



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,

Children have returned to school absolutely beautifully. Everyone clearly has had a restorative break and enjoyed spending time with their families.

We've all come back to a very busy week, starting with parent/teacher consultations. I hope you all feel very proud of your wonderful children and the quality and range of the work they produce!

It was also Maths Week based on a 'Knights and Castles' theme - children have had a terrific week engaging in a wide range of mathematical activities and enquiries. For one activity, Mrs Simmons (joint mathematics lead with Mrs Dalton) prepared a small chest for each class to begin a maths puzzle search. Around each year-group playground, she set up and hid maths questions for the children to solve, all suitable for each year-group and fluency-based.

Once the children had solved each question, they could access an envelope with a letter inside which at the end would form a 'knights and castles' themed word. On completion, children could give the word to their teacher to open the chest. The 'mystery' inside was a congratulatory message and a special key, granting them a treat.

Children thoroughly enjoyed the week and thank you to our tremendous mathematics leaders for setting up such an inspirational start to the summer term! They had great fun at the Maths Puzzle Workshop which took place in all classes from Reception to Year 2 yesterday – I hope all the families who attended the Maths Puzzle Workshop after school enjoyed themselves too!

Next week will be the Year 2 trips to Rye Meads and also something very special happening across Reception!

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.

Nursery: The children have settled back in beautifully after their Easter break. It was wonderful to welcome back smiling, happy children. As the children ate lunch on Monday, they excitedly watched the hail come down and turn the ground white. We finished the week with beautiful sunshine and everyone thoroughly enjoying our lovely garden area.

The children were excited to take part in Cosmic Yoga and followed along brilliantly to 'Cracker the Dragon of Wonder'. They stretched up tall like trees, balanced wide whilst riding on a dragon and crouched small when they heard thundering footsteps. The children learnt to sing the song 'Five Little Dragons' and amazed us with their ability to quickly learn the lyrics and tune. Well done, Ladybirds!

In expressive art and design, the children loved creating castles, knights and coats of arms as part of the Maths Week theme 'Knights and Castles'. They mixed white, brown and silver paint and used rollers to create a textured effect for the castle walls. The children skilfully used pattern in colour and mark making to decorate their artwork.

In mathematics, the children recalled the number rhymes to form numbers up to five. These are as follows:

'A downward stroke, my that's fun. Now I've made the number one!'

'Half a heart says I love you. Add a line, now I've made the number two!'

'Around the tree, around the tree. Now I've made the number three!'

'Down and across and down once more. Now I've made the number four!'

'Draw the back and the belly, then the hat. It's a five, watch out it may come alive!'

In the garden, the children enjoyed a fantastic mathematics fitness challenge. They counted accurately to ten as they did star jumps, jogged on the spot, brought their knees up to their hands and did windmills. The children then developed their gross motor skills using ribbons and scarves to make different shapes and numbers.

In phonics, they learnt the letter sound /s/ and the children have practised saying 'soup', 'sandwich', 'snake', 'sunglasses', and many more! Ayla was excited to think of more words that began with the sound /s/. She shared, "sing, sand, sun and six." With Mr Pullin, the children were excited to play a fun and competitive game of Rock, Paper, Scissors. They jumped across a trail of hoops to play an opponent. All the children listened to the rules carefully and showed confidence learning a new skill. This term our topic is 'Sand and Water'. Next week, we will be learning about frogs and exploring our new pond life role play area. In phonics, the children will learn the letter sound /a/.

We are running very low on spare tights, trousers and knickers aged 3-4 and 4-5, any donations would be gratefully received. Thank you.

Reception: This week, the children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in a range of wonderful activities to celebrate Maths Week. The theme this year was 'Knights and Castles'. The children looked at photographs of castles located around Scotland and used 3D wooden shapes to create their own castles. When building their castles, Noah

in Tawny Owl class said, "I am building a part for the knights to live" and Samuel in Barn Owl class said, "The dungeon is at the end and the walls are built high enough so the prisoners can't escape. There's a tower and in the tower, there are cannons." The children found out the names of different parts of a castle and throughout the week during child-initiated learning, the Reception staff have heard children using this vocabulary in their learning.

The children used 2D shapes to design a castle and recorded how many triangles, circles, squares, and rectangles they had used. In a second activity using 2D shapes, the children designed a shield for a knight. The children looked at what a knight had to wear when going jousting and watched a video clip of a man dressed in chain mail and plates of armour. All the children agreed it was very challenging for a knight to run in all the protective clothing!

The children loved playing the number game 'Knight Sticks'. They had to order numbered sticks in 30 seconds before the dragon roared! The children loved this game so much they each played many rounds trying their best to order the numbered sticks before the dragon roared!

The children enjoyed the Maths Puzzle Workshop led by the Happy Puzzle Company. The first activity was for each child to match the coloured boxes with pictures to the picture cards. In the second activity, the children had to work together as a team of five or six, using magnetic rods and balls to create a five-pointed star and then create a house with a garage. Tom from the Happy Puzzle Company was very impressed with how the children worked together in their teams. When James returned to Snowy Owl class after the maths workshop, he said, "Those maths challenges were great!"

Next week in literacy, the children will be finding out which traditional story they will be focusing on. They will be introduced to the story using Makaton signing and creating story maps.

In mathematics, the children will be investigating teen numbers, using Numicon to create teen numbers and in understanding the world, the children will be using their observational skills to draw a tree in spring.

This month, the musician of the month is James Bay. The children have found out he was born and lived in Hitchin, and he taught himself how to play the guitar after finding a rusty guitar with only five strings in a cupboard in his house.

Year 1: The children have had an exciting start to the summer term with the launch of a 'Knights and Castles' themed Maths Week. There was such excitement when the children were set the challenge of completing a range of maths fluency puzzles to gain eight letters hidden around the playground. Once the letters were collected and re-arranged to spell a magic word, the children could unlock the treasure chest and gain their reward. Well done Year 1 for super maths learning! To complete the week, the children also had a wonderful time at a Maths Puzzle Workshop led by the Happy Puzzle Company. They worked as a team to solve a range of challenging puzzles, applying their problem-solving skills. Sara in Big Cat Class said, "I enjoyed working together!" and Hollie in Big Cat class said, "I liked finding the treasure on the map." A huge thank you goes to Mrs Simmons and Mrs Dalton for organising such a 'wow' start to the term.

In English, the children have begun their new topic on instructional writing. They thought about when we use instructions and how they might be useful. The children then had the opportunity to carry out the steps needed to plant a sunflower seed. With a partner, they orally retold the steps to plant a sunflower seed and learnt how to identify the 'bossy' verbs such as 'fill', 'make', 'put', 'cover' and 'pour'. The children were very excited to bring their sunflowers home to watch them grow.

In phonics, the children have revised the graphemes 'ay', 'ai', 'ou', 'ow', 'ie', 'ee' and 'ea'. They used their robot arms to segment and blend a variety of words, adding sound buttons to identify the different sounds heard.

Our Book of the Week was 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes. When Dave loses his favourite toy, Dogger, he is very sad. But when Dogger turns up on a stall at the garden fete, everything seems all right - until someone else buys him before Dave can get the money. If you would like to listen to the story and find out what happens, please click on the link to hear [Dogger by Shirley Hughes](#).

In science and Forest School, the children have been out and about around the school grounds, looking for seasonal changes. They have been making careful observations that spring is here, observing and describing the weather associated with the season. They listened to the story 'Busy Spring – Nature Wakes Up' by Sean Taylor and Alex Morss and discussed what differences they could see from their winter observations.

In computing, the children have begun their new unit of learning on coding. They have rearranged a series of code blocks to create an algorithm for their partner to read.

New homework will be coming home today on a 'Knights and Castles' theme. Please complete the homework and return to school by Wednesday 1st May.

Next week, the children will continue to work on instructions in English. They will be writing their own set of instructions for how to plant a sunflower seed. In mathematics, the children will be focusing on finding and making number bonds to 20.

Have a wonderful weekend.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: It has been a fantastic start to the summer term in Year 2. The children have thoroughly enjoyed Maths Week and have started their new topic 'Nature Detectives'. Important dates and information about the children's learning this term can be found in our termly newsletter and topic web, which are available on the school website: [Year 2 - Pelicans, Penguins and Puffins | The Giles Nursery and Infants' School](#)

In English this week, the children have started to learn about explanation texts and how they can use conjunctions such as 'when', 'if', 'that', 'or', 'and', 'so', 'but', 'because' and 'while' to extend sentences and provide further information. The children have been looking at how Jonathan Emmett, the author of 'Monsters: An Owner's Guide', writes explanations of how to care for a monster. They completed a quiz to prove their knowledge, which earned them a job at the Monstematic Toy Company. Their first task was to reply to a complaint email that someone had written after their monster caused havoc when they took him to school! The children followed a model to extend their sentences using conjunctions and explain what the unhappy customer could do next time. The children also searched for conjunctions in explanation texts and ordered explanation sentences.

In mathematics, the children continued to learn about multiplication and division, which they started before the Easter break. The children have had lots of practise counting in twos, fives and tens, and they are now learning how to recite these as times tables. You can support your child to become fluent in the multiplication tables at home, using the information sent home this week during parent consultations.

The children began a new topic all about animals in science, learning how things can be classified as living, dead or never alive. In computing, the children learnt how to use and create pictograms. In PSHCE, the children learnt about different types of

families and created a recipe for a happy family. In RE, the children started to think about different ceremonies and discussed occasions they had attended.

As part of Maths Week, the children enjoyed an outdoor treasure hunt, completing mathematical challenges to obtain clues that allowed them to open the mysterious treasure chest. The children discovered that Sir Maths was behind the challenge and the answer to his mystery was 'King Arthur'. The children listened to the legend of King Arthur and learnt how knights displayed a coat of arms so they could be recognised in battle. The children created their own coat of arms using mathematical patterns and symmetry.

The children also enjoyed a Maths Puzzle Workshop led by the Happy Puzzle Company. The workshop was about problem solving, teamwork, perseverance and having fun. Each Year 2 class worked with a Year 1 class to complete a range of challenges. Aleksander in Penguin class said, "The train puzzle was tricky, but I liked it." James in Puffin class commented, "I enjoyed all of it, especially the bumble bee puzzle" and Theo in Pelican class exclaimed, "It's all brilliant! I feel happy when we solve the challenge together!"

In English next week, the children will write their own explanation of how to take care of a monster. In mathematics, they will continue to practise their multiplication and division skills. In science, they will show what they know about animals and their offspring. In RE, they will learn what happens during the Muslim ceremony of Aqiqah and in computing, they will learn how to use yes / no questions to separate information.

On Wednesday and Thursday next week, we have our Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Meads. Pelican and Penguin classes will visit on Wednesday 24th April, followed by Puffin class on Thursday 25th April. We will depart school at 9.15am and return by 3.00pm. Please ensure your child has the following items for the trip:

- *School uniform – trousers / jogging bottoms, school t-shirt, school jumper*
- *Waterproof footwear (wellies or boots)*
- *Extra jumper if it is cold*
- *Raincoat*
- *Suncream applied before school*
- *Healthy packed lunch in a disposable bag*
- *Drinks in disposable bottles*
- *Rucksack*

It will be an amazing day out and a fantastic experience for the children.

We hope you have a restful weekend.

The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

RED FOXES CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Heidi	<i>for brilliant subitising and counting.</i>
	Marshall	<i>for fantastic participation during singing.</i>
	Ellis	<i>for exploring a wider range of experiences at Nursery.</i>
	Amelie	<i>for sharing her experiences and making comparisons.</i>
	Arlo	<i>for excellent concentration and participation in yoga.</i>
Snowy Owls	Jude	<i>for being able to describe the properties of 3D shapes.</i>
	Ella-Rae	<i>for being able to describe the properties of 2D shapes.</i>
Tawny Owls	Sumayyah	<i>for demonstrating brilliant problem-solving skills during the maths workshop.</i>
	Hunter	<i>for creating an amazing castle using 3D shapes.</i>
Barn Owls	Ahmed	<i>for persevering and creating a fantastic castle using 3D shapes.</i>
	Neive	<i>for brilliant ordering of numbers when playing the game Knight Sticks.</i>
Red Fox Class	Millie	<i>for sharing fantastic, interesting facts about plants and flowers.</i>
	Kara	<i>for fantastic reading and talking about the book.</i>
Big Cat Class	Saahirah	<i>for working hard in all her lessons and being a kind and helpful member of the class.</i>
	Samuel	<i>for working really hard in phonics and joining in with class activities, offering valuable ideas.</i>
	Rose-Marie	<i>for being a super classroom helper, keeping everywhere tidy.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Alana	<i>for working really well in a team to solve maths challenges.</i>
	Blue	<i>for great application of knowledge to solve problems in the maths workshop.</i>
Pelicans	Nayla	<i>for always coming to school with a smile on her face.</i>
	George	<i>for making fantastic progress in all areas of school life.</i>

Puffins	James	<i>for always trying his best in phonics.</i>
	Kairav	<i>for writing a fantastic explanation in English.</i>
Penguins	Wednesday	<i>for designing a colourful coat of arms during Maths Week.</i>
	Ela	<i>for writing an excellent response to a complaint about Shambles the monster.</i>

kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

APRIL 2024	
Monday 22 nd	FROG Bags2School Collection
Wednesday 24 th	Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Meads – Pelicans and Penguins
Thursday 25 th	Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Meads – Puffins
Friday 26 th	Sponsored spell words given out
w/c Monday 22nd TBC	Living Chicks Project
Tuesday 23rd TBC	M&M Production of The Jungle Book followed by workshop.
w/c 29 th	Year 1, Class visits to Sishes Wood, each class to be confirmed

MAY 2024	
Monday 6 th	BANK HOLIDAY
w/c May 13 th	BIG WRITE
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.
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
<i>Sunday 16th</i>	<i>Fathers Day – diary note</i>
Tuesday 18th 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	
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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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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
- = 23/24 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2024/25 Pupil Holidays
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