



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**10.02.2023**

**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,*

*Next week is half term. I hope you all have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.*

*It has been a fantastic week in school. Mrs Edwards led us all through E-Safety Week and all pupils have engaged in an E-Safety assembly, lessons and activities throughout the week that will help them to keep safe on line. We hope that you find the E-Safety Newsletter we sent you useful in supporting your work to keep your children safe when they're on laptops or mobile phones at home. Children in our school are very aware of what it means to be safe online and display their understanding in conversation and in their work.*

*New school councillor assembly: We are so proud of our newly-elected councillors and know that they will represent the views of their classmates in their council meetings. A special project this year will focus on environmental work and ideas so far include the school purchasing a solar panel! Watch this space!*

*Job Vacancies: We are currently advertising for support staff to join our team in school - please see the links on our website for details:*

*<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/staff-vacancies/>*

*If you or anyone you know has the appropriate experience, please encourage them to take a look and apply - we would love to hear from them! Please contact either the Headteacher or Mrs Howard in the school office with any queries.*

*FROG Bake Sale: Thank you to our wonderful FROG volunteers who held our first bake sale of 2023. It was so lovely to see the long queue of parents and children waiting to purchase cakes from all your generous donations. We are delighted to advise that the bake sale raised £262.00. Thank you to everyone.*

*Head lice: Unfortunately, head lice have been spotted in our school. Please could you check your child's head. The guidance issued by County is as follows: Head lice is a community issue, not just the responsibility of schools. All parents need to check their children's heads regularly for the presence of live lice using a fine-tooth comb. The*

*advice is to fine-tooth comb the hair every time hair is washed and to be on the watch at all times. Lotion should only be used if live lice are found.*

*The school staff are ever vigilant and will always let parents know if they suspect a child has head lice. Where there is a particular problem the school nurse can become involved. The school will request that children with live head lice are treated with lotion as soon as possible please.*

*New baby lotion or olive oil miracle cure for head lice!*

- 1) Cover your child's hair with oil.*
- 2) Wrap the entire head with cling film.*
- 3) Hold this in place with a woolly hat or swimming cap.*
- 4) Leave on overnight.*
- 5) In the morning, your child can bend their head over the bath while you remove cling film etc. The lice will all fall off, having suffocated.*
- 6) Comb through with a fine-tooth comb to remove any eggs.*
- 7) Add shampoo directly to oily hair so that the hair is well-washed.*
- 8) If necessary, repeat the following weekend.*

*Volunteer Positions Available: Thank you so much to parents who have approached me this week – 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 very helpful!*

*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.*

*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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, and places are offered on a first come, first served basis.*

*Nursery: This week, the children have had a fantastic time learning about different zoo animals and have thoroughly enjoyed hearing the story *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell. They loved matching the different zoo animals to each crate, showing their recall of the story. Oscar W commented, "The snake is in a basket. I don't think it's scary. I would have kept the snake."*

*In expressive art and design, the children created spiral snakes with bubble print repeated patterns. Hannah was excited to make a repeated pattern and said, "It's so beautiful, I can't wait to show my parents!" Noah joined in following a repeating colour pattern and observed, "It's orange and blue like my snake. It goes orange, blue, orange, blue!"*

*The Giles Rainforest Café role play area has been great fun for all the children. They have acted out the roles of chef, waiter, and customer. The children have continued to recognise and name a wide range of animals and their young, spotting different*

*animals in the rainforest café. They were fascinated to learn many facts about gorillas. The children learnt that gorillas live in groups called troops, their babies are called infants and gorilla hands have five fingers, similar to us!*

*The children have loved dancing to The Animal Boogie song this week. They thought carefully about how to move their body for each animal and danced along to the rhythm. Ibrahim moved his arms in and out and said, "I'm a monkey." Toby commented, "This is great I love it!"*

*In PE, the children were excited to catch fish with Mr Pullin. They had to throw a beanbag using an underarm throw to catch a fish in the pond. They then used their fingers to point at the fish, to improve the accuracy of their throws. Well done, Ladybirds, you showed super skill when throwing underarm.*

*In PSHCE, the children have been sharing proud moments. They thought about the different challenges they have overcome and skills that they have learnt. Neive shared, "I feel proud because I can balance on one leg." Daisy shared, "I'm proud, I do my zip up."*

*After half-term we will read the story Mr Wolf's Pancakes by Jan Fearnley and eat some delicious pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.*

*The Nursery team would like to thank you for all your support this half term and we wish you all a wonderful and relaxing break.*

*Reception: This week in literacy, the children thoroughly enjoyed creating speech or thought bubbles for a character from the story of The Gingerbread Man. They used their phonic knowledge to write a caption.*

*In mathematics, the children identified odd and even numbers to ten. They enjoyed counting to ten or twenty using their whispering voice for the odd numbers and their talking voice for the even numbers. The children enjoyed listening to a story about Osman Odd and Eshal Even and helped them sort out their shopping as they managed to drop their shopping bags outside the shop! When Rauri in Barn Owl class was investigating odd and even numbers, he said, "I can see that four has got a circle around it. That means that it is an even number."*

*In expressive arts and design, the children have enjoyed manipulating and moulding clay to create a gingerbread man, using clay tools to sculpt parts of his body and adding buttons for his features.*

*As part of e-Safety week, the children listened to a story about Digiduck who found out ways to keep himself safe when using a tablet, a mobile device, or a laptop. When listening to the story about Digiduck, the children discussed sharing passwords and whether you should use a password without a grown up knowing.*

*In RE, the children acted out a simple wedding ceremony. The bride was escorted to the altar by the father of the bride and supported by bridesmaids and page boys. The vicar welcomed the children and asked the bride and groom to make promises to each other. When Snowy Owl class were acting out a wedding ceremony, Bella was pretending to be the vicar and she said to the groom, "Will you stay and love her all the time?"*

*After the half term break, the children will be writing a shopping list of the ingredients required to make gingerbread men. They will be baking gingerbread men and comparing uncooked and cooked dough.*

*In mathematics, the children will be looking at creating and continuing repeating patterns using a range of resources.*

*Year 1: This week, the children have enjoyed exploring and consolidating their knowledge of how to stay safe online. The whole school celebrated Safer Internet Day on Tuesday, discussing why it is important to talk about life online. They enjoyed listening to the story of Hanni and the Magic Window and discussed the importance of having a trusted adult to talk to. The children were very good at recalling what to do if they are ever worried about something and knowing who to talk to. Lavinia in Big Cats explained that you must never share a password as these are private.*

*If you would like to read Hanni and the Magic Window it is available free online on the Childnet website.*

*In Forest School, the children made viewfinders and looked through the 'magic window' to identify pictures of beauty. Wednesday in Big Cats commented that the flowers were beautiful and made her feel happy.*

*This week in English, the children have begun their new topic of traditional tales. They have been revisiting old favourites such as The Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff and enjoyed making puppets and putting on their own performance for their peers to watch. They have identified familiar story openers such as 'Once upon a time' and have enjoyed joining in with repeated phrases such as, "not by the hair on my chinny, chin, chin". They are beginning to look at some of the characteristics of traditional tales.*

*In phonics this week, the children have continued to learn alternative pronunciations. The children have revisited the digraph 'ea'. They recalled 'ea' in sea and bead and learnt that it can also make the alternative /e/ as can be heard in the word bread. Similarly, they also learnt that the 'ie' in pie can also sound like /ee/ in field.*

*In mathematics, the children have been practising estimating. They have learnt to look at two groups and decide which has more or less. They have learnt to look at the quantity within the group, rather than the size of the objects, when comparing two groups. They then started to make a 'good guess' of how many items are in a group. They have learnt that when we estimate, we are trying to make an accurate guess. The children have also looked at the language of more and less, and greater than and fewer, and used a range of manipulatives to add and subtract one from a given number.*

*Your children will be bringing home a letter this week with details of the sponsored spell due to take place in school on Wednesday 22nd February. Please see the separate letter for details about how to take part.*

*We wish all our families a wonderful half term break. When we return the children will be learning all about Goldilocks and the Three Bears and making puppet theatres in design and technology. If you have a copy of the story at home, you may like to share it with your child over the break.*

*The Year One Team*

*Year 2: This week in English, the Year 2 children have been writing poems about the rain. They learnt about onomatopoeia, which is when a word suggests the sound that it describes, such as whoosh or crash. They have also learnt about alliteration, grouping words with the same starting sound for effect; for example, pitter patter and drip drop. The children thought of some exciting rain verbs, including pouring, pelting, drizzling and gushing. They then thought of some adjectives to describe rain nouns, for*

*example, 'spotty, colourful umbrella'. Finally, the children organised their ideas to create a descriptive poem about the rain.*

*In mathematics this week, the children have learned how to add two-digit numbers by representing the calculations with tens rods and ones cubes, as well as using hops on a number line. After half term, we will be learning about the properties of 3D shapes and telling the time to quarter past / quarter to.*

*In geography, the children have compared life in Stevenage to life in Antarctica, looking at the human and physical features of both places. In science, the children have learned about the negative impact plastic pollution has on our planet, and what we can do to help. In art and design, the children used wax resist techniques to paint colourful patterned umbrellas using crayons and watercolour paints.*

*As we start the second half of our topic, the children will learn about indigenous peoples of America. They will research traditional indigenous life and write a non-fiction text. They will look at photographs as historical evidence and see what they can learn about the past. The children will enjoy some wonderful art and design activities, including creating indigenous peoples of America landscapes, printing with objects and exploring photography. In design technology, the children will design and make an off-road vehicle. In music, they will explore how music can be used for storytelling. In geography, the children will practise their map skills, including reading maps and following directions. As the weather improves, the children will plant seeds and bulbs and investigate what affects plant growth for science.*

*We have not set any homework for the half term break. Instead, your child has brought home a letter with details of the sponsored spell due to take place in school on Wednesday 22nd February. Please see the separate letter for details about how to take part.*

*We will celebrate World Book Day the second week back after half term, so you may wish to think about potential dress up outfits during the break.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope you have a great half term and a well-deserved rest!*

*The Year 2 team*

### **STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Ibrahim</b>	<i>for joining in with his peers to do the Animal Boogie.</i>
	<b>Kikiiyin</b>	<i>for settling beautifully into Ladybird class.</i>
	<b>Daniel</b>	<i>for settling beautifully into Ladybird class.</i>
	<b>Hannah</b>	<i>for a fantastic repeated pattern on her snake.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Aoife</b>	<i>for persevering with jumping off the PE apparatus in a PE lesson.</i>
	<b>Odin</b>	<i>for trying really hard with segmenting and blending words in his reading book.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>Theo</b>	<i>for amazing counting in 2s to ten.</i>
	<b>Arlowe</b>	<i>for brilliant segmenting and blending when writing his caption.</i>

<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Ellie</b>	<i>for writing an amazing speech bubble using her phonic knowledge.</i>
	<b>Rauri</b>	<i>for demonstrating a good understanding of odd and even numbers.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Ali</b>	<i>for super maths this week.</i>
	<b>Kairav</b>	<i>for excellent retelling of the story 'The Three Little Pigs.'</i>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Erika</b>	<i>for working really hard in phonics when learning about alternative pronunciations.</i>
	<b>Kaden</b>	<i>for excellent problem-solving work in maths when finding one more and one less.</i>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Zayana</b>	<i>for super recall of top tips for e-safety.</i>
	<b>Louie</b>	<i>for super participation in a team to retell the story of The Three Little Pigs.</i>
<b>Penguin Class</b>	<b>Ayana</b>	<i>for writing a beautiful rain poem.</i>
	<b>Lucas</b>	<i>for always making a super effort in phonics.</i>
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<b>Alfie</b>	<i>for being more independent in his work this week.</i>
	<b>Emma</b>	<i>for working so hard in mathematics this week.</i>
<b>Puffin Class</b>	<b>Rosie</b>	<i>for writing a wonderful poem about the rain.</i>
	<b>Lois</b>	<i>for settling into the class beautifully.</i>

**kindest regards,  
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher**



### School Dates

<b>FEBRUARY 2023</b>	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Shrove Tuesday Assembly in school, pupils only
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Workshop, <b>3.30-4.15pm</b>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	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.
w/c Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BOOK WEEK</b>

<b>MARCH 2023</b>	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Book Day - non-uniform day, children dress as their favourite character, donations for charity
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Holi Assembly, Hindu Festival of Colours, pupils only
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Open Evening, 4.30-5.30pm for children due to start September 2023
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	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.

Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Stay and Read, <b>Years 1 and 2, 2.45-3.15pm</b> . Parents come into class to read with their child or small group of children. All very welcome.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Assessment and SATs presentation for Year 2 parents, <b>3.30-4.30pm</b>
w/c Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Easter activities throughout school
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Easter assembly in school, pupils only
Week of 27 <sup>th</sup> Week of 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations <b>SCIENCE WEEK</b>
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 – Native American Dance workshop
TBC	<b>FROG / PTA Easter Stay and Play, 3.30-4.30pm</b>
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Bonnet Parade, whole school, pupils only
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term – finish at 2pm

### TERM DATES 2022-23

**Spring Term: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**[Half Term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023]**

**Children return to school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**[Easter Holidays: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023]**

**Children return to school on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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

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

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

**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>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*