



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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

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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 wonderful learning week for the children and everyone rocked their socks off on Tuesday during Down Syndrome Day! Our school counsellors had a wonderful meeting and are looking to appoint eco champions in each class as well as look into environmental projects for the school to engage in. Our HIP came today for her Spring Visit and confirmed the high regard in which the school is held by County. Mrs Hayhurst and Mrs Gaston were observed and shared the work they do with some of our pupils – they certainly did the school proud.

We would like to wish all the very best to all the families in our school who celebrate Ramadan at the beginning of this holy period.

End of term: This is just to remind you all that school finishes at 2pm next Friday 31st March for the Easter holidays. There will be no after-school club that day.

Clocks go forward: Remember that the clocks go forward 1 hour on Sunday 26th March.

SATS Presentation for Year 2 parents: Thank you to our Year 2 team – and thank you to everyone who attended. Please click on this link for a copy of the presentation:
<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/year-2-pelicans-penguins-and-puffins/>

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/>

Donations: Thank you to you all for the fantastic donations over the past couple of weeks. We are happy to advise that your raised £262.37 for Red Nose Day and £81.73 for Odd Sock Day. Thank you again.

School Crossing Patrol: Our school and the Giles Junior school will have a crossing patrol from the afternoon of Wednesday 29th March. Please see the poster below:



The School Crossing Patrol Team are pleased to welcome **Lovelyn Emeka** as your School Crossing Patrol at Giles Infant & Junior Schools

For your safety could you please ensure that you cross with SCP who will be operating from 8.30am – 9.05am 3.00pm -3.35pm

Hertfordshire County Council, Active and Safer Travel Team
County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN.
Tel: 01992 556816 MARCH 2023
Can we please remind you that it is parental responsibility to get your child to and from school safely



HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

The role of your School Crossing Patrol is:

To stop traffic so children and adults can cross the road safely.

Please remember the following;

Do not cross on the corner or away from the patrol as this is not safe for your children or yourselves. Always use the crossing point as it is a safe place to cross.

Walk their bikes and scooters across the road so they do not fall or slide into the road.

Stay close to their adult who will keep them safe.

Stand back from the kerb **and wait** until the patrol tells them it is safe to cross.

Always walk, not run, across the road.

Cross in front of the patrol, not behind, as it is safer.

Please always use the patrol to cross so that we can ensure that their presence is justifiable and remain at the school

Parent / Teacher Consultations: these will take place in school next week from March 27th. Please book your place in the usual way either by emailing the office or signing the form outside the classroom to choose your slot. Thank you all.

If you would prefer to have your consultation via Zoom, please speak to your child's class teacher or call the school office to arrange.

Nursery

- ***Wednesday 29th March, 12.40 – 6.30pm***
- ***Thursday 30th March, 12.40 – 6.30pm***

Please would parents use the school entrance adjacent to Nursery, rather than the main foyer entrance to school.

Reception (will be held outside the classrooms in the corridor)

- ***Tuesday 28th March, 3.30 – 6.00pm***
- ***Wednesday 29th March, 3.30 – 6.00pm***
- ***Thursday 30th March, 3.30 – 6.00pm***

Year 1 (will be held in the main school hall)

- ***Monday 27th March, 3.30 – 6.30pm***
- ***Tuesday 28th March, 3.30 – 6.30pm***

Year 2 (will be held in the main school hall)

- ***Monday 27th March 1.20 – 3.00pm and 3.40 – 5.30pm***
- ***Thursday 30th March 3.40 – 6.00pm***

Volunteer Positions Available: Thank you so much to parents who have approached me – it is hugely appreciated! If anyone would be interested in helping out 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.

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.

Nursery School Places for September 2023: If you are a prospective parent, please make contact with the school office to arrange a visit. Application forms may be downloaded from <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> or by request from 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 continued to participate in lovely activities related to spring. The role-play area has been changed to a garden centre and they have all enjoyed gathering flowers, seeds, and plant pots as part of their shopping experience. Andrew wrote his shopping list and said, "I'm buying flowers, my flowers are ginormous and red." Ivy enjoyed being the shopkeeper and carefully collected flowers for her customers, she commented "I need to sweep the floor, tidy the seeds and water the flowers."

The children have focused on being healthy and eating healthy food, Remi commented "Fruit and vegetables are good and healthy, sweets are just a treat." In expressive art and design, they made delicious slices of watermelon and painted bright pineapples. The children were excited to work together to create a large strawberry using red and green tissue paper, showing excellent fine motor skills tearing and scrunching the paper. They have also had a fantastic time singing 'The Vegetable Song' to the tune of 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.'

In PSHCE, the children discussed how important sleep is and what they can do to help themselves to go to sleep. Darcie shared, "At nighttime I have a story before bed. At night I do all my growing." Cormac commented, "My mummy gives me cuddles. If I wake up in the night, I need to go back to sleep, or I'll be tired."

In mathematics, the children have shown fantastic skill counting cubes using 1-1 correspondence. They pointed to each cube carefully and said the number. The children have continued mastering the skill of cardinality, showing that they understand that the last number counted is the number of objects in the group. Well done, Ladybirds! In phonics, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning to play cross the river to practise initial sound recognition and develop their blending skills.

Next week we will be taking part in Science Week. The children will learn about growing plants and will sow cress seeds. They will learn to sing the song 'Hot Cross Buns' and enjoy a delicious hot cross bun.

Reception: This week in literacy the children have focused on rhyme. They have listened to many rhyming stories and have created and continued rhyming strings. The children enjoyed using magnetic letters to create consonant-vowel-consonant rhyming words. They have also written rhyming strings on bookmarks and segmented and blended words to find rhyming pairs.

In understanding the world, the children investigated floating and sinking whilst making a boat for the Gingerbread Man to use so he could cross a river without getting soggy. When talking about why it is important that his boat floats, Ruben in the Tawny Owl class said, "If the boat sinks, the Gingerbread Man will fall to pieces." After the investigation Xavi in Barn Owl class was so thrilled his boat floated across the river, he exclaimed, "Look! My speedboat has made it across the river!"

In understanding the world, the children investigated the school grounds for signs of spring and used the iPads to take photographs. During their investigation, the children found daffodils, grape hyacinth, hyacinths, narcissi, primroses and saw beautiful blossom on the trees.

In RE the children began to find out why Easter is an important time for Christians. They listened to the Easter story and why it is important to say kind words about their friends.

In PSED whilst learning about the importance of washing hands, Fatima in Snowy Owl class said, "You need to wash your hands, so you don't get germs!"

Next week the children will be investigating magnetism and finding out which objects are magnetic, and which are not. They will be creating a picture with a path on it for the Gingerbread Man to run along using a paper clip and magnet.

The children will be continuing to learn more about Easter and listening to the story, 'Puddles and the Happy Easter Day' by Gill Vaisey and they will be participating in many Easter themed activities.

The children will be taking part in Science week and finding out about the journey of broccoli from seed to plate. Some exciting activities have been planned.

Year 1: The children in Year One have had an exciting week completing their alternative endings to the fairy tale of Cinderella. They considered where Cinderella might go in her carriage instead of the ball, and whom she might meet. The children focused on the use of capital letters, full stops, and finger spaces, whilst using adjectives to describe their new setting. Wednesday in Big Cats said "Cinderella jumped into her carriage and went to the beach. The beach was hot and the water was cold. Cinderella met a mermaid. She was pretty and had a pink glittery tail. Cinderella played with the mermaid. They were best friends forever."

Phonics this week has continued with alternative pronunciations. The children have revisited the short sound 'e' as in 'net' and 'set' and learnt the alternative sound for 'e' as in 'he', 'she' and 'me'. They have also revisited the 'ey' digraph in 'key' and the alternative 'ey' as in 'grey'.

In mathematics, the children have been learning to order the days of the week. They then learnt to find which day it would be tomorrow and yesterday. They particularly enjoyed learning the days of the week song to help them remember the order. The children have also learnt to correctly order the twelve months of the year and have matched the months of the year to the seasons.

In RE, the children have listened to the story 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes. They have discussed what it means to give something up for love and explored the characters in the story.

In PE, the children have continued to develop their gymnastic skills practising their shapes and stretches. Using mats, they have begun to learn a variety of rolls such as 'The Barrel Roll' and 'Straight Roll'. In games, the children have been working hard in small groups to send a ball over the net and receive it on the opposite side.

In Forest School, the children had a wonderful time carrying out their materials investigation. They predicted which would be the best material to keep teddy dry from the rain and tested a range of materials fairly, using pipettes and water. The children agreed that paper towels were absorbent and not a suitable material for making an umbrella.

Next week is science week. The theme is 'Making Connections across the STEM subjects'. We shall be studying the architect Zaha Hadid and looking at her innovative and futuristic designs. The children will explore ways to make paper bend, fold and twist and then plan how to make their own clock tower in the style of Zaha Hadid. They will be making their clock towers in the first week after the Easter break. Please will you save your recycling for us over the holidays and send in any cardboard tubes and boxes. Many thanks.

Have a wonderful weekend.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: It has been a fun week of learning in Year 2, as the children have continued with their topic of Native Americans while exploring a new book in English – the amazing adventures of Traction Man! The children love this story, which shares the adventures of an action hero toy brought to life through the imagination of a young boy. The children began the week writing a review of the story, choosing their favourite part and giving a reason why they liked it. They acted out parts of the story and wrote speech for Traction Man, using speech bubbles or inverted commas. Next, the children created their own action hero character and wrote sentences to explain what they were wearing and why. For instance, Phillip in Puffins class wrote, "Ice boy is wearing a waterproof suit because it keeps him dry when swimming in icy water." The children then revised verbs and adverbs and generated their own sentences about their action hero. Chloe-Bonnie in Pelicans class wrote, "Aqua Girl swam bravely through the deep ocean."

In mathematics, the children have learnt about division – The children used practical equipment to practise sharing objects into groups. They then applied their learning to real life word problems, working out how many objects were in each group and writing the corresponding number sentence. The children used their knowledge of multiplication to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and solve division calculations by grouping.

In music the children have been finding and keeping a steady beat, following simple rhythmic patterns using long and short and copying simple melodic patterns using high and low.

This week the children learnt the song I am the music man and used xylophones to accompany and keep the beat with a simple melody. They enjoyed listening to music and responding to how it made them feel and identifying the instruments played.

In art and design, the children used different objects such as sponge, cotton buds and glue spreaders to print paintings of spring flowers. In computing, the children learnt how to use the internet to search safely for information. In design technology, the children started to create the body and cab for their vehicle using cuboid nets, which are now really beginning to take shape!

In English next week, the children will write adventures for their action hero in a comic book style. In mathematics, the children will learn about fractions. They will explore splitting groups into halves, thirds and quarters before finding half, third and quarter of amounts. In PSHCE, the children will learn how medicines work in their body and

how important it is to use them safely. In design technology, the children will complete their vehicles by adding wheels and axles.

On Tuesday 28th March, the children will be taking part in an Indigenous People of America dance workshop. Please can children come into school in their PE kits.

We look forward to celebrating the children's progress and meeting with parents next week.

The Year 2 Team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK

PENGUIN CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

<i>Ladybird Nursery Classes</i>	<i>Myra</i>	<i>for super knowledge of healthy and unhealthy foods.</i>
	<i>Eshaal</i>	<i>for showing confidence when participating in a wider range of activities.</i>
	<i>Ivy</i>	<i>for being a fantastic friend and helping others.</i>
	<i>Alice</i>	<i>for excellent participation in yoga.</i>
<i>Snowy Owls</i>	<i>Sabah</i>	<i>for making a wonderful boat for the gingerbread man.</i>
	<i>Fatima</i>	<i>for wonderful rhyming.</i>
	<i>Eliot</i>	<i>for fantastic rhyming.</i>
<i>Tawny Owls</i>	<i>Mason</i>	<i>for creating a brilliant boat for the gingerbread man to float across the river on.</i>
	<i>Juliette</i>	<i>for confidently being able to continue different rhyming strings.</i>
	<i>Zachary</i>	<i>for being able to identify rhyming pairs independently.</i>

Barn Owls	Veronika	<i>for super work when creating and continuing a rhyming string.</i>
	Phoebe	<i>for persevering when making her yacht to float across the river for the gingerbread man.</i>
	Leo	<i>for persevering when making his speedboat to float across the river for the gingerbread man.</i>
	Fred	<i>for fantastic use of his phonic knowledge to work out the answers when playing 'Hangman'.</i>
Red Fox Class	Vienna	<i>for always trying your best in all subjects.</i>
	Lucas	<i>for writing a fabulous alternative ending to Cinderella</i>
Big Cat Class	Ayaansh	<i>for writing a super alternative ending to Cinderella.</i>
	Aria	<i>for super days of the week work in maths.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Dollie-Rae	<i>for a beautiful Easter picture in RE.</i>
	Nayla	<i>for lovely writing of an alternative ending to Cinderella.</i>
Penguin Class	Evelyn	<i>for always listening on the carpet and putting her hand up to share her ideas.</i>
	Toby	<i>for being confident to share his answers during carpet time.</i>
Pelican Class	Ollie	<i>for excellent speech bubble work in English.</i>
	Elizabeth	<i>for always being helpful and kind to others.</i>
Puffin Class	Amelia	<i>for a fantastic understanding of division in mathematics.</i>
	Philip	<i>for creating a wonderful balanced plate of food in PSHCE.</i>

*kindest regards,
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*



School Dates

MARCH 2023	
w/c Monday 27 th	Easter activities throughout school
Monday 27 th	Easter assembly in school, pupils only
Week of 27 th	Parent Consultations
Week of 27 th	SCIENCE WEEK
Tuesday 28 th	Year 2 – Native American Dance workshop

Friday 31 st	Easter Bonnet Parade, whole school, pupils only
Friday 31 st	Last day of term – finish at 2pm

APRIL 2023	
Monday 17 th	Children return to school
Wednesday 19 th	Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Meads – Penguins and Pelicans
Thursday 20 th	Year 2 trip to RSPB Rye Means – Puffins
Thursday 20 th	Eid-al-Fitr Assembly in school, pupils only
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 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

Spring Term: Thursday 5th January 2023 – Friday 31st March 2023

[Half Term: Monday 13th February 2023 – Friday 17th February 2023]

Children return to school on Monday 20th February 2023

[Easter Holidays: Monday 3rd April 2023 – Friday 14th April 2023]

Children return to school on Monday 17th April 2023

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