



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**12.05.2023**

**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,***

***This has been Maths Week in our school. The week began with the children finding out about 5 superstars who use maths in very different ways. These superstars were: Dr Nicola Fox who is a space scientist and is the current Head of Science at NASA (she was also born in Hitchin and educated in Letchworth!);***

***Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon - a maths and computing genius who passed A-level computing at 11 years old and founded Stemettes to help girls get into STEM subjects (you might also have seen her doing the letters and numbers on Countdown);***

***Mimar Sinan - the chief architect of the Ottoman Empire in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, who designed and built various famous mosques;***

***M.C. Escher - a graphic artist who used tessellation in many of his art works, as well as exploring the theme of infinity;***

***and Shakuntala Devi - also known as The Human Computer for her astounding feats of mental arithmetic which she demonstrated at the University of Mysore at 6 years old.***

***Inspired by these superstars, the children were given The Great Big Kite Challenge! They designed and decorated kites using geometric art and tessellation. They considered the weight of different materials to choose something lightweight for its construction, and when they flew their kites they considered how to measure how well they could fly. This could be by measuring the time it stayed in the air, the distance they could run with it, or the amount of string they were able to let out to see how high it would go.***

***Year 1 additionally enjoyed Active Maths when Stevenage Sporting Futures joined us and set up some very vigorous learning activities.***

**Census Day is Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May: We will as usual swap the Thursday and Friday school meals around. Please encourage your child to have a school meal on Thursday even if they don't usually have one and want to have a packed lunch as well. We get our funding for the school meals from the numbers of children who have one on Census Day so it's very important. Thank you for helping.**

**Transition from our Nursery to Reception September 2023: For children who currently attend our Nursery and will be joining our Reception in September 2023, we will be holding a stay-and-play session after school on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 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 23<sup>rd</sup> June:** *The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. This is in order to allow the children who will be joining us in September 2023 an opportunity to visit with their parents. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.*

**Packed Lunches – safety note**

*If you are including grapes in your child's packed lunch, please would you ensure that they are cut in half, this reduces the choking hazard and has the added benefit that they can't roll away!*

**Nursery School Places for September 2023:** *If you are a prospective parent, please contact the school office to arrange a visit. Application forms can be downloaded from <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>. Alternatively, you can request one by contacting the school office.*

*Please kindly share this message with parents, friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2023. Applications opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, and places are offered on a first come, first served basis.*

**Nursery** *have had a fantastic week participating in a range of wonderful activities to celebrate Maths Week. The children were excited to receive the 'Days of the Week' rhyme for their rhyme rings and were excited to teach their grown-ups the tune of the rhyme. They thoroughly enjoyed the story 'Stuck' by Oliver Jeffers and were hooked to find out what happened when a little boy got his kite stuck in a tree!*

*In expressive art and design, the children thoroughly enjoyed decorating their kites using a range of media. They measured and cut lengths of crepe paper to add ribbon to their kite, taking care to measure two short lengths and two long lengths. Rory took great care making his ribbons and commented "It's a bit too long. I need to make two little snips. It's perfect now. I need to measure the red strip next".*

*In mathematics, the children were eager to take part in scoring games with their friends in the garden. They showed fantastic aim and control to throw beanbags into one of the brightly coloured tubs to score a point. Working as a team, they took turns to mark down their friends' points and keep the score. Bowie said, "I loved it, I scored 3 points!"*

*In the garden, the children had lots of fun developing their gross motor skills using ribbons and scarves to make different shapes. Aston said, "I can make a diamond, it has four sides and four corners." The children enjoyed practising their fine motor skills rolling marbles along number shapes. Teddie carefully rolled her marble around number 3 and recited the rhyme, "Around the tree, around the tree, now I've made the number 3!"*

*In phonics, the children have learnt the letter sound 'p' and practised saying peg, pig, paintbrush, purse and many more! They also learnt the song 'Puff out the candles on the pink pig cake. /p/p/p/, /p/p/p/. Puff out the candles on the pink pig cake. Puff! Puff! Puff!' Sung to the tune of The Wheels on the Bus.*

*Next week the children will enjoy a range of exciting activities linked to the story of "The Rainbow Fish" by Marcus Pfister. In phonics, the children will learn the letter sound 'i'.*

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

**Reception:** *This week, the children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in a range of wonderful activities to celebrate Maths Week. They began by finding out you can be a*

*mathematician in so many different jobs and during the week found out facts about a variety of mathematicians from around the world. The reception children were interested in the mathematician Dr Nicola Fox and some of them asked whether she knew the musician James Bay as they had both lived in Hitchin. When lining up for lunch, Ava in Barn Owl class said, "I am taller than Marliya so I must be using my maths!"*

*The children enjoyed creating different ways to make five and some children were able to record their combinations as addition by doing calculations on white boards or using numbered pebbles.*

*The children participated in a fantastic mathematical challenge to create a kite using natural and recycled materials. They watched a CBeebies video clip to explain how to make a kite and all enjoyed the song 'Let's go fly a kite.' Alana in Snowy Owl class said after listening to the song, "That's from Mary Poppins!" All the children enjoyed making their kites and were so pleased with their end results. It was just lovely to see the children leaving their classes at the end of the school day and excitedly showing their grown-ups their amazing kites. When talking about their kite that they had made, Hollie in the Tawny Owl class said, "I can't wait to go to the park after school to fly my kite!"*

*In art, the children looked at the work of the artist Paul Klee whose work focused on 2D shapes. They discovered Klee enjoyed listening to Mozart when painting and the children listened to Mozart's 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.'*

*Next week in literacy the children will be applying their phonic knowledge to write sentences linked to the story of the 'Little Red Hen.' They will be revisiting how to structure a sentence and in maths, they will be halving a number of objects to work out what is half of a number up to the total of ten. In understanding the world, the children will be using Google to look at aerial views of the school and the area surrounding the school. They will be using basic map symbols to create a simple map for the little red hen to use to travel from the farm to the windmill.*

*Year 1: This week in English, the children have continued with their learning on 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. They have practised retelling the story using Makaton signing and Pie Corbett's 'Talk for Writing'. They drew wonderful story maps and were able to orally retell the story to their peers. The children have learnt about how an apostrophe is used to show a contraction of two words, for example have not becomes haven't. They have generated a range of verbs to describe how the story characters move.*

*In mathematics, the children have been learning how to solve addition and subtraction word problems by identifying the start, change and result in a story. They have used the part, part, whole model to solve the word problems with the whole or part unknown.*

*The children have also taken part in a wonderful week of investigating and experimenting as part of maths week. They learnt about who uses maths in their day-to-day jobs. They learnt about Dr Nicola Fox – Head of Science at NASA (born and educated in Hitchin), Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon – a computer scientist who founded Stemettes to promote girls in STEM subjects (you may have seen her on Countdown), the artist M. C. Escher who explored tessellation and infinity in his drawings, the architect Mimar Sinan who designed and built a number of famous mosques, and Shakuntala Devi who astounded the world with her phenomenal mental arithmetic and became known as 'The Human Computer'.*

*Inspired by these mathematical luminaries, the children had a wonderful time making tessellating and geometric patterns. When looking at a picture of a mosque, Zyva in Big Cats commented, 'I can see all the circles on the mosque, I know all about them'. The idea of space science gave rise to 'The Great Big Kite Challenge'. The children designed their own kites, building them from a range of materials, thinking about how strong it needed to be and then working out a way to fly it. They measured how well their kite flew either by how long they could keep it in the air or by how far their string had to stretch, or how far they could run with it. The children worked really hard on their designs and had great fun flying them in the playground. Thank you to Mrs Dalton and Mrs Simmons for planning such an inspiring week of maths.*

*The children also had the most exciting day on Wednesday, taking part in an active maths workshop run through Stevenage Sporting Futures as part of their PE session. They worked in small teams to complete a range of activities such as ordering numbers, whilst balancing on a bench, completing addition and subtraction calculations, whilst jumping along the ladder and halving numbers to match to the treasure. Thank you to Mrs Brown, our wonderful PE lead, for organising this event for Year One.*

*Next week in English, the children will be continuing with their learning about 'The Gruffalo'. They will learn about adding the suffix 'ed' to verbs to show that an action has happened in the past. They will also learn about the suffix 'ing' and practise writing verbs with the suffix 'ing' in a sentence.*

*In mathematics the children will be comparing values of numbers, finding the difference and using statistics.*

*In science, the children will be continuing to learn the names of common plants that they may find in the garden and will design their own gardens.*

*Have a wonderful weekend everyone.*

*The Year One Team.*

*Year 2: What fun we have had in year 2 being Maths investigators! The children thoroughly enjoyed finishing the week by designing and making their own kites and choosing appropriate materials for them. It was great to see pupils' mathematical thinking as they chose shape, size and length of tail and saw how those choices affected the overall effectiveness of their design. It was also a great opportunity to apply their maths skills to accurately measure their kite's flight.*

*In English, the children have looked carefully at the language and features employed in the story 'How to catch a star.' They have sequenced the main events of the narrative and have been thinking carefully about how the character is feeling at different times during the story. Next week they will be planning and writing their own extension to the story using their knowledge of story features to help them.*

*In Maths this week the children have been learning about money. They began the week by selecting the coins and notes needed to match amounts given. They then went on to identify an amount by adding the values of the coins shown. The children have shown perseverance and resilience whilst practising these skills and risen to the challenges given. Next week they will be applying their knowledge of money to making change and word problems involving money.*

*In Science this week the pupils have been looking at how animals use camouflage and mimicry to defend themselves from predators and to sneak up on their prey. They investigated the minibeasts they could find outside the classroom and recorded each*

*creature's colour, habitat and whether their colour matched the habitat. They also enjoyed colouring animal drawings and carefully matching the colours within the classroom to camouflage them in plain sight!*

*Lucas in Pelican class said 'Chameleons change colour to blend in with their surrounding.'*

*In RE, the children explored what happens during the Sikh ceremony of Daster Bandi, or turban tying. In PSCH, the children discussed secrets thinking about when it is good to keep a secret and who to talk with if they feel uncomfortable keeping a secret.*

*In computing, the children learnt how to sort information using a binary tree. They worked in small groups to think of yes/no questions which would sort the information. Next week they will be applying their knowledge of binary trees to complete one using a computer program.*

*The end of Key Stage 1 statutory assessments will continue, with some children coming out of the classroom to complete 'special work' with their teacher. The children are making good progress with the assessments and are really trying their very best. Making sure your child has a good night's sleep and a healthy, hearty breakfast is a great way to prepare them.*

*For this week's homework we would like the children to complete a money activity using different coins to make amounts. This is due in Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May*

### STARS OF THE WEEK

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Jaxon</b>	<i>for joining his friends playing imaginatively in the home corner.</i>
	<b>Remi</b>	<i>for using excellent fine motor skills when decorating her kite.</i>
	<b>Ahmed</b>	<i>for super fine motor skills when decorating his kite.</i>
	<b>Bowie</b>	<i>for showing great aim when playing target games.</i>
	<b>Irina</b>	<i>for being a fantastic role model and always showing super behaviour.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Parker</b>	<i>for being a wonderful role model and always showing super behaviour.</i>
	<b>Alexander</b>	<i>for being able to make five in different ways.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>Aimee</b>	<i>for painting a beautiful picture in the style of the artist Paul Klee and she named her painting 'Unicornland.'</i>
	<b>Saahirah</b>	<i>for brilliant fielding in kick rounders.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Ruben</b>	<i>for creating a fantastic painting inspired by the artist Paul Klee.</i>
	<b>Zachary</b>	<i>for confidently demonstrating a fantastic knowledge of the different ways to make five.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Kara</b>	<i>for working independently to create a kite using natural and recycled materials.</i>
	<b>Ali</b>	<i>for a super story map for the Gruffalo story.</i>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Aaron</b>	<i>for working hard in maths solving word problems.</i>
	<b>Kaden</b>	<i>for creating a fantastic geometric kite design as part of maths week.</i>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Ivan</b>	<i>for a fantastic start in Year One.</i>
	<b>Hanna</b>	<i>for fantastic spelling using letter names and alternative pronunciations.</i>
	<b>Chloe</b>	<i>for being a shape detective when making a tessellation.</i>

<b>Penguin Class</b>	<b>Jacob W</b> <b>Freddie</b>	<i>for working hard to improve his reading.</i> <i>for trying hard to write a diary entry.</i>
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<b>Hazel</b> <b>Joshua</b>	<i>for showing excellent learning behaviours and for making good progress with reading this week.</i> <i>for writing a brilliantly detailed diary entry in English this week.</i>
<b>Puffin Class</b>	<b>Nikodem</b> <b>Daniel</b>	<i>for fantastic work in mathematics.</i> <i>for a wonderful tessellated pattern.</i>

### SCHOOL DATES

<b>MAY 2023</b>	
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Stay and Read, Year 2, <b>2.45-3.15pm</b> . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
w/c May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	BIG WRITE WEEK
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Buddha's Birthday Assembly

**HALF TERM: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

<b>JUNE 2023</b>	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	INSET DAY – school closed
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
Week 12 <sup>th</sup> June	MONEY WEEK
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Summer Concert, Barn Owl, <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Summer Concert, Tawny Owl, <b>9.15am</b>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Summer Concert, Snowy Owl, <b>9.15am</b>
<b>TBC Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	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.
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, <b>6.00-7.30pm</b>
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Big Cats Summer Concert, <b>2.30pm</b>
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Walker Bears Summer Concert, <b>1.30pm</b> Red Foxes Summer Concert, <b>2.30pm</b>

<b>JULY 2023</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET DAY – school closed
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Inco Coffee morning
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 – Great Fire of London workshop
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Moving Up Day
<b>TBC Friday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Sports for Schools Athlete visit
W/C 17 <sup>th</sup> July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term – finish at 2pm

### TERM DATES 2022-23

**[Half Term: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023]**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**School finishes on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 2.00pm**

### INSET DAYS 2022-23

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

*Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED*  
*Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED*  
*Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED*  
*Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED*  
*Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED*

**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*