



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**09.09.2022**

**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,***

***You will all have received the sad news of the death of our Queen yesterday. This is an important historical event - it is the end of an epoch - and we will be marking this in school and ensuring that our children learn about its significance.***

***Many of our families and children will feel a personal sense of loss and grief on the passing of our monarch and we want to be sure to handle this sensitively in school, as well as giving the children an opportunity to share their own feelings. Activities and discussions will be taking place in class throughout the nationally declared mourning period and it will also be part of assemblies.***

***It is very special that the children were so recently able to partake in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. This will be a really wonderful and joyful remembrance for them all and for our community and nation.***

***Children are settling so happily into their new classes and the school is a pleasure to walk around during the day as everyone engages in their learning and new, exciting topics.***

***Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the year group talks for parents; I hope these were helpful and if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to ask me or your child's class teacher. The Herts Catering tasters were very well-received; I hope you find it helpful to be able to sample the high-quality food your children are getting for their school dinners.***

***The Reception talk is on Monday afternoon (details below).***

***Reception meeting for parents: 2.30 and 5.30 pm Monday September 12<sup>th</sup> in the school hall.***

***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:***

***FROG first meeting of the year – 9.00 Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. We would love to welcome anyone in our school community who would be interested in getting involved***

*in any way, however large or small, with our Friends and Relatives of Giles (sometimes known as a PTA) group.*

*FROG contributes so very much to our school community. Please come along for a coffee and a chat and meet us!*

**FROG Coffee Morning plus SENCo and Family Support Worker:** *Meet some of our fabulous PTA members and other parents on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 8.30am-9.30am. Coffee or tea and biscuits will be provided.*

**PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS:** *We have decided to trial an earlier consultation so that parents/carers can meet properly with their children's teachers on a 1-1 basis soon after the start of term. This will give you an opportunity to discuss with teachers how your child is settling, as well as ask any individual questions or talk about any concerns.*

*The target-setting process is as important as ever, and will take place at the same time as in former years – that's to say, in November. Individual sheets showing your child's own next steps will be given to all parents after half-term so that you are able to support your children in their learning.*

*Consultations will be held during week of 26<sup>th</sup> September for key stage one and 17<sup>th</sup> October for foundation stage. Time slots will be confirmed.*

*Time-slots for consultations will then 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 [admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@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.*

*We hope very much that the additional separation of consultations for key stage 1 and foundation stage pupils will make this process easier and more convenient for you all.*

**Value of the Month:** *The value for September is 'respect'. The children will be learning that having respect is when you feel good about someone because of the way they act. Showing respect is when you care how your actions impact on others.*

**Parking on School Grounds:** *Unfortunately unless you have requested a parking permit from the office, no parents/carers should be parking on the school grounds.*

**Roadworks in Durham Road:** *We have received notice of works which will be carried out in the side turnings of Durham Road. All the residents' cars need to be out of their turning between the hours of 7.30am-6.00pm over the following date ranges:*

*Wednesday 14th September – Friday 16th September*

*Thursday 6th October*

*Monday 10th October*

*Please therefore allow extra time for drop off/collection, and we ask that you walk to school where possible. May we suggest that you park at the Oval and walk over to the school to help aid congestion.*

**Herts Catering Survey:** *HCL have asked us to share the following survey with our families. <https://j629vxfj5jz.typeform.com/to/xabdk1ea>*

*There is also a competition which will run until 30th September and a £50 amazon voucher is on offer for the winner who will be drawn on the 3rd October.*

***Reception Classes WhatsApp Groups:*** *If you would like to join a class WhatsApp group, please follow the link below from your mobile phone:*

***Barn Owls*** - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Hr0YNjLJkLe0Brs0LBgeFD>

***Tawny Owls*** - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IyLVCCSvmt1JMeZubLuvLH>

***Snowy Owls*** - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IRLkrrg2p8w3bNgaEWuACI>

***Nursery:*** *A very warm welcome to all the Nursery parents and children. The children are settling in happily to Ladybird Class and it has been a delight getting to know them. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying new experiences and beginning to develop friendships with their peers.*

*We are looking forward to welcoming those children starting next week. Next week we will be reading the story of 'Where's Spot?', by Eric Hill and learning the positional words 'in' and 'under'. The children will learn the name of their group and begin singing the group song; we have the following groups in Ladybird Class: 'square', 'triangle', 'oval', 'diamond', 'rectangle' and 'circle'. They will also play games to learn the names of all their new friends.*

***Reception:*** *The children in Reception are all settling so beautifully in their classes and are beginning to familiarise themselves with the daily routine and making new friends. They have thought carefully about being sensible in their learning environment and have created their class rules. The children have sorted different types of behaviour into red/green choices and have made behaviour posters for how to be kind and helpful towards each other. They watched an e-Safety film about being safe when using the internet.*

*This term the children will be focusing on the traditional tale of 'The Three Little Pigs'. In literacy, they have listened to the story and have been introduced to some Makaton signs to support them retelling the story in their own words.*

*The children have been introduced the Musician of the Month, the British folk singer Ralph McTell. His most famous song being 'The Streets of London'. They are learning interesting facts, such as he is able to play the guitar, piano and harmonica and he is 76 years old. The children will be listening to different songs he has written and when there is a spare moment during the day, watching Ralph McTell star in the children's television programmes 'Alphabet Zoo' and 'Tickle on the Tum'.*

*Next week in literacy, the children will use Makaton signs to help them retell the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' to create a story map. They will use their story map to retell this traditional tale to a friend.*

*In understanding the world, the children will be finding out about autumn and using their observational skills to draw one particular tree in the school grounds. During the year the children will be observing the seasonal changes of the tree and using different forms of media, such as crayons, charcoal and paints to record their observations. The children will be looking at a range of photographs of autumnal trees and using tissue paper to create a tree in autumn.*

*In RE, the children will be finding out why people around the world celebrate harvest.*

*In music, the children will be appraising new music, practising finding the pulse in different ways and learning a nursery rhyme with actions.*

*In PSED, the children will be learning about how it feels to belong and that we are similar and different.*

*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. Reception PE days are Tuesdays and Thursday. On Tuesday morning, the Barn Owl class door will open at 8.45 as their PE lesson begins at 9.00am.*

*Year 1: It has been an absolute delight to welcome the new Year 1 pupils. They have settled really well into their new classrooms and have enjoyed learning the daily routines.*

*The children have begun by helping to ensure that the classroom is a place where they feel safe, nurtured and happy. They have listened to the stories 'The Colour Monster' and 'The Colour Monster Goes to School' by Anna Llenas. They discussed and named different types of emotions, including happy, sad, angry, calm, fear and love. Finn in Walker Bear Class suggested 'scared' as another word for 'fear'. They enjoyed working in pairs to create collage colour monsters to display. The children have learnt that when they come into school, or after playtime or lunchtime, they can use the feelings check-in station in their classrooms. The children can put their name in the jar that reflects how they are feeling through the day. This helps the classroom adults to know if anyone is feeling in need of a bit of comfort.*

*Another important piece of work the children have done is to reflect on their own responsibility to help create a safe and calm learning environment. They have worked together with their teachers to agree a class charter, which has been signed by every child and adult in the class. The charters are displayed in the classrooms.*

*For the Year 1 adults, it has been a lot of fun getting to know the children. In English, the children have been talking about their likes and dislikes, their favourite toys or food and their ages. They have written about themselves in their books and they have proudly talked to their classes about their special items from home in speaking and listening time. Thank you for helping your child to select a photo, certificate or significant object that they could bring in to school. Eleanora in Walker Bear Class was very happy to show how she could count to ten in Japanese, having learnt to do so in her Karate class.*

*This week in mathematics, the children have enjoyed showing their teachers how high they can count, how they can order numbers and match a quantity to a number. In art, they have started to make their own self-portraits on paper plates. The strong focus on well-being has been carried through to PE, with the children beginning a unit on yoga, to develop strength, balance and focus.*

*Next week will see the children begin their science topic for the term all about our bodies and our senses. They will learn to name parts of the body, including: head, neck, arms, elbows, legs, knees, face, ears, eyes, hair, mouth and teeth. In English the children will learn to identify a label and how and why they are used. They will be labelling parts of the body. In mathematics, the children will learn positional vocabulary to explain where something is, and ordinal numbers to identify 1st, 2nd, 3rd or further places.*

*Please note that inside the cover of your child's red reading record, you should be able to find their log-in details for Bug Club, Purple Mash and Numbots. These are online learning platforms we plan to use this year and that you can access on a tablet, phone or computer. The children are bringing home their reading books this week. The reading book that comes home should be at a level that your child can read with ease*

*so they can enjoy sharing the book with you and consolidating their phonics knowledge.*

***Year 2:** It has been a wonderful start to the year in Year 2. The children have settled into their new classes beautifully. They are doing so well learning the new routines. The children are stepping up and showing us just how mature they are.*

*Amelia in Pelican class said, "I like the reading books and my new teachers."*

*Chloe in Penguin class said, "I loved making the sunshine art! It was so much fun and I liked taking my time to get it right."*

*Youssef in Puffin class said, "I like the new playground and playing with my friends on the big climbing frame."*

*Thank you so much for your patience waiting for your children at the end of the day. We are starting to remember faces but very much appreciate the odd reminder this early in the year! Thank you also to those who joined us for the Year 2 parent talk on Thursday. As mentioned, our autumn term topic web and newsletter will be available on the school website shortly. Copies will also come home in book bags.*

*This week, the children have been learning new routines, school and class rules. In mathematics, the children have been showing us what they can remember from Year 1. In English, the children have written a short piece all about themselves. We want to make sure everyone is happy and confident to be back at school so we have been enjoying some team building games and settling activities.*

*The children have been revising the Phase 5 letters and sounds that they learned in Year 1 and all children have read individually with their class teacher. Home reading books will be sent home early next week, if they have not already.*

*Next week, the children will hear a section of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and have a go at making their own 'fizzy lifting drinks'. The children will learn about time conjunctions; for example, first, next, after that, finally. They will use them to write a recount explaining how they made the fizzy lifting drinks and what happened.*

*In mathematics, the children will revise their learning from Year 1 about place value. They will look at how 2-digit numbers are made of tens and ones. They will use base 10 resources and coins to make different numbers. They will look at different representations of numbers and work out the total shown.*

*In topic work, the children will learn about food groups and explore the healthy food plate. In RE, the children will hear the Christian creation story. In PSHCE, the children will be introduced to our circle time sessions and share any concerns they have about this year, before discussing who they can turn to if they feel worried. In computing, the children will recall how to stay safe when using technology, particularly using the internet.*

*Please note that inside the cover of your child's red reading record, you should be able to find their log-in details for Purple Mash and Numbots. These are online learning platforms we plan to use this year and that you can access on a tablet, phone or computer.*

*We hope you have a wonderful weekend and the sunshine stays around a little while longer!*

## STARS OF THE WEEK

<b>Ladybird Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Oscar</b>	<i>for helping his peers to settle at Nursery.</i>
	<b>Tiger</b>	<i>for being a kind friend and helping others.</i>
	<b>Harrie</b>	<i>for helping his peers to settle at Nursery.</i>
	<b>Ayla</b>	<i>for being a kind friend and helping others.</i>
<b>Snowy Owls</b>	<b>All children</b>	<i>for setting into class beautifully.</i>
<b>Tawny Owls</b>	<b>All children</b>	<i>for setting into class beautifully.</i>
<b>Barn Owls</b>	<b>All children</b>	<i>for setting into class beautifully.</i>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<b>Emma</b>	<i>for being a helpful member of the class.</i>
	<b>Vienna</b>	<i>for demonstrating fantastic listening skills.</i>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<b>Sol</b>	<i>for working really hard when reading, using his phonics to segment and blend carefully.</i>
	<b>Megan</b>	<i>for being a super role model and demonstrating our agreed class charter.</i>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<b>Louie</b>	<i>for quickly learning how to put away your belongings when arriving in school.</i>
	<b>Eleanora</b>	<i>for working with concentration and care to make a beautiful tissue paper face in art.</i>
<b>Penguin Class</b>	<b>Ayana</b>	<i>for a super attitude to learning.</i>
	<b>Jacob W</b>	<i>for being a great role model in the classroom.</i>
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<b>Cleo</b>	<i>for working hard and being an excellent role model.</i>
	<b>Miller</b>	<i>for settling brilliantly in his new class.</i>
	<b>Billy</b>	<i>for being polite and demonstrating good listening skills.</i>
<b>Puffin Class</b>	<b>Harper</b>	<i>for fantastic work finding different ways to make 10.</i>
	<b>Ajwa</b>	<i>for always trying her best with all her learning.</i>

*Have a wonderful weekend.*

*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]**

**[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**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

<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>