



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Acting Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ
Telephone: 01438 359747
Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

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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,

It has been a fantastically exciting, busy week in school. In Reception, the Living Eggs project has arrived and children have had the privilege over the course of the week of witnessing all ten eggs hatch into beautiful chicks! This is such a fantastic introduction to their new topic, 'The Little Red Hen'.

On Tuesday, a superb theatre company came into school and performed 'The Jungle Book' for all our Year 1 and 2 children. These productions are of very high quality – do ask your child what they thought of the show.

We have been preparing for a fabulous Coronation Day celebration on Friday 5th May when we will spend the day in activities and have picnics and parties in the afternoon. The first Coronation in 70 years is truly an historic event and we want our children to carry it in their memories. To help us celebrate, our caretaker Mr Vincent Bramble, has written a special King's Rap and has been teaching all the children from Nursery through to Year 2.

You may have heard of Mr Bramble as he's aka Vincenzo, a local rapper who performs regularly in London, at Stevenage Day and the Christmas light switch on. The children have loved learning the rap and we will come together on Friday to perform it as a whole school.

Coronation Parties – Friday 5th May: We will be learning about the coronation of King Charles III next week, culminating in a grand Coronation Day on Friday which will involve activities, singing, picnics and a party on Friday 5th May. This will be a non-uniform day and it would be lovely if children could come dressed in red, white and blue for the occasion. Individual year groups will provide information about party food.

Teacher Strikes Tuesday 2nd May – OUR SCHOOL IS OPEN: Although there are some schools which are striking on Tuesday 2nd May, our school will remain open and children are expected to attend school.

Milk: Cool Milk (our new supplier) won't be delivering milk to the school on the next two Mondays which are Bank Holidays. Their next deliveries in those weeks are on a

Wednesday. Children will not have milk on Tuesday 2nd May and Tuesday 9th May. Parents/Carers who pay for milk will receive a refund from Cool Milk.

A big thank you: This week one of our school families locked their car keys in their car and they were helped by an auto specialist locksmith who was kind enough to help the family out for free. A big thank you to Robert Grey of ARC Locksmiths. Tel: 01438 815854, Mobile: 07827 343923.

Nursery Closed on Friday 23rd June: The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 23rd 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.

Reception and Junior School (September 2023) Allocation Day: Allocation Day was Monday 17th April, when parents/carers would have received an email from Hertfordshire County Council with their child's allocation of school. Parents/Carers have until 1st May 2023 to accept the place. If you have any questions regarding your allocation, please kindly contact Hertfordshire Admissions, as we are unable to assist with this.

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 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 1st November 2022, and places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Nursery: This week in Nursery the children have been learning all about frogs. They have been listening to stories and looking at non-fiction books to find out facts about frogs. Square group loved the story 'Tad' by Benji Davies, they were fascinated to hear how the smallest tadpole in the pond bravely grew into a frog. Triangle group enjoyed sharing the non-fiction books and Hunter remembered, "Baby frogs are called froglets".

In understanding of the world, the children learnt about the lifecycle of a frog. Muna explained "The mummy frog has the eggs and the baby tadpoles come out of the eggs". Ayla looked at the lifecycle of the frog and explained, "Tadpoles grow their back legs, then the other legs and the tail gets shorter and shorter as it grows and then it turns into a frog".

The children have enjoyed singing 'Little Tommy Tadpole' and 'Five Little Speckled Frogs'. Outside in the garden, they loved performing the song 'Five Little Speckled Frogs' with their friends using the green crates as lily pads. Ibrahim said, "I'm going to do a big jump!" and bravely leapt off the green crate, landing safely on the ground. In expressive art and design, the children have made some beautiful frog artwork that will be displayed in the Nursery very soon.

In phonics, we have learnt the letter sound 'a' and the children have practised saying apple, airplane, ant, avocado, and many more! They also learnt the song '/a/ - /a/! Ants on my arm. /a/ - /a/! Ants on my arm. /a/ - /a/! Ants on my arm. They're causing me alarm' sung to the tune of 'Skip to My Lou'. The children thoroughly enjoyed playing the listening game 'Which instrument?' They listened very carefully to the sounds of different percussion instruments and guessed which instrument they heard. Well done, Ladybirds!

This week with Mr Pullin, the children were excited to take part in athletic activities. They enjoyed developing their strength and balance by moving carefully around cones in different directions and speeds and performing jumps using a springboard.

In PSHCE, the children discussed what makes a good friend and shared who their friends are. The Ladybirds came up with lots of ideas about what makes a good friend including how good friends always play nicely with you, they take turns and share, and good friends help you if you are hurt. Georgia said, "I'm a good friend, I give my friends a cuddle". Blaze shared, "Friends share and take turns". The children drew some fantastic pictures of their friends, and explained why they were friends.

Next week, we will enjoy a week of activities to celebrate King Charles III Coronation. In phonics, the children will learn the letter sound 't.'

To celebrate the upcoming Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May we are planning a special week of activities. The children will have the opportunity to make a fabulous crown, craft a special flag and contribute to our special Coronation bunting and window display. The week will finish with a special outdoor picnic on Friday 5th May wearing their wonderful crowns and taking part in party games and dancing. They will be singing our unique Coronation rap song written by our talented caretaker Mr Bramble.

Reception: At the beginning of the week in Reception, an incubator arrived with ten eggs and during the week the children have taken it in turns to visit and make observations. During circle time the children thought of questions they would like to ask the chick. Ruben in Tawny Owl class wanted to know, "Why is there liquid inside the egg?" After looking at the eggs in the incubator, George in Snowy Owl class said, "It cheeped at me". By the end of school on Thursday five had hatched and three more eggs were cracked. Over the Bank holiday weekend, Miss Busby has very kindly said she would take the chicks home to look after them. Next week each class will have an opportunity to handle the chicks if they wish and next Friday, the chicks will be collected and taken to a free-range farm to live.

In understanding the world, the children have looked at the life cycle of a hen and learnt a range of facts on chicks. They created their own life cycle of a hen using a range of media. Did you know that chickens have dreams just like us and they have their own 'language' of over thirty chicken sounds! The children watched an amazing video showing the chicken embryo development and have been fascinated by how a chick grows inside the eggshell. When visiting the chicks in the incubator, Veronika said, "I can see the yolk left over in the egg from the chick coming out."

In literacy, the children generated alliterative sentences linked to their name, for example, Isabelle in Barn Owl class wrote, "Isabelle is an inventor" and Lauren in Tawny Owl class wrote, "Lauren licks lollipops." They listened to an alliterative story 'Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse' by Kevin Henkes and took part in solving alliterative phrases on the interactive whiteboard.

In PSED, the children have discussed what a family is. They talked about how everyone's family is unique and can range in size from being two people up to a large number of people.

In RE the children watched the Hindu story 'The Lion and the Jackal.' They discussed whether it was fair for the jackal to trick the lion and whether it was right for the lion to enter the jackal's cave without asking for permission.

This month, the Musician of the Month has been the singer and guitarist, James Bay who was born in Hitchin. He began to play the guitar at the age of eleven after finding a rusty guitar in a cupboard in his family home. The children have listened to hits such as 'Hold back the river,' 'Scars' and 'If you Ever Want to Fall in Love.'

Next week in understanding the world, the children will be learning facts about five common breeds of British hen and using their observation skills to create a collage hen of their choice. The children will have the opportunity to hold a chick if they wish and describe how it feels to hold a chick.

In RE, the children will be watching the Buddhist tale of 'The Donkey in the Lion's Skin' and discussing whether it was fair for the donkey to trick the villagers and were the villagers right to be unkind to the donkey.

In PSED, the children will be discussing how to make friends and ways to stop themselves from being lonely.

The children will be finding out facts about King Charles III and what a Coronation is and participating in many Coronation-themed activities linked to the story 'The Kings Pants' by Nicholas Allan. On Friday 5th May in the afternoon, the children will be celebrating by having Coronation party games. Please would you provide your child with a small NAMED bag of party food and a drink. We would like the children to wear clothes which have red, white, or blue on them. The Reception staff hope the weather is kind as they are hoping to have the Coronation tea party outside.

Musician of the Month for May is Queen. The children will be finding out facts about this group and listening to a selection of their hits.

Year 1: Year One have had a busy week in school with a special treat, watching a wonderful performance of the Jungle Book. Lyra in Walker Bear class said she liked the tiger. Finn in Walker Bear class enjoyed predicting what would happen. Wednesday in Big Cats said, "I loved the singing monkeys".

The children also had the opportunity to hear our amazing caretaker Mr Bramble perform the King's Rap, that he has written especially for the school. The children practised with him, during a short workshop and we will practise each day in preparation for the Coronation party next Friday.

In English, the children have continued to work on their understanding of instructions. Last week they sequenced the instructions to plant a sunflower seed and learnt to identify 'bossy' verbs. This week they have written their instructions, remembering always to check that they are writing clear sentences with a capital letter, full-stop and finger spaces.

In handwriting, the children have continued to practise writing their numbers, using the number formation pattern to help them.

In mathematics, the children have been learning all about balanced equations using different addition and subtraction calculations. They have used the Cuisenaire rods to make different totals and recorded them as number sentences.

In science, the children have begun learning about wild plants. During Forest School, they went on a plant hunt and learnt how to create a tally chart of the different plants seen.

In PSHE, the children have continued with their learning about relationships. They have been considering what qualities make a good friend.

Finally in art, the children have used their knowledge of primary and secondary colours to paint a still life of a flower. They were inspired by the work 'Sunflowers' by Vincent van Gogh, and worked from a palette of only primary colours to create the colours they needed, making close observation of a tulip.

Next week, the children have a very exciting week with a trip to Sishes Woods. They will become nature detectives and hunt for different flora in the woodland. On Friday, the children will take part in a wonderful array of activities to celebrate the Kings Coronation. We invite your child to bring a small picnic tea, labelled in a separate bag from their lunch and dress in red, white and blue party clothes.

We hope you have a wonderful bank holiday.

The Year One Team.

Year 2: This week in Year 2, the children have followed up their fantastic trip to Rye Meads by writing a recount of their day during their English lessons. They looked carefully at a piece of recount writing and identified the features. They then planned and wrote wonderful recounts using time conjunctions, past tense, first person and their own opinions.

Scarlet in Puffins recounted "First we got on the coach and drove quietly to Rye Meads. Then we got to the secret garden. Next we did pond dipping and I found a bug."

Evie -Beth in Puffins recounted "The final thing was mini beast hunting and my favourite thing was pond dipping because I didn't know how many creatures lived in the water."

They also classified animals into animal groups and compared whether offspring look like their adult during their science learning.

In mathematics the children have been practising the key skill of telling the time. They recapped o'clock and half past, making the times using individual practise clocks. They then went on to learn about quarter past and quarter to.

Teddy in Pelicans said "It helps to think of it like a pizza cutting it into 4 equal quarters."

The children practised recognising the long minute hand which takes an hour to go all the way around the clock and the hour hand which is shorter and is positioned just before the hour when showing quarter to the hour. They used this knowledge to identify quarter to and quarter past times and draw on the hands in the correct positions.

In RE, the children explored what happens at the Islamic ceremony of Aqiqah. They learnt what traditions are observed when a Muslim baby is born and shared their own experiences of welcoming a new baby into the world.

In design technology, the children investigated how cushions are made in preparation for designing and stitching their own cushion. They will practice using a running stitch

using a plastic needle, wool and card with pre-punched holes. In PSCH, 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.

Next week is Maths Week across the school. We will be introducing the children to some Maths superstars, such as the incredible Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon - 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, the children will be looking closely at the story 'How to catch a star' By Oliver Jeffers. They will be developing their use of story language to retell the story using intonation and writing an effective diary entry from the perspective of the boy in the story.

The end of Key Stage 1 statutory assessments will begin next week, with some children coming out of the classroom to complete 'special work' with their teacher. Making sure your child has a good night's sleep and a healthy, hearty breakfast is a great way to prepare them.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK

WALKER BEAR CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Emmie	<i>for fantastic focus in phonics learning the sound 'a'.</i>
	Ayla	<i>for excellent recall of the lifecycle of a frog.</i>
	Muna	<i>for excellent recall of the lifecycle of a frog.</i>
	Aston	<i>for a wonderful painting of a frog.</i>
	Samuel J	<i>for a brilliant drawing of a friend.</i>

Snowy Owls	James	<i>for writing a fantastic alliterative sentence linked to their name.</i>
	Zaina	<i>for making a wonderful life cycle of a hen.</i>
Tawny Owls	Rose-Marie	<i>for demonstrating fantastic teamwork when tidying the classroom.</i>
	Lauren	<i>for independently generating and writing an alliterative sentence.</i>
Barn Owls	Isabelle	<i>for generating a brilliant alliterative sentence linked to her name.</i>
	Jamal	<i>for a fantastic drawing of a tree showing signs of spring.</i>
Value of the month: Patience	Snowy Owls: Isaac and Sabah Tawny Owls: Bela Saffiya, Lauren and Saahirah Barn Owls: Casey and Noah	
Red Fox Class	Vienna	<i>for fantastic maths making balanced equations.</i>
	James	<i>for super instruction writing.</i>
Big Cat Class	Adrian	<i>for amazing maths, making balanced equations.</i>
	Megan	<i>for excellent subtraction work.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Nayla	<i>for carefully observing a tulip to reproduce the colours and shape in a still life painting.</i>
	Kan-Kan	<i>for speaking eloquently about the learning you have done in computing.</i>
Value of the month: Patience	Red Fox: Hareem and Oliver Big Cat: Archie and Erika Walker Bears: Maya, Neithan and Theo	
Penguin Class	Riley	<i>for super effort learning to tell the time.</i>
	Jacob M	<i>for a detailed recount of our trip to RSPB Rye Meads.</i>
Pelican Class	Charlie	<i>for brilliant work telling the time in maths.</i>
	Kayden	<i>for an excellent recount of our class visit to RSPB Rye Meads.</i>
Puffin Class	Scarlet	<i>for having a fantastic understanding of quarter to and quarter past the hour.</i>
	Billy-Joe	<i>for writing a wonderful recount of the trip to RSPB Rye Meads.</i>
Value of the Month: Patience	Penguins: Amelia, Benedict and Lucas Pelicans: Orla, Ollie and Amelia Puffins: Amelia, Philip and Bela	

*Kindest regards,
Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*



School Dates

MAY 2023	
Monday 1 st	BANK HOLIDAY
w/c 1 st	MATHS WEEK
Wednesday 3 rd	Big Cat and Red Fox Class visit to Sishes Wood
Thursday 4 th May	Walker Bear Class visit to Sishes Wood
Friday 5 th May	Coronation Parties in school (further information to follow)
Monday 8 th	BANK HOLIDAY
Thursday 18 th	Stay and Read, Year 2, 2.45-3.15pm . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
w/c May 22 nd	BIG WRITE WEEK
Friday 26 th	Buddha's Birthday Assembly

HALF TERM: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

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

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

TERM DATES 2022-23

Summer Term: Monday 17th April 2023 – 21st July 2023

Monday 2nd May 2023 – Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 8th May 2023 – Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half Term: Monday 29th May 2023 – Friday 2nd June 2023]

Monday 5th June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th June 2023

Monday 3rd July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 21st July at 2.00pm

INSET DAYS 2022-23

Thursday 1st September 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 31st October 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 9th December 2022 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 21st December 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 5th June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 3rd July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

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]

Monday 25th December 2023 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 26th December 2023 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Thursday 4th January 2024

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

Monday 1st January 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[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

Friday 29th March 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 1st April 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[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