



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,

The children have had the most wonderful first week back and have settled into their new classes better than I can ever remember. Everyone seems to have had a lovely, rejuvenating summer and they have come back to school very ready for learning. Also, I think all the work we did last summer on transition and organising time for them to spend in their next year's classroom was beneficial.

The glorious weather has played its part – though a little too hot at times! Children have engaged in their new topics with enormous enthusiasm. They will be a little tired by the end of today and I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Thank you for your patience at the end of the day when waiting outside the classroom door. It does take staff time to get to know all your faces – there are thirty children in most classes and some children have several different adults coming to pick them up. So thank you for being patient and helping us to make sure that everyone stays very safe!

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS: *We have decided to continue with last year's experiment of an earlier consultation so that parents/carers can meet properly with their children's teachers on a 1-1 basis soon after the start of term. This will give you an opportunity to discuss with teachers how your child is settling, as well as ask any individual questions or talk about any concerns.*

The target-setting process is as important as ever and will take place at the same time as in former years – that's to say, in November. Individual sheets showing your child's own next steps will be given to all parents after half-term so that you are able to support your children in their learning.

Consultations will be held during the week of 25th September for Years 1 and 2 and the week of 16th October for Reception and Nursery. Dates are at the end of this newsletter.

Time-slots for consultations will then be displayed in classes for you to select a time-slot that is convenient. If you do not drop your children in school, please either call the office on 01438 359747 to ask for a time, or email admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk

We will let class teachers know that you've been in touch so that they can call you back to arrange a time to meet.

We hope very much that the additional separation of consultations for key stage 1 and foundation stage pupils will make this process easier and more convenient for you all.

Value of the Month: *The value for September is 'positivity'. The children will be learning that it is good to make mistakes, as this is how we improve. They will learn to focus on solutions and next steps, rather than 'getting stuck' on a problem.*

PE Days:

Reception: Thursday and Friday (starting week commencing 18th September)

Year 1: Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 2: Monday and Friday

Children may come to school already dressed in their PE Kit and will remain in it for the rest of the day. Earrings must be taped before arriving at school. Children may wear a white or school logo t-shirt and blue/black shorts. When the colder weather starts, you might prefer them to come wearing a tracksuit.

Pupil Absence:

In line with national Safeguarding procedures, all children must be accounted for daily. If your child will be absent for any reason, please ensure that you let us know either by email, admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk, telephone 01438 359747 or using the Arbor in-App message facility. Please look out for further information regarding school attendance which will be added to the school website over the coming week.

Children due to start Senior school in September 2024: *The application process for secondary/upper school places to start in September 2024 opened on Friday 1st September 2023 and closes on Tuesday 31st October 2023. Please see <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-and-upper-schools/secondary-and-upper-school-places.aspx> to make an application for your Year 6 child.*

Bumped Head Text Messages: *You may receive a text message if your child has a bumped head, please don't worry if you receive this type of message, this will only be for a small bump where no medical help is needed. If a head bump is more serious, we will always telephone you.*

Any other scrapes etc will be relayed to you at pickup time by the class teacher.

Polite reminders:

- *Bikes and scooters should not be ridden through the school playgrounds. We have lots of very little children who could easily be knocked over. Please walk your bike or scooter to the school entrances before riding them when leaving the school at the end of the day.*
- *Bikes and scooters should only be left in the bike racks and not outside classrooms or padlocked to school gates.*
- *Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds; this includes dogs which can be carried. Dogs must not be left attached to the outside school gates.*
- *Parking - the car park is for staff members only. Under special circumstances, parents can fill in a form requesting a special parking permit which must be displayed in the front of the car if permission has been granted. It is so difficult*

with such a tiny car park, but health and safety must come first, and cars should not be entering the gates without permission.

- *Names on uniform and water bottles – please ensure your child’s name is on their water bottle and on the inside of their uniform, especially jumpers/cardigans and fleeces.*
- *Children are not allowed to play on the Year 2 climbing frame, outside of school hours. We kindly ask that you do not allow your children on the climbing frame.*

Stevenage Youth Festival Event: *Ella Lacey and Anisa Mathew who are Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor of Stevenage have asked us to share information regarding this event with you. This is taking place on Saturday 23rd September 11am until 3pm at Event Island in Stevenage Town Centre. The event is sponsored by Stevenage Young People’s Healthy Hub and Everyone Active. There are several activities and stalls for young people, including smoothie bikes, basketball, football, healthy hub trailer (providing a variety of activities) and many more. There is also live music throughout. Open to all!*

Nursery: *A very warm welcome to all the Nursery parents and children. The children are settling in happily to Ladybird Class and it has been a delight getting to know them. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying new experiences and beginning to develop friendships with their peers.*

We are looking forward to welcoming those children starting next week. Next week the children will learn the name of their group and begin singing the group song; we have the following groups in Ladybird Class: ‘square’, ‘triangle’, ‘oval’, ‘star’, ‘rectangle’ and ‘circle’. They will also play games to learn the names of all their new friends.

Reception: *Each day this week, small groups of children have begun their new adventure in Reception and so far, all the children are settling in beautifully and are beginning to familiarise themselves with the daily routine and are making new friends. The children have been demonstrating their writing and drawing skills and have painted a self-portrait to go up as part of a class display.*

Year 1: *It has been an absolute delight to welcome the new Year 1 pupils. They have settled really well into their new classrooms and have enjoyed learning the daily routines.*

The children have begun by helping to ensure that the classroom is a place where they feel safe, nurtured and happy. They have listened to the stories ‘The Colour Monster’ and ‘The Colour Monster Goes to School’ by Anna Llenas. They discussed and named different types of emotions, including happy, sad, angry, calm, fear and love. They enjoyed working in pairs and small groups to create collage colour monsters to display. The children have learnt that when they come into school, or after playtime or lunchtime, they can use the feelings check-in station in their classrooms. The children can put their name in the jar that reflects how they are feeling through the day. This helps the classroom adults to know if anyone is feeling in need of a bit of comfort.

Another important piece of work the children have done is to reflect on their own responsibility to help create a safe and calm learning environment. They have worked together with their teachers to agree a class charter, which will be signed by every child and adult in the class. The charters will be displayed in the classrooms.

In English, the children have designed their speaking and listening bags, which should arrive home this week. Please could you support your child to select a photo, certificate or significant object that they could bring into school that they would like to share with their peers. It can be returned on any day over the next couple of weeks, and the children will take it in turns to share their bag.

This week in mathematics, the children have enjoyed showing their teachers how high they can count, how they can order numbers and match a quantity to a number. In PE, the children have begun their fitness unit, learning a new warm up routine. They have discussed what changes they notice to their body during exercise. Mateo in Big Cats commented, "Your cheeks go red and your body sweats".

Next week the children will begin their science topic, learning all about their bodies and the senses. They will learn to name parts of the body, including head, neck, arms, elbows, legs, knees, face, ears, eyes, hair, mouth and teeth. In English the children will learn to identify a label and how and why they are used. They will be labelling parts of the body. In mathematics, the children will sort and group objects in a variety of ways.

Year 2: The children have settled wonderfully into their new classes and are doing so well learning the new routines. The children are behaving beautifully and showing us just how mature they are.

Darcy in Pelican class said, "I love this school!"

Megan in Penguin class said, "The first week has been great! I liked making my sunshine painting."

Lorenz in Puffin class said, "I'm excited for everything in Year 2!"

Thank you so much for your patience waiting for your children at the end of the day. We are starting to remember faces but very much appreciate the odd reminder this early in the year! Thank you also to those who joined us for our Year 2 information session on Thursday. The presentation will be available on the school website shortly, along with our autumn term topic web and newsletter.

This week, the children have been learning new routines, school and class rules. In mathematics, the children have been showing us what they can remember from Year 1. In English, the children have written a short piece all about themselves. We want to make sure everyone is happy and confident to be back at school so we have been enjoying some team building games and settling activities.

The children have been revising the Phase 5 letters and sounds that they learned in Year 1 and all children have read individually with their class teacher. Home reading books will be sent home early next week if they have not already. Please note that inside the cover of your child's red reading record, you should be able to find their log-in details for Purple Mash and Numbots. These are online learning platforms we will use in school and that you can access on a tablet, phone or computer.

Next week, the children will hear a section of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and have a go at making their own 'fizzy lifting drinks'. The children will learn about time conjunctions for example; first, next, after that and finally. They will use them to write a recount explaining how they made the fizzy lifting drinks and what happened.

In mathematics, the children will revisit learning from Year 1 on numbers to 20. They will count objects to 100 by making tens and learn how to recognise tens and ones in different representations. They will learn how to use a place value chart to record how many tens and ones are in a number.

In science, the children will find out how foods are grouped and explore the healthy food plate. In PSHCE, the children will be introduced to our circle time sessions and share any concerns they have about this year, before discussing who they can turn to if they feel worried. In computing, the children will recall how to stay safe when using technology, particularly using the internet.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend – enjoy the sunshine while it lasts!

STARS OF THE WEEK

Red Fox Class	Phoebe	<i>for participating with enthusiasm during PE.</i>
	Jamal	<i>for being a fantastic listener and being a good helper in the classroom.</i>
Big Cat Class	Parth	<i>for taking great care with his work in Year 1.</i>
	Raphael	<i>for being a kind friend and helping others.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Wynter	<i>for learning the routines in Year 1 so well.</i>
	Livia	<i>for settling into your new classroom and working hard to show good listening.</i>
Penguin Class	Whole class	<i>for an excellent start in Year 2. Well done!</i>
Pelican Class	Whole class	<i>for an excellent start in Year 2. Well done!</i>
Puffin Class	Whole class	<i>for an excellent start in Year 2. Well done!</i>

Have an absolutely wonderful weekend!

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Dates – Autumn 2023

SEPTEMBER	
Wednesday 6 th	Year 1 Parent/Carer talks in School Hall at 2.30pm and 5.30pm
Thursday 7 th	Year 2 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm and 5.30pm
Monday 11 th	Discovering the Year in Reception Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 3.30pm and 5.30pm
Tuesday 12 th	Discovering the Year in Nursery Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 3.30pm and 5.30pm
Monday 18 th	Flu Vaccinations 8.30am-12.30am (more information to follow).
Wednesday 20 th	8.30 Stay-and-play/meet keyworkers Nursery square, circle and oval groups 2.30 square afternoon and oval afternoon groups
Thursday 21 st	2.30 Stay-and-Play/meet keyworkers Nursery Triangle, Star and Rectangle groups
Tuesday 26 th	Parent Consultations, Year 1 & Year 1 Orca children, 3.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 27 th	Parent Consultations, Year 1 & Year 1 Orca children, 3.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 27 th	Parent Consultations, Year 2 and Year 2 Orca children, 3.40-6.30pm
Thursday 28 th	Parent Consultations, Year 2 and Year 2 Orca children, 3.40-6.30pm
OCTOBER	
Tuesday 17 th	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30 – 5.50pm
Wednesday 18 th	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm

Thursday 19 th	Parent Consultations, Reception & Orca FS children, 3.30-5.50pm
Thursday 19 th	Parent Consultations, NURSERY, 3.00-7.00pm

TERM DATES 2023-24

Autumn Term: Friday 1st September 2023 – 20th December 2023

Friday 1st September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 4th September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th September 2023

[Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2023 – Friday 27th October 2023]

Monday 30th October 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 31st October 2023

Friday 24th November 2023 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Wednesday 20th December at 2pm

[Christmas Holidays: Thursday 21st December – Wednesday 3rd January 2024]

Children return to school on Thursday 4th January 2024

Spring Term: Thursday 4th January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024

[Half term: Monday 19th February 2024 – Friday 23rd February 2024]

Children return to school on Monday 26th February 2024

School finishes on Thursday 28th March at 2pm

[Easter Holidays: Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April 2024]

Children return to school on Monday 15th April 2024

Summer Term: Monday 15th April 2024 – Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Monday 6th May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 27th May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024]

Monday 3rd June 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 4th June 2024

Monday 1st July 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Tuesday 23rd July at 2.00pm