



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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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 Money Week and all classes have engaged in rich and diverse activities throughout the week. Please see your child's class section below.

The children have taken part in lots of different activities related to setting strong foundations for understanding money. They have learnt to recognise coins and notes and to understand their values. The children have discussed the difference between needing something and wanting something. They have enjoyed practical activities such as coin-rubbing and coin sorting, as well as calculating amounts. We have been delighted with the knowledge the children have shown us. If you are interested in discussing money with your child further at home, The Natwest Money Sense website has resources for parents: [How To Teach Kids About Money and Finances](#)

Thank you to all the families who came to watch the inspirational Reception Summer Concerts. Our children have done such a terrific range of work, and recited and acted out the story of The Little Red Hen so beautifully! Well done to all our teachers and our dear children.

Open Evening and Book Fair take place next Thursday 20th June: This is a wonderful opportunity to come along and visit the whole school including of course your child's classroom and also all the classrooms in the year-group where they'll be in September. The Year 2 pupils will be special ambassadors for the school!

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

- ***Monday 22nd July at 9.15am – Puffin class***
- ***Monday 22nd July at 10.15am – Pelican class***
- ***Tuesday 23rd July at 9.15am – Penguin class***

Parents/Carers are very welcome to attend.

New Caretaker: We would like to appoint a new caretaker to help us maintain our lovely school. If you know of anyone local with good DIY / maintenance skills who would like to apply, please point them in our direction! Our advertisement and details

of how to apply can be found on this link: [Teacher Recruitment, Hertfordshire UK - Caretaker](#)

We are also hoping to recruit some casual cleaning staff - if you would like further information, please email me!

Sports Day: Sports Day will take place on the morning of Tuesday 9th July. More information will follow nearer the time.

Transition from our Nursery to Reception September 2024: For children who currently attend our Nursery and will be joining our Reception in September 2024, we will be holding a stay-and-play session after school on Tuesday 18th June 2024 from 3.45-4.30pm and we ask that you please attend. Further information and key dates will be sent to you soon.

Nursery Closed on Friday 21st June: The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 21st June 2024. This is in order to allow the children who will be joining us in September 2024 an opportunity to visit with their parents. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Non-uniform Day/Dress Down Day: Our fantastic Friends and Relatives of Giles (FROG) Group is holding our summer fete on Thursday 4th July after school. More details follow but they have asked that we have a special non-uniform day on Friday 28th June. Instead of bringing in the usual donation of £1, they are asking whether children could very kindly instead bring tombola donations. Thank you to our FROGs and thank you everyone for your generosity!

Nursery: This week, the children had a fantastic time learning facts about starfish and looking at non-fiction books about the seashore. They learnt that starfish live in the ocean and can be found in coral reefs, rock pools, tropical shores and even deep down on the ocean floor. They were fascinated to learn that starfish usually have five arms, but some can have as many as 40! The children learnt starfish use colour, pattern and texture to camouflage on sand, coral and rocks. They use camouflage to hide from fish, sea turtles, birds and many more animals.

In expressive art and design, the children were eager to make a starfish from air dry clay. Firstly, they rolled the clay flat and used a star cutter. Then they pinched the points to create the arms of the starfish before using mark making tools to add detail and pattern.

In phonics, the children consolidated their learning on alliteration. They remembered alliteration is when words start with the same sound; for example, 'sausages' and 'sun' both start with the /s/ sound. The children also enjoyed playing the game Silly Soup using objects that rhyme. Everyone enjoyed joining in singing the Silly Soup song, "I'm making silly soup, I'm making soup that's silly, I'm going to put it in the fridge to make it nice and chilly! In goes..." The song is sung to the tune of 'Pop Goes the Weasel'.

The children have been busy creating a surprise and learning a song for Father's Day. Please ask them to sing their special Father's Day song on Sunday. They loved hearing many different stories linked to Father's Day including 'Big Bear, Little Bear' by Tim Warnes. It was very special to hear the children share the reasons why they love their daddies and grandads, and how much they cherish the special hugs and kisses that you give them.

Father's Day I Love You
(sung to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'.)

Daddy, Daddy, you're the best!

*You are greater than the rest!
And I love you, that is true,
Daddy, Daddy, I love you.
Daddy, Daddy, you're the best!
You are greater than the rest!*

As part of our PSHCE learning, please could you send in a photograph of your child as a baby to share with their group. They will be thinking about what they couldn't do as a baby, and how they've grown and changed. In phonics, the children will revisit the letter sound /p/. In understanding the world, they will learn facts and take part in a range of activities linked to jellyfish.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and a happy Father's Day.

Reception: The Reception staff would like to say how proud they are of their children for their performances in the summer class assemblies. They all sang beautifully and loved showing their artwork to the grown-ups.

This week in literacy, the children recalled facts about windmills to write a factual sentence. They used a photograph to help them generate a sentence about a windmill. Examples of sentences generated by the children were 'The blades turn in the wind', 'The sails make electricity' and 'The stones grind the wheat into flour.'

This week has been Money Week. In mathematics, the children loved pretending to be pirates and using coins to subtract from an amount to find a new total. They worked in pairs playing a game of 'pirate treasure'. The first child picked a number card and counted out the number of coins to match the number card and covered their eyes whilst their partner 'stole' some of the coins. The first child then had to work out how many coins have been stolen.

In understanding the world, the children explored the school grounds for signs of summer. They used iPads to take photographs of plants blooming and trees laden with leaves.

Next week in literacy, the children will be listening to the story of 'Stone Soup' by Tony Ross. The children will be writing sentences about which ingredients they would like to add to their 'stone soup'. In mathematics, the children will be sharing an amount in different ways and in understanding the world, the children will discover how bread is made in a bread machine and they will be using their muscles to knead their ball of dough when making a bread roll.

Year 1: This week has been Money week. The children have been learning the names of the coins and notes and ordering them by value from lowest to highest. They enjoyed investigating the different size and shapes of the coins and making comparisons. Parth and Jacob from Big Cats also shared some currencies from around the world which their peers enjoyed exploring.

In English, the children have continued to explore the features of the non-fiction text, 'Seashore' by Louise and Richard Spilsbury. They have researched two different beaches in England, Flamborough Head and Walton-On-The-Naze, and recorded some fascinating facts about them.

In phonics, the children have been taking part in the Phonics Screening Check. We would like to say a huge well done to our children for working so hard throughout the task.

Our Book of the Week was 'Man on the Moon' by Simon Bartram. Bob has a very special job – looking after the moon! He knows almost everything about it, but there's

one thing he's blissfully unaware of Please click on the link to listen to the story and find out what Bob is unaware of. [Man on the Moon](#)

The children have been finding one more and one less from a given number in mathematics. In Fluency Bee, they have been identifying odd and even numbers.

In PE, the children have been practising key skills for Sports Day. They have been using hoops, potatoes and spoons and skipping ropes, as well as practising sprinting. They have also been learning how to cheer each other on to motivate and inspire everyone taking part.

The children have been making careful observations of the trees in science and Forest School. They have learnt the key vocabulary of 'evergreen' and 'deciduous'.

In PSHE, the children have been developing their understanding about change. They have been learning that growing up is natural and everybody grows at different rates.

The children have enjoyed using mixed media to create a seascape picture in art. They used a blue wash to paint the sea and sky, added real sand for a textured element and used card to make boats for their seaside scene.

In history, the children discovered that the significant individual they looked at last week was Queen Victoria. The children found out all about her life and the role she played in the Victorian period.

The children completed their coding unit by designing their own computer programme. They selected a background and wrote code for objects to move around the screen.

Next week in English, the children will be finding out all about rockpools. They will also be designing posters to promote keeping beaches safe and tidy. In mathematics, the children will be moving onto the next unit of learning, counting in twos, fives and tens. We would love the children to bring in a photograph of themselves as a baby to support them with their PSHE lesson next week. If you can, please send in a baby photograph at the start of next week. Thank you if you have already sent a photograph in.

We wish you a relaxing weekend.

Year 2: *It has been a busy week in Year 2 with some fantastic learning taking place. This week the children have enjoyed taking part in Money Week activities, including discussing what items are needs and wants, how to keep money safe and how to save money. They explored how they can protect the planet as well as taking care of what they have and saving money at the same time. The children looked at the values of different coins and the jobs various people do to earn money.*

In English, the children have continued to explore the story 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers. They have written exciting diaries from the viewpoint of the boy from the story and have looked at the variety of conjunctions used throughout the story. They have written a book review and used the conjunction 'because' to explain why.

In mathematics, the children have continued deepening their knowledge of fractions by learning how to recognise and find a third of shapes and amounts.

In science, the children learnt how to look after different animals as pets. In computing, they created digital artwork in the style of pointillism. In music, the children listened to music and shared their thoughts about it. They continued to learn the words for 'The Sunshine Song' and learnt how to play the glockenspiel for the next part of the song. In PSHCE, they identified and discussed the natural process of

growing from young to old. In design and technology, they learnt how to sew using a running stitch.

Next week, the children will write an extension for the story 'How to Catch a Star'. They will write about what the boy does with the star now that he has caught it. In mathematics, they will continue to learn about fractions and the relationship with division. In PSHCE, the children will look at items and identify what age group they belong to.

The children are looking forward to being ambassadors for our open evening. Please remember to return reply slips to your child's class teachers.

Please remind your children to come to school with their biggest smile for class photos on Thursday!

We hope you have a wonderful weekend and a fantastic Father's Day.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PELICAN CLASS

99%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	<i>Misha for carefully adding detail to his starfish. Ava for an amazing drawing of her daddy. George for super recall of starfish facts. Clara for making a beautiful starfish. Chayson for exploring more activities in Nursery. Aariya for making a lovely starfish.</i>
Snowy Owls	<i>All the children in Snowy Owl class for performing a brilliant class assembly.</i>
Tawny Owls	<i>All the children in Tawny Owl class for performing a wonderful class assembly.</i>
Barn Owls	<i>All the children in Barn Owl class for performing a fantastic class assembly.</i>
Red Foxes	<i>Millie for a super piece of writing describing Flamborough beach.</i>

	<i>Marliya for showing a huge improvement in her reading.</i>
<i>Big Cats</i>	<i>Jacob for excellent work on coins during money week.</i> <i>Ava for taking care on her map of the United Kingdom, when learning about islands.</i>
<i>Walker Bears</i>	<i>David for writing a lovely fact file about a seahorse.</i> <i>Odin for looking carefully at leaves to identify them as deciduous or evergreen.</i>
<i>Pelicans</i>	<i>Hanna for being an excellent role model.</i> <i>Nayla for writing a fantastic diary entry.</i>
<i>Puffins</i>	<i>Lorenz for creating a wonderful picture in the style of pointillism artists using Purple Mash.</i> <i>Fredrick for having a fantastic understanding of how to look after a pet.</i>
<i>Penguins</i>	<i>Delilah for having a positive attitude and showing greater independence with her reading.</i> <i>Zain for showing greater focus during English lessons.</i>

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

JUNE 2024	
<i>Sunday 16th</i>	<i>Father's Day</i>
<i>Tuesday 18th</i>	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.
<i>Tuesday 18th</i>	Reception Stay and Play, 3.45-4.30pm . For current Nursery children starting in Reception in September.
<i>Thursday 20th</i>	Clean Air Day – School Council assembly
<i>Thursday 20th</i>	Class Photograph Day with Kittle
<i>Thursday 20th</i>	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, 5.30-7.00pm <i>Book Fair also open from 3.15-3.45pm on Friday, Monday and Tuesday</i>
<i>Friday 21st</i>	NURSERY CLOSED TO ALL CURRENT CHILDREN – visit day for children starting in September 2024
<i>Tuesday 25th</i>	Welcome to Reception talk for parents/carers, 5.00-5.45pm
<i>Wednesday 26th</i>	Big Cats Summer Concert, 2.30pm
<i>Thursday 27th</i>	Walker Bears Summer Concert, 1.30pm
<i>Thursday 27th</i>	Red Foxes Summer Concert, 2.30pm

JULY 2024	
<i>Monday 1st</i>	INSET DAY
<i>Week of 1st</i>	Olympic Presentations in class
<i>Tuesday 2nd</i>	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.
<i>Tuesday 2nd</i>	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.
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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October '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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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
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