



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

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**07.06.2024**

**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 have come back to school so happily and clearly had a really relaxing, enjoyable break. They are all ready to re-engage with learning and have had a fantastic week back in school. They have entered into their new topics with enormous enthusiasm and teachers had prepared enticing 'hooks' to excite them further, as you will read in the year-group sections below.***

***Next week is going to be another terrific week for the children as it is Money Week, led by Mrs Dalton and Mrs Simmons. This week combines interesting mathematical investigations involving money with learning about the importance of saving and looking after your money – so there are links with the British Citizenship curriculum as well.***

***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:***

[https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,caretaker\\_94516.htm](https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,caretaker_94516.htm)

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

***Value of the month: Our value of the month for June is Humour. Humour can help us face each day with a positive attitude. Enjoying a joke and making sure we laugh each day is good for the soul and makes our school a happy place to be!***

***Sports Day: Sports day will take place on the morning of Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July. More information will follow nearer the time.***

***Open Evening and Book Fair (Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June): Please note this date for your diary: we will be holding a whole school Open Evening on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 5.30-7.00pm. The Book Fair will also be here. 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 receiving a letter from their teacher outlining their special roles on that evening.*

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> June:** *The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> July after school. More details follow but they have asked that we have a special non-uniform day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 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:** *The children settled back in wonderfully this week and enjoyed getting involved in lots of water activities. They were excited to find a new outdoor kitchen area with pots and pans, scoops and whisks and special potion bottles. Molly F said, "I'm making perfume for my friends." Mina used a scoop to fill her pan and commented, "Chocolate cake!" It was wonderful to see and hear the children using their imaginations in our new kitchen area.*

*The children spotted two soft toy crabs sitting with our class ladybird and noticed the crabs didn't look the same. They were excited to learn more about the different types of crabs and Myles shared, "That's a hermit crab." The children learnt facts about crabs and looked carefully in non-fiction books for information. Annabelle remembered, "Crabs can move in all directions, but they are fastest sideways." Harrison recalled that the Japanese spider crab was the largest crab in the world.*

*In expressive art and design, the children have been busy making starfish and crabs. They looked carefully at photographs and decorated a starfish with pasta shells to create a spiny texture. The children have shown tremendous perseverance when using scissors, and great control and skill cutting out the claws for their crabs.*

*In phonics, the children loved playing a game of 'which one?'. They listened carefully to the segmented words and pointed to the item they thought it was. Super listening, Ladybirds!*

*Next week, the children will learn facts about starfish and create air dough starfish. In expressive art and design, they will make a surprise and learn a special song for Father's Day. In phonics, they will practise identifying words that rhyme through the game 'silly soup'.*

*The Nursery Team*

**Reception:** *This week the children have focused on windmills. They found out how a windmill operates and how very large and heavy stones grind the wheat into flour. The children absolutely loved the short, animated story of 'The Windmill Farmer' by Joaquin Baldwin (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nd9OuX7Bd4>).*

*In a mathematics activity linked to art and design, the children used a cardboard tube to create a 3D windmill. They used a bradawl to pierce a hole through the cross of their*

windmill sails to enable them to attach the sails to the windmill building. The children cut out a door and window. When choosing a colour for his windmill's door, Noah in Barn Owl class asked, "Please may I have claret? Claret is one of the colours on the West Ham football kit."

In mathematics, the children worked in pairs sorting 3D shapes according to their chosen criteria. Some children chose to sort the 3D shapes if they were all spheres, while others chose to sort 3D shapes according to the colour or the shape of the face on the 3D shape. One half of the pair had to work out how their partner had sorted the shapes whilst the other child had to explain the 'rule' they used for sorting. When sorting 3D shapes and identifying 2D shapes, Layla in Snowy Owl class said, "This is a circle."

All week the children have been busy practising their class assemblies in preparation for presenting them next week. The Reception assemblies are as follows:

Barn Owl class on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15am  
Tawny Owl class on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15am  
Snowy Owl class on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15am

If your child is in Barn Owl class, they will need to bring in a named baseball cap for their assembly on Tuesday as a prop for one of the songs.

Next week in literacy, the children will be writing a factual sentence about a windmill. In mathematics, the children will pretend to be pirates and use coins to subtract from a total to find the new amount. In understanding the world, the children will be investigating the school grounds looking for signs of summer.

Year 1: The children have settled back into a wonderful week of learning, having enjoyed the half term break.

In English, they have begun their new 'Seashores' topic. The children began the week by generating a range of questions about their new topic. The children learnt how to structure a question using question words, such as 'what', 'who', 'where', and 'why'. They also learnt to punctuate using a question mark. They explored the features of the non-fiction text 'Seashore' by Louise and Richard Spilsbury before starting to compile their own fact book about seashores. The children wrote captions about rocky and sandy seashores.

In phonics, the children recapped the phase 2, 3 and 5 sounds and practised spelling the common exception words. They used their robot arms to segment and blend a selection of real and pseudo words, adding sound buttons and generating sentences.

Our Book of the Week was 'Silly Billy' by Anthony Browne. Billy is a bit of a worrier. He worries so much, he can't sleep. Luckily Grandma knows just what he needs to help him overcome his fears. Isabella in Walker Bears was inspired by the story to make her own worry doll! Please click on the link to listen to the story and find out what happens: [Silly Billy](#)

In mathematics, the children used the part whole model to identify the tens and ones within two-digit numbers from 20 to 50. They used manipulatives to represent the tens and ones.

In history, the children looked carefully at a painting of a young Queen Victoria. They looked for clues to work out who the person could be. The children made predictions that the person could be wealthy, royal, and live in a castle. Next week, the children will find out all about her life and the role she played in the Victorian period.

*In computing, the children continued their coding unit by adding a new scene to their programme. They wrote code for objects to move around the screen and for the objects to react when clicked. In PE, the children began to learn the key skills needed to be an effective runner. They practised running races ready for Sports Day.*

*The children began their new Jigsaw unit called Changing Me. They learnt about life cycles. They sequenced the life cycle of a frog and discussed how we, as humans, also change and grow.*

*Next week is Money Week. The children will be exploring coins and notes and taking part in a variety of money related activities. If you have any spare coins at home, we would love to use them in our money week activities. The children will make coin rubbings and observational drawings of the different amounts. Please send the coins in a named envelope if you have any we could use. We are most grateful for your support in this way.*

*In English, the children will continue to learn about seashores. Next week is also the statutory phonics screening check. The children will complete this check with their class teacher on a one-to-one basis. Further information can be found here: [Phonic check information](#)*

*In PSHE, the children will continue to look at life cycles. We would love the children to bring in a photograph of themselves as a baby to support them with this lesson. If you can, please send in a baby photograph at the start of next week.*

*We wish you a relaxing weekend.*

*The Year 1 Team*

*Year 2: The Year 2 children have enjoyed a lovely first week back after the half term break.*

*In English, the children have been exploring the story, 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers. They created a story map to show the different ways the boy in the story tried to catch the star and came up with lots of ideas of how they might catch a star. Their ideas were very imaginative and included jumping on a trampoline, using a jet pack and bouncing on a pogo stick!*

*In mathematics, the children have begun to learn about fractions. They have explored parts and wholes and equal and unequal parts. They have learnt how to recognise and find a half and a quarter of shapes and amounts.*

*In science, the children learnt about food chains and used pictures of animals to create some examples. In computing, they looked at the work of some impressionist artists and created digital artwork in the same style. In music, the children learnt to sing 'The Sunshine Song' and began to learn how to accompany the music on a glockenspiel. In PSHCE, they explored and recognised lifecycles in nature, including a butterfly, a chicken and an oak tree.*

*Next week, the children will continue to explore the story 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers. They will write a diary entry as if they were the boy, write a book review and plan an extension to the story. In mathematics, they will continue to learn about fractions. They will learn how to recognise and find a third of shapes and amounts and the difference between unit and non-unit fractions.*

*In science, the children will research how to look after a pet. In computing, they will look at pointillist art and create digital artwork in the same style. In music, the children will continue to learn 'The Sunshine Song'. In PSHCE, they will identify the*

*natural process of growing from young to old and understand that this is not something we can control. In design and technology, they will learn how to sew using running stitch.*

*Next week is also Money Week, which is a national activity week that aims to get children thinking about financial matters. This year's theme is saving money and protecting the planet. The children will take part in a range of activities to explore how they can reduce waste and take care of what they have. For more information about Money Week and some ideas of how you can take part at home, please visit: [Young Enterprise - Primary Home Learning Guide](#)*

*We hope you have a lovely weekend.*

*The Year 2 team*

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY**

**TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK**

## **BIG CATS CLASS**

**97.4%**

**FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!**



### **STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<i>Tillie for brilliant segmenting and blending in phonics.</i> <i>Kai for having lots of fun making a starfish.</i> <i>Harrison for fantastic work ordering numbers to ten.</i> <i>Alex for independently drawing a picture of a crab.</i> <i>Alexandra for super work ordering numbers to ten.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<i>Elliott for making a fantastic windmill.</i> <i>Ishanvi for sorting 2D and 3D shapes using her own criteria.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<i>Reggie for amazing singing in our concert rehearsals.</i> <i>Muna for amazing 3D shape recognition.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<i>Diana for working independently to create a super 3D windmill.</i>

	<i>Katinca for super sorting of 3D shapes using her own criteria.</i>
<i>Red Foxes</i>	<i>Zac for super mathematics using a part whole model to show the tens and ones.</i>  <i>Ariana for writing an excellent description comparing a rocky and sandy seashore.</i>
<i>Big Cats</i>	<i>Zachary for working really hard on his reading.</i>  <i>Zuzanna for sharing super knowledge about the seashore in English.</i>
<i>Walker Bears</i>	<i>Clark for always being a role model for how to be ready for learning in school.</i>  <i>Isaac for showing great resilience in PE when creating a dance.</i>
<i>Pelicans</i>	<i>Hussein for settling well and trying his best all week.</i>  <i>Nkazi for demonstrating how to skip to the Year 1 children.</i>
<i>Puffins</i>	<i>Viraat for challenging himself in mathematics.</i>  <i>Madision for creating a wonderful story map in English.</i>
<i>Penguins</i>	<i>Emelia-Ruby for her positive attitude to learning.</i>  <i>Maryam for excellent contributions during whole class learning activities.</i>

*Kindest regards,*

*Rouane Mendel*  
*Headteacher*

### *School Calendar Dates 2023/24*

<b>JUNE 2024</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET DAY
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
Week of 10 <sup>th</sup>	MONEY WEEK
Week of 10 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory phonics screening check for Year 1 pupils
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Summer Concert, Barn Owls, <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Summer Concert, Tawny Owls, <b>9.15am</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Summer Concert, Snowy Owls, <b>9.15am</b>
<i>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Father's Day – diary note</i>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	SEN/Inclusion team Drop-In, <b>8.50-9.30am</b> . If you have something you would like to discuss with our specialist team, do drop by for coffee.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Stay and Play, <b>3.45-4.30pm</b> . For current Nursery children starting in Reception in September.
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Clean Air Day – School Council assembly
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photograph Day with Kittle
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, <b>5.30-7.00pm</b> <i>Book Fair also open from 3.15-3.45pm on Friday, Monday and Tuesday</i>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	NURSERY CLOSED TO ALL CURRENT CHILDREN – visit day for children starting in September 2024

Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome to Reception talk for parents/carers, <b>5.00-5.45pm</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Big Cats Summer Concert, <b>2.30pm</b>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Walker Bears Summer Concert, <b>1.30pm</b>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Red Foxes Summer Concert, <b>2.30pm</b>

JULY 2024	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	INSET DAY
Week of 1 <sup>st</sup>	Olympic Presentations in class
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	SEN/Inclusion team Drop-In, <b>8.50-9.30am</b> . If you have something you would like to discuss with our specialist team, do drop by for coffee.
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	ARK Farm visit (Reception classes)
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Reception Stay and Play, <b>3.45-4.30pm</b> . For current Nursery children starting in Reception in September.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day practice
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Scooter Workshop
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Moving Up Day
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Victorian Seaside Workshop
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Pirate Day
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Performance at Todd in the Hole Festival. Children to arrive for <b>11.15am</b> .
Week of 15 <sup>th</sup>	ONE WORLD WEEK
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	FROG / PTA Nursery Bedtime Stories
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	South American Dance Workshop
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Rock Steady Concert, <b>10.00am</b> – <i>by invitation only</i>
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese Dragon Workshop
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Class Parties – children can come to school in party clothes
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Puffins Leavers Assembly – <b>9.15am</b>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Pelicans Leavers Assembly – <b>10.15am</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Penguins Leavers Assembly – <b>9.15am</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Last day of term – children to wear school uniform. Finish at <b>2.00pm</b> , 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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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- = Term Time
- = 23/24 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2024/25 Pupil Holidays
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