



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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

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**27.01.2023**

**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,***

***It has been a busy learning week for the children in school and everyone is thoroughly enjoying the seasonal topics. Children throughout the school have taken part in a Chinese New Year assembly delivered by Mrs Dacombe; the wide-ranging activities enjoyed in Nursery and Reception during the week are outlined below.***

***Next week is Big Write Week led by Miss Hill – this will commence with a real ‘WOW’ for the entire school involving an Owl and Falconry Day (details below). Please if possible don’t tell your children as we would like this to be a lovely surprise!***

***The week of February 6<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating E-Safety week in school with Mrs Edwards leading a special E-Safety assembly. Lessons and activities will take place throughout E-Safety Week teaching the children skills that will help them to keep safe online. We hope you find the E-Safety Newsletter we sent you useful in supporting you 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. We will continue to keep you informed as this is an area of crucial importance to children and adults alike in our modern world.***

***Owl and Falconry Visit: On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, our Big Write Week will start with an exciting day involving displays and workshops of birds of prey with a falconer. The displays will take place outside, so please ensure that your children have their coats, hats and gloves as it will be cold. The whole school will have an opportunity to experience the display in groups throughout the day and it should be a fantastic start to Big Write Week.***

***Teacher Strikes: As you have been informed, an NEU teacher strike is timetabled for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February.***

***As far as I am currently aware, we will be open as usual but please, as I have written previously, be prepared and note that I may not be party to all information in advance, given the legalities surrounding strike action.***

**Therefore, it would be advisable for you to plan alternative childcare in advance, just in case it is required on the day.**

**Arbor App: Thank you to all parents and carers that have downloaded and logged into the Arbor App. So far, 70% of you have logged in. If you haven't yet logged in and would like us to send out the school login to you, please do let the school office know.**

**Volunteer Positions Available: Please speak to Mrs Mendel or email her 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.**

**Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents: This will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February after school. We are aiming to start at 3.30pm so the teachers have time to set up all the lovely phonics activities for the children, so we hope you won't need to wait long. The training will take place in Tawny Owl and Snowy Owl Reception classes and your children will have an opportunity to try out all the phonics activities. Do come along – you will discover lots of ways you can support your child's progress at home!**

**Phone Number and Address: Please remember to update us if you change your phone number or move house. Please pop into the office or email us at [admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk) to advise of the changes.**

**Ofsted Parent View: This page will only show if at least 10 people have responded. It does only take a few minutes and we would be so grateful if you could help. Just Google 'Ofsted Parent View' and you will get to it!**

**County has judged the school to be outstanding in every area for the past nine years. The county inspectors (otherwise known as HIPs, Hertfordshire Improvement Partners) visit two or three times every single year and they know the school through and through. Several of the inspectors have also been Ofsted inspectors, so one could say that this judgement is very secure. It would be so wonderful to get an outstanding grade at Ofsted when it comes. Last time we were inspected we were judged as likely to be outstanding but in order to be re-graded we had to have a 'long' inspection. Because of COVID this was delayed but we're expecting it this year.**

**Our teachers and our children work so hard, and they deserve it. Please go on to Ofsted Parent View and show your appreciation of the school. Community is very important and ours is so strong – Ofsted will look at this and your views matter! Just google 'Ofsted Parent View' and you can log in with your email account. Thank you so very much for being so supportive and such a tremendous community!**

**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 lots of fun celebrating the Lunar New Year. They have recalled the Makaton sign for 'celebrate' and learnt how people around the world celebrate the Lunar New Year. The children were fascinated to find out how Chinese families celebrate the new year and thoroughly enjoyed watching a Chinese dragon parade. They loved listening to traditional Chinese drumming and used percussion instruments to create their own music. Aston played a drum with his friends and said, "I love it, I can make the drum music, you can be the dragon dancing!"

*In expressive arts and design, the children were excited to create a Chinese dragon. They worked hard to fold a strip of paper to create a body, practised their mark making to decorate and added lollipop sticks. We hope the children enjoyed sharing their dragon craft with you, they were all so excited to make their dragons' dance.*

*The children enjoyed the story Cleversticks by Bernard Ashley and were eager to have a try at using chopsticks to eat noodles. Mya Jae commented, "These noodles are fantastic!" They had a wonderful time in the Chinese takeaway role-play area, taking on a role as a shop keeper or customer. Isla enjoyed serving her friends and said, "your food will be ready soon, I'm cooking it."*

*In physical development, the children enjoyed working together as a team to move like a dragon. They held a scarf and moved up and down to create wonderful flowing movements. The children also continued to practise ball skills with Mr Pullin and showed fantastic teamwork and super concentration.*

*In phonics, the children have practised hearing the sound at the beginning of their names. They loved playing the game, 'I spy someone whose name begins with the sound...' The children have also listened carefully to a sentence to find out the missing word. This is a game to build their awareness of rhyme.*

*Next week, the children will be learning about Africa. They will learn facts about Africa and take part in a range of exciting activities.*

***Reception:*** This week in literacy the children generated some fantastic WOW words (adjectives) to describe characters from the story of The Gingerbread Man. This followed on from the children using their senses the previous week to describe different fruits and vegetables eaten at snack time. Jamal in Barn Owl class chose to describe the gingerbread man and wrote, "Runs fast, has pink buttons, pink cheeks and a blue mouth."

*In mathematics, the children were introduced to subitising. This is recognising an amount without having to count it, for example, knowing the number of spots of a dice. The children loved the game 'feeding the fox', where they had to feed gingerbread men with a number of spots to the fox. In a second mathematical activity, the children enjoyed making four using two coloured buttons. The children recorded their addition calculations on whiteboards or used number tiles to create an addition calculation.*

*This month for 'Musician of the Month', the children have thoroughly enjoyed listening to the singer-songwriter, Adele. The children found she loves to drink tea, she used to have a dachshund called Louis Armstrong and when she was a child, Adele loved listening to the Spice Girls and Ella Fitzgerald. Whilst listening to one of her songs, Samuel in Snowy Owl class said, "Adele is really beautiful and she used to have a dog called Louis Armstrong," and Mila in Snowy Owl class wanted to know why Adele sometimes looked sad in her videos.*

*On Monday, the children celebrated Lunar New Year. They discovered why this festival is a huge celebration around the world and found out it is the year of the rabbit. The children participated in many activities, including dancing with dragons, making lotus*

*blossom cards to send Happy New Year greetings to their family, writing their name in Chinese and writing the numbers one to ten in Chinese. The children enjoyed the challenge of using chopsticks to create Chinese takeaway dishes and pretended to sit down as a family and eat a Chinese meal. When using the chopsticks, Kalanne in Barn Owl class said, "Look the noodles are dangling from the chopsticks. It was so hard to pick them up!"*

*Next week in literacy, the children will be participating in Big Write and enjoying the story The Gingerbread Girl by Lisa Campbell Ernst. They will be finding out if this character, like the Gingerbread Man, ends up being snapped up by the fox! The children will be labelling the character and writing a caption.*

*In mathematics, the children will be estimating the length of a gingerbread man lying on a baking tray and using non-standard units of measurements to measure it.*

*In expressive arts and design, the children will be manipulating clay to create a model of a gingerbread man.*

*Year 1: This week in English, the children have enjoyed planning and writing their own story opener in the style of Bear and Wolf by Daniel Salmieri. During the planning stage, they generated a range of adjectives to describe their wintry setting and main character. The children included this descriptive language in their final piece of writing. They focused on punctuating their sentences correctly and using the conjunction 'and' to extend their sentences.*

*Throughout this term in handwriting, the children will be practising letters of the curly caterpillar letter family. These include c, a, o, d, e, g, q, s and f.*

*In phonics, the children have continued learning about alternative pronunciations. This week, they learnt about 'c' sounding like 's' and 'g' sounding like 'j', for example, city and cell, gem and magic.*

*In mathematics, the children have been learning about teen numbers. They have used resources such as tens frames and bead strings to explore how a teen number is made up of one ten and some more. The children have begun to look at number names and match them to the correct numeral.*

*In Forest School, the children had a wonderful time making their own bird feeder. They mixed sunflower seeds into lard and placed it into pinecones. In their next homework coming home on Friday, the children have the opportunity to participate in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. Please use the survey sheet to record how many birds you spot within an hour this weekend.*

*In PE, the children have continued participating in team building activities. They have developed their listening skills and trust by taking it in turns to wear a blindfold and complete a range of tasks. The children had to listen carefully to the instructions given by their guide.*

*In computing, the children learnt how to collect data and then present this information in a bar chart on Purple Mash. They logged on to their Purple Mash accounts and brought up their work. The children collected data on the day's lunch choices. They looked closely at their bar chart to work out which lunch choice was the most popular in the class.*

*Next week is Big Write. Some special feathery friends will come to launch the week. This will be the inspiration for writing a story opener. In mathematics, the children will be learning to estimate amounts and will be ordering numbers to twenty.*

*Have a wonderful weekend everyone.*

*The Year 1 Team*

***Year 2:*** *It has been a lovely week in Year 2, with lots of exciting learning opportunities and interesting activities.*

*In English, the children have finished the unit of work on settings by writing their own wonderful descriptive settings. The children created the success criteria to help them remember what a good descriptive setting needed. This included the time of day, the weather, exciting adjectives, verbs and adverbs and similes. After they had written their first draft, the children edited their work, checking for grammar and punctuation errors and making improvements to their sentences.*

*In mathematics, the children explored bridging ten. They revised their knowledge of number bonds and used tens frames to visualise how many more to make ten. They used the number bonds to help them solve calculations by partitioning the second digit to bridge ten. For example, calculations such as  $8 + 5$  could be changed to  $8 + 2 + 3$ , or  $10 + 3$ , which is much easier to solve.*

*In design technology, the children explored different techniques for making the features of a castle using card. In geography, the children investigated how penguins have adapted to life in Antarctica. In science, the children explored the properties of materials and compared the suitability of materials for different purposes.*

*In RE, the children explored a gurdwara before labelling the key features. In PSHCE, the children followed their 'steps to success' as they practised trying to achieve their chosen goal.*

*Next week we are excited to announce we will be joined by some special visitors as part of our Big Write week. The children will be completing a range of art, design and technology and science activities based on our Big Write theme.*

*This week's homework activity is to find an object in your home and write about the material it is made of, for example, an elastic band is made of rubber because rubber is stretchy, it bends and it is easy to manipulate.*

*A little reminder about reading certificates. Each time a child reads five books at home, they will receive a special certificate. There are four different colours to collect. We hope you will support your child with their reading at home, so they can earn all of the certificates!*

*The Year 2 Team*

Hayward Services are looking to recruit locally at

## **The Giles Nursery and Infants' School**

Cleaning Operative 15:30-17:30 Monday to Friday @ £9.50 per hour

Good communication skills are required. Full Training will be provided. Successful candidate will be subject to enhanced DBS criminal record check in children workforce and must provide correct documents to support this process.



For more information, please contact Martyna Falek [martyna@haywardservices.co.uk](mailto:martyna@haywardservices.co.uk) or alternatively 01753 323227

**STARS OF THE WEEK**

<p><b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b></p>	<p><b>Busby</b></p> <p><b>Mollie</b></p> <p><b>Carina</b></p> <p><b>Isla</b></p>	<p><i>for being a super leader when moving like a dragon.</i></p> <p><i>for settling beautifully into the Ladybird Class.</i></p> <p><i>for showing perseverance when using chopsticks.</i></p> <p><i>for showing excellent imagination during role-play.</i></p>
<p><b>Snowy Owls</b></p>	<p><b>Isaac</b></p> <p><b>James</b></p> <p><b>Milla</b></p>	<p><i>for persevering with his cutting.</i></p> <p><i>for using 'wow' words to describe the fox from the story of the Gingerbread Man.</i></p> <p><i>for always using her good manners.</i></p>
<p><b>Tawny Owls</b></p>	<p><b>Raphael</b></p> <p><b>Lauren</b></p>	<p><i>for demonstrating a fantastic knowledge of the ways to make four.</i></p> <p><i>for fantastic Mandarin number writing when celebrating Lunar New Year.</i></p>
<p><b>Barn Owls</b></p>	<p><b>Betsy</b></p> <p><b>Tigerlily</b></p>	<p><i>for always being enthusiastic in their learning.</i></p> <p><i>for fantastic balance work in PE.</i></p>
<p><b>Red Fox Class</b></p>	<p><b>Aaron</b></p> <p><b>Oliver</b></p>	<p><i>for being determined and showing a huge improvement in his writing.</i></p> <p><i>for showing a huge improvement in his writing.</i></p>
<p><b>Big Cat Class</b></p>	<p><b>Finley</b></p> <p><b>Charinthorn</b></p>	<p><i>for working really hard on his writing in English.</i></p> <p><i>for excellent maths working on '10 and some more'.</i></p>
<p><b>Walker Bear Class</b></p>	<p><b>Luan</b></p> <p><b>Nkazi</b></p>	<p><i>for writing a super sentence independently for your story.</i></p> <p><i>for being a fantastic learning partner in PSHE.</i></p>
<p><b>Penguin Class</b></p>	<p><b>Nahila</b></p> <p><b>Noah</b></p>	<p><i>for thoughtful discussion in guided reading.</i></p> <p><i>for super understanding of how to bridge ten in mathematics.</i></p>
<p><b>Pelican Class</b></p>	<p><b>Laiton</b></p> <p><b>Billy</b></p>	<p><i>for fantastic learning behaviours when working with a partner.</i></p> <p><i>for an improvement in completing his work in a timely manner.</i></p>

	<i>Chloe-Bonnie</i>	<i>For excellent contributions to class discussions.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Quinn</i>	<i>for helping his friend during computing.</i>
	<i>Asfiya</i>	<i>for always being kind to her friends.</i>

**kindest regards,  
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher**



### School Dates

<b>JANUARY 2023</b>	
w/c Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Big Write
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Owl Visit (Big Write)
<b>FEBRUARY 2023</b>	
Thursday 2 <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 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Phonics Workshop for <b>Reception</b> parents, crèche provided, <b>3.30pm</b>
w/c Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>E-SAFETY WEEK</b>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day with assembly and training for pupils
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	FROG / PTA Bake Sale, <b>3.15pm</b> . Donations welcome!
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>	Parent Consultations
Week of 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SCIENCE WEEK</b>
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 – Native American Dance workshop
<b>TBC</b>	<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



**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**