



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**10.11.2023**

**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 lovely week in school – helped no doubt by the bright autumnal weather and beautiful autumn colours! All classes have honoured Diwali and Nursery has had a collapsed curriculum focused on this fabulous festival, singing Diwali songs, creating clay diyas, rangoli patterns and much more.***

***I would like to wish everyone who is celebrating Diwali the very happiest of returns from everyone at Giles Nursery and Infants' School – we wish you all a happy Diwali this year!***

***The Bearpee Challenge for Children in Need has been absolutely spectacular! The children all took part with enormous gusto and our dear Mr Pullin drove to Dunstable to pick up the REAL Pudsey Bear from the BBC studio there. I hope very much that some of you caught the interview with me in the morning – you can hear it on playback (BBC Sounds app on Three Counties Radio at 7.50 am Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November) or via this link <https://we.tl/t-WjG2nez5k>. We sent videos and photographs to the BBC, as requested – and also to the Comet so we hope so much that there will be some more coverage. Fingers crossed! I will keep you informed. Our children were amazing – we are so proud of them! Thank you for your generous contributions – these will go to Children in Need. Anyone contributing this week will not need to bring an additional contribution for the non-uniform Children in Need Day next Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.***

***Tomorrow is Remembrance Day. During the week, children have learnt about the relevant period in history. They have learnt about the two minutes' silence that is held to remember the fallen and about the symbol of the poppy. We are very proud of the respect that all the children have shown.***

***A very special thanks to all those who attended the Open Evening last night. The school looked absolutely stunning and it was lovely to see so many of you. Children enjoyed showing their families around their classrooms and visiting old and new teachers and staff. Many of you told me how impressed you were with how happy your children are in school, how much progress your child is making and how welcoming and kind all the staff are. There were other lovely comments about how nurturing this***

*school is, how well-resourced, how caring all the staff are, how clean and welcoming the environment is – and how simply beautiful the school and its displays are.*

*“All staff very welcoming giving lots of information about children’s learning and the curriculum.”*

*“I am so pleased my son attends such a lovely and friendly school.”*

*“I was impressed with the amount of resources in the classrooms.”*

*“A lovely feeling school! All staff were really friendly and approachable.”*

*“Thank you for being welcoming. It was lovely to be shown around the classroom by Oliver and he was excited to see Year 1!”*

*“It was a good experience looking around the classes and seeing the activities the children get up to.”*

*“The school has kind hands.”*

*Thank you for these generous and appreciative comments which are hugely valued by all of us. Thanks from the bottom of my heart to all our unbelievably hard-working, outstanding, caring staff.*

*Our Chair of Governors, Mrs Kate Long, wrote to me today saying:*

*I just have to write this morning to say how immensely proud of our school I was last night at the Open Evening. The classrooms looked amazing and I was particularly struck by the beautiful displays of autumn by the children throughout the school. I could see how hard all the children have been working at mathematics, writing and reading, but also what fun they have had in doing their various projects from Diwali in Nursery, to ‘The Three Little Pigs’ in Reception, the animals science topic in Year 1 and paintings of scary crocodiles in Year 2 – not to mention some wonderful displays showing the fruits of the Big Write week. The classes positively shone with the exciting learning that was so clearly taking place. It was a huge pleasure to see. I was also struck by the terrific play and learning environment of both the breakfast and after school clubs – it is clear that staff have put a lot of effort into this.*

*Please do pass on my congratulations to all the staff team for making the Open Evening such a success.*

**Children due to start Reception and Year 3 in September 2024:** *The application process for Reception year and Year 3 to start in September 2024 opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and will close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Applications can be made via:*

*<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>*

*We are offering regular tours of Reception - please visit*

*<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> or call or visit the school office to book a place.*

**Children due to start Nursery in September 2024.** *Applications/admissions are managed by the school. Applications open on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. An application form will be available on the school website from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.*

*We are offering regular tours of Nursery - to book a place, please visit*

*<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> or call or visit the school office to book a place.*

***Nursery:*** The children had a fantastic week celebrating Diwali. They learnt Diwali is a festival of lights and to celebrate, people wear their finest clothes, spend time with friends and family, decorate their houses and share special foods and gifts.

*In expressive art, the children made a diva lamp from modelling dough and painted it in a bright colour. To make the diva lamp, they rolled the dough into a ball and then worked carefully to press the dough into the lamp shape. The children made some wonderful rangoli patterns from coloured rice and paint. They crafted lanterns by cutting carefully along lines before decorating their lanterns with stars. The children looked at Diwali cards and made a special celebration card to wish their friends and family a happy Diwali.*

*In phonics, the children discussed their favourite nursery rhymes. Ellis made the Makaton sign for horse and shared that his favourite rhyme is 'Humpty Dumpty'. They enjoyed listening to a story about a noisy neighbour who makes loud sounds. The children tried to identify a range of sounds including snoring, crunching food, and stamping feet. Everyone then said, "Noisy Neighbour please be quiet. We are trying to sleep!"*

*To commemorate Remembrance Day, the children watched a beautiful CBeebies animation, 'Poppies', which depicts war through the eyes of animals on the battlefields during the First World War. The children used a range of materials to create their own poppies.*

*In mathematics, the children focused on the number two and learnt to say the rhyme, "Half a heart says, I love you. Add a line. Now I've made the number two." They have shown great interest in learning to count, and the teachers are very proud to see their confidence and understanding of numbers develop. Well done, Ladybirds!*

*Our next rhyme is 'Incy Wincy Spider', and the children will enjoy a range of activities about spiders. The role play area has been transformed into a night-time wonderland which the children can explore using torches to make shadows and find night-time animals.*

***Reception:*** This week in literacy, the children used their phonic knowledge to create a WANTED poster to help identify what the big bad wolf looked like. They wrote three captions beginning 'it has...' The children had a picture of a wolf and used this to write about different parts of the wolf's body so others would know exactly who they were looking for. When writing one of his captions, Oscar M in Snowy Owl class wrote, "it has a fluffy tail."

*In expressive arts and design, the children looked at paintings of wolves by the artist Al Agnew. When they were looking at his paintings, the children were encouraged to describe the features of the wolves, and this generated many talking points. When painting their wolf, the children looked very carefully at the structure of the wolf's face, the direction of how the wolf's fur grew and the tints and shades of wolf's fur. They used a paint palette to mix the colours needed for their painting and painted the most fantastic pictures of wolves.*

*During snack time, the children were encouraged to use their mathematics skills to count the number of children in the group, the number of milk cartons, and the number of cups of water. The children subtract one each time a child takes a cup of water from the tray. Jacob in Barn Owl class said, "I knew there were four waters on the tray because five take away one leaves four."*

*On Monday, the children will be celebrating Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. They will participate in many activities linked to the story of Rama and Sita and have a go at Bhangra dancing.*

*During the week, the children will find out facts about wolves and create different environments which wolves live in around the world. In mathematics, the children will learn how to find one less on a number line.*

*This week's poem is the traditional rhyme 'Old Mother Hubbard':*

*Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard,  
To get her poor dog a bone.  
But when she got there,  
The cupboard was bare,  
And so, the poor dog had none.*

*The Makaton sign for this week is 'thank you'.*

*The children have been set a challenge! The Reception staff have challenged the children to put on their coats and fasten it by themselves. Please would you support your child by encouraging them to do this on their own at home.*

*A reminder for children in Barn Owl class. Each Thursday, the Barn Owl class door opens at 8.45am so the children are ready to begin PE promptly at 9.00am.*

*Year 1: In English, the children have begun their non-fiction topic on hedgehogs. They explored non-fiction books to research facts and learnt that this is one way of collecting information. They have focused on sentence structure and practised reordering the words in a jumbled sentence so that it makes sense. The children looked carefully for the capital letter and the full stop at the end of each sentence. The sentences they reordered were facts about hedgehogs and the children enjoyed using their phonic knowledge to read them.*

*Our Book of the Week has been 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr. This is the story of a young girl called Sophie, who befriends a tiger and invites him in for tea. This led the children to think about what they would offer a tiger to eat if he stayed for dinner.*

*In phonics, the children have learnt new digraphs 'oy', 'ir' and 'ue'. They have read a selection of words and used their robot arms to segment and blend to decode the word.*

*In mathematics, the children have been using the key vocabulary 'greater than' and 'less than', 'most' and 'fewest'. They have been counting and ordering objects in a group and finding the greatest or smallest total.*

*In science, the children have started to learn how to classify mammals. They learnt about the characteristics of mammals and named some mammals they already know. They worked in small groups to create a poster all about mammals using secondary sources. The children were excited to discover that humans are mammals and dolphins and whales are mammals that live in the ocean.*

*The children also had a fantastic time in their first Forest School session! They learnt how to keep themselves safe in the woodland area. They listened to the story 'The Scarecrow's Hat' by Ken Brown, which explores the themes of friendship and helping one another. The children worked with their partner to create friendship bracelets*

*using the colourful wool that was hanging on the trees, left behind by the chicken in the story.*

*In computing, the children have started their new unit called Lego Builders. They enjoyed creating an algorithm for their friend to follow and learnt the importance of it being precise. They used Lego blocks to make models and compared their work.*

*In art, the children explored adding more of a primary colour to another primary colour to make a tone chart. They noticed how adding more of a certain colour made the colour darker or lighter.*

*Next week in English, the children will continue to learn about hedgehogs. They will be writing sentences to create their own fact file about hedgehogs. In mathematics, the children will be introduced to the part-whole model to regroup an amount. In science, the children will learn about the reptile animal group.*

*We hope you all received the new homework last week. Please complete and return to school by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November.  
We wish you all a wonderful weekend.*

*The Year 1 Team*

*Year 2: It has been a fantastic week in Year 2, with all classes enjoying taking part in the Pudsey Bearpee Challenge for Children in Need on Thursday morning. The children were delighted to be joined by Pudsey Bear himself and threw themselves into the challenge with enthusiasm. Photographs will be uploaded on to the school website shortly.*

*In English this week, the children started a new unit of work focused on the Katie Morag stories by Maire Hedderwick. They began the book series with the story 'Katie Morag Delivers the Mail', which introduces the island and its inhabitants. The children used what they had heard in the story to help them draw a map of the Isle of Struay, including some of its key features. The children looked closely at the character of Katie Morag and thought of adjectives to describe what she looks like. They learnt how to use the possessive apostrophe and wrote sentences to describe Katie Morag; for example, 'Katie Morag's hair is red and wavy'.*

*In mathematics, the children explored ways of making 100 using tens; for example,  $10 + 90 = 100$ . They applied what they learnt last week about addition and subtraction fact families to solve missing number problems; for example,  $60 + 40 = ?$ ,  $100 = 40 + ?$ ,  $? = 100 - 60$ .*

*In geography, the children learnt the key vocabulary for our Island Home topic, including 'beach', 'harbour', 'port', 'cliff', 'ocean', 'pier', 'hill' and 'mountain'. They also revised the continents and oceans of the world. As part of our history and citizenship curriculum, the children learnt about Remembrance Day and what the symbol of the poppy represents. In RE, the children learnt about the Christian creation story and in PSHCE, the children learnt how people make assumptions about girls and boys, some ways in which they are different and some ways they are the same.*

*Next week in English, the children will continue to focus on the Katie Morag stories. They will learn how to extend sentences using 'and' to add information or 'but' to compare. They will compare Katie Morag's two grannies, writing sentences such as, 'Grannie Island's clothes are old and dirty, but Granma Mainland's clothes are pretty and new'.*

*In mathematics, the children will practise adding and subtracting ones, learn to add by making ten and find techniques to add three one-digit numbers.*

*In geography, the children will learn the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. In PSHCE, they will start to understand that sometimes people make assumptions about boys and girls (stereotypes) and understand some ways in which boys and girls are different. In RE, the children will learn about Diwali and spend time making Diwali crafts.*

*Next week is also Wellbeing Week. The children will learn a variety of mindfulness techniques and take part in a calming yoga session. Children in Need takes place next Friday and children can come to school in non-uniform.*

*We have a Stay and Share Work session next Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 2.45pm in the Year 2 classrooms. This is a great opportunity to look at your child's work in more detail and talk to them about their learning. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible.*

*Your child's targets for this term will be sent home in your child's book bag next week. This will include targets for reading, writing and mathematics. We focus on your child's targets in school and appreciate your support at home.*

*Please remember that tickets for the Year 2 Christmas performances are now available to reserve online at [The Giles Nursery and Infants' School \(eventcube.io\)](http://TheGilesNurseryandInfantsSchool.eventcube.io). There will be two performances:*

**MORNING PERFORMANCE - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December: 9:30-10:30am**

**EVENING PERFORMANCE - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December: 6:00-7:00pm**

*As the cast will be large, and to make sure we adhere to fire safety regulations, the performances will be ticketed, allowing two tickets per Year 2 pupil. These can both be booked for one performance, or one ticket for each performance. Small children will not need a ticket if they can be seated on laps. Buggies will need to be parked in the school entrance.*

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY**

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

## **RED FOXES CLASS**

**FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!**



## STARS OF THE WEEK

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Nedu</b>	<i>for super counting and sequencing of numbers.</i>
	<b>Bertie</b>	<i>for creating a beautiful Diwali lantern.</i>
	<b>Jamie</b>	<i>for a lovely Diwali celebration card.</i>
	<b>Princess</b>	<i>for playing kindly with her peers.</i>
	<b>Gracie</b>	<i>for fantastic rangoli pattern artwork.</i>
	<b>Samuel A</b>	<i>for settling into Nursery and exploring more activities.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Ella-Rae</b>	<i>for painting a fantastic wolf.</i>
	<b>Beau</b>	<i>for making progress with learning Phase 2 sounds.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>Oscar</b>	<i>for working hard all week to keep the classroom tidy.</i>
	<b>Ibrahim</b>	<i>for amazing sounding out when creating his WANTED poster.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Katinca</b>	<i>for using her phonic knowledge to write a super WANTED poster.</i>
	<b>Charlie</b>	<i>for demonstrating so brilliantly how to do a burpee at the beginning of the Bearpee Challenge.</i>
	<b>Aadam</b>	<i>for using his observational skills to paint a wonderful wolf.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Casey</b>	<i>for fantastic work this week.</i>
	<b>Connor</b>	<i>for super mathematics this week, recognising numbers that are 'greater' or 'less than'.</i>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Lennox</b>	<i>for excellent work in computing to follow an algorithm.</i>
	<b>Amelia</b>	<i>for excellent research on hedgehogs.</i>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Zaina</b>	<i>for working well with a friend in Forest School to make a friendship bracelet.</i>
	<b>Samuel</b>	<i>for always being ready for learning.</i>
<b>Pelicans</b>	<b>Thea</b>	<i>for super listening and independent learning all week.</i>
	<b>Zahraa</b>	<i>for super listening and independent learning all week.</i>
<b>Puffins</b>	<b>Ivy</b>	<i>for always trying her best with all her learning.</i>
	<b>Isabella</b>	<i>for writing a wonderful character profile about Katie Morag using possessive apostrophes.</i>
<b>Penguins</b>	<b>Ayaansh</b>	<i>for being a kind and considerate member of Penguin class.</i>
	<b>Zyva</b>	<i>for making a super effort to stay focused in lessons.</i>

*I hope you all have a peaceful and enjoyable weekend.*

*Kindest regards,*

**Rouane Mendel**  
**Headteacher**

## School Dates – Autumn 2023

<b>NOVEMBER 2023</b>	
Monday 13th	Diwali Assembly & activities, in school, pupils only
Wednesday 15th	FROG AGM – 9.00am
Wednesday 15th	Stay and Share your Child's Work – Year 1, 2.45-3.10pm. All very welcome
Thursday 16th	Stay and Share your Child's Work – Year 2, 2.45-3.10pm. All very welcome
Friday 17th	Non-uniform day in support of Children in Need. Small donation requested.
Tuesday 21st	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.
Friday 24th	OCCASIONAL DAY – School Closed
Monday 27th	Guru Nanak's Birthday Assembly in school, pupils only
Wednesday 29th	Advent Assembly, in school, pupils only

<b>DECEMBER 2023</b>	
Tuesday 5th	Year 2, Virtual Christmas Festive Journey, all day
Tuesday 5th	Reception Christmas Concert – BARN OWLS, 9.15am
Wednesday 6th	Reception Christmas Concert – TAWNY OWLS, 9.15am
Thursday 7th	Reception Christmas Concert – SNOWY OWLS, 9.15am
Wednesday 13th	Christmas Concerts: Year 2, 9.30am
Thursday 14th	Christmas Concerts: Year 2, 6.00pm
Thursday 14th	Nursery Christmas Concerts, 10.00am and 2.00pm
Monday 18th	Christmas Dinner – FROG to decorate tables etc.
Monday 18th	Hanukkah Assembly, pupils only
Tuesday 19th	Afternoon Christmas Parties. Nursery closed in the morning and all Nursery children to come for the afternoon. A surprise visitor!
Wednesday 20th	Last day of term – finish at 2.00pm





**TERM DATES 2023-24**

**Autumn Term: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**[Half Term: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023]**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**School finishes on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm**

**[Christmas Holidays: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024]**

**Children return to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Spring Term: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**[Half term: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024]**

**Children return to school on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**School finishes on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm**

**[Easter Holidays: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024]**

**Children return to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Summer Term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**[Half term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024]**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**School finishes on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 2.00pm**

