <p><i>Barn Owls – Diana, Eleonora, Mya-Jae</i></p>
Red Foxes	<p><i>Isabelle for a super Victorian postcard.</i></p> <p><i>Betsy for super mathematics finding equal groups.</i></p> <p><i>All the Red Foxes for a fantastic summer concert performance, beautiful singing and clear speaking.</i></p>
Big Cats	<p><i>Mateo for designing a wonderful Victorian postcard.</i></p> <p><i>Lena for a designing a super beach safety poster.</i></p> <p><i>All the Big Cats for a superb summer concert, singing beautifully and speaking their words with great confidence.</i></p>
Walker Bears	<p><i>Isabella for explaining how to recognise a half.</i></p> <p><i>Milla for making a wonderful sun safety poster.</i></p> <p><i>All the Walker Bears for a superb concert performance, speaking clearly, singing beautifully and sharing your learning with great pride.</i></p>
Value of the month - Humour	<p><i>Big Cats – Zeeny and Raphael</i></p> <p><i>Red Foxes – Connor and Xavier</i></p> <p><i>Walker Bears – Eliot, James, Aoife</i></p>

Pelicans	Maya and Neithan for super independent writing using adjectives to describe a character.
Puffins	Lylah-Mae for making a wonderful cushion. Emma for writing a fantastic description of a character in English.
Penguins	Kaden for always showing a mature and sensible attitude. Ayaansh for writing excellent descriptions using 'the rule of three'.
Value of the month - Humour	Puffins – Matthew, Nirvana, Mikolaj Penguins – Lavinia, Delilah and Kaden Pelicans – Finn, Hussein, Amelia

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

JULY 2024	
Monday 1 st	INSET DAY
Week of 1 st	Olympic Presentations in class
Tuesday 2 nd	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.
Tuesday 2 nd	ARK Farm visit (Reception classes)
Wednesday 3 rd	Reception Stay and Play, 3.45-4.30pm . For current Nursery children starting in Reception in September.
Thursday 4 th	FROG Summer Fair, 3.15-4.45pm
Friday 5 th	Sports Day practice
Tuesday 9 th	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 10 th	Year 1 Trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park
Wednesday 10 th	Year 2 Scooter Workshop
Thursday 11 th	Moving Up Day
Friday 12 th	Year 1 Victorian Seaside Workshop
Friday 12 th	Nursery Pirate Day
Sunday 14 th	Performance at Todd in the Hole Festival. Children to arrive for 11.15am .
Week of 15 th	ONE WORLD WEEK
Monday 15 th	FROG / PTA Nursery Bedtime Stories
Monday 15 th	South American Dance Workshop
Tuesday 16 th	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th	Rock Steady Concert, 10.00am – <i>by invitation only</i>
Thursday 18 th	Chinese Dragon Workshop
Monday 22 nd	Class Parties – children can come to school in party clothes
Monday 22 nd	Puffins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Monday 22 nd	Pelicans Leavers Assembly – 10.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Penguins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Last day of term – children to wear school uniform. Finish at 2.00pm , no After School Club.



2023 / 24 School Calendar

September '23						
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November '23						
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December '23						
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January '24						
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February '24						
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March '24						
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




April '24						
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May '24						
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June '24						
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July '24						
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August '24						
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-  = Term Time
-  = 22/23 Pupil Holidays
-  = Bank and Public Holidays
-  = 2023/24 Pupil Holidays
-  = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
-  = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)



2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
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October '24						
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November '24						
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December '24						
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January '25						
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February '25						
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March '25						
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




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May '25						
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June '25						
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July '25						
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August '25						
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