



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

21.04.2023

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,

Children have come back to school so happily; they have all clearly had a really lovely, relaxing break with you all and are now ready for the summer term and lots of challenging learning.

This term's year-group newsletters and topic webs will be coming to you shortly and I hope you all very much enjoy reading about the exciting learning your child will be engaging in over the next term.

We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the mother of Amelia, Zyva and Zahraa who came in to give the most wonderful Eid assembly for our children. Thank you so very very much for your beautiful, moving and informative assembly. The children were enthralled and it was very special to see how your family has celebrated this beautiful festival over the years. Children also benefited from an Eid assembly led by Mrs Dacombe. We would like very much to wish all our families who are celebrating Eid this weekend Eid Mubarak.

Our Year 2 children all thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Rye Meads and have returned to school absolutely brimming with information about their experiences when pond-dipping or mini-beast hunting! Their behaviour was absolutely exemplary and a leader at Rye Meads complimented our school on how polite they were – and the three coach drivers also said how lovely it was to be driving such well-behaved pupils. We are very proud of all our children.

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.

Value of the month for April: The value of the month for April is Patience. This important value focuses on showing self-control and staying calm in the face of frustration or boredom.

Notifying Us of Your Child's Absence: Please notify us by 9.15am if your child is going to be absent from school. You can notify us by either calling the school on 01438 359747 and selecting option 1, or via email to admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk.

Vomiting and diarrhoea guidance: From Monday 17th April, if there has been an episode of vomiting or diarrhoea, children should stay at home until they have fully recovered. There must be a minimum of 48 hours with no episode of vomiting or diarrhoea before a child can return to school. This guidance is from the DfE and NHS.

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.

Useful Information: We have created a page on the school website to share useful information about workshops for families run by external agencies. Please have a look. This page will be updated as information is received.

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/useful-information/>

Medicines: If your child needs to have medicine during the school day, please ensure that you bring the medicine to the school office so that you may complete a form. For safety reasons, no medicine should be left in your child's bag!

Volunteer Positions Available: Thank you so much to parents who have approached me – it is hugely appreciated! If anyone would be interested in helping in our Nursery from 11.30am - 12.30pm please let me know as additional help at that time would be much appreciated!

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: The children have settled back in beautifully after their Easter break. It was wonderful to welcome back smiling, happy children. They have enjoyed the sunshine and loved being out in our lovely garden area.

This week, the children were excited to learn about dinosaurs. They have been interested in learning facts about dinosaurs. Teddie remembered, "Some dinosaurs eat meat, and some dinosaurs eat plants." Ivy said, "The dinosaurs that eat meat are called carnivores." The children enjoyed the story '1, 2, 3, Do the Dinosaur' by Michelle Robinson and sang 'A Dinosaur Went Stomping One Day' with great enthusiasm.

In expressive art and design, the children have had lots of fun creating different dinosaur crafts. They were particularly eager to use foam shapes to create their own dinosaurs, Aamina said, "This is my dinosaur, it has a body and spikes like a stegosaurus." As Nancy created her dinosaur she commented "I went to dinosaur land, but all the dinosaurs were pretend."

In mathematics, the children have practised counting to 5; taking care to point to each dinosaur as they said the number. They have also been subitising superstars! The children looked at a group of dinosaurs and said the number of dinosaurs without counting, fantastic maths everyone!

In phonics, we have learnt the letter sound 's' and the children have practised saying 'soup, sandwich, snake, sunglasses, and many more!' Tiger thought carefully with her friends to think of more words that began with the sound 's' she said, "Sunflower, sun, socks all have s!"

This week with Mr Pullin, the children have confidently taken part in athletic activities. They enjoyed developing their agility by running carefully through a ladder at speed, jumping over small hurdles, balancing along a rope whilst balancing a quoit on their head and finishing with a sprint. Well done Ladybirds!

This term our topic is 'Sand and Water' and next week we will be learning about frogs and the frog life cycle. In phonics, the children will learn the letter sound 'a.'

Reception: *All the children in Reception returned to school happily and have settled back into the daily routine very quickly and were keen to find out which story they would be focusing on this half term.*

They began by being 'story detectives' investigating clues linked to the story and worked out the story they would be focusing on is the traditional tale of 'The Little Red Hen'. The children listened to a version of the story and were introduced to the Makaton signs used. The children created a story map and used the Makaton signs to retell the story of 'The Little Red Hen' to a friend. In Barn Owl class when Xavi was listening to Connor finishing telling his version of the Little Red Hen, Xavi said, "It is getting to the exciting part of the story," and Connor replied by saying, "Yes, this is when the Little Red Hen gets to eat her toast!" When retelling his version of the Little Red Hen story, Ruben in Tawny Owl class said, "Then she ate the bread all by herself because the other animals were being greedy and didn't help her." Over the next few weeks, the children will be listening to different versions of 'The Little Red Hen' and will be making comparisons.

During snack time this week, Sabah in Snowy Owl class was talking to her friends about celebrating Eid. She said to her friends, "I decorated my slide with pom-poms and ate chocolate."

In literacy next week, the children will be looking at alliteration. This is when two or more words that are close together all begin with the same sound, for example, terrific Tom or hungry Helena. The children will be listening to alliterative stories and participating in interactive alliterative games. They will be generating a simple alliterative sentence linked to their name, for example, Sam sits on six socks. This term the children are being introduced to how a sentence is structured, using a capital letter at the beginning of the sentence and punctuation to finish the sentence off.

On Monday, some very special visitors will be arriving! The children will let you know who the visitors are as they come out of school on Monday afternoon. The children will be participating in activities linked to these special visitors next week. In understanding the world, the children will be creating a life cycle of an animal using a variety of media. In a second activity linked to understanding the world, the children will be using pastels for the third drawing of a specific tree in the school grounds, and this drawing will be added to their 'Seasonal changes of a tree' book.

This half term the homework continues to focus on the phonics taught each week. In addition, there is an activity for the children to practise spelling five high frequency/common exception words each week using the 'Look, Cover, Write, Check'

method in preparation for Year 1. There is a challenge at the end of the homework for the children to use each of the words in a sentence.

Year 1: We have had a wonderful start to the summer term in Year 1. The children were very excited to share their holiday news with their teachers and friends. We have been blessed with lovely sunshine and warm weather too.

In English, the children have begun their new topic on instructional writing. They thought about when we use instructions and how they might be useful. The children then had the opportunity to make a compostable pot from newspaper and carry out the steps needed to plant a sunflower seed. With a partner, they then orally retold the steps to plant a sunflower seed and learnt how to identify the 'bossy' verbs such as fill, make, put, cover and pour. The children were very excited to bring their sunflowers home to watch them grow.

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

In maths, the children have been learning all about subtraction. They have learnt the key vocabulary take away, fewer than, subtract and minus. Using a number line, tens frames and the 'think 10' model, the children have completed a range of subtraction problems using different strategies. This week the homework is all about subtraction; please do keep an eye out for it coming home today.

In Forest School, the children had a wonderful time learning all about wildflowers. They rolled clay into balls and covered them in wildflower seeds. We shall be planting these around the school.

The children began a new PSHE topic on relationships by thinking about their families and who is in their family. They were encouraged to think about their extended family and to understand that all families are unique and special.

We had a very special visitor on Tuesday, when one of our lovely parents came and talked to the children all about Ramadan. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the Muslim festival of Eid-al-fitr and learnt how the start and end of Ramadan is timed by the moon cycle. To all the families celebrating Eid this weekend, we wish you a very happy Eid Mubarak! Hussein in Walker Bears said, 'We will have a big party with family!' Zayana in Walker Bears explained, 'We will eat dates first before we begin celebrating Eid.'

Next week the children will continue to work on instructions in English. They will be writing their own set of instructions for how to plant a sunflower seed. Mathematics learning will focus on balanced equations using different addition and subtraction calculations. In art, the children will look at the work 'Sunflowers' by Vincent van Gogh and will paint their own flowers from observation. They will be expected to colour mix primary colours to create the colours they wish to use. In music, they will begin to learn a lovely song in preparation for the King's coronation. They will continue their learning about relationships in PSHE and consider what qualities make a good friend.

Year 2: It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school after the Easter break. They have all returned well rested and ready to enjoy the summer term.

The Year 2 children have had a truly wonderful week, as they ventured out of school to RSPB Rye Meads. The children were very excited to take a journey on a coach. On arrival, the children had a safety talk before starting their activities. These included pond dipping and hunting for mini beasts. Before the pond dipping activity, the children learnt that ponds and rivers contain freshwater, while seas and rock pools

contain saltwater. They thought about some of the creatures they might find in the different types of water, before using nets to catch pond creatures. The children used identification sheets to classify the creatures they caught.

Before the mini beast activity, the children discussed different habitats and the creatures they might expect to find under a log. They learnt how to carefully move a log and catch creatures without damaging them. The children found so many different mini beasts, including beetles, spiders, newts, millipedes and woodlice. Both trips ran very smoothly and the children did our school proud!

Comments from the children during the coach ride home included:

I learnt baby ladybirds are called larva.

I enjoyed minibeast hunting because I found lots of slimy minibeasts!

I enjoyed pond dipping and dipping the net in a figure of eight.

I found a backswimmer and a snail!

I liked looking in the net and seeing what animals there were.

It was the best day ever because I spent time exploring nature with my teachers!

There was a real buzz around the classrooms during the week in the lead up to Eid. We all enjoyed a wonderful whole school Ramadan assembly and pupils enjoyed talking about their own experiences and family traditions.

Moonis said "At Eid we play with our friends and we eat food together. We are decorating and tidying the rooms ready for Eid."

Zaynah commented "I am really excited for Eid! I will see my cousins and give and get presents.

In mathematics, the children have continued to learn about fractions. They have learnt how to recognise shapes split equally into halves, quarters and thirds. They have also found $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of 2D shapes and amounts.

In English next week, the children will be writing a recount of their exciting trip to Rye Meads, the children will write a recount of their day out. They will learn how to write in the first person ("I went..."), in chronological order, use the past tense ("We watched...") and use time conjunctions to connect sentences.

In mathematics, the children will extend their knowledge of telling the time by practising making quarter past and quarter to times using analogue clocks and reading a range of times shown on clocks.

For this week's homework we would like the children to apply their knowledge of conjunctions by completing a cut and stick game choosing the right subordinating conjunction to complete the sentences.

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	Teddie	<i>for excellent recall of dinosaur facts and for enthusiastically singing this week's dinosaur song.</i>
	Tiger	<i>for fantastic engagement in phonics learning the letter sound 's.'</i>
	Noah B	<i>for being a kind friend and trying hard to take turns.</i>
	Blaze	<i>for super subitising up to 3 and counting to 10.</i>
	Afna	<i>for fantastic participation in athletic activities.</i>
	Noah Q	<i>for developing his self-help skills.</i>
Snowy Owls	Sabah	<i>for writing her name independently.</i>
	Bella	<i>for retelling the story of the Little Red Hen in her own words.</i>
Tawny Owls	Raphael	<i>for fantastic listening during learning time.</i>
	Theo	<i>for demonstrating brilliant fielding skills in PE.</i>
Barn Owls	Betsy	<i>for beautiful independent writing during a literacy activity.</i>
	Marliya	<i>for using her story map to retell a wonderful story of the Little Red Hen.</i>
Red Fox Class	Maria	<i>for a fantastic clock tower model.</i>
	Isabella	<i>for super phonics this week.</i>
Big Cat Class	Sol	<i>for giving a marvellous recount of how to plant a sunflower.</i>
	Maryam	<i>for working really hard on her reading.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Neithan	<i>for super recall of materials and their properties.</i>
	Luan	<i>for wonderful homework all about the season of spring.</i>

Penguin Class	The whole class	for enthusiastic learning behaviours on our class trip to RSPB Rye Meads.
Pelican Class	The whole class	for enthusiastic learning behaviours on our class trip to RSPB Rye Meads.
Puffin Class	The whole class	for enthusiastic learning behaviours on our class trip to RSPB Rye Meads.

**kindest regards,
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher**



School Dates

APRIL 2023	
Tuesday 25 th	M&M Production of The Jungle Book followed by workshop.

MAY 2023	
w/c 1 st	Year 1, Class visits to Sishes Wood, each class to be confirmed
w/c 1 st	MATHS WEEK
Monday 1 st	BANK HOLIDAY
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
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 20th	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 14th W/C 17th July	Sports for Schools Athlete visit 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

[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