



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**05.05.2023**

**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,***

***All children throughout the school have had the most fantastic learning week getting ready for the Coronation, culminating in parties, activities and the most incredible musical celebration led by our very own caretaker, Mr Bramble. It felt very special at our school as all the children in the school together performed with enormous gusto and musicality some coronation songs including a King's Rap written especially for our school by Mr Bramble.***

***You might not be aware, but Mr Bramble is aka Vincenzo, a Stevenage rap artist who performs regularly in London and also locally at for example Stevenage Day and Stevenage Christmas lights switch on. He has worked with our children from the Nursery up to Year 2 to teach them to perform his special rap and the children have absolutely loved this!***

***They all performed it so beautifully today, as well as singing The Coronation Song and the National Anthem. I did let the BBC know and BBC Look East has asked me to send videos – so here's crossing fingers something appears! Three Counties Radio has already called and interviewed Mr Bramble – he did himself and the school proud!***

***This is the clip from the radio – do note, you will need a BBC account to listen (download the BBC Radio Sounds app on your 'phone):***



## [Andy Collins - A Coronation Rap - BBC Sounds](#)

Vincent Bramble has composed a rap for students at The Giles Nursey and Infants School. [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

*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.*

*All children had a fabulous day today at their parties, engaging in activities ranging from face-painting, to Musical Thrones, Coronation Photo Booth, pin the jewel on the crown, Royal Tattoos and Face Glitter, beat the King goalie, guess the bear's name and so much more. It has been a truly memorable day.*

*The school looked phenomenal – check out the website for photos. Our huge thanks to our amazing caretaker and to all our wonderful staff for making this such a precious experience for our children.*





**Next week is Maths Week:** Our Maths leaders, Mrs Dalton and Mrs Simmons have planned the most exciting, action-packed Maths week for the children. The children in every year-group will be engaging in a wide variety of activities connected with the theme *The Great Big Kite*. You will hear all about it in next week's newsletter. On Wednesday, Year 1 will have a fun morning doing *Active Maths with Sporting Futures*, so please can Y1 children wear their PE kit on Wednesday.

**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.

**Milk:** Cool Milk (our new supplier) won't be delivering milk to the school on Bank Holiday Monday. Their next delivery is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Children will not have milk on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Parents/Carers who pay for milk will receive a refund from Cool Milk.

**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.

**Volunteer Positions Available:** Thank you so much to parents who have approached me – it is hugely appreciated! Even if you're able to come in only for an hour each week, that would mean you could hear some children read.

Please speak to me or email me on [head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk) if you are interested in doing some volunteer work in our lovely school. We value our volunteers so very much and you add immensely to the children's learning and enjoyment in school. Readers in particular would be very welcome.

***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:*** *This week in Nursery the children have thoroughly enjoyed preparing to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. They have been fascinated to learn facts about the King, and the Coronation ceremony. The children learnt that the King is 74 years old, and the Coronation will be held using the St. Edward's crown which has 444 beautiful jewels.*

*In expressive art and design, the children have made some fantastic red, white and blue tissue paper bunting showing their super hand strength and fine motor skills by scrunching the paper into balls. The children made wonderful Union Jack flags by firstly painting a red cross and carefully adding blue spots using a sponge. They also loved making a special character of themselves wearing a crown to add to the window display. The children were excited to look at photographs of the King and made some fantastic drawings to remember this special time.*

*The children have shown tremendous effort learning our special Coronation rap song written by Vincent Bramble. Cormac confidently shared "I can rap, it goes like this.. God save the King. The King of our nation". Freddie lifted his fingers up to the sky and said, "The King of our nation".*

*In phonics, we have 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.*

*The Nursery team would like to say a big thank you to Chelsey for making our fabulous balloon arch, it was a stunning centrepiece for our celebration picnic. Photographs will be shared on the Ladybirds class page very soon!*

*Next week is Maths Week and we will be engaging in a range of indoor and outdoor maths activities. In phonics, the children will learn the letter sound 'p'.*

***Reception:*** *This week in Reception, the children have visited the eight chicks regularly throughout the week and are amazed at how quickly they have grown. Their wings feathers are developing, and they are rapidly growing. 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 and when Hugo in Barn Owl class held a chick he said, "I love him. He is so soft and fluffy."*

*In understanding of the world, the children found out about five of the most common breeds living in Britain. Did you know there are ninety-three different breeds of chicken in Britain and the Orpington hen is the best hen to have around children? The children found out a range of facts about these breeds and discussed each of the breed's plumage. The children created collage hens using a variety of materials.*

*The children have been so excited about King Charles' coronation on Saturday. To celebrate this very special occasion, the children found out facts about King Charles and what happens in the coronation ceremony. They watched a clip of Queen Elizabeth*

*II coronation to get an understanding of what will happen to King Charles this coming Saturday and visited the Royal Collection Trust website to look at the crown jewels which will be used in his coronation. When talking about the King's coronation Samuel in Snowy Owl class said, "King Charles is a king, and he wears a crown," and Theo in Tawny Owl class said, "The king can drive a helicopter." The children listened to the story of 'The Kings Pants' by Nicholas Allan and have each made a pair of pants. If you go to the rear of the Reception classrooms, the children's pants are displayed on the windows!*

*Next week the children will be participating in Maths Week which has a daily focus on a famous mathematician from around the world. The children will be focusing on ways to make 5, 2D artwork by the artist Paul Klee and a very exciting mathematical challenge for the children to participate in.*

*Year 1: Year 1 have had a fantastic week starting with a 'wow' activity to begin their new topic of The Gruffalo. The children followed mysterious footprints through the school playground and into the woodland. They found many clues about who they might belong to. Could it be a grizzly bear? A fox? Or even a failed science experiment? The children were very surprised when they discovered the Gruffalo hiding in the woodland. All week they have shown amazing engagement and spirit when learning to use Makaton signs to re-tell the story of 'The Gruffalo'. What an exciting start to this new topic.*

*As part of Forest School this week, the children had a wonderful time visiting Sishes Wood. They used a nature guide to identify common wildflowers, deciduous and evergreen trees. The children explored the textures of the trees by doing bark rubbings and some children carried out observational drawings. They loved exploring the woods and marvelled at the different things they noticed. The children were particularly in awe of the beautiful bluebells, the perfume was absolutely amazing. Please look on the school website at the photographs.*

*To top off the week, the children had a fantastic day, celebrating the King's coronation. They took part in a variety of activities from pin the jewel on the crown, beat the King goalie, musical thrones, guess the bear's name and so much more. They sang with great jubilation as they performed a range of coronation songs with the whole school during the parade and enjoyed a delicious party tea with friends.*

*Next week, the children will be continuing with their Gruffalo topic. They will be identifying apostrophes in writing. In mathematics, the children will be learning how to solve mathematical problems by identifying the start, change and result in story problems. In science, the children will be continuing to learn the names of common plants that they may find in the garden.*

*We wish you the most amazing historic bank holiday.*

*The Year 1 Team.*

*Year 2: What an exciting week in Year 2! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the upcoming coronation and preparing for our school celebrations. Laiton in Pelicans said, "I really enjoyed learning the songs and learning the actions to the rap."*

*Bela in Puffins said, "I loved making and decorating my own crown to wear to the party."*

*In English, the children are hearing the thought-provoking narrative 'How to catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers. They have been sequencing the events of the story and sharing their own ideas of how they would catch the star. The children have been further*

*developing their reading and writing skills by practising retrieving information from the text. as well as recognising how authors employ a range of features to make a narrative exciting and create a picture in the reader's mind.*

*In mathematics this week, the children have been practising some key skills and strategies to help them in the end of Key Stage 1 statutory assessments. They have been solving missing number sums by using their knowledge of addition and subtraction to count on and back. They have also learnt how to use the inverse to help them solve tricky calculations where the missing number is not at the end. Kinga in Puffins said, "I can draw my own number line to help me count back."*

*Following on from our recent trip to Rye Meads in Science this week the children also looked at micro habitats and classified the animals or minibeasts which may live in them. The children also looked at local habitats and applied their knowledge of living, dead, never alive to what they would expect to find in our local area.*

*In RE, the children explored what happens at the Jewish ceremonies of Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah. In computing, the children learnt how sort information in a range of ways. They played games to sort information by asking questions in preparation for sorting information using a computer programme based on Purple Mash. They looked at different kinds of questions, including multiple choice and labelling questions. In design technology, the children investigated how cushions are made and had a go at running stitch using a plastic needle, wool and card with pre-punched holes. In PSICHE, the children thought about the things that can cause conflict with their friends and learnt some positive problem-solving techniques to resolve conflicts, such as listening to the other's point of view.*

*For Maths Week across the school next week we will be introducing the children to some inspirational Maths superstars, such as the incredible Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon. She is a maths and computing genius who Passed A-level computing at 11 years old! She founded an organisation called Stemettes to promote girls in STEM subjects. based around 2D and 3D shapes. The children will have opportunities to take part in maths challenges individually, in small groups and as a class.*

*In English, they will practise using adjectives, adverbs and conjunctions to continue the story of 'How to catch a star.' By Oliver Jeffers. In PSICHE, children will think about the things that can cause conflict with their friends and learn some positive problem-solving techniques to resolve conflicts.*

*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. They have made a great start this week and showed a lot of maturity with their focus and concentration. Making sure your child has a good night's sleep and a healthy, hearty breakfast is a great way to prepare them.*

*We hope you all have a fantastic and memorable weekend with your friends and family.*

*The Year 2 team*

# SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL WANTED GILES INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS



**Could this be you?**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE  
WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A  
SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL |

**THE PAY IS £10.60 PER HOUR  
(excluding enhancements)**

JOB SHARE CONSIDERED

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE  
FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE PHONE  
01992 556803 or 01992 556816

Hertfordshire County Council  
Transport, Waste and Environmental Management  
County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Please can we remind you that it is parental  
responsibility to get your child to and from school safely

Take extra care while the  
crossing is unmanned



## **CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY**

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

### ***BIG CAT CLASS***

***FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!***



**STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Amelia</b>	<i>for working independently to create red, white, and blue bunting using tissue paper.</i>
	<b>Beau</b>	<i>for fantastic participation in phonics.</i>
	<b>George</b>	<i>for a super drawing of the King.</i>
	<b>Reid</b>	<i>for excellent recall of words that begin with the sound 't'.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Esther</b>	<i>for a brilliant drawing of the King.</i>
	<b>Odin</b>	<i>for making a wonderful collage hen.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>David</b>	<i>for always using the golden words 'please' and 'thank you.'</i>
	<b>Samuel</b>	<i>for excellent writing in phonics.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Zachary</b>	<i>for scoring a brilliant run in PE.</i>
	<b>Leo</b>	<i>for being so gentle when holding a chick.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Miya</b>	<i>for creating a wonderful collage hen.</i>
	<b>Belle</b>	<i>for a beautiful still life painting of a tulip.</i>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Lorenz</b>	<i>for a lovely discussion on families.</i>
	<b>Finley</b>	<i>for excellent ideas when guessing who the mystery footprints belonged to.</i>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Albert</b>	<i>for working really hard on his reading.</i>
	<b>Amelia</b>	<i>for great musicality when learning the coronation songs.</i>
<b>Penguin Class</b>	<b>Holly</b>	<i>for wonderful learning of the story The Gruffalo with Makaton Signing.</i>
	<b>Dariusz</b>	<i>for super effort working out money amounts in mathematics.</i>
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<b>Zaynah</b>	<i>for consistently trying her best in all subjects.</i>
	<b>Georgina</b>	<i>for working well with others in class and being a kind friend.</i>
<b>Puffin Class</b>	<b>Lenny</b>	<i>for trying hard with reading at home and at school.</i>
	<b>Bela</b>	<i>for making a wonderful crown to celebrate the King's coronation.</i>
	<b>Lois</b>	<i>for always trying her best in all her learning.</i>

*kindest regards,  
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*

### School Dates

<b>MAY 2023</b>	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	BANK HOLIDAY
w/c May 8 <sup>th</sup>	MATHS WEEK – THE GREAT BIG KITE
Wed May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Active Maths with Sporting Futures
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

**Summer Term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 – Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**[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]**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**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**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**[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**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**[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>d</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***