



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

**16.09.2022**

**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 such a busy, lovely week in school, helped by the absolutely glorious very summery autumn weather.***

***Thank you to all the Reception and Year 2 parents who attended the excellent introductory talks; we hope you found them helpful.***

***If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to ask me or your child's class teacher.***



***GILES NURSERY AND INFANTS'  
SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2022 TO  
PAY RESPECT TO THE PASSING OF HRH  
QUEEN ELIZABETH II***

***It is with great sadness that we mourn  
the passing of Her Majesty Queen  
Elizabeth II, Britain's longest serving  
Monarch and Head of the  
Commonwealth.***

***We pay tribute to her unwavering  
commitment to the people she served so  
faithfully for so many years.***

***On behalf of the Giles Nursery and  
Infants' School community, we would  
like to express our sincerest condolences  
to the Royal Family.***

***PTA Tears and Tissues Coffee meetings: Tuesday September 20th 8.30-9.30am. Come and meet our fantastic PTA and make some new friends!***

***At the same time, you can meet our Special Educational Needs Team, Mrs McPartland and Miss Stanton. The coffee morning will also give you an informal opportunity to come in and meet our SEN/INCo team.***

***Year Group Parent Presentations: It was so wonderful to see so many parents attend our recent year group parent presentations, and we hope you also enjoyed sampling some of the food provided by Herts Catering. For parents who were unable to join us due to other commitments, please see the links below for the presentations:***

***Reception: <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/reception-barn-owls-tawny-owls-and-snowy-owls/>***

***Year 1: <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/year-1-red-foxes-walker-bears-and-big-cats/>***

***Year 2: <https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/year-2-pelicans-penguins-and-puffins/>***

***PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS: 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***

***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***

***Year 1***

***3.30pm – 6.30pm Tuesday 27th September  
3.30pm – 6.30pm Wednesday 28th September***

***Year 2***

***1.15pm – 3.00pm and 3.30pm - 7.00pm Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>  
3.30pm – 6.00pm Thursday September 29th***

***A reminder that children are not allowed on the big climbing frame in the Year 2 playground outside of school hours: Before we had this rule, dozens of pupils, including much older pupils from the Junior School, used to come and swarm all over this attractive equipment and unfortunately this was very unsafe. Large Year 6 pupils would race around and I was terrified that a toddler would be knocked off. We have therefore agreed a rule that this apparatus is to be used during school time only when children are carefully supervised by our staff. Please help us to keep the children safe! Thank you.***

**Change of details:** *If you moved or have changed your mobile number or email address over the summer holidays, please do let the office know so we can ensure we have the most current contact information for you.*

**Nursery:** *The Nursery children are continuing to settle well, including our new starters this week! They have been introduced to the Nursery routines and have been thinking about rules to help them stay safe and look after each other. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing 'roll the ball' and are beginning to learn the names of all their new friends.*

*The children have loved reading the story of 'Where's Spot?' by Eric Hill and have been excited to find out where Spot could be hiding!' Oscar W commented, "I want to find out where Spot is, he's not under the bed!" Oscar H commented, "He's called Spot because he's got a spot!"*

*It has been wonderful to hear the children beginning to learn their group shape song this week. They have been learning to recognise their group shape; 'square', 'triangle', 'oval', 'diamond', 'rectangle' or 'circle', looking carefully at the number of sides and corners. The children have used paint to print their group shape in a variety of colours to help them name and recognise their group shape.*

*Next week the children will be learning about ladybirds through stories, learning facts about the life cycle of a ladybird, creating a painting of a ladybird and moving like a ladybird. The children will be reading the story 'Apples and Honey', by Jonny Zucker, which is about celebrating the Jewish New Year festival of Rosh Hashanah.*

*Please could we remind you to ensure all personal belongings are clearly marked with your child's name. If your child brings something home which doesn't belong to them, please return it to Nursery. We would be grateful if you could check if your child's cardigan has the correct name as unfortunately a child's named red cardigan has been lost.*

**Reception:** *Children in Reception have watched the Queen and Paddington. Staff have spoken over the course of the week in an age-appropriate way to the children about the death of our Monarch and all the wonderful things she did for our country over the course of her life.*

*This week in literacy, the children used Makaton signs to help them retell the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They sequenced pictures linked to the story to create a story map and used their story map to retell this traditional tale to a friend. The children have generated lovely talking points and when explaining why the brick house couldn't be blown down, Zenny in Tawny Owls said, 'It is strong like a big man with big muscles!' In the writing areas in each class the children have enjoyed writing their own versions of 'The Three Little Pigs'. Isabelle in Barn Owl class said, "You have to use your imagination to write a story."*

*In understanding the world, the children have begun to learn about seasonal changes. The children have been observing signs of autumn in the school grounds and the nature area. They have created tissue paper trees using autumnal colours and these will be displayed on the windows in each classroom. The children have begun to create a 'Seasonal Changes of a Tree' book. During the year they will be focusing on one tree in the Reception playground and will use different forms of media to record the seasonal changes. For autumn, the children used crayons to draw the tree and noticed the leaves on the tree have begun to change colour. When using autumnal coloured crayons to draw the tree, Alana in Snowy Owl class said, "The leaves are all crunchy!"*

*In RE, the children discussed why people around the world celebrate harvest. Some of the children in each of the Reception classes talked about giving food to homeless people, just like the people they had seen in Ralph McTell's 'Streets of London' video.*

*Next week in literacy, the children will be generating a caption about one of the little pigs from the story. They will be using their fingers to count out the number of words in their caption and watching an adult model writing their caption for them to order it.*

*In mathematics, the children will be recognising and ordering numbers 0 to 10 and in understanding the world they will be exploring the school grounds looking for signs of autumn. The children will be using an iPad to take photographic evidence of their findings.*

*In RE, the children will be listening to the story 'A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles' by Gill Vaisey. They will be finding out how people prepare for celebrating harvest.*

*In music, the children will be enjoying practising the pulse of a well-known nursery rhyme and moving in time to a piece of popular music.*

*In PSED, the children will be learning to recognise and manage their feelings.*

*The week beginning 19th September, the children will begin PE. On PE day, they will come to school in their PE clothes, wearing suitable trainers as PE will be taught outside if the weather is good. Please note PE days have changed to Thursdays and Fridays. Many apologies for the change. On Thursday morning, the Barn Owl class door will open at 8.45 as their PE lesson begins at 9.00am.*

*Year 1: In Year 1, the children have participated in reflections about Queen Elizabeth II. They recalled the wonderful Jubilee celebrations in the summer time and enjoyed watching video clips of that time, particularly the very special tea party with Paddington Bear. The children learnt facts about The Queen's life and reign, and that it is now her eldest son who is King Charles III. It was moving to watch the children take great care colouring in posters to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, which will decorate the Year 1 classroom windows as a way to participate in this historic time preparing for her state funeral on Monday.*

*This week in English, the Year 1 children have been learning about labels. They discussed why labels are useful and enjoyed spotting labels in a variety of non-fiction texts. They learnt that a label is short and needs to be connected to its item. They labelled parts of the body to apply their learning. In handwriting, the children have begun to learn the long legged giraffe letters. They learnt the formation for lower case letters l, i and t.*

*In mathematics, the children have enjoyed putting a teddy in different places and describing his position using positional vocabulary such as under, below, above, in between, or next to. They have also explored direction learning left and right and turning quarter, half and three-quarter turns.*

*The children have been amazing their teachers with their knowledge of names of parts of the body as they have embarked upon their first science topic in Year 1. In art, they have added facial features to their tissue paper faces. The children enjoyed learning a series of yoga poses in PE, inspired by animals. They learnt to control their breathing as they moved into the poses and held them steady.*

*In computing this week, the children have begun their new unit on online safety and exploring Purple Mash. They have thought about who they could ask for help when*

*working on the internet. They learnt that you must always ask a grown up before going online and to speak to a trusted adult if you have any worries.*

*Next week in English the children will be learning a poem and developing rhyming strings. In mathematics, they will learn to describe the position of a person or object using ordinal numbers such as 1st, 2nd, 3rd. In science, the children will continue to learn about parts of the body, including head, neck, arms, elbows, legs, knees, face, ears, eyes, hair, nose, mouth and teeth.*

*This week the children are bringing home their homework books. Please select one of the suggested activities to complete with your child. Please will you also help your child to practise spelling the following common exception words: he, she, me, we, be. They can do this in their homework books too. Please return the homework books to school by Wednesday 28th September. We hope you have lots of fun supporting your child's learning in this way.*

*Parent consultations will take place in the week of 26th September. Please look out for a clipboard outside your child's classroom next week to book an appointment time. We look forward to meeting you all.*

*Year 2: This week in Year 2, the children have started their topic for this half term, 'Healthy Me'.*

*To tie in with Roald Dahl Day on 13th September, the children listened to a section of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. They found out how Charlie and Grandpa Joe sneakily tried Willy Wonka's 'fizzy lifting drinks' and had a go at making their own using cream soda, ice cream and sprinkles. Luckily, none of the children floated away!*

*Cleo in Pelican class said, "I liked making the lifting drink because it was really fizzy." Jacob M in Penguin class said, "I loved drinking it because it made me burp." Isla-May in Puffin class said, "I liked putting the sprinkles in my drink and I loved the taste of it!"*

*Before writing a recount of what happened, the children learnt how to include time conjunctions (first, next, then, after that, finally) to explain when something happened. They had a really good try at writing.*

*In mathematics, the children have been learning how ten ones make up one ten, using base ten equipment and coins. They applied their knowledge to play 'make 50' and 'make zero' games, regrouping when required.*

*In science, the children learnt about the healthy food plate and the different food groups. In computing, the children revised how to stay safe online, particularly when playing games. They created posters to remind themselves of how to stay safe. In RE, the children heard the Christian creation story and learnt the order that Christians believe God created the world.*

*The children have spent some time in their classes looking back at the life of the Queen, reflecting on her work and thinking of ways to commemorate her life. The children have been so thoughtful and mature in the way they have spoken and supported each other through this sensitive time.*

*Next week in English, the children will explore different vegetables and come up with exciting adjectives (describing words) to write a poem about autumn vegetables. In mathematics, the children will continue to learn about place value, focusing on two-digit numbers. They will look at the tens and ones in numbers to compare them, work out which is smaller and which is larger, and order them.*

*In art and design, the children will learn about the life and work of Paul Cezanne. They will make observational drawings of fruit and vegetables, along with still life paintings. In RE, the children will use the Christian creation story to find out why Sunday is an important day for the Christian faith. In computing, the children will learn what coding is and create a simple code to move fish in a tank. In PSHCE, the children will be looking at how to be a good friend.*

*Thank you to those parents who joined us for the parent information session. We hope you found the session informative and useful. A copy of the presentation is available on the school website. Our autumn newsletter and topic web have been sent home in children's bags; these are also available to view in the class section on our website.*

*Parent consultation booking sheets will be available outside your child's classroom next week. The consultations are being held on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th September. If you would prefer a consultation over the telephone or via Zoom, please note this on the booking sheet.*

*We wish you all a peaceful and restful weekend.*

### **STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>George</b>	<i>for working together with a friend to tidy up the construction area.</i>
	<b>Cormac</b>	<i>for working together with a friend to tidy up the construction area.</i>
	<b>Mauro</b>	<i>for being a fantastic helper at tidy up time.</i>
	<b>Jeremiah</b>	<i>for showing independence at choosing time and carpet time.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>Davis</b>	<i>for sharing the toys with his friends.</i>
	<b>Blue</b>	<i>for fantastic retelling of the Three Little Pigs' story using story language.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>Charlie M</b>	<i>for creating a fantastic story map.</i>
	<b>Theo</b>	<i>for demonstrating a super knowledge of signs of autumn.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>Seth</b>	<i>for using his story map to retell a fantastic story of the 'Three Little Pigs'.</i>
	<b>Connor</b>	<i>for wonderful character voices when retelling the story of the 'Three Little Pigs' in his own words.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Belle</b>	<i>for an excellent attitude towards learning.</i>
	<b>James</b>	<i>for working really hard in phonics</i>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Ela</b>	<i>for working really hard on her labels in English.</i>
	<b>Ayaansh</b>	<i>for excellent left and right work in mathematics.</i>

<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Hussein</b>  <b>Finn</b>	<i>for working hard to segment words for spelling in phonics.</i>  <i>for super labelling of parts of the body in English.</i>
<b>Penguin Class</b>	<b>Immy</b>  <b>Aaron</b>	<i>for being a positive learning partner.</i>  <i>for a super effort to write a recount.</i>
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<b>Ollie</b>  <b>Elizabeth</b>	<i>for working hard and trying his best all week.</i>  <i>for super mathematics learning of tens and ones.</i>
<b>Puffin Class</b>	<b>Rain</b>  <b>Mia</b>	<i>for making a beautiful collage of the Queen.</i>  <i>for having a fantastic understanding of place value.</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><i>Thursday 1st</i></b>	<b><i>INSET DAY</i></b>
<b><i>Friday 2nd</i></b>	<b><i>Children return to school</i></b>
<b><i>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Year 1 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm</i></b>
<b><i>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Year 1 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 5.30pm</i></b>
<b><i>Thursday 8th</i></b>	<b><i>Year 2 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm</i></b>
<b><i>Thursday 8th</i></b>	<b><i>Year 2 Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 5.30pm</i></b>
<b><i>Monday 12th</i></b>	<b><i>Reception Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 2.30pm</i></b>
<b><i>Monday 12th</i></b>	<b><i>Reception Parent/Carer talk in School Hall at 5.30pm</i></b>
<b><i>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>BANK HOLIDAY</i></b>