



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

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

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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 a fantastically exciting, busy week in school. County conducted an inspection over two days; it was completed yesterday and I am absolutely delighted to be able to share with you that we were graded Outstanding in every area. I'm just so proud of all our staff and our wonderful children.

This week in Nursery, the children have been deeply engaged in their work on frogs; all children have visited our pond in small groups and the final group was lucky enough to meet Mr Croaker himself!

In Reception it has been the loveliest opportunity to have beautiful chicks in school all week; the Reception classes have done some amazing work based on this experience and almost every class was able to spend time observing and holding them.

Year 1 has had an extraordinary week starting on Monday with the mini-Olympics (with our three classes coming first, second and third amongst all the same-aged children in the partaking schools! A resounding success! They have also met the Gruffalo in our woodland area – and visited Sishes Wood to see the bluebells. What a fabulous week!

Year 2 also took part in the mini-Olympics – with Penguin Class coming first amongst Year 2 schools taking part across Stevenage. Well done to our pupils and to our committed PE team!

Support caretaker/handiperson: We would love to hear from you if you are a practical person and might be interested in doing some additional hours in the school helping us to look after our environment. Simple plumbing – if you're reasonably handy with tools, this might be the job for you. This might potentially suit someone who is retired or who has time to help out during the day.

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.

Reception and Junior School (September 2024) Allocation Day: Allocation Day was Tuesday 16th April, when parents will have received notification from Hertfordshire County Council with their child's school allocation for September 2024. The deadline for the acceptance of places is Friday 3rd May 2024. If you have any questions regarding your allocation, please contact Hertfordshire Admissions, as we are unable to assist with this.

Nursery school places for September 2024: There are a few places available in our Nursery Class from September 2024 – if you would like to visit, please contact the school for an appointment. We ask our families to share this information with friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2024. Eligible children will have birth dates between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021.

Walk to School week, 20th to 24th May 2024: We are excited to be taking part in Walk to School week this May. Not only does walking have many health benefits, but it also helps to reduce congestion and carbon emissions, making the world a healthier place for us all. We want to encourage all our pupils to try and walk, cycle or scoot to school during Walk to School week. If it's not possible to walk all the way, then it would be great if you could park ten minutes away from school and walk or scoot the last part of your journey. We will be keeping a record of how children travel to school that week, and there will be a prize for the class who walk, cycle or scoot the most.

May half term club: Sports 2 Inspire are running a half term camp at The Giles Junior School from 28th to 31st May. The company is run by Mr Guerfi, who is well known and celebrated within the junior school for working with some of the children on emotional regulation and sport. The camps are open to children from Reception to Year 6. For more information, please call 07932 688 067 or email info@sports2inspire.co.uk.

Nursery: Nursery had a fantastic week, continuing their topic on water and learning about frogs. They were excited to receive a special letter from Croaker the frog inviting them to come and see him at the school pond. The children were truly excited to visit nature and all the children showed incredible respect and kindness towards our world. They saw dragonflies, water boatman, pond skaters and many more minibeasts around the pond. Triangle group were incredibly lucky to see a frog. Christie spotted the frog and gasped, "It's a froggy!" Jamie peered into the tank and exclaimed, "It's Croaker!" Daisy spotted pond skaters on the water and whispered, "Look there's lots of them. I love it, this is the best! I love it at the pond."

The children were eager to learn more facts about frogs and creatures they might see at the pond. They learnt that frogs eat worms, insects and flies and that tadpoles eat algae from the pond. The children made fantastic guesses about how long it takes for a tadpole to turn into a frog. Wolfie guessed, "I think five weeks." Vincent guessed, "ten days." They were amazed to find out that it takes 14 weeks!

In expressive art and design, the children made colourful sparkly frogs, beautiful tissue paper lily pads and explored fantastic pond life tuff trays. They learnt the song, 'Little Tommy Tadpole'.

*Little Tommy Tadpole began to weep and wail.
For little Tommy Tadpole had lost his little tail!
His mother didn't know him as he sat upon a log.
For little Tommy Tadpole was now mister Thomas Frog!*

The children were excited to hear the story, 'The Koala Who Could' by Rachel Bright. They listened beautifully to the tale of Kevin the koala who was afraid to try anything new and stayed high up in his tree. Josh shared, "We did something new; we went to the pond!" Misha said, "I wasn't scared at the pond."

In phonics, we learnt the letter sound /t/ and the children have practised saying 'tiger', 'tin', 'toothbrush', 'tape measure' and many more. They also learnt the song 'When I watch the tennis game, /t/, /t/, /t/, /t/, /t/, /t/. When I watch the tennis game, my head goes back and forth', sung to the tune of 'The Muffin Man.'

Next week, the children will continue to learn about animals at the pond. They will read the story 'Come on, Daisy' by Jane Simmons and take part in a range of linked activities. In phonics, they will learn the letter sound /p/ and consolidate their understanding of words that rhyme.

Reception: This week in Reception, the children have visited all ten chicks regularly throughout the week and are amazed at how quickly they have grown. Their wings and feathers are developing, and they are cheeping very loudly. Today the chicks were collected and are now off to live on a farm near Welwyn where they will be raised as free-range chickens.

All the Reception children had an opportunity to hold the chicks this week. When Elliott in Snowy Owl class held a chick, he said, "It was soft, and its wings were up. I thought it was going to fly!" and Mason in Barn Owl class said, "The chick's claws were a bit sharpish on my hand and some of the food dropped onto my hands. I could see the scales on the feet and its feathers were softer than my hair."

In understanding the world, the children looked at the life cycle of a hen and learnt a range of facts on chicks. They created their own life cycle of a hen using a range of media. Did you know that chickens have dreams just like us and they have their own 'language' of over thirty chicken sounds? The children watched an amazing video showing the chicken embryo development and have been fascinated by how a chick grows inside the eggshell.

In literacy, the children generated alliterative sentences linked to animals of their choice; for example, 'the cow is cross', 'the snake is slithering', and 'the kangaroo is kind'. When generating an alliterative sentence, Isla in Tawny Owl class said, "The cat is carrying corn." The children loved playing an animal alliteration game, as well as challenging their class teacher to make an alliterative sentence using their name! In mathematics, the children worked with a partner to count to numbers beyond 20 and played a game taking counters away from three tens frame. Some children noticed patterns on the tens frame or noticed when the same number on the dice was thrown consecutively.

Next week in literacy, the children will be writing sentences about a chick using their phonic knowledge to sound out words. They are continuing to develop their sentence structure using a capital letter and a full stop.

In mathematics, the children will be adding from a given number and in art and design, the children will be learning facts about five common breeds of British hen and using their observation skills to create a collage hen of their choice.

This month, the Musician of the Month is the rock band, Queen. The children have found out that the original name for the band was 'Smile' and Queen had over fifty hit songs.

Year 1: What an absolutely wonderful week we have had in Year 1! All the Year 1 children made us feel so proud as they walked to and from Sishes Wood for our science outing. It was delightful to watch them exploring this ancient woodland, seeking out different types of plants and enjoying playing amongst the bluebells and trees. They are a credit to their families.

Not only did the children make us feel proud on the school trip, they also excelled in the mini-Olympics event on Monday, with the three classes taking the gold, silver and bronze positions in the competition in which two other schools competed. Well done Walker Bears, Big Cats and Red Foxes!

To top it all, we started our new English topic with an intriguing piece of detective work. The children followed mysterious footprints to our school woodland area, where many other clues to the suspected visitor were distributed amongst the trees. The children read the words, examined the pictures, debated what they were noticing, and considered what it could possibly all mean. When the creature revealed itself, there were squeals of delight to discover a Gruffalo had come to school! Back in the classroom, the children listened to the story of 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler. They learnt to retell the story using actions to help them remember all the keywords and then made story maps. The children are very excited by the topic.

In phonics the children revised the digraphs 'ew', 'ph', and 'oe'. They practised the two sounds made by 'ew' as heard in the words 'stew' and 'screw'. The children practised reading real and alien words, as well as completing other activities such as phoneme spotters, and reading games.

Our Book of the Week was 'The Smeds and the Smoos' by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler. An animated adaptation of the story is available on BBC I-Player.

In mathematics, the children learnt a range of subtraction strategies, including counting back, using number bonds, and finding the difference.

This week in PSHE, the children considered how they like to be greeted. Some might like a hug, others prefer a high five, others still may prefer just a wave. The children were able to tell their teachers what they each like.

In PE, the children continued to develop their skills in rounders by learning to hit a ball with a bat and to think strategically about when to run and when to stop at a base in order to avoid being caught out. They practised fielding skills, including the position of backstop, and working as a team to effectively cover the area. They enjoyed using the school field.

The children learnt further coding skills in computing. This week they expanded their skills by learning to include an event in their algorithm. This has added to their knowledge from last week of an object and an action. The children enjoyed programming the code to make bubbles move on the screen or pop when clicked.

Next week in English, the children have a grammar focus on verbs and apostrophes for contractions. They will use the text of 'The Gruffalo' to find them. They will also learn a song about The Gruffalo. In mathematics, they will learn that addition and subtraction are related and consolidate their addition and subtraction strategies. In phonics, they will revise the digraphs 'au' and 'ey' and will begin to review the split vowel digraphs.

Please could you start to save any plastic fruit punnets you might have, such as those that berries are sold in, and send them into school. The children will be using them as seed trays as part of their science learning this term.

We hope you enjoy the long bank holiday weekend, and we look forward to seeing all the children in school again on Tuesday.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: The Year 2 children had a wonderful start to the week, as they took part in a mini-Olympics festival organised by Stevenage Sporting Futures. The children completed various activities including sprinting, throwing, catching and jumping. All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Erika in Penguin class said, "I really enjoyed working as a team to put all the beanbags in the hoops." Dollie Rae in Pelican class said, "I loved the sprinting activity" and Alfie in Puffin class said, "I liked the throwing and I even managed to get a quoit in the hoop." Out of the other local infant schools that took part, Penguin class came first in Year 2. What a fantastic achievement and well done to all of the children for taking part.

In English this week, the children learnt the key features of a recount before writing about our trip to RPSB Rye Meads. The children used success criteria to self-assess their writing and check they had included all the key features, including an introduction, past tense verbs, time conjunctions and adjectives and adverbs to add more detail. It was lovely to read about their favourite parts of the trip.

In mathematics, the children spent the week focusing on length and height. They learnt how to measure in centimetres using a ruler and how to measure in metres using a metre stick. They learnt how to compare lengths and heights and how to order objects from smallest to largest. The children have really enjoyed this unit of work, exploring the classroom to find different objects to measure, including themselves!

In science, the children learnt about the different animal habitats that can be found in the UK. This included a coastal habitat, a pond habitat, a woodland habitat, and an urban habitat. The children worked in groups to sort animals into their habitats before drawing the school's own woodland habitat and the animals that can be found living in it.

In RE, the children explored what happens at a Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah ceremony. In computing, they learnt how to create a binary tree. In PSHCE, the children learnt some positive problem-solving techniques to resolve conflicts with their friends.

In English next week, the children will use non-fiction texts to learn about the Great Fire of London. In mathematics, they will learn about mass, capacity and temperature. In science, the children will investigate if animals live in habitats that match their colour. In RE, the children will learn about the Sikh ceremony of Dastar Bandi and in computing, they will continue to learn about binary trees. In PSHCE, the children will talk about secrets, when they should be kept, and when they should be shared. In art and design, they will look at the work of Claude Monet and create tissue paper flower meadows.

We hope you have enjoyed practising the Sponsored Spell words with your child. The Sponsored Spell will take place next Friday 10th May, and sponsorship money should be returned to school by Friday 17th May, thank you.

The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

WALKER BEARS CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	<p><i>Yoosuf for excellent imagination playing with the small world farm.</i></p> <p><i>Wolfie for showing fantastic rhyming skills.</i></p> <p><i>Bear for super observations at the pond.</i></p> <p><i>Mollie for brilliant recognition of rhyming words.</i></p> <p><i>Hashir for showing super control when cutting out a paper frog.</i></p> <p><i>Daisy for fantastic observations at the pond.</i></p>
Snowy Owls	<p><i>Amelia for counting to 20.</i></p> <p><i>Ivy for wonderful alliteration.</i></p>
Tawny Owls	<p><i>Carina for writing a fantastic alliterative sentence using her phonic knowledge.</i></p> <p><i>Reid for recalling lots of facts about the life cycle of a hen.</i></p> <p><i>Georgia for independently generating and writing an alliterative sentence.</i></p>
Barn Owls	<p><i>Nancy-Mae for generating brilliant alliterative sentences.</i></p> <p><i>Kaden for fabulous letter shapes when writing alliterative sentences.</i></p>
Value of the month – freedom	<p><i>Snowy Owls – Evie, Emmie and George</i></p> <p><i>Tawny Owls – Albie and Andrew</i></p> <p><i>Barn Owls – Charlie, Katinca and Parker</i></p>
Red Foxes	<p><i>Fred for super guided reading.</i></p> <p><i>Noah for a wonderful drawing and labelling of a plant in science.</i></p>
Big Cats	<p><i>Ava for excellent work in guided reading.</i></p> <p><i>Charlie for super work in phonics.</i></p>

Walker Bears	Kian Marc for listening really carefully in Rocksteady Music. Kristof for demonstrating great comprehension skills in guided reading.
Value of the month – freedom	Red Foxes – Ariana, Kairi Big Cats – Lennox, Arlowe Walker Bears – Odin, Isabella
Pelicans	Chloe for fantastic use of conjunctions in English over the past two weeks. Darcie for super listening at carpet times.
Puffins	Nirvana for trying her best in mathematics. Fredrick for writing a wonderful recount for the trip to RSBP Rye Meads.
Penguins	Nabhan for excellent thinking in mathematics. Erika for improved concentration during learning time.
Value of the month – freedom	Pelicans – Theo and Zayana Puffins – Kairav, Ivy and Alfie Penguins – Adrian and Enzo

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

MAY 2024	
Monday 6 th	BANK HOLIDAY
w/c May 13 th	BIG WRITE
Monday 13 th	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop – children to dress up please
Wednesday 15 th	Stay and Read, Year 1, 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Wednesday 15 th	Buddha's Birthday Assembly
Thursday 16 th	Stay and Read, Year 2, 2.45-3.10pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
w/c May 20 th	Walk to School week
Monday 20 th	Cricket workshop in Year 2
Wednesday 22 nd	FROG Bake sale and Uniform Sale

HALF TERM: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2024

JUNE 2024	
Monday 3 rd	INSET DAY
Tuesday 4 th	Children return to school
Week 10 th June	MONEY WEEK
Tuesday 11 th	Reception Summer Concert, Barn Owl, 9.15am
Wednesday 12 th	Reception Summer Concert, Tawny Owl, 9.15am
Thursday 13 th	Reception Summer Concert, Snowy Owl, 9.15am
Sunday 16 th	<i>Fathers Day – diary note</i>

Tuesday 18 th TBC	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.
Thursday 20 th	Class Photograph Day with Kittle
Thursday 20 th	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, 5.30-7.00pm
Friday 21 st	NURSERY CLOSED TO ALL CURRENT CHILDREN
Wednesday 26 th	Big Cats Summer Concert, 2.30pm
Thursday 27 th	Walker Bears Summer Concert, 1.30pm
Thursday 27 th	Red Foxes Summer Concert, 2.30pm

JULY 2024	
Monday 1 st	INSET DAY
Week of 1 st	Olympic Presentations
Tuesday 2 nd	Inco Coffee morning
Friday 5 th	Sports Day practice
Monday 8 th Date TBC	ARK Farm Visit (Reception classes)
Tuesday 9 th	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 10 th TBC	Walton on Naze trip – date to be confirmed, dependent on tides
Thursday 11 th	Moving Up Day
Friday 12 th TBC	Sports for Schools Athlete visit
Friday July 12 th	Nursery Pirate Day
W/C 15 th July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Monday 15 th	FROG / PTA Nursery Bedtime Stories
Monday 15 th TBC	Indian Dance Workshop
Tuesday 16 th	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th TBC	Drumming workshop
Monday 22 nd	Class Parties
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 – finish at 2pm



2023 / 24 School Calendar

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

