



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel  
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill  
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Tania Dalton

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ  
Telephone: 01438 359747  
Email: [admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk](http://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk)

**5.9.2025**

**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,***

***The children have had the most wonderful first couple of days back and have settled into their new classes absolutely beautifully. Everyone seems to have had a lovely, rejuvenating summer and they have come back to school very ready for learning. Also, I think all the work we did last summer on transition and organising time for them to spend in their next year's classroom was beneficial.***

***The new Reception and Nursery children have come in so happily and we all feel it's going to be a fantastic school year.***

***Children are engaging in their new topics with enormous enthusiasm. They will be a little tired by the end of today and I hope you all have a restful weekend.***

***Thank you for your patience at the end of the day when waiting outside the classroom door. It does take staff time to get to know all your faces – there are thirty children in most classes and some children have several different adults coming to pick them up. Thank you for being patient and helping us to make sure that everyone stays very safe!***

**Talks for parents taking place in the school hall:**

***Reception: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm and 5.00pm***  
***Year 2: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm and 5.00pm***  
***Year 1: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm and 5.00pm***  
***Nursery: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm and 4.00pm***

**PE days:**

***Reception: Tuesday and Wednesday (starting week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> September)***  
***Year 1: Tuesday and Wednesday***  
***Year 2: Monday and Friday***

***Children may come to school already dressed in their PE Kit and will remain in it for the rest of the day. Earrings must be taped or removed before arriving at school.***

*Children may wear a white or school logo t-shirt and blue/black shorts. When the colder weather starts, you might prefer them to come wearing a tracksuit.*

**Birthdays and celebrations:**

*We are very proud to be a Healthy School and promote healthy eating to our children to ensure they develop positive relationships with food. With this in mind, we have made the decision as a staff that we will no longer give out sweets or treats for birthdays and celebrations. We appreciate that this is a big change, but we hope you will support us in this decision.*

*We are very much aware of the cost of living crisis that many people face, and by removing this tradition we hope to alleviate any pressure parents have felt to join in.*

*We are also following guidance from Hertfordshire County Council regarding allergens and the risk of severe allergic reactions. According to the charity Allergy UK, 2-5% of children in the UK live with a food allergy and 20% of severe allergic reactions to food happen whilst a child is at school. Managing food allergies is increasingly challenging for schools. The decision to stop the tradition of giving out sweets will help to reduce the risk that food allergies present.*

*The Junior School implemented a no sweets policy some time ago so we will also be in line with them.*

**We will begin the practice of no sweets for birthdays from Monday.**

*Thank you for your understanding and cooperation moving forward.*

**FROG Vacancy:** *We currently have a vacancy in our FROG (PTA) team for a Chairperson and Co-Chairperson. If anyone is interested in applying for either of these fun and exciting roles, or for more information please contact the main office or email [gilesfrog@gmail.com](mailto:gilesfrog@gmail.com).*

**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 to begin our journey together. We are looking forward to welcoming those children starting in the next two weeks.*

*Please could we remind parents to label their child's belongings. If possible, children should have a spare change of clothes in a drawstring bag to keep at Nursery for when needed.*

**Reception:** *It has been wonderfully busy in the Reception classes this week, as we have started to welcome the children into their new classes. They have been very busy learning lots of new routines and making new friends. We look forward to welcoming the children joining us next week.*

**Year 1:** *It has been an absolute delight to welcome the new Year 1 pupils. They have settled beautifully 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. They enjoyed working in pairs and small groups to create collage colour monsters to display. The children have learnt how to use the feelings check-in station in their classrooms by putting 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 will be signed by every child and adult in the class. The charters will be displayed in the classrooms.*

*In English, the children have designed their speaking and listening bags, which should arrive home this week. Please could you support your child to select a photo, certificate or significant object that they could bring into school that they would like to share with their peers. It can be returned on any day over the next couple of weeks, and the children will take it in turns to show their items to the rest of the class.*

*This week in mathematics, the children have enjoyed showing their teachers how high they can count, put numbers in order and matched a quantity to a number.*

*Next week, the children will begin their science topic all about their bodies and the 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 label parts of the body. In mathematics, the children will sort and group objects in a variety of ways. They will also practise lots of counting. In phonics, they will revisit their knowledge of phase 3 phonemes and graphemes.*

*Year 2: The children have settled wonderfully into their new classes and are doing so well learning the new routines. The children are behaving beautifully and showing us just how mature they are.*

*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!*

*This week, the children have been learning new routines, school and class rules. 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 how to use time conjunctions, including 'first', 'next', 'after that' and '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 learn about place value. They will revise numbers to 20, count objects to 100 by making tens, and learn to recognise tens and ones and use a place value chart.*

*In science, the children will discuss what they already know about healthy eating. In PSHCE, they will be introduced to 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.*

*We hope you have a restful weekend and look forward to seeing you at the Welcome to Year 2 parent talks, which take place at 2.30pm and 5.00pm next Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.*

*The Year 2 team*

*I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.*

*Kindest regards,*

*Rouane Mendel  
Headteacher*

**TERM DATES 2025-26**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Autumn Term: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Children return to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**[Half term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025]**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – OCCASIONAL DAY SCHOOL CLOSED**

**School finishes on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 1.00pm**

**[Christmas Holidays: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026]**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Spring Term: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**[Half term: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026]**

**School finishes on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 1.00pm**

**Summer Term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**[Half term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026]**

**Monday 1st June 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**School finishes on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 at 1.00pm**

# 2025 / 26 School Calendar

September '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December '25						
M	M	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- = Term Time
- = 24/25 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2025/26 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
- = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)

