



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**02.12.2022**

**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 the most wonderful week – all staff worked so hard on Wednesday evening to transform their classrooms and the school hall into magical, Christmassy spaces! When the children came in Thursday morning, everything was ready. Christmas trees, tinsel, Nativities, seasonal role play areas and Advent Calendars were everywhere and the whole school looked absolutely wonderful! In Nursery yesterday the long-awaited Teddy's Birthday Party took place. The children were in a state of wild excitement and they had the most fantastic time. Teddy enjoyed himself too and when the children arrived this morning he had eaten all his birthday sweets!***

***Mrs Dacombe started off the season with an Advent Assembly for Years 1 and 2 yesterday afternoon and we are awaiting with great anticipation the Reception concerts next week! Please see below for timings. And on Wednesday next week, the children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 will enjoy a high-quality production of Sleeping Beauty.***

***It is with great sorrow that I have to announce the departure at Christmas of two deeply-loved members of staff. Both Mrs McPartland and Mrs Garley will be leaving us in the new year. Mrs McPartland is moving out of Stevenage so that she can live nearer to her family and Mrs Garley – having commuted from her home in Cambridge for the past 26 years! – has finally decided to find a teaching job a little bit closer to home.***

***We have such stable staffing in this school that this probably comes as a bit of a shock – and of course both of these cherished colleagues have worked here for many years. Both have cared passionately about the school and its pupils and both have given their all. Words can't express how much they will be missed. If you would like to contribute towards a present, please bring a donation to the school office.***

***Do remember that on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>, the school is CLOSED FOR AN OCCASIONAL DAY. We hope that you all enjoy the long weekend.***

***Christmas Parties: On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding our class parties. Children may come dressed in party clothes or in a Christmas jumper. It's back to usual school uniform on Tuesday, however, for the last day of school. Because of***

*allergies, classes are organising party food in different ways this year, so if you are unsure please speak to your child's teacher or call the office.*

*It is just possible that there will also be a Special Visitor bearing gifts!*

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December last day of term:** *Please remember that school will finish an hour earlier for all classes and that there is no After School Club on the last day of the term. School will close at 2pm on this day.*

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Lunch:** *On the 16<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding our Christmas School Lunch for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, supported by our amazing FROG. Please see the menu below:*

**Red Option:** *Sliced turkey breast with chipolata sausage*

**Green Option:** *Quorn fillet*

*Both options served with: Sage and onion stuffing, gravy, roast potatoes and choice of seasonal vegetables*

*Pudding: Christmas themed pudding. (A separate pudding will be served to those children with known allergies).*

**School Attendance:** *Please help to improve school attendance and outcomes for your child. Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in life. For a school to be deemed as having good attendance, it must have an attendance rate of at least 97%. Our current attendance rate is 91.4%. This is concerning, as missing out on lessons leaves children extremely vulnerable to falling behind. Evidence shows that children with poor attendance do not achieve as well as children with good attendance at school, with many leaving primary school working below the age-related standard in reading, writing and mathematics. Legally, a child of compulsory school age must attend school every day that it is open, except for in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission in advance by the school. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and punctually.*

**Arbor Parent Portal:** *At the end of December 2022, we shall cease using School Gateway for our communications and wrap around club bookings.*

*We will be sending out further communications over the coming weeks including information on how to install and use the Arbor Parent Portal.*

**Non-uniform day in support of Children-in-Need:** *Thank you all for your generosity on Friday. We raised an amazing £280.01! Thank you so much.*

**Poppy Appeal:** *Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Poppy Appeal, we have just been notified that our school raised £145.51. Thank you!*

**FROG Christmas Card Project:** *Thank you to those of you that returned your child's art work, the slips will have gone home this week with information on how you can place an order. All orders must be completed by 12<sup>th</sup> December to allow time for them to be delivered to school before we break for Christmas.*

**Change of Address or Mobile Number:** *If you moved house or changed your mobile telephone number, please ensure that you let us know via email ([admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk)) so that we can update your child's contact information. Please remember that we need two contact numbers for your child.*

**Spring Term 2023 Milk:** An email was sent earlier this week with information on how to order milk for the spring term (5<sup>th</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023). If you require milk for your child, please ensure that you make your payment or indicate consent through the school gateway app, no later than Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**Nursery school places for September 2023:** If you are a prospective parent, we have a number of tours scheduled, please click on the following link:

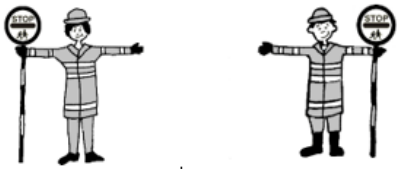

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>

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.

**Reception School Place – September 2023:** An important email was sent to our current Nursery families regarding making an application for starting in Reception September 2023. The applications opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, and the deadline date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. If you need any assistance in making your application, please speak to the school office who will be happy to help. If you are a prospective parent, we have a number of tours scheduled, please following the following link:

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>

**Year 3 Junior School Place – September 2023:** An important email was sent to our current Year 2 families regarding making an application for starting Year 3 at a new junior school for September 2023. The applications opened on 1st November 2022, and the deadline date is 15th January 2023. If you need any assistance in making your application, please speak to the school office who will be happy to help.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WANTED!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOL-CROSSING-PATROL</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING THE SCHOOL-CROSSING-PATROL</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WE URGENTLY NEED TO APPOINT A SCHOOL-CROSSING-PATROL AT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Giles Nursery and Infants' School and Giles Junior</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TAKING UP THIS POSITION?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE PAY IS £10.60 PER HOUR (excluding enhancements)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JOB SHARE CONSIDERED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Active and Safer Travel Team on Tel: 01992-556803 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:janet.fairhead@hertfordshire.gov.uk">janet.fairhead@hertfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Hertfordshire County Council, Active and Safer Travel Team, County Hall, Page Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DF, Tel: 01992-556805 September 2022</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Can we please remind you that it is parental responsibility to get your child to and from school safely?</small></p> 	<p><i>If you are interested in this role, please kindly make direct contact with the Active and Safer Travel team at Hertfordshire County Council, and not the school directly.</i></p>
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**Nursery:** *The children had an exciting week preparing for and celebrating Teddy's 4th birthday. The children were excited to receive Teddy's party invitation and got started writing replies and decorating birthday cards. Darcie found one of her favourite stories and said, "I'm going to read it to Teddy, it's my favourite." They had a wonderful time in the party role play area, taking part in a special birthday tea party, playing musical chairs and musical statues. Joey cut the cake and asked Teddy "Would you like a slice?" Ella said, "I like being at Teddy's party, there are special biscuits."*

*Teddy and the children had a fantastic time at the party, and they all looked marvellous in their party clothes. They ate jam or honey sandwiches and teddy crisps, sang Teddy his favourite song and danced to party music. Irina enjoyed dancing and exclaimed, "This is so much fun!"*

*In PSHCE the children practised sharing and taking turns by playing a game of pass the parcel, they showed great care and thoughtfulness towards each other. Playing the game sensibly and unwrapping each layer with care. They were all so happy to unwrap a layer and get a teddy card as a prize Aston commented, "It's a birthday bear, just like Teddy!"*

*The children all loved using the parachute to make waves and play 'cats and mice' with Mr Pullin. They listened superbly well and made small waves, large waves and a tsunami wave. The children were then fantastic sports helping to wave the parachute to help hide the mice from the cats, well done Nursery!*

*In mathematics, the children ordered teddies by size, using the mathematical vocabulary, 'big', 'small', 'biggest' and 'smallest'. This week they learnt all about the number 5, when playing a game of fastest fingers everyone was speedy to show one hand is 5. Maisie commented, "I have 5 fingers on each hand, 5 and 5 more is 10" This week's number rhyme was "Draw the back and the belly, then the hat. It's a five! Watch out, it might come alive!"*

*In phonics we continued to practise identifying the initial sounds in words. The children enjoyed playing 'Bertha the Bus' and sang the rhyme "Bertha the bus goes to the zoo, who does she see as she passes through..." Circle group enjoyed naming animals starting with the sound 'c'.*

*Next week the children will be focusing on the Nativity. They will be listening to different versions of the story and will sequence pictures to support them in retelling the Christmas story in their own words. We will also be sharing our family photos so we can learn about each other's different experiences within the family unit and to have lots of fun celebrating diversity, customs and traditions. Please could you send in a family picture if you haven't already? We will make a copy and return the original to you shortly.*

*On Monday 19th December we will be having our Nursery Christmas Party. This will take place for all children in the afternoon and everyone should please arrive in their party clothes at 12.30 for an afternoon of Christmas fun. We have an entertainer planned as a surprise visitor.*

**Reception:** *This week in mathematics, the children have used the mathematical terms 'more' and 'fewer' by placing wolves in two caves. Some children were able to recognise the difference just by looking at the number of animals whilst other used the counting skills to work more or fewer. In a second mathematics activity the children enjoyed matching an amount to the numeral. They especially enjoyed feeding the wolves bags of wolf food!*

*The children have been busy practising their class assembly for next week and have kindly invited the Year 1 classes and Nursery to watch a class dress rehearsal. The class assemblies will be as follows:*

- *Barn Owls on Tuesday 6th December at 9.15am*
- *Tawny Owls on Wednesday 7th December at 9.15am*
- *Snowy Owls on Thursday 8th December at 9.15am.*

*All the assemblies will take place in the school hall.*

*Our poem of the week is 'Advent Song'. Please encourage your child to read the poem to you, a member of their family or a family friend. These weekly poems are to aid your child's fluency in reading. The children have so much fun learning them each week.*

*In RE, the children have begun to look at why Christians around the world celebrate Christmas. There were many interesting responses as to why Christians celebrate Christmas. Ava in Barn Owl class said, "So you can get presents and see the elves!" and Nadia in Tawny Owl class said, "We have to take care of family." They listened to a version of the Christmas story and discussed why the Wise Men gave Jesus gifts.*

*On Wednesday evening the staff in Reception were busy in their classrooms making the classrooms look festive. On Thursday morning the children were very excited when they came into their classrooms. Samuel in Snowy Owl class said, "How did this all get here?" as he looked around the classroom at all the Christmas lights and decorations. Kristof from Snowy Owl class added, "I feel excited!"*

*Next week the children will be continuing to practise their class assembly and in literacy, they will be focusing on the Nativity using characters to retell the story through pictures.*

*Year 1: This week the children have had a wonderful time, with Forest School continuing to be very popular and engaging. The children remembered so much of the learning from the previous session. This week they have continued their science learning out in the woodland about animals and the concept of hibernation. They manipulated clay with their fingers to make hedgehogs and added sticks to look like spines.*

*Next week for Forest School, please could you bring in a named glass jar for your child to decorate as they will be making lanterns.*

*In English, the children have continued with their learning about toys and plurals. This week they have learnt the spelling rule for adding 'es' to a noun, listening to see if the word ends in s, ss, ch, sh, x or z. The children have also started to think about capital letters. They have been capital letter detectives and read sentences looking for a capital letter at the start of a sentence and matched lower-case letters with its upper-case friend.*

*In phonics the children have been learning the 'ey' and 'au' digraphs. They have been segmenting and blending words such as August, author and donkey and using phoneme frames to record their words. The children have also been practising spelling the words some, come, when, what and there.*

*In mathematics, the children have continued exploring subtraction using a range of practical resources such as bead strings, cubes and tens frames. They focused on using the language of taking away and writing subtraction number sentences using the symbols correctly.*

*In computing the children have completed their final lesson on algorithms. They retrieved last week's sequencing about 'The Wrong Sandwich' and debugged the sentences to make precise algorithms for the class to follow.*

*In PE, the children have been developing their ball skill. They have continued to work on the underarm and overarm throws and designed their own games to play together.*

*Next week, the children will begin on sequencing the Nativity story and continue to learn the words for the up-and-coming school concerts. As part of our history learning, please could your child bring in a photograph of them as a baby/toddler playing with a toy and then an up-to-date photograph of them playing with a modern day toy. These photographs will be stuck in their topic books to create a timeline. They will be comparing the changes over time. Thank you for your support with this.*

*We hope you have a wonderful weekend.*

*Year One Team*

*Year 2: This week in Year 2, the children have been working hard to learn the songs for their Christmas performance. They are doing an amazing job! The Year 2 teachers will be sending home lines as homework this week and we would be very grateful if you can help your child to practise these at home.*

*In English, the children continued to look at the fairy tale of Rapunzel. They read Bethan Woolvin's version of the story and compared it to the traditional tale. They were very excited that Rapunzel stood up for herself and became a witch hunter in the second version! The children learnt how the suffixes '-ful' and '-less' change the meaning of words and used them to describe the characters in the stories. They learnt the difference between a statement and an exclamation and wrote some exclamations within speech between Rapunzel and the witch. In preparation for writing a diary entry from the point of view of Rapunzel, the children learnt how to change verbs from the present tense to the past tense; for example, walk to walked, see to saw. They also created a bank of exciting adjectives and nouns that they will use in their diary entry.*

*In mathematics, the children learnt about money. They learnt to recognise different coins and notes and how to skip count to find a total. They explored finding the total value of a group of coins and notes, writing the amounts using the symbols '£' and 'p'. They also tried making an amount using different notes and coins.*

*In geography, the children learnt about the small Scottish island of Coll and explored its key features. They started to notice how it is different to Stevenage. In art and design, the children used collage techniques to create a picture of Rapunzel in her tower.*

*Next week in English, the children will write their diary entries from the point of view of Rapunzel leaving her tower for the first time. They will use what they have learnt about the past tense, the '-ful' and '-less' suffixes and adjectives and nouns in their writing. They will learn how to proof-read their work with a partner and have a go at making corrections independently.*

*In mathematics, the children will revise ordinal number (1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on) and practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. On Wednesday afternoon, the children will be treated to a pantomime in the hall and on Thursday, they will take part in a virtual 'Festive Journey', finding out about the Nativity story through videos and activities. Friday is our Occasional Day when school is closed.*

*We hope you have a wonderful weekend.*

## STARS OF THE WEEK

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Joey</b>	<i>for showing fantastic imagination in the party role play.</i>
	<b>Ibrahim</b>	<i>for beautifully sharing all about his teddy.</i>
	<b>Amelia</b>	<i>for excellent participation when playing games using the parachute.</i>
	<b>Esther</b>	<i>for being a fantastic friend when playing games and taking turns.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Eliot</b>	<i>for being able to match a numeral to an amount.</i>
	<b>Abigail</b>	<i>for always being kind and helpful.</i>
	<b>Kian-Marc</b>	<i>for being able to identify 'more' and 'fewer'.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>Juliette</b>	<i>for being able to match an amount to a number confidently.</i>
	<b>Nadia</b>	<i>for brilliant singing and storytelling in our concert rehearsals.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Isabelle</b>	<i>for demonstrating a very good understanding of 'more' and 'fewer'.</i>
	<b>Yamihle</b>	<i>for always being and kind and helpful member of Barn Owl class.</i>
<b>Value of the month</b>	<b>Snowy Owls: Abigail, Aimee and Blue</b> <b>Tawny Owls: Hollie, Sara and Teddy</b> <b>Barn Owls: Marliya, Yamihle and Nikola</b>	
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Viraat</b>	<i>for working hard with subtraction.</i>
	<b>Madison</b>	<i>for trying hard and showing improving with her reading.</i>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Elise</b>	<i>for showing kindness towards her peers.</i>
	<b>Archie</b>	<i>for working really hard in his learning.</i>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Luan</b>	<i>for working the clay really well to make a beautiful clay hedgehog.</i>
	<b>Zahraa</b>	<i>for super mathematics on subtraction.</i>
<b>Value of the month</b>	<b>Red Foxes: Fredrick and Matthew</b> <b>Big Cats: Sol and Ashlee</b> <b>Walker Bears: Lyra and Jaxon</b>	
<b>Penguin Class</b>	<b>Jett</b>	<i>for being positive and helpful in the classroom.</i> <i>for always sharing thoughtful ideas during learning time.</i>
	<b>Naisha</b>	
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<b>Philip</b>	<i>for fantastic, enthusiastic singing in preparation for our class play.</i>
	<b>Lucas</b>	



	<i>Ivie</i>	<i>for excellent mathematics learning about money.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Youssef</i>	<i>for displaying good learning behaviours.</i>
	<i>Billy-Joe</i>	<i>for creating a wonderful picture of Rapunzel.</i>
<i>Value of the month</i>	<i>Penguins: Kinga, Moonis and Jacob W Pelicans: Kayden, Georgina and Billy Puffins: Harper, Eliza and Philip</i>	

*Kindest regards,  
Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*



### **TERM DATES 2022-23**

***Autumn Term: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022***

*Children return to school on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022*

*[Half Term: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022]*

*Children return to school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022*

*[Christmas Holidays: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023]*

*Children return to school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023*

***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***



**SCHOOL DATES 2022/23**

<b>NOVEMBER 2022</b>	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> onwards	EVERY THURSDAY morning <b>8.30-9.30am</b> , Stay and Play in the Nursery. Come in & join your child to share a book or other activity in the Nursery. All welcome.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> onwards	EVERY FRIDAY morning <b>8.50-9.20am</b> , Stay and Read in all Reception Classes. Share a book with your child, all welcome.
<b>DECEMBER 2022</b>	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Christmas Concert – BARN OWLS, <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Christmas Concert – TAWNY OWLS, <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	M&M Production of SLEEPING BEAUTY
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Christmas Concert – SNOWY OWLS, <b>9.15am</b>
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	OCCASIONAL DAY – <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts: Big Cats, <b>1.30pm</b> Puffins, <b>2.30pm</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts: Red Foxes, <b>1.30pm</b> Penguins, <b>2.30pm</b>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts: Walker Bears, <b>1.30pm</b> Pelicans, <b>2.30pm</b>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am – 12.30pm Follow up Flu Immunisation
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner – FROG kindly decorate
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Christmas Concerts, 10.00am and 2.30pm
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Hanukkah Assembly, in school, pupils only
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon Christmas Parties. Nursery closed in the morning and all Nursery children to come for the afternoon. A Surprise Visitor!
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 visit to All Saints Church
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of term – finish at 2pm