



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**20.01.2023**

**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,***

***Children have had a busy, productive week as the weather gets colder and they begin to get excited about the prospect of snow! Many of the term's topics are connected with snow, as Year 2 children write about settings for the Snow Queen and Nursery and Reception pupils look for seasonal changes in the environment. Do remember to wrap your children and yourselves up warmly in this icy wind.***

***Phone number and address: Don't forget to update us if you changed your phone number or moved address over the Christmas break. Please pop into the office to advise us of the changes.***

***Ofsted Parent View: County has judged the school to be outstanding in every area for the past nine years. The County inspectors 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!***

***Stay-and-read Years 1 and 2: Thursday 22 January, 2.45-3.10 pm. If you have two children or a child in each class, please speak to their class teacher. Do come and join your child's class and share a book with them.***

***Teacher Strikes: You will be aware that there is potential strike action planned for teaching staff on Wednesday 1 February 2023 in relation to a national dispute over pay. We are awaiting further guidance from Herts County Council and will update***

*you as soon as we can. Our school takes the education of your children very seriously and we will endeavour to ensure that the school remains open. An assessment will be conducted to ascertain whether it is safe for the school to operate, depending on numbers striking. If you are able to organise in advance alternative childcare for this day, it would be advisable to plan ahead in case it is required.*

***Our Neighbours:*** *We have received a complaint from a neighbour of the school concerning children playing a game of door knocking and running away. Please do not allow your children to play this game and be mindful that the occupants of the house may be sleeping due to their work shift. In this particular case, one of the occupants is a police officer who sleeps during the day and the ringing of their bell is waking him up. Thank you for being considerate.*

***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 embraced their new topic about jungle animals. They have loved singing 'The Animal Song' and enjoyed listening to wonderful stories about jungle animals. The children have been eager to learn facts about animals. George recalled, "giraffes are the tallest animals and elephants are the biggest animals on land." They were fascinated to learn how animals in the jungle use camouflage. Noah B commented, "rhinos use mud, they roll in it!" Oscar W remembered, "camouflage is when the animals are invisible, you can't see them, they hide."*

*The children were excited to become jungle explorers in the role play area this week. They had special badges to wear and loved using the binoculars to hunt for animals. Archie said, "I can look and really see through the binoculars!" Teddie spotted a crocodile and exclaimed, "crocodiles are dangerous!"*

*In mathematics, the children counted toy animals using one to one correspondence. They then practised making one more and one fewer than a given amount.*

*In phonics, the children enjoyed seeing mystery items from a feely bag. Each time an item was selected they shared if they knew the name of the object, what it was used for and any experiences using the object. The children also enjoyed using yoghurt pots to tap out the syllables for different jungle animals, for example, croc-o-dile and el-e-phant.*

*In art, the children looked closely at different jungle animals and chose an animal to make using a range of media. They took great care to use appropriate colours, paint the shape of the animal and add details to make it look just like the real-life animal. These will become a fabulous display in the Nursery very soon! Please do join us for 'Stay and Play' every Thursday from 8.30-9.30am, to join your child to share a book or other activity.*

*The children had a fantastic time developing their ball skills in the school hall with Mr Pullin. They practised rolling a ball to a friend, catching a ball being rolled to them*

*and weaving a ball between cones. They had lots of fun whilst developing their hand-eye coordination. Well done, Ladybirds!*

*Next week we will be celebrating Chinese New Year and will taste some Chinese food. Please let us know if your child has an allergy to any of the ingredients in noodles.*

**Reception:** *This week in literacy, the children have listened to different versions of The Gingerbread Man and looked at illustrations from the story. They compared the similarities and differences of the stories. For example, in one version of the story the children noticed the order of the animals was different and there were different animals compared to another version. The children chose an illustration from the story and used their phonic skills to write a caption to accompany the picture.*

*In mathematics, the children have enjoyed squashing dough gingerbread men as part of an activity to work out one less. They also enjoyed the challenge of subtracting two dough balls. The children either wrote the subtraction calculation on a whiteboard or created a subtraction calculation using numbered pebbles. In a second mathematics activity, the children estimated the number of gingerbread men in a tin. They checked if their estimate was close to the actual amount by counting the gingerbread out of the tin. The children used a number line to review their estimation. They were really pleased when they discovered their estimations were spot on! Ava in Barn Owl class exclaimed, "I estimated there would be twelve in the tin but actually there were thirteen! My estimation was really close!"*

*In understanding the world, the children investigated what would happen to a gingerbread man placed in water, milk, fruit juice, vinegar, and oil. They had to predict what might happen and then evaluate their findings. Leo in Barn Owl class said, "I think he will change colour to black because it is black vinegar." The gingerbread men were left in the different liquids for a few hours and the children came back to see if their predictions were right and evaluate their findings. Lena in Tawny Owl class said, "The gingerbread man in the oil didn't break or get soggy. It was hard."*

*In our weekly Jigsaw PSHCE session, the children discussed what they find challenging and how important it is to persevere at something to improve. James in Snowy Owl class said, "I have been practising opening my eyes under water."*

*Next week in literacy, the children will use WOW words (adjectives) to describe a character from The Gingerbread Man story.*

*In mathematics, the children will use their mathematical knowledge to subitise and will be making four in different ways, recording their addition calculations.*

*In understanding the world, the children celebrate the festival of Lunar New Year and participate in a range of activities, including dancing with dragons!*

**Year 1:** *The Year 1 children have continued to read the wintry story of Bear and Wolf by Daniel Salmieri. It was fun to be an adjective detective looking for the exciting describing words in the text. The children learnt that an adjective describes a noun. They wrote their own descriptions of the character Bird in the story using adjectives.*

*In phonics, the children have begun learning alternative pronunciations. This week, they learnt about long and short 'i' and 'o'; for example, 'find' and 'fish' and 'hot' and 'go'.*

*In mathematics, the children have explored the idea of equivalence. They made equal groups in different ways. They learnt to use the = sign to show when two different groups are equal; for example, a group of three dinosaurs and two dinosaurs is equal*

*to a group of four dinosaurs and one dinosaur because both groups have a value of five.*

*The children continued making their winter woodland paintings in art. They used lolly sticks, forks and twigs to print tree silhouettes onto their cool colour backgrounds. They printed their trees in a repeating pattern.*

*In Forest School, the children have continued to learn about birds. They had great fun making their own binoculars and were very excited to see that last week's bird feeders had been well received. Thank you for all the kitchen roll tubes.*

*The children continued to work on their defending and attacking skills in PE. Moving with a ball, the children have dribbled carefully, keeping control of the ball at all times. They continued to develop their teamwork skills and this week, the children had to work as a team to manipulate the big parachute in different ways. They learnt that to be a good team member it is important to listen to the other people in the team and to cooperate to achieve a goal.*

*PSHCE this week complemented the focus on teamwork, with the children learning that to achieve a goal we follow simple steps and that we learn by watching and listening to others, including our friends.*

*This term in music the children are learning about tempo and dynamics. As they listen to music, explore using instruments and learning songs, they are also listening to comment on how fast or slow the music is and how it might be loud or quiet. They are adding this knowledge to their understanding of pulse, rhythm and pitch.*

*Next week in English, the children will complete the unit of learning inspired by Bear and Wolf by writing their own story opener using adjectives. In mathematics, they will learn about making numbers from 11 to 20, using the language 'ten and some more'. In science, the children will be continuing to learn about birds, learning the different body parts; for example, beak, tail, feathers.*

*Please do keep saving your empty cereal boxes and bring them into school next week.*

*Many thanks*

*The Year 1 Team*

*Year 2:*

*In English, the children have been developing the key skills they need to create an exciting setting for a story. They learnt how to build interesting sentences, including an adjective, a noun, a verb and an adverb. They extended these sentences by adding the time of day; for example, "The dawn was breaking as the pale sun rose slowly." The children also learnt about similes and how they can be used to say something is 'like' or 'as' something; for example, "The snowflakes danced like tiny ballerinas" or "The frost was as sparkly as a glistening jewel."*

*In mathematics, the children have been adding and subtracting nine and eleven from two-digit numbers. They used their knowledge of counting on and back in tens to help them, before adjusting by adding or subtracting one more. They used a range of equipment including number lines, hundred squares and dienes apparatus (tens and ones) to help them.*

*In design technology, the children helped to think of the success criteria to make a castle and then designed their own for the Snow Queen. In geography, the children looked at the similarities and differences between the Arctic and Antarctica. In history,*

*the children learnt about Robert Falcon Scott's expedition to the South Pole and sequenced the events of his ill-fated trip.*

*In RE, the children explored a mosque and found out about some of the rituals that take place there before designing their own prayer mat. In PSHCE, the children chose a goal that they would like to achieve and came up with the 'steps to success' to help them accomplish it.*

*In English next week, the children will apply the knowledge and skills they have learnt to write their own exciting story setting. In mathematics, the children will apply their knowledge of addition and subtraction to solve calculations which bridge ten. In PSHCE, the children will continue to work towards achieving their goals, thinking about the importance of group work and how others can help us to learn.*

*We hope you have a wonderful weekend.*

*The Year 2 Team*

### **STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Aamina</b>	<i>for settling beautifully into Ladybird Class.</i>
	<b>Jason</b>	<i>for settling beautifully into Ladybird Class.</i>
	<b>Naomi</b>	<i>for settling beautifully into Ladybird Class.</i>
	<b>Daisy</b>	<i>for settling beautifully into Ladybird Class.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Connie</b>	<i>for fantastic estimating.</i>
	<b>Kristof</b>	<i>for applying his phonic knowledge to write a caption.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>Lena</b>	<i>for making super observations about the results of the gingerbread man experiment.</i>
	<b>Lennox</b>	<i>for recalling lots of brilliant facts about our 'Musician of the Month', Adele.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Ava</b>	<i>for fantastic estimating of the number of gingerbread men biscuits in a tin.</i>
	<b>Miya</b>	<i>for writing a wonderful caption linked to the story of the gingerbread man.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Nirvana</b>	<i>for having a fantastic attitude this week to all areas of learning.</i>
	<b>Jose</b>	<i>for amazing improvement in English.</i>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Adrian</b>	<i>for working hard on his letter sounds in phonics.</i>
	<b>Aria</b>	<i>for working really hard in mathematics, making calculations equal on both sides.</i>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Hussein</b>	<i>for lovely descriptive sentence writing.</i>
	<b>Harper</b>	<i>for finding equivalent ways to make a total.</i>
<b>Penguin Class</b>	<b>Logan</b>	<i>for a super effort in handwriting.</i>

	<b>Woody</b>	<i>for wonderful descriptive writing about a setting.</i>
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<b>Joshua</b>	<i>for always being a kind friend to others on the playground.</i>
	<b>Ivie</b>	<i>for trying really hard with her adding and subtracting nine and eleven and making progress.</i>
<b>Puffin Class</b>	<b>Tyler</b>	<i>for fantastic effort with his mathematics.</i>
	<b>Nikodem</b>	<i>for writing exciting similes.</i>

**kindest regards,  
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher**



### School Dates

<b>JANUARY 2023</b>	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Bridge Builders Assembly, pupils only
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chinese New Year Assembly, pupils only
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	FROG Coffee Morning <b>8.30-9.30am</b> , SEN/INCO team to join
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 &amp; 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 & 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, Years 1 & 2 <b>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 (5 x 45 min sessions)

TBC	FROG / PTA Easter Stay and Play, 3.30-4.30pm
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**