



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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

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7.2.2025

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 as ever been the most fantastic week in school. Thank you to all those who attended our INCO coffee morning and thank you to our FROG team for supporting – we are so very grateful to you for all the work you do.

Reception had Big Write this week and so much of the work produced shows the most incredible progress! We are so proud of how hard our Reception children have worked this week!

Next week we will be celebrating E-Safety week in school with Mrs Dalton leading a special Safer Internet Day assembly. Lessons and activities will take place throughout E-Safety Week teaching the children skills that will help them to keep safe online. We hope that you find the E-Safety updates we send you useful in supporting your work to keep your children safe when they're on laptops or mobile phones at home. Children in our school are very aware of what it means to be safe online and display their understanding in conversation and in their work.

eSafety: This week's [Wake-Up-Wednesday](#) poster is all about fake news and scams. This is the theme of Safer Internet Day which we will celebrate next week. Please do take a look at the poster over the weekend and have a conversation with your child about how they should always talk to an adult they trust if they have any worries when using a device, and what constitutes personal information that should not be shared online. A collection of Wake-Up-Wednesday posters and other useful information can be found on our e-safety webpage: [The Giles Nursery and Infants' School - eSafety](#)

Bake Sale: Please come along and support our bake sale on Wednesday 12th February after school in the dining hall from 3.15. Store-bought or homemade, all contributions are gratefully accepted; please bring any donations to the school office on the day. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Such events help to raise vital funds to support the school.

School closes at the usual time on Friday 14th February ready for our half-term.

Severe Weather/Public Emergency: If the school has to close due to severe weather/public emergency, we will send you an email and/or text message to advise

whether the school remains open. We will also update the school website with important information on the main page www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

Cold weather: Please make sure your children are wrapped up warmly so that they can really enjoy this bright, cold weather. Please provide your child with a named hat, scarf and gloves for outdoor play - thank you!

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Date 2025: This will take place the week of 9th-13th June. Please can holidays be strictly avoided at this time. Thank you.

Nursery: In Nursery this week, the children had a fantastic time learning about zoo animals and thoroughly enjoyed hearing the story 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell. They eagerly took on the challenge to learn the story and wanted to read it all by themselves. The children loved matching the different zoo animals to each crate, using the vocabulary from the story and showing their amazing recall. Frankie remembered, "The elephant is too big, the giraffe is too tall."

In Expressive Art and Design, the children created spiral snakes with bubble print repeated patterns. They loved creating paper plate monkey faces, their own 'Dear Zoo' story book and using junk modelling to create animal crates. The children enthusiastically joined in with our song of the week 'Old Macdonald had a zoo'. They grunted like camels, munched like giraffes and trumpeted like elephants.



In mathematics, the children ordered zoo animals in size order and showed superb knowledge of 'big, small and medium'. Alora chose to order elephants by size and noticed, "This is a big elephant and this is a small elephant." They were excited to use balance scales to compare the weight of animals and carefully observed which animals were the 'heaviest' and which animals were the 'lightest'.

In PSHCE, the children learnt about different jobs and thought about a job they would like to do when they get older. Benjamin shared, "Ambulance. I want to pick up people when they are sick and take them to the doctor area to make them better." Lyra shared, "A veterinarian. I want to help zoo animals and pets because I love them."

Next week, the children will learn about animals as pets. They will think about what a pet needs, how to take care of a pet and which animals make good pets. The children will have the opportunity to use the vet role play area. If possible, we would love to share any photographs of your child with a family pet. These can be handed to your child's teacher or sent to admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk.

Reception: This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed 'Big Write' linked to the story 'The Gingerbread Girl' by Lisa Campbell Ernst. The children loved the story and predicted the Gingerbread Girl would end up being gobbled up by the fox, but they had a pleasant surprise! Daisy in Barn Owl class said, 'This book is like 'The Gingerbread Man' story, but at the end the girl used her liquorice hair to get the fox.' The children

applied their phonic knowledge to label parts of the Gingerbread Girl such as her liquorice whips for her hair and lollipop shoulders. They wrote a sentence about the character and read their sentence back to an adult.

This week's poem is 'Five Yummy Gingerbread', poet unknown.

*Five yummy gingerbread sitting on a plate.
The first one said, "Boy, we smell so great!"
The second one said, "There's a chill in the air."
The third one said, "I see hungry children everywhere!"
The fourth one said, "I think we had better run!"
The fifth one said, "Here the children come!"
Then the children grabbed one
And with a **MUNCH, CRUNCH, MUNCH!**
The five yummy gingerbread turned into lunch!*

In mathematics, the children enjoyed investigating length. For one of the lesson introductions, the children had to search in their classrooms for either a long or short object and place it in the correctly labelled hoop. The children found the story, 'I can only draw worms' by Will Mabbitt very funny! For the main activity, the children ordered pieces of ribbon by length and made comparisons.

In Understanding the World, the children investigated what would happen to a gingerbread man when placed in water, milk, fruit juice or oil. They had to predict what might happen and then evaluate their findings. Cody in Tawny Owl class predicted what would happen when a gingerbread man was placed in water by saying, 'I think it will get mouldy.'

The gingerbread men were left in the different liquids for a few hours and the children came back to see if their predictions were right and evaluate their findings. Oliver in Tawny Owl class said, 'This one is cracked and they all broke.'



This week with Mrs Clark, the children discussed what they would like to be when they are a grownup. Mya in Snowy Owl class said, 'I want to be a scientist.'

Next week in literacy, the children will be using their phonic knowledge to write a descriptive sentence about another character from The Gingerbread Man story. This time the children will be writing about the main character, the Gingerbread Man.

In mathematics, the children will be listening to the traditional tale of Jack and the Beanstalk and using recycling materials to create a beanstalk. The children will be comparing the differing heights of their beanstalks.

In Understanding the World, the children will be using their senses to investigate the ingredients used to bake a gingerbread man.

Year 1: This week in English, the children have begun their new topic of traditional tales. They revisited old favourites such as 'The Three Little Pigs', 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'Little Red Riding Hood'. They enjoyed making puppets and working in teams to put on their own performances for their peers to watch. They identified familiar story openers such as 'Once upon a time' and enjoyed joining in with repeated phrases such as 'not by the hair on my chinny, chin, chin'. They are beginning to look at some of the characteristics of traditional tales.



Phonics this week has continued with alternative pronunciations. The children revisited the digraph 'er.' They recalled the unstressed vowel sound known as a schwa, pronounced /er/ as in 'letter' and 'farmer' and learnt that it can also make the stressed sound as heard in the word 'herb'. Similarly, they learnt that the 'ch' in 'chip' can sound like /sh/ in 'chef' and /c/ in 'Christmas'. Our Book of the Week was 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear' by Martin Waddell, a heartwarming story of how Big Bear helps Little Bear to overcome his fear of the dark.

In mathematics, the children learnt strategies to use for addition of numbers for a total within 20, including counting on and using number bonds. When learning to count on the children were encouraged to identify the bigger number and then count on the smaller number.

Next week in English, the children will continue to learn about traditional tales and will listen to the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They will write a balanced sentence using the conjunction 'and'. In mathematics, they will continue to learn addition and subtraction strategies. In science the children will start their new topics all about materials. The children will begin their new design and technology sequence to design and make a puppet theatre. They will need an empty cardboard box, such as a cereal box. We would be grateful if you could send in empty boxes with your children next week.

New homework will be coming home today. Please return homework books by 26th February. Finally, please may we remind you that it is now possible to pay for the trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park on Arbor and give your consent for your child to take part. The trip takes place on 28th March.

We wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Year 2: The children have had a wonderful week in Year 2. In English, the children continued to look at non-fiction books about polar animals. They chose an animal to focus on and thought of questions they would like to find answers to. They conducted research using non-fiction books and made notes to answer their questions. They then wrote paragraphs and an introduction to create a fact file about their chosen animal. These will be shared with the children in Year 1, to support their learning about animals in the summer term.

In mathematics, the children have been completing end of unit assessments, which help teachers to monitor progress and plan to address any gaps in learning. They also began a new unit of work about money. They have learnt to count money in pence, to count money using notes and coins and to count money in pounds and pence.

In history, the children compared the expeditions of Sir Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen as they raced to the South Pole. They considered why Amundsen's team was successful while Scott's team was struck by tragedy. In geography, they compared the features of Stevenage to the features of Antarctica. In science, they investigated the best material to use for a sleeping mat whilst on an expedition to the South Pole and in art and design, they used charcoal to create a picture of winter trees.

Next week in English, the children will explore some poetry and write their own poems about rain. In mathematics, they will continue to learn about money. In geography, they will compare the weather in Stevenage and Antarctica and consider why people do not live in Antarctica. In RE, they will learn about Buddhist temples. In PSHCE, they will share and celebrate the progress they have made towards their chosen goal. In art and design, they will add pastels to their piece from last week and in history, they will compare old and new polar clothing.

Next week is also e-Safety week in school, including Safer Internet Day on Tuesday. The children will be reminded of how to stay safe online, focusing on protecting themselves from scams and never sharing personal information. They will think of trusted adults to speak to if they ever feel concerned about something they find online.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

WALKER BEAR CLASS

95.8%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	<i>Clara for super knowledge of creating repeating patterns.</i>
	<i>Jana for excellent recall of the 'Dear Zoo' story.</i>
	<i>Dominik for creating super repeating patterns.</i>
	<i>Gracious for super communicating and sharing new vocabulary.</i>
	<i>Ava B for joining in at carpet time and retelling the 'Dear Zoo' story.</i>
	<i>Betsy for creating fantastic repeating patterns.</i>

Snowy Owls	<p><i>Alex for trying really hard to control a ball in PE.</i></p> <p><i>Amelie for making very good progress with your reading.</i></p>
Tawny Owls	<p><i>Aden for generating brilliant 'wow' words when evaluating the Gingerbread Man experiment.</i></p> <p><i>Evie for fantastic mathematical thinking when investigating long and short.</i></p> <p><i>Gracie for amazing sounding out when writing labels for the Gingerbread Girl.</i></p>
Barn Owls	<p><i>Gracie for fantastic independent work when labelling and writing a sentence during Big Write.</i></p> <p><i>Marshall for demonstrating a super understanding of length when comparing the lengths of ribbons.</i></p>
Red Foxes	<p><i>Oscar M for fantastic, guided reading recalling information from the story.</i></p> <p><i>Zunairah for super independent maths.</i></p>
Big Cats	<p><i>Luka for trying your best with all your learning.</i></p> <p><i>Kiel for a fantastic retell of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff.'</i></p>
Walker Bears	<p><i>Sophie for careful attention to play two notes on the glockenspiel in time with the beat of the music.</i></p> <p><i>Lola for detailed narration of traditional tales as puppet shows.</i></p>
Pelicans	<p><i>Ellie for being a great leader and creating a beautiful fact file on polar bears.</i></p> <p><i>Tigerlily for showing wonderful team work and creating a brilliant fact file on Orcas.</i></p>
Puffins	<p><i>Zachary for making excellent progress in your reading.</i></p> <p><i>Saahirah for always taking care of presentation of your learning.</i></p>
Penguins	<p><i>Alexander for having excellent handwriting all week in both English lessons and handwriting practice.</i></p> <p><i>Roman for writing a fantastic fact file on narwhals.</i></p>

I hope you all have a restful and happy weekend.

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SCHOOL DATES AND EVENTS SPRING TERM 1 2025

Week of 10th February 2025 E-safety Week

2.40 Tuesday 11th February 2025 Safer Internet Day assembly for pupils

3.15 Wednesday 12th February 2025 FROG/PTA Bake Sale

Monday 17th February 2025 - Friday 21st February 2025 HALF TERM

Monday 24th February 2025 Children return to school

3.30 – 6.00 Monday 24th March 2025 Reception parent consultations

3.30 – 6.00 Tuesday 25th March 2025 Reception parent consultations

3.30 – 6.00 Wednesday 26th March 2025 Reception parent consultations

3.30 - 6.30 Wednesday 26th March 2025 Year 1 parent consultations

3.40 – 6.30 Wednesday 26th March 2025 Year 2 parent consultations

3.30 – 6.30 Thursday 27th March 2025 Year 1 parent consultations

3.40 – 6.30 Thursday 27th March 2025 Year 2 parent consultations

TERM DATES 2024/25

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

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

TERM DATES 2025-26

Autumn Term: Thursday 4th September 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025

[Half term: Monday 27th October 2025 – Friday 31st October 2025]

Monday 3rd November 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 4th November 2025

Friday 29th November 2025 – OCCASIONAL DAY SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 19th December 2025 at 1.00pm

[Christmas Holidays: Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026]

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Spring Term: Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026

[Half term: Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026]

School finishes on Friday 27th March 2026 at 1.00pm

Summer Term: Monday 13th April 2026 – Thursday 23rd July 2026

Monday 4th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 25th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026]

Monday 1st June 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Friday 3rd July 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Thursday 23rd July 2025 at 1.00pm

2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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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27	28	29	30	31		

February '25						
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March '25						
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31						

April '25						
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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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	=	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)

2025 / 26 School Calendar

September '25						
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October '25						
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November '25						
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December '25						
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January '26						
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February '26						
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March '26						
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April '26						
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May '26						
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June '26						
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July '26						
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August '26						
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31						

	= Term Time
	= 24/25 Pupil Holidays
	= Bank and Public Holidays
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