



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**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 wonderful week in school, hugely helped by the glorious autumnal weather. In assemblies we are learning harvest songs and today Miss Hadley and her daughter kindly came back into school to create a beautiful harvest table in the hall which will allow us all to remember those in need at this time of year. Year 2 children who had brought in donations came up to the front in assembly to place bags on and around the harvest table. Thank you very much for your generosity.*

*Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 1 and 2 parent/teacher consultations. Children have settled so well and I hope that you all felt very proud of the achievements of your children!*

*Poetry Day is on Thursday. There will be celebrations of poetry across the school with children engaging in a wide variety of poetic activities. The theme this year is the environment, so if you know any poems connected with this topic, please let us know so that we can share them with the children.*

*October is Black History Month and we will be celebrating across the school the achievements of inspirational leaders, sportspeople, musicians, poets, writers, artists and other role models from across black communities with special assemblies, shared reading, lessons and activities.*

*Bulbs or plants donations will be gratefully received. These will be used for our Queen Elizabeth 11 memorial garden and all the school planters which will be sown and re-potted during our Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies collapsed curriculum well-being week starting October 17<sup>th</sup>. Yoga workshops and Divali workshops will be held over the course of this week for all the children.*

*Date change: The FROG/PTA AGM will now take place after half-term at 9am on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. This way it will be after the Open Evening (5.10-7pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November). FROG will have a table at this event and will hope to recruit interested parties so do look out for them!*

*FROG Bake Sale: The FROG has planned lots of new exciting events this year including a Bake Sale at 3.15 pm Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup> in the school dining hall.*

*Donations are very welcome – please give contributions either to your child’s class teacher or to the office. Proceeds will go, as ever, to projects supporting our children.*

**Census day is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October: Menu change October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: PLEASE can all children, even if they usually have a packed lunch, also choose a school dinner on Thursday!**

*It is really important that as many children as possible have school lunch on this day as the number of participants is used to assess the level of our annual funding from government. So, if your child doesn’t normally have school lunches, we would be hugely grateful if they can on Thursday. If you like, they can bring in a packed lunch as well!*

*Thursday and Friday dinners will be swapped as the children like Friday’s menu best. Do please encourage your child to order a school dinner on Thursday.*

**Nursery January 2023/September 2023 Intake:** *We are happy to advise that we shall 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 every Thursday at 4pm, starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and applications 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 6.00pm-7.30pm.*

**Reception September 2023 Intake:** *We shall be holding parent/carer tours for September 2023 intake of children. Tours will run every Thursday 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 14<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 6.00pm-7.30pm.*

**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 14<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.*

**PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS FOR THE EYFS:** *Time-slots for consultations will be displayed in classes for you to select a time-slot that is convenient. If you do not drop your children in school, please either call the office on 01438 359747 to ask for a time, or email me on [head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk).*

*We will let class teachers know that you’ve been in touch so that they can call you back to arrange a time to meet.*

*Parent/Teacher slot timings will be:*

*Nursery  
3.00pm- 7.00pm Wednesday October 19th  
3.00pm - 7.00pm Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>*

## Reception

3.30pm - 5.50pm Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th of October

**Value of the Month:** *The value for October is unity. The children will be learning how we work together, and value and support each other.*

**Social Media:** *We as a school strongly support building a close-knit community and the use of social media and indeed all forms of communication has helped us all through many difficult times, including the pandemic. During the recent parent consultations, however, several concerns were raised about comments that have been made on social media and class WhatsApp groups. This type of forum is usually used very positively by our school community and communicating on social media and WhatsApp is an ideal way for parents to contact each other easily and share important information about what is happening in school.*

*We want so much for these forums to be really positive and beneficial so please can we ask everyone to remember, when you are leaving a message or posting something that is public, that you are doing so with sensitivity towards all others. In particular, please be very careful not to make comments that could potentially single out or identify individuals.*

*All of us work so very hard to meet the needs of all our children and our parents and we want to continue to operate as a close and caring community, working together for the benefit of all. We want to make sure every child is able to access their learning, and this can mean that differentiation is at times necessary. This means that sometimes the needs of an individual child might be met by making small adjustments to our usual practice; for example, a child might be allowed to wear something that is a variation on the school uniform; might be permitted to bring in a toy or different snack; or might be given a different start or finish time.*

*Any such individual arrangement will have been agreed with the school and there will always be an important reason for this happening. Staff work so hard to make the school a happy place of learning and we really value each and every one of our families. Please trust that we are doing our very best and if you have any concerns, please do come in and speak to us and we can work together to address these. Thank you.*

**Nursery:** *This week the children have been excited to sing the nursery rhyme 'Humpty Dumpty', which has been added to the children's rhyme ring for them to practise at home. The children have worked tremendously well together using a variety of construction resources to build strong walls for the 'Humpty Dumpty' puppets to sit on. Ayla said, 'I am making it so strong, so I need to put bricks over the joins'. In art, the children had lots of fun using a variety of different media to make a 'Humpty Dumpty' character, adding legs, trousers and a face.*

*The children enjoyed exploring drumming outdoors, discovering how different sounds can be made by tapping or stroking with their beaters. They used their beaters around the outside area on wooden objects, the metal fence and the slide.*

*This week we enjoyed the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' by Bill Martin, Jr'. The children were eager to meet the cuddly soft brown bear sitting next to the class ladybird before they were introduced to the story. They have loved seeing the beautifully illustrated animals in the story and joining in by repeating the refrain 'Brown bear, brown bear, what you see?'*

*As part of our PSED, the children have begun the new topic 'Being Me in My World' and discussed how feeling happy and sad can be expressed and what makes them happy. Reid commented, 'Cuddles with mummy make me happy!'*

*Next week the children will be learning the rhyme 'Five Currant Buns' and will have the opportunity to enjoy playing in a 'bakery shop' as part of the role play area. The children will enjoy the story of 'Each Peach Pear Plum' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg'. Please remember to bring in your child's library book on Monday.*

**Reception:** *This week in literacy, the children generated captions linked to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' focusing on the big bad wolf. The children continued to develop their knowledge about how a caption is structured by using their fingers to count how many words were in their caption. When ordering their caption they checked there were finger spaces in between each word. When the children had finished ordered their caption they use their 'reading finger' to check their caption made sense.*

*The children had their first visit to the Enchanted Garden where they all had a marvellous time acting out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. When Eliot from Snowy Owls was pretending to be the big bad wolf, he said, "I will huff and I will puff and blow your house down!" The children have also enjoyed watching the Disney version of 'The Three Little Pigs' called 'Silly Symphony' made in 1958. This version always makes the children laugh. When watching the 'Silly Symphony', Ruben in Tawny Owl class said, "The wolf is shuffling along the floor on his bottom!"*

*In mathematics, the children enjoyed counting a number of objects accurately and in a second activity they thoroughly enjoyed mixing sand and shaving foam to create 'cement'. They used their cement to be bricklayers filling pots to help them build a wall. As the children worked they chatted about the level of capacity in their pots. Noah from Barn Owl class said whilst he was pretending to be a builder, "I'm going to build a castle!"*

*Next week, in literacy the children will be focusing on rhyming words. They will be listening to rhyming stories, singing many songs and participating in many rhyming activities and celebrating National Poetry Day on Thursday 6th October. The children will be creating a rhyming string linked to the word 'pig'.*

*In mathematics, the children will be locating one more on a number line, understanding the relationship between consecutive numbers.*

*In expressive arts and design, the children will be using a range of collage materials to create a puppet and then using their puppet to retell the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' in the Enchanted Garden.*

*In Letters and Sounds the children will be continuing to broaden their knowledge of Phase 2 sounds and will be introduced to the term 'digraph', which means two sounds snapped together to make one sound as in 'ck'.*

*In RE, the children will be finding out which British woodland animals gather food to store in preparation for winter.*

*In PSED, the children will be discussing the importance of being kind and using gentle hands when interacting with each other.*

*In music, the children will be continuing to practise the pulse to a piece of music and learning the words and actions to a nursery rhyme.*

**Year 1:** *It has been an absolute delight to meet the families of the Year 1 children at parent consultations this week. We hope you found the meetings as helpful as we did. Thank you for making the time to meet with your child's class teacher.*

*This week, the children in Year 1 have begun to think about the season of autumn. In English, the children have listened to the autumnal story 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves' by Julia Rawlinson. They have used their skills of observation to look closely at a picture from the book and to note what they can see in it. They have learnt that when writing they need to leave finger spaces between words and have practised doing so. They enjoyed making lolly stick spacers. The children have also been on autumn walks as part of their immersion into the story.*

*In science, the children have begun to focus on each of the five senses. This week they learnt about the sense of hearing. They enjoyed making big ear headbands and doing some listening exercises inside and outside.*

*The children have been exploring the value of numbers in mathematics. They used a range of resources to show a given number in a variety of ways. They also began to unlock their super subitising powers.*

*The first computing lesson using a device was a moment of great excitement across the year group. The children enjoyed using their personal log-in details to log on to Purple Mash. They then designed their own avatars. Your child's Purple Mash details are in their red reading record and you can log on at home from a device such as a smart phone, tablet, laptop or computer.*

*In art the children listened to the story 'Funnybones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. They used artstraws to make their own skeleton pictures.*

*The children showed great focus in handwriting as they learnt how to form three more long-legged giraffe letters: u, j, y.*

*Next week the children will continue to enjoy the story of 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves', using it as a stimulus for writing captions in English. In mathematics, the learning will focus on finding one more and one less for a given number. The children will explore the sense of sight in science. Thank you for helping your child to produce some truly wonderful homework. We hope you enjoyed supporting your child's learning in this way. The homework books are coming home again this week and will be due back in by Wednesday 12 October.*

*The Year 1 Team.*

*Year 2: It has been a fantastic week in Year 2 and it was wonderful to meet with so many parents during the parent consultations. Thank you for taking the time to meet with the teaching staff. We hope you found the meetings as useful as we did.*

*In English, the children read the story of 'The Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl and learnt all about his cunning plans and clever tricks. They imagined what they would do if he appeared on our playground and how they could catch him. There were some fantastically imaginative ideas!*

*Rain in Puffin class decided to hook some meat on a rope to lure the crocodile, before catching it in a net. Benedict in Penguin class thought it would be a brilliant idea to make a wooden box, put some fresh ham inside and then trap the crocodile when he went in to eat it. Mali in Pelican class had some great ideas, including designing and building a robot to catch it after making it become dizzy.*

*The children used their ideas as a basis to learn how to write a set of instructions. They have made a model example to help them write their own set of instructions next week.*

*In mathematics, the children have been revising number bonds (pairs of numbers) to 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. They have been using the part, part whole model to help them find all of the different bonds. They have explored how they can use the number bonds to work out other number facts; for example:*

$$2 + 8 = 10 \quad 8 + 2 = 10 \quad 10 - 8 = 2 \quad 10 - 2 = 8$$

*In art and design, the children explored texture by layering card and tissue paper to make a crocodile. In computing, the children used Purple Mash to enter code to move pictures of fish from in a fish tank. In science, the children explored what happens to their body when they exercise and why exercise is important to keep us healthy. They thought of lots of different ways to exercise and keep fit. In RE, the children learnt about the Christian festival of harvest, and how it helps other, less fortunate people in our community.*

*Next week in science, the children will look at how they brush their teeth and learn why it is so important to keep their mouth healthy. They will start an investigation to find out which drinks are the worst for our teeth. English will link to science, as the children write a set of instructions explaining how to brush a crocodile's teeth. They will use the model example they have made this week to support them. In mathematics, the children will be exploring doubling and halving. They will also explore odd and even numbers, and how to work out if a number is odd or even. In design technology, the children will recall what they know about healthy eating and design a healthy salad. In RE, the children will learn about the Jewish festival of sukkot.*

*Next Thursday is National Poetry Day. The theme this year is 'The Environment'. The children will have the opportunity to read poems, act them out and discuss how they make them feel. They may have a go at writing their own too! If you would like more information about the event, please visit the website: <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>*

### STARS OF THE WEEK

<i>Ladybird Nursery Classes</i>	<i>Evelyn</i>	<i>for singing the square group song by herself.</i>
	<i>Samuel J</i>	<i>for an excellent discussion about the clouds and rain.</i>
	<i>Ishanvi</i>	<i>for fantastic care and attention when creating a 'Humpty Dumpty'.</i>
	<i>Ella</i>	<i>for super use of positional language to describe where Humpty Dumpty was sitting.</i>
<i>Snowy Owls</i>	<i>Alana</i>	<i>for always using her good manners.</i>
	<i>Kristof</i>	<i>for being able to use mathematical language to describe capacity.</i>
<i>Tawny Owls</i>	<i>Zuzanna</i>	<i>for being a fantastic big bad wolf when acting out the story in the Enchanted Garden.</i>
	<i>Evie</i>	<i>for brilliant independent ordering of her caption about the big bad wolf.</i>
<i>Barn Owls</i>	<i>Ava</i>	<i>for using a fantastic character voice when helping to act out the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'.</i>

	<i>Olivia</i>	<i>for excellent accurate counting of a number of objects.</i>
<i>Value of the month</i>	<i>Snowy Owls: Bella and Samuel Tawny Owls: Arlowe, Theo and Parth Barn Owls: Miya, Hugo and Kara</i>	
<i>Red Fox Class</i>	<i>Lylah Mae</i>	<i>for super subitising in mathematics.</i>
	<i>Oliver</i>	<i>for making a fantastic skeleton picture using art straws.</i>
	<i>Enzo</i>	<i>For good knowledge of phonics.</i>
<i>Big Cat Class</i>	<i>Ashlee</i>	<i>for an excellent recognition of common exception words.</i>
	<i>Charinthorn</i>	<i>for working really hard in handwriting.</i>
<i>Walker Bear Class</i>	<i>Zayana</i>	<i>for sharing your ideas with the class during learning time.</i>
	<i>Alfie</i>	<i>for working hard in phonics.</i>
<i>Value of the month</i>	<i>Red Foxes: Vienna and Aaron Big Cats: Kaden and Megan Walker Bears: Thea and Nkazi</i>	
<i>Penguin Class</i>	<i>Benedict</i>	<i>for an inventive idea to catch a crocodile.</i>
	<i>Moonis</i>	<i>for beautifully neat handwriting.</i>
<i>Pelican Class</i>	<i>Alfie</i>	<i>for always demonstrating excellent listening skills.</i>
	<i>Charlie</i>	<i>for always being a good friend to others.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Ever</i>	<i>for beautifully neat handwriting.</i>
	<i>Eliza</i>	<i>for fantastic understanding and recall of number bonds to 10.</i>
<i>Value of the month</i>	<i>Penguins: Boris, Chloe and Toby Pelicans: Billy, Emma and Emily Puffins: Scarlet, Amelia and Hunter</i>	

*Have a wonderful weekend.*

*Kindest regards,  
Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*



**TERM DATES 2022-23**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FULLER DATES WILL COME OUT NEXT WEEK**

***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]*

*[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]**

**[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]**

**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>SEPTEMBER 2022</b>	
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 1 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 1 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 5.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 2 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 2 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 5.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Reception Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Reception Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 5.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>