



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

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05.07.2024

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,

This week has been absolutely filled with the most wonderful adventures for our children. It started on Tuesday with all our Reception children accessing their own farm experience brought on site especially for them. In this way, all the children were able to enter in small groups and spend very intimate time with the animals, stroking them and learning about them very directly.

Orca Class had its own fabulous Sports Afternoon which took place on Wednesday and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the pupils and parents. Everyone was delighted to see the pleasure shown by the children and to witness the fabulous progress they have made.

And for all the pupils in the school, the highlight of the week was our School Fete, run by the most fantastic FROG team we have had for many, many years. It was an occasion that all our pupils and families absolutely revelled in – a truly awesome whole community event.



An event of this kind takes the most enormous amount of preparation and I simply can't thank our FROGs enough. Huge, special thanks go to the co-Chairs, Toni and Zoe. Everyone put in so much effort and worked together seamlessly. Thank you so so much. Thank you, Vicki, Davine, Mihaela, Alice, Gabiella, Sobere, Sally and our terrific current or former star pupils Cody and Robbie! There are others to thank but I haven't received direct permission to use their names in the newsletter. You know who you are. All those who donated, all those others who helped – thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the stupendous Tombola and the beautiful soft toy prizes. Huge thanks also to Mrs Humphrey, who is our teacher representative on FROGs, and to all the teachers and to Mr Pullin who pulled out all the stops on the day.



Thank you everyone. It was an event that gave all those who participated so much joy – and was a real community-builder. So many, many smiling faces. Last, but not least, a phenomenal £1056 was raised!

This week children have been practising in preparation for Sports Day and Mr Pullin, our brilliant Sports Apprentice, has been preparing all year-groups for the forthcoming Sports Day by giving sessions on Olympic values and standards to all classes, so the children will be fully prepared to participate with great sportsmanship as well as with terrific sporting standards. Now we only have to hope for perfect weather on Tuesday!

Olympic Torch Competition: Congratulations to Alana in Walker Bears who won the Olympic Torch Competition and will be carrying the Olympic Torch on Sports Day! Well done Alana!

We are thrilled to be able to share with you our phenomenal results in the statutory phonics screening check. 76% of our children passed the phonics screening check in Year 1, compared to last year's national average of 78% and 91% of our Year 2 children will move to junior school having passed the check.

Transition continues and our Nursery children visited their new Reception classes on Wednesday after school. For those who were unable to attend, your children will go to their classes on Thursday morning (transition morning across the county). Reception and Year 1 pupils spent time in their next year's classes this afternoon; transition for Year 2 children is detailed in the year group section of this newsletter.

Next week we have Sports Day, Year 1 trip to Shepreth, Scooter Day for Year 2, Nursery Pirate Day, a Seaside all-day workshop for the Year 1 pupils, and of course Moving Up Day.

The following week is One World Week. If you have knowledge, or background in, one or more cultures, we would love for you to come in and speak to the children. We'd love for people to read stories in another language, and then in English. There will be a wide variety of activities taking place over the week and each year-group will choose to focus on a different part of the world. If you are able to contribute to the richness of this experience in any way, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Sports Day is this 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 is next 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.

Nursery: This week in Nursery, the children were excited to hear the special news that we are going to have a Pirate Day! They were eager to begin counting down the number of sleeps until Pirate Day.

In expressive art and design, the children have been busy making sand art, drizzling PVA glue and adding sand. Some children practised writing the letters of their name with the sand and glue. Tillie took great care to write the letters in her name and commented, "You ladies come up with the best ideas!"

The children were delighted to learn the song, 'A Sailor Went to Sea'. They learnt to clap the rhythm of the song and then worked with a partner to clap together. The children were happy to sing and clap with different friends each day and they all had great fun singing this song!

In phonics, the children have practised segmenting and blending. They are becoming more confident using their robot arms to segment a range of words including, 's-u-n', 's-o-ck' and 'l-o-g'. Please encourage your child to listen carefully to the sounds they can hear as they use their robot arms.

In mathematics, the children were keen to use real pennies and £1 coins. They looked carefully at the patterns and pictures on them and shared their experiences of money. Bertie B shared, "Mummy uses money at the shops." The children counted carefully ensuring they pointed to each coin. Well done Ladybirds!

Next week, the children will listen to a range of pirate stories, sing lots of pirate songs and take part in yoga. In physical development, they will jump the waves and learn a special 'walk the plank' move. The children will be preparing invitations for their friends for our Pirate Day which will take place on Friday 12th July.

Reception: On Tuesday, the children had a fantastic visit from Ark Farm. They brought in a range of animals and after a wonderful introduction of questions and answers, the children had the opportunity to get into the large enclosure and handle the animals as well as handling a variety of smaller farm animals. During her visit, Nancy in Barn Owl class said, "The goats use their horns to butt people", Lola from Barn Owl class said, "If you open up the lamb's fur and put your hand in it, it felt nice and cosy," and after visiting the farm, Harrie in Snowy Owl class remembered the fact, "Donkeys can hear your heart beating."

In literacy, the children wrote sentences about which fillings they would like in their sandwiches. The children from each class created a graph to show the popularity of fillings. The most popular filling was honey, with cheese coming in a close second.

In mathematics, the children used coloured cubes to create and continue repeating patterns. The children loved the lesson activity where they created a line of action patterns, for example, one child did two jumps, the next child clapped their hands twice, the next child did two hops and the next child ran on the spot. It was great to see the children choosing what action they would like to do in the pattern.

In understanding the world, the children went outside and used fine brushes to paint a tree in summer bloom. The children's seasons book is now complete and will be passed on to their Year 1 teacher.

Next week in literacy, the children will be writing sentences about what actions they can do in PE. In mathematics, the children will be using small world resources such as farm animals to discuss where animals are positioned on the farm.

Next week will be the final chance for children to choose a library book, as the following week all library books will be collected in.

Year 1: This week in English, the children have continued their Barnaby Bear topic and furthered their knowledge of the RNLI. They have seen how a lifeboat is launched and written questions to find out more about the lifesaving work that the coastguards do. The children revised words to use when starting a question, such as 'why', 'how', 'when' and 'what' and practised punctuating questions with a question mark.

In phonics, the children have continued with the Phase 5 unit on alternative spellings. They have reviewed the spelling of /v/ as in 'van' and learnt the new alternative spelling /ve/ as in 'love' and 'twelve'. They have also reviewed /ow/ as in 'cow' and 'frown' and learnt the alternative spelling /ou/ as in 'round' and 'ground'.

Our Book of the Week was 'The Enchanted Wood' by Enid Blyton. 'The Enchanted Wood' is the first magical story in the Faraway Tree series. When Joe, Beth and

Frannie move to a new home, they discover an enchanted wood just outside their doorstep. Soon they find the Faraway Tree, which is the beginning of many magical adventures. The children will find out what happens next week.

In mathematics, the children have learnt about grouping and making groups equal to set foundations for division.

In computing, the children have continued to work on their animated story books. They have added sound to their text, pictures and animation. At the start and end of the lesson they have shown that they can open and save their work.

In geography, the children have explored maps and learnt the four main points on a compass. They learnt that a map is normally an aerial view or plan. The children imagined being birds flying and looking down at what they could see. They discussed why an aerial view is helpful, by looking at some aerial photos of different types of location. Then the children drew an aerial map of their classroom or playground.

In history, the children have continued learning about seaside holidays in the past and made comparisons with modern day. They have found out about bathing machines and penny licks and compared Victorian swimming costumes with ones typically worn today.

Next week is a very exciting week in Year One. The children shall be taking part in Sports Day on Tuesday and attending their eagerly awaited school trip on Wednesday! They will also have a further opportunity to visit their new classroom and on Friday, they will be travelling back in time to the Victorian period to experience a day at the seaside with a fully immersive history workshop.

Please note that homework books are finished now for this term. Instead, you may like to explore the Shepreth Wildlife Park website with your child in preparation for our trip: [Welcome to Shepreth Wildlife Park](#) or do some research into seaside holidays in Victorian times.

We wish you all a wonderful weekend.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: This week, the Year 2 children have begun their transition to Giles Junior School. They were visited in their classes by their new teachers and learnt a little about the learning habits that the Junior School teach to promote leadership and life skills. Transition will continue next week with an afternoon visit to the Junior School accompanied by their current teachers, followed by Moving Up Day on Thursday, when the children will spend the morning in their new classroom.

This week in English, the children continued to learn to verbally tell the traditional African story of 'The Papaya That Spoke'. They have learnt how to create a detailed description using 'the rule of three', where they describe three things about a character in one sentence; for example, 'The farmer has a big, red nose, an old straw hat and filthy dungarees.' The children have chosen different characters to replace the ones in 'The Papaya That Spoke' and have begun to create a story map, that will help them to write their own version of the story.

In mathematics, the children have learnt about statistics. They have learnt how to make and read tally charts, how to create and read tables and how to record information in block diagrams and pictograms.

In computing, the children explored the work of the surrealist artist Georges Seurat before using clipart to create their own surrealist picture. In music, the children

continued to learn how to play the glockenspiel accompaniment to 'The Sunshine Song'. In PSCHÉ, the children learnt how to be confident to say what they like and don't like and how to ask for help. In geography, they used aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features.

Next week in English, the children will write their own version of 'The Papaya That Spoke'. In mathematics, they will continue to learn about statistics, finding out how to interpret pictograms. In geography, the children will revise the continents and learn how to map the oceans of the world. In PSCHÉ, they will think about what they are looking forward to when they move to junior school.

Please may we remind you that Sports Day takes place next Tuesday 9th July. The Year 2 races will start promptly at 11.15am. Additionally, the Year 2 children will take part in a scooter workshop next Wednesday 10th July. Please remember to return your signed consent slip to confirm you give permission for your child to take part.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

Puffins Class

98.1%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

<i>Ladybird Nursery Classes</i>	<p><i>Amari for excellent listening at carpet time.</i></p> <p><i>Teddie for trying hard to write numbers.</i></p> <p><i>Elsie for super counting of coins.</i></p> <p><i>Sabin for working hard on his letter formation.</i></p> <p><i>Heidi for her independence at Nursery.</i></p> <p><i>Annabelle for always being helpful.</i></p>
<i>Snowy Owls</i>	<p><i>Shaineha for settling well into her new school.</i></p> <p><i>Noah for making repeating patterns independently.</i></p>
<i>Tawny Owls</i>	<p><i>Olaf for demonstrating a brilliant knowledge of repeating patterns.</i></p> <p><i>Alice for writing fantastic independent sentences about her favourite sandwich fillings.</i></p>

Barn Owls	<i>Teddie for demonstrating fantastic knowledge of creating and continuing a range of repeating patterns.</i> <i>Lylac-Mai for beautiful writing when writing sentences about sandwich fillings.</i> <i>Eleonora for being kind and gentle when stroking the animals from Ark Farm.</i> <i>Darcie for being kind and gentle when stroking the animals from Ark Farm.</i>
Red Foxes	<i>Casey for super listening and joining in during carpet time sharing his ideas.</i> <i>Ellie for excellent homework.</i> <i>Kian for a fantastic fact file on lifeboats.</i>
Big Cats	<i>Evie for excellent work in phonics.</i> <i>Charles for super work in history.</i>
Walker Bears	<i>Samuel for a great investigation of textiles in design and technology.</i> <i>Wynter for fabulous knowledge of halves and doubles in mathematics.</i>
Pelicans	<i>Zahraa and Harper for always putting superb effort into their work.</i>
Puffins	<i>Ali for always trying his best with all his learning.</i> <i>Chiara for being a fantastic role model in the class.</i>
Penguins	<i>Megan for fantastic effort in all areas of learning.</i> <i>Ivan for always working hard and trying his best.</i>

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

JULY 2024	
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 23rd

Last day of term – children to wear school uniform.
Finish at **2.00pm**, no After School Club.





Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Looking for something different to keep your child's inquisitive mind active this summer?

We are excited to announce that we will be running STEM Camps on **29th July – 9th August 2024 (2 weeks) at Camps Hill Primary School, SG2 0LT &** and on **12th – 23rd August 2024 (2 weeks) at Longmeadow Primary School, SG2 8LT** from **9 am to 4 pm** each day.

We are at each locations for 2 weeks, with 2 exciting themes with a host of **new activities** [click here](#) to see a few

Week 1 - Robotics, VR and Tech Fun

Program robots, design video games, model 3D creation, experience VR and lasertag, plus much more! A week of inspiration and creation with maximum excitement. We encourage children to experiment and challenge themselves, instilling a variety of exciting, real-world skills.

Week 2 - Minecraft Coding and Lego Engineering

Designed for ultimate fun and education. Students learn circuitry workings using Redstone and coding fundamentals in Minecraft Education edition creating magnificent masterpieces. Then take the virtual world to the real work and make LEGO ingenious inventions with sensors and motors. This week is designed to encourage students to experiment and push the boundaries of their imagination, while developing skills that will aid them in their future.

Our camps are for **ages 5-12**. Spaces are LIMITED and we are giving our best offer yet for bookings **before the end of June** with **1 week at £175**, or **2 weeks at only £299 (individual days also available)**! There are a limited number of HAF spaces available please check the HAF section on our website for more details. Please see the attached flyer for more information or to book now simply visit:

<https://www.nextthing.education/summer-camps/>

2023 / 24 School Calendar

September '23						
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November '23						
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February '24						
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March '24						
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





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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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December '24						
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April '25						
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May '25						
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July '25						
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August '25						
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