



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Assistant Heads: Miss Lisa Hill and Mrs Tania Dalton

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ
Telephone: 01438 359747
Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

13.09.2024

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,

The children across the school seem so settled and happy in their new classes! This has been greatly helped by the relatively kind autumnal weather. Thank you to all those who attended the Talks for Parents held by year groups Reception to Year 2, with Nursery to come next week. The power points for all the talks are available on the school website as the first item on each of the year group pages. It was so wonderful to see so many of you and we hope you found them useful. For parents who were unable to join us due to other commitments, please see the links below for the presentations:

Reception: [Barn Owls, Snowy Owls and Tawny Owls talk for parents](#)

Year 1: [Big Cats, Red Foxes and Walker Bears talk for parents](#)

Year 2: [Pelicans, Penguins and Puffins talk for parents](#)

Inclusion Coffee Morning: Tuesday 17th September, 8.30-9.30am. Come and meet our Special Educational Needs Team, Mrs Ballard and Miss Stanton. We shall also have second-hand uniforms available for a small donation.

Change of contact details: If you moved house or changed your mobile phone number over the holidays, please do let us know so that we can update your child's record. Please email admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk.

Nursery Talk for Parents and Stay and Play: The Nursery Talk for Parents will take place in the school hall on Wednesday 18th September at 2.30pm and 4.30pm. The Nursery team would also like to invite the current Nursery parents and children to a 'stay and play' on Wednesday 2nd October from 3.30-4.15pm. This is an opportunity for you to come and look around the Nursery, see the beautiful displays and meet your child's keyworker.

Nuts and grapes in lunch boxes: Please note that this is a NUT-FREE school so please do check labels as nuts can be hidden ingredients in some products.

Please note also that health and safety advice indicates that grapes – because they are round and soft – are actually a significant choking hazard for young children. Please cut all grapes in half when providing your child with grapes as a snack or in their lunch box.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Pupil Absence: *In line with national Safeguarding procedures, all children must be accounted for daily. If your child will be absent for any reason, please ensure that you let us know either by email, admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk, telephone 01438 359747 or using the Arbor in-App message facility. Please look out for further information regarding school attendance which will be added to the school website over the coming weeks.*

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS: *We have decided to continue with the earlier consultation time so that parents/carers can meet properly with their children's teachers on a 1-1 basis soon after the start of term. This will give you an opportunity to discuss with teachers how your child is settling, as well as ask any individual questions or talk about any concerns.*

The target-setting process is as important as ever and will take place at the same time as in former years – that's to say, in November. Individual sheets showing your child's own next steps will be given to all parents after half-term so that you are able to support your children in their learning.

Consultations will be held during the week of 23rd September for Years 1 and 2 and the week of 21st October for Reception and Nursery.

Years 1 and 2: *Wednesday 25th September 3.45-6.30pm
Thursday 26th September 3.45-6.30pm*

Reception: *Tuesday 22nd October 3.30-5.50pm
Wednesday 23rd October 3.30-5.50pm
Thursday 24th October 3.30-5.50pm*

Nursery: *Wednesday 23rd October 3.00-7.00pm and other appointments to be arranged individually*

Timeslots for consultations will be displayed in classes for you to select one that is convenient.

If you do not drop your children in school, please either call the office on 01438 359747 to ask for a time, or email admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk. We will let class teachers know that you've been in touch so that they can call you back to arrange a time to meet.

We hope very much that the additional separation of consultations for key stage 1 and foundation stage pupils will make this process easier and more convenient for you all.

Bumped Head Text Messages: *You may receive a text message if your child has a bumped head. Please don't worry if you receive a message as this will only be for a small bump where no medical help is needed. If a head bump is more serious, we will always telephone you.*

Any other scrapes etc will be relayed to you at pickup time by the class teacher.

Parent governor: *There is currently a space for a parent governor. If you are interested in applying to this voluntary position, please speak to me or email me on: head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk. Thank you.*

Value of the Month: *The value for September is 'respect'. Respect is a positive way of treating or thinking of someone. It involves recognising their value and importance as a human being and treating them accordingly. Being respectful of other people is an important value. Showing respect means demonstrating a concern for people and treating them as an equal.*

Polite reminders:

- *Bikes and scooters should not be ridden through the school playgrounds. We have lots of very little children who could easily be knocked over. Please walk your bike or scooter to the school entrances before riding them when leaving the school at the end of the day.*
- *Bikes and scooters should only be left in the bike racks and not outside classrooms or padlocked to school gates.*
- *Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds; this includes dogs which can be carried. Dogs must not be left attached to the outside school gates.*
- *Parking – the car park is for staff members only. Under special circumstances, parents can fill in a form requesting a special parking permit which must be displayed in the front of the car if permission has been granted. It is so difficult with such a tiny car park, but health and safety must come first, and cars should not be entering the gates without permission.*
- *Names on uniform and water bottles – please ensure your child's name is on their water bottle and on the inside of their uniform, especially jumpers / cardigans and fleeces.*
- *Children are not allowed to play on the Year 2 climbing frame outside of school hours. We kindly ask that you do not allow your children on the climbing frame.*

Nursery: *The Nursery children are continuing to settle well, including our new starters this week. They have been introduced to the Nursery routines and have been thinking about rules to help them stay safe and look after each other.*

The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing 'roll the ball' and are beginning to learn the names of all their new friends.

Next week, the children will be learning about ladybirds, learning facts about the life cycle of a ladybird, creating a painting of a ladybird and moving like a ladybird. They will learn the name of their group and begin singing the group song; we have the following groups in Ladybird Class: 'square', 'triangle', 'oval', 'rectangle' and 'circle'.

The Nursery teachers will be holding a Talk for Parents in the school hall on Wednesday 18th September at 2.30pm and 4.30pm. This will be an opportunity to learn more about your child's experience at Nursery and speak to the class teachers. Please come to either session. Many thanks, the Nursery team.

Reception: *The Reception children have all settled so beautifully in their classes and are beginning to familiarise themselves with the daily routine and make new friends. They have thought carefully about being sensible in their learning environment and have created their class rules. The children have sorted red/green behaviour posters showing how to be kind and helpful towards each other and watched an e-safety film about being safe when using the internet.*

In understanding the world, the children have begun to find out about autumn. They listened to the story 'Hello Autumn' by Jo Lindley and used autumn coloured tissue paper to make a tree.

The children have been introduced to the Musician of the Month, the British folk singer Ralph McTell. His most famous song is 'The Streets of London'. They are learning interesting facts, such as he can play the guitar, piano and harmonica and he is 77 years old. Throughout the month of September, the children will be listening to different songs he has written.

Next week, the children will be introduced to this half's term's topic theme, 'The Three Little Pigs' and will be given clues to work out which traditional tale they will be focusing on. In literacy, they will be listening to 'The Three Little Pigs' story and will be using Makaton signs to support them telling the story. The children will be creating a story map and using this map to retell the story in their own words.

In mathematics, the children will be sorting a group of animals into their own criteria and describing their reason for sorting them into two groups.

In understanding the world, the children will be finding out about autumn and using their observational skills to draw one particular tree in the school grounds. During the year, the children will be observing the seasonal changes to the tree and using different forms of media such as crayons, charcoal, and paints to record their observations.

In RE, the children will be finding out why people around the world celebrate harvest. In music, the children will be appraising new music, practising finding the pulse in different ways and learning a nursery rhyme with actions. In PSED, the children will be learning about how it feels to belong and that we are similar and different.

The children will begin PE on Tuesday. On PE days, they should come to school in their PE clothes, wearing suitable trainers as PE will be taught outside if the weather is good. Reception PE days are Tuesdays and Wednesday.

Year 1: This week in English, the children learnt all about labels. They discussed why labels are useful and enjoyed spotting labels in non-fiction texts. They learnt that a label is short and needs to be connected to its item. They labelled parts of the body to apply their learning.

Our Book of the Week has been 'Cleversticks' by Bernard Ashley. Please ask your child about the text and discover what Ling Sung could do in the class. You can listen to the story here: [Cleversticks](#).

In handwriting, the children have begun to learn the long-legged giraffe letters. They enjoyed using playdough to warm up their fingers during Dough Disco and learnt the correct formation for the lower-case letters 'l', 'i' and 't', following the patten:

l – start at the top, come all the way down and flick.

i – start at the top, come down and flick. Lift and dot.

t – start at the top, come all the way down and curve. Lift and cross.

The children practised sorting and grouping in mathematics using different criteria such as colour, shape, size or attributes. They also practised counting out from a larger group, reminding themselves to find a way to avoid counting the same item twice. They pointed with their finger, coloured or circled on picture representations, or moved physical objects whilst counting.

In science, the children identified different parts of the body, using the key vocabulary 'head', 'neck', 'arms', 'elbows', 'legs', 'knees', 'face', 'ears', 'eyes', 'hair', 'mouth' and 'teeth'. They will use this knowledge next week to draw and label a picture. The children made self-portrait paper faces in art, looking carefully at their own features to represent them accurately using collage techniques.

In PSHE, the children discussed their rights and responsibilities as members of a class, and what that means. They thought about how we should work together to create a calm and safe learning environment.

Next week in English, the children will learn a poem and develop rhyming strings. In mathematics, they will learn to count on from any number and identify one more than a number. They will also rehearse counting backwards within ten and identifying one less than a number. In computing, the children will begin learning about online safety. They will think about who they could ask for help when using the internet. They will learn that they must always ask a grown up before going online and speak to a trusted adult if they have any worries. You may like to discuss this with your child too.

This Friday, the children will bring home their homework books. Please select one of the suggested activities to complete with your child. There will also be some common exception words to practise reading and writing. Please return the homework books to school by Wednesday 25th September. We hope you have lots of fun supporting your child's learning in this way.

Thank you to all those families who attended the Year 1 parent information talks this week. The presentation is available on the school website: [Big Cats, Red Foxes and Walker Bears talk for parents](#). Parent consultations will take place on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th September from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. Please look out for a clipboard outside your child's classroom next week to book an appointment time. We look forward to meeting you all.

Year 2: This week in Year 2, the children started their topic for this term, 'Life in the UK – then and now'.

To tie in with Roald Dahl Day, the children listened to a shortened version of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. They found out how Charlie and Grandpa Joe sneakily tried Willy Wonka's 'fizzy lifting drinks' and had a go at making their own using cream soda, ice cream and sprinkles. Luckily, none of the children floated away!

Before writing a recount, the children learnt how to include time conjunctions (first, next, then, after that, finally) to explain the order something happened. They had a really good try at writing their recount, including when it happened, who was there and what they did. Some children finished their recount with their opinion.

In mathematics, the children revisited learning from Year 1, focusing on numbers from 50 to 100. They practised counting from 50 to 100, counting in tens to 100, partitioning numbers into tens and ones and recalling one more and one less than numbers to 100. To support your child at home, you can help them count aloud from one to 100. If they are confident counting, give them a two-digit number such as 62 and ask them to tell you how many tens and how many ones make up the number.

In science, the children began our 'healthy me' topic by sharing everything they know already about being healthy. In art and design, the children learnt about different types of line and experimented with different lines. In computing, the children revised how to stay safe online, particularly when playing games. They recalled how they should speak to an adult they trust if anything online gives them a 'funny feeling in their tummy'. They created posters to remind themselves of how to stay safe, using the slogan 'stop, close, tell'.

Next week in English, the children will explore different vegetables and come up with exciting adjectives (describing words) to write a poem about autumn vegetables. In

mathematics, the children will continue to learn about place value. They will learn to compare numbers with the same number of tens and compare any two numbers.

In art and design, the children will learn about the life and work of Paul Cezanne. They will use what they have learnt about line to draw cross-sections of vegetables. In computing, the children will learn what an algorithm is and create their own algorithms. In PSHCE, the children will look at how to be a good friend.

Our autumn newsletter and topic web were sent via email this week. They are also available to view in the class section on our website. A copy of the slides from the parent information session held last week are also available. [Year 2 - Pelicans, Penguins and Puffins](#).

Parent consultation booking sheets will be available outside your child's classroom next week. The consultations are being held on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th September. If you would prefer a consultation over the telephone, please note this on the booking sheet.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

Puffins Class

99.60%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

<i>Snowy Owls</i>	<i>All the Snowy Owl children for settling beautifully into Snowy Owl class.</i>
<i>Tawny Owls</i>	<i>All the Tawny Owl children for settling wonderfully into Tawny Owl class.</i>
<i>Barn Owls</i>	<i>All the Barn Owl children for settling brilliantly into Barn Owl class.</i>
<i>Red Foxes</i>	<i>Chloe Ella for super listening and following instructions. Jude for sitting beautifully on the carpet and sharing his ideas during group discussions.</i>
<i>Big Cats</i>	<i>Luka for settling into Year 1 beautifully. Ibrahim for challenging himself in mathematics.</i>
<i>Walker Bears</i>	<i>Darcie for contributing lovely ideas for how to have a happy and safe classroom. Parker for a super piece of writing 'All About Me'.</i>
<i>Pelicans</i>	<i>Seth for an amazing start to Year 2 and showing fantastic learning behaviours. Isabelle for being a good role model and displaying excellent learning behaviours.</i>

Puffins	<i>Amelia for always demonstrating our class and school rules and being a role model. Parth for writing a fantastic recount about his fizzy lifting drink.</i>
Penguins	<i>Alana for having a positive attitude to her learning. Kian-Marc for super listening and trying his best.</i>

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher



Family Lives Autumn Term Programme 2024

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group
Thursday 19th September to 24 October 7.00pm to 9.00pm OR
Tuesday 8 October to 19 November 9.30am to 11.30am

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our free online group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group
Monday 11 November to 16 December 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Join our free online group to help you be more effective at getting your child to cooperate and listen to you.


Dads Together
Wednesday 6 November to 11 December 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Calling all Dads - join our free online group, come along and receive support from other dads to help you be more effective at getting your child to cooperate and listen to you.

Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop
Thursday 10 October 7-00pm to 9.00pm

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop
Tuesday 26 November 9.30am-11.30am

Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop
Thursday 12 December, 7.00pm to 9.00pm



SCAN ME!

For more information, please contact Louise on **0204 522 8700/8701**, or email services@familylives.org.uk. Please scan our QR code for our referral form.

Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No.1077722. Registered address: The Annex York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5AD



TERM DATES 2024-25

Autumn Term: Monday 2nd September 2024 – 20th December 2024

Monday 2nd September 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 3rd September 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Wednesday 4th September 2024

[Half Term: Monday 28th October 2024 – Friday 1st November 2024]

Monday 4th November 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th November 2024

Friday 29th November 2024 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 20th December 2024 at 1.00pm

[Christmas Holidays: Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025]

Children return to school on Monday 6th January 2025

Spring Term: Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 4th April 2025

[Half term: Monday 17th February 2025 – Friday 21st February 2025]

Children return to school on Monday 24th February 2025

School finishes on Friday 4th April 2025 at 1.00pm

[Easter Holidays: Monday 7th April 2025 – Monday 21st April 2025]

Children return to school on Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Summer Term: Tuesday 22nd April 2025 – Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Monday 5th May 2025 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 26th May 2025 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025]

Monday 2nd June 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Monday 30th June 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
School finishes on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 1.00pm



2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October '24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November '24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December '24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- = Term Time
- = 23/24 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2024/25 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
- = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)

