



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Judith Garley

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ  
Telephone: 01438 359747  
Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk

**11.11.2022**

**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,***

***It has been a fantastically busy, rich learning week in school this week as children delved deeper into their new topics. The highlight of the week was the fabulous Year 2 autumn concerts in which they shared with us the wide range of their learning since the start of term including writing inspired by a video showing the eruption into our school playground of a giant beanstalk at the start of Big Write Week; instructional writing on brushing a crocodile's teeth accompanied by some lovely performances; their learning in science, some tremendous art and design work and some lovely poetry – both original poems written by the children and poems recited by the class. Children engaged simply beautifully and you would hardly guess that they have missed so many performances and so much of their schooling over the past few years. They have definitely 'caught up'! and we are so tremendously proud of them all and grateful to their dedicated and caring teachers and support staff. Thank you to all the Year 2 team.***

***Today is Remembrance Day and during the week children have been learning about the relevant period in history; all children had a special assembly in their classes and held two minutes' silence for Remembrance Day today. Thank you to everyone who joined us for a walk round the school perimeter at the end of the school day to view from outside the Remembrance Day artwork – and to all Reception parents who came to Stay-and-Play this morning and afterwards walked round to see this work.***

***A very special thanks to all those who attended the Open Evening last night. The school looked absolutely stunning and it was lovely to see so many of you. Children enjoyed showing their families around their classrooms and visiting old and new teachers and staff. Many of you told me how impressed you were with how happy your children are in school, how much progress your child is making and how welcoming and kind all the staff are. There were other lovely comments about how nurturing this school is, how well-resourced, how caring all the staff are, how clean and welcoming and environment is - and how simply beautiful the school and its displays are. Thank you for these generous and appreciative comments which are hugely valued by all of us. Thanks from the bottom of my heart to all our unbelievably hard-working, outstanding, caring staff.***

***Mrs Long, our Co-Chair of Governors attended last night and wrote to me:***

Dear Rouane

I cannot help but to write this evening to congratulate you and the whole staff team on a truly fabulous Open Evening. It was so energising to walk around the school and see the incredible vibrancy and range of learning taking place. I felt so proud to be associated with the school and only wish my children (now grown up) were of an age where they could come to Giles Nursery and to Giles Infants!

I was very impressed by the care and creativity that staff had put in to making so many bright, colourful and varied displays, but, best of all, the displays, reading corners and role play areas reflect just how rich and deep the learning is that is taking place in every single class and that learning was even fun! Added to which, the whole school was immaculate, so much so it was almost like a new school that had just opened. It was also lovely to see the INco team welcoming people so warmly in the hall.

The last two years cannot have been easy for anyone, and I know that there are still difficulties for the children as a result of the pandemic, but I really believe that the opportunities and environment offered to the children at Giles are unique - and this was abundantly clear this evening. I am sure that both existing and prospective parents will feel the same.

With warmest wishes

Kate

***Children in Need: We will be celebrating this on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November when we will have a non-uniform day. Children can come dressed in their pyjamas if wished. Children may bring in a £1 donation for Children in Need and a special assembly will be held.***

***Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2.45 Stay-and-Share your child's work Year 1  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2.45 Stay-and-Share your child's work Year 2***

***Nursery January 2023/September 2023 Intake: We are happy to advise that we will be holding parent/carer tours for our next intake(s) of children for January and September 2023. Children may join our Nursery in the term after they turn 3 years old. Tours will run on Thursdays at 4pm, starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and applications for places will be accepted from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022. Please do kindly share this information with your family and friends. Tours may be booked by following this web link – <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> We shall also be holding a prospective parent open evening on 10<sup>th</sup> November 5.30pm-7.00pm.***

***Reception September 2023 Intake: We will be holding parent/carer tours for the September 2023 intake of children. Tours will run on Thursdays at 4pm, starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Applications with Hertfordshire County Council open on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, and close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023, applications can be made via: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx> If you need any assistance in making your application, please contact the school office. Tours may be booked by following this web link – <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/> We shall also be holding a prospective parent open evening on 10<sup>th</sup> November 5.30pm-7.00pm.***

***Year 2 Children starting Year 3 in September 2023: Applications for our current Year 2 children who shall move into Year 3 in September 2023 will open with Hertfordshire***

County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, with a closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Applications can be made via: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx> If you need any assistance in making your application, please contact the school office. Any enquiries about Junior school provision should be made to the school of your choice.

**Reverse Advent Calendar:** We are sharing the page below from the People to People facebook page as it is a Stevenage charity.

Please note, however that this is not a registered charity so if you choose to take part in this really fabulous idea with your children, you might choose The Food Shed, or alternately, your local food bank to take your donations.

It does seem to be a great thing to do together with your children and we have decided to do one box in school with staff contributing. We'll place the 'calendar box' in the hall and will share this with children during assemblies.

**People for People, Reverse Advent Calendar:**

	<p><i>This year is the first time that the food-shed has asked People for People to donate. If you are able to create your own reverse advent calendar and donate that would be wonderful.</i></p> <p><i>Please take your reverse advent calendars to The Food Shed directly.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you to our wonderful community for supporting this request.</i></p>
--	---

**Nursery:** The children have thoroughly enjoyed a week filled with firework activities. They have learnt to sing the rhyme 'Five Little Rockets' with great enjoyment, eagerly counting back from 5 each time ready for blast off. The children have described their experiences of fireworks and used fantastic describing words. Tiger explained, "When we went to see the fireworks they were loud, they made a bang." Charlie said, "I liked the blue, red and orange fireworks the best."

In the creative area, the children enjoyed making rockets and firework pictures using glitter and powder paint. They also had the opportunity to show this week's number 2 by making 2 handprints and printing a large number 2. The children learnt the rhyme "Half a heart says, I love you, add a line. Now I've made the number two."

Outside in the garden, the children have been running, hopping and jumping like rockets on the number tiles. They used bells, ribbons and streamers to add colour and movement. Cormac commented, "Fireworks go wheee, whoosh and bang!"

In phonics, the children have discussed noises that they like, noises that make them excited and noises that make them feel cross or sad. They decided when it is a good time to be noisy, and when it is best to be quiet or speak softly. Square group decided

*it was good to be noisy at a party but not good to be noisy in the library or when someone is asleep.*

*On Remembrance Day, the children watched a beautiful CBeebies animation, 'Poppies', that sees war as experienced by animals in a WWI battlefield, and the whole class held a two-minute silence. The children used a range of materials to create their own poppies, a wreath and a poppy field display.*

*Our next rhyme is 'Incy Wincy Spider' and the children will enjoy a range of activities about spiders.*

*Reception: This week in literacy, the children created 'WANTED' posters for people to identify what the big bad wolf looked like by using the repetitive caption beginning 'it has...' They had a picture of a wolf and used this to write about different parts of the wolf's body so others would know exactly who they were looking for!*

*In mathematics, the children used wolves to make three in different ways by placing them to 2 separate caves. They used number beads to create different addition calculations.*

*Throughout Reception, the children thoroughly enjoyed creating a biscuit house for a little pig. They used icing sugar as a cement-like mixture to support the walls and the roof. Some children even attempted to construct a pitched roof with varying degrees of success. It was good to see the children persevering when faced with the challenges of ensuring the walls stayed upright or making sure the pitched roof did not collapse. When Miya in Barn Owl class was making her biscuit house, she said, "Mine is great, it is so yummy. My house is getting on good," and Lennox in Tawny Owl class proudly pointed to part of the house and said, "Here is my fireplace!"*

*The children have found out why people buy poppies to commemorate Remembrance Day. They listened to the author and illustrator Michael Foreman read his story 'Stubby' on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSac6JwiXt0>) and watched an animated story 'Poppies' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOT5CDnYHEs>). Both stories generated interesting and thoughtful discussions from the children. All the children in Reception have created a poppy and these are displayed in our windows. Please come and have a look as each class have created wonderful displays. When talking about poppies, James in Snowy Owl class said, "We wear poppies to remember people from the wars."*

*Next week the children will be finding out facts about wolves and creating different environments in which wolves live around the world. In understanding the world, the children will be 'science detectives' investigating the force of the wolf's breath using a hairdryer. In mathematics, the children will be locating one less on a number line, understanding the relationship between consecutive numbers.*

*Year 1: In English, the children have begun their non-fiction topic on hedgehogs. They have explored non-fiction books to research facts and learnt that this is one way of collecting information.*

*They have focused on sentence structure and practised reordering the words in a jumbled sentence so that it makes sense. The children looked carefully for the capital letter and the full stop at the end of each sentence. The sentences they reordered were facts about hedgehogs and the children enjoyed reading these, applying their phonic knowledge to do so.*

*In mathematics, the children have continued with their learning on regrouping and making various totals using a part, part, whole model. The children have used cubes and counters to make different totals.*

*In science, the children have started to learn how to classify mammals. The children learnt about the characteristics of what makes an animal a mammal and named common mammals they already knew. They used their new knowledge to create a fact file about a mammal of their choice. The children were excited to discover that humans are mammals and dolphins, and whales are mammals that live in the ocean!*

*In art, the children explored adding more of a primary colour to another primary colour to make a tone chart. They noticed how adding more of a certain colour made the colour darker or lighter.*

*In computing, the children have started their new unit called 'Lego Builders'. They enjoyed creating an algorithm for their friend to follow and learnt the importance of it being precise. They used Lego blocks to make models and compared their work.*

*In PE, the children played a target game using beanbags. The purpose of the game was to develop accuracy when throwing underarm towards a target, over an increasing distance. They persevered in the tasks set, keeping their eyes on the target, and practised applying the correct technique. They collected points as they hit the target.*

*Next week in English, the children will continue learning about hedgehogs. They will be writing sentences to create their own hedgehog fact file. In mathematics, the children will be learning to use the mathematical symbols + and = in number calculations. In science, the children will be learning about the animal group reptiles.*

*Year 1 pupils will also be starting Forest School. Please make a note of which day your child's class has Forest School:*

*Monday – Big Cats*

*Thursday– Walker Bears*

*Friday – Red Foxes*

*Please look out for a separate email, containing an information pack about our Forest School and the clothing your child will need.*

*Have a wonderful weekend.*

*The Year 1 Team*

*Year 2: It has been an absolutely fantastic week in Year 2, with all classes performing beautifully during their autumn concerts. The children presented some of the brilliant work they have completed so far this year and sang some of our wonderful assembly songs. They have worked so incredibly hard, and their teachers and support staff are incredibly proud of them, as we're sure you are too. Thank you to those who were able to make it and celebrate the children's achievements so far.*

*We have a 'Stay and Share Work' session next Thursday 17th November at 2.45pm in the Year 2 classrooms. This is a great opportunity to look at your child's work in more detail and talk to them about their learning. We look forward to seeing you there.*

*In English this week, the children have started a new unit of work, focusing on the Katie Morag stories by Maire Hedderwick. They were introduced to the book series with the story 'Katie Morag Delivers the Mail', which introduces the island and its inhabitants. The children used what they had heard in the story to help them draw a map of the Isle of Struay, including some of its key features. The children looked closely at the character of Katie Morag and thought of adjectives to describe what she looks like.*

*In mathematics, the children have been learning how to find one more and one less, and ten more and ten less. They have used the part whole model and a hundred square to investigate the effect of adding one and ten, by looking at which digit of the number changes.*

*In geography, the children have learnt the key vocabulary of our 'Island Home' topic, including beach, harbour, port, cliff, ocean, pier, hill and mountain. As part of our history and citizenship curriculum, the children have learnt about Remembrance Day and what the symbol of the poppy represents. Each class created poppy artwork, which has been displayed in the classroom windows.*

*Next week in English, the children will continue to focus on the Katie Morag stories. They will learn how to use the possessive apostrophe to write sentences to describe Katie Morag; for example, Katie Morag's hair is red, curly and long. The children will also learn how to extend sentences using 'and' to add information or 'but' to compare. In mathematics, the children will rehearse their learning this week to secure their knowledge of adding and subtracting ones and tens. In art and design, the children will make a fabric collage of Katie Morag. In geography, they will revise the oceans and continents of the world before learning about the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. In PSHCE, the children will think about bullying and how it is sometimes related to difference. They will talk about how being bullied might feel and how they can support someone if they think they are being bullied.*

*Your child's targets for this term will be sent home in your child's book bag next week. This will include a target for reading, writing and mathematics. We will be focusing on your child's targets in school and appreciate your support at home.*

### **STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Carina</b>	<i>for excellent jumping when using a streamer to be a rocket.</i>
	<b>Charlie</b>	<i>for fantastic counting to 10 when jumping on the number tiles.</i>
	<b>Nancy</b>	<i>for painting a super number 2.</i>
	<b>Reid</b>	<i>for coming to Nursery with a smile each day.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Zaina</b>	<i>for applying her phonic knowledge to write a caption about the wolf.</i>
	<b>James</b>	<i>for finding different ways to make 3.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>Ruben</b>	<i>for fantastic independent writing when creating his 'Wanted' poster.</i>
	<b>Ava</b>	<i>for brilliant recognition of the common exception words during phonics.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Kairi</b>	<i>for excellent understanding of how to make three in different ways.</i>
	<b>Zachary</b>	<i>for super writing when creating his 'WANTED' poster.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Isabella</b>	<i>for working hard in mathematics using the part-whole model.</i>
	<b>Maria</b>	<i>for fantastic improvement in her reading.</i>

<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Albert</b>	<i>for creating a super set of instructions in computing when Lego building.</i>
	<b>Elise</b>	<i>for super science work on mammals.</i>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Chloe</b>	<i>for fabulous mathematics using a part-whole model.</i>
	<b>Thea</b>	<i>for super progress in reading.</i>
<b>Penguin Class</b>	<b>Darius</b>	<i>for a super effort with his reading.</i>
	<b>Evelyn</b>	<i>for a beautiful piece of poppy art.</i>
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<b>The whole class</b>	<i>for what was a wonderful autumn concert. You all practised so well, spoke clearly, and sang beautifully. Well done Pelican Class!</i>
<b>Puffin Class</b>	<b>Xyrene</b>	<i>for creating a wonderful poppy repeated pattern, using Purple Mash.</i>
	<b>Amaan</b>	<i>for always trying his best with his learning.</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**

**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.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	FROG AGM, <b>2pm</b>
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Stay and Share your Child's Work – <b>Year 1, 2.45-3.10pm</b> . All very welcome
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Stay and Share your Child's Work – <b>Year 2, 2.45-3.10pm</b> . All very welcome
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Non-uniform day in support of Children in Need. Small donation requested.
Tuesday 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.
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Assembly, in school, pupils only
<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