



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill
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12.9.2025

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 across the school seem so settled and happy in their new classes! This has been greatly helped by the relatively kind autumnal weather. Thank you to all those who attended the Talks for Parents held by year groups Reception to Year 2, with Nursery to come next week. The power points for all the talks are available on the school website as the first item on each of the year group pages. It was so wonderful to see so many of you and we hope you found them useful. For parents who were unable to join us due to other commitments, please see the links below for the presentations:

Reception: [Welcome to Reception](#)

Year 1: [Welcome to Year 1](#)

Year 2: [Welcome to Year 2](#)

Talks for parents taking place in the school hall: The Nursery talks will take place next week on Tuesday 16th September at 2.30pm and 4.00pm.

Tears and Tissues / Inclusion Coffee Morning: Tuesday 23rd September, 8.50-9.50am. Come and meet our Special Educational Needs Team, Mrs Ballard and Miss Stanton.

Change of contact details: If you moved house or changed your mobile phone number over the holidays, please do let us know so that we can update your child's record. Please email admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk.

Nuts and grapes in lunch boxes: Please note that this is a NUT-FREE school so please do check labels as nuts can be hidden ingredients in some products.

Please note also that health and safety advice indicates that grapes – because they are round and soft – are actually a significant choking hazard for young children. Please cut all grapes in half when providing your child with grapes as a snack or in their lunch box.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Pupil Absence: In line with national Safeguarding procedures, all children must be accounted for daily. If your child will be absent for any reason, please ensure that you let us know either by email, admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk, telephone 01438 359747 or using the Arbor in-App message facility. Please look out for further information regarding school attendance which will be added to the school website over the coming weeks.

Parent/Teacher Consultations: We have decided to continue with the earlier consultation time 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 the week of 23rd September for Years 1 and 2 and the week of 22nd October for Reception and Nursery.

Year 1: Tuesday 23rd September 3.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 24th September 3.30-6.30pm

Year 2 Penguin and Puffin classes: Tuesday 23rd September 3.40-6.30pm
Wednesday 24th September 3.40-6.30pm

Year 2 Pelicans only: Wednesday 24th September 2.20-5.00pm
Thursday 25th September 3.30-6.30pm

Reception: Monday 20th October 3.30-5.30pm
Tuesday 21st October 3.30-5.30pm
Wednesday 22nd October 3.30-5.30pm

Nursery: Monday 20th October 2.30-5.50pm
Tuesday 21st October 2.30-5.50pm
Wednesday 22nd October 2.30-5.50pm

Timeslots for consultations will be displayed in classes for you to select one 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. 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.

Bumped Head Text Messages: You may receive a text message if your child has a bumped head. Please don't worry if you receive a message as this will only be for a small bump where no medical help is needed. If a head bump is more serious, we will always telephone you.

Any other scrapes etc will be relayed to you at pickup time by the class teacher.

After School Club: After School Club have a new mobile number: 07511 718699. Please use this number to contact After School Club staff once the school office has closed. Thank you.

Rocksteady Band Lessons: The Rocksteady Music School visit our school each Wednesday morning to provide music lessons to children in Year 1 and 2. If you are interested in your child taking up a place, please visit the Rocksteady website for more information and costs. You can also sign up via the website: [Rocksteady Music School](#)

Polite reminders:

- Bikes and scooters should not be ridden through the school playgrounds. We have lots of very little children who could easily be knocked over. Please walk your bike or scooter to the school entrances before riding them when leaving the school at the end of the day.
- Bikes and scooters should only be left in the bike racks and not outside classrooms or padlocked to school gates.
- Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds; this includes dogs which can be carried. Dogs must not be left attached to the outside school gates.
- Parking – the car park is for staff members only. Under special circumstances, parents can fill in a form requesting a special parking permit which must be displayed in the front of the car if permission has been granted. It is so difficult with such a tiny car park, but health and safety must come first, and cars should not be entering the gates without permission.
- Names on uniform and water bottles – please ensure your child's name is on their water bottle and on the inside of their uniform, especially jumpers / cardigans and fleeces.
- Children are not allowed to play on the Year 2 climbing frame outside of school hours. We kindly ask that you do not allow your children on the climbing frame.

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.

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 particularly enjoyed throwing and catching balls within the Nursery garden, as well as exploring painting with water colours.

The children thoroughly enjoyed playing 'roll the ball' and are beginning to learn the names of all their new friends.

Next week, the children will learn about ladybirds. They will learn facts about the life cycle of a ladybird, create a painting of a ladybird and move like a ladybird. They will learn the name of their group and begin singing their group song. In Ladybird Class, we have the following groups: 'square', 'triangle', 'oval', 'rectangle', and 'star'.

Reception: The Reception children have settled beautifully into their classes and are beginning to familiarise themselves with the daily routine and make new friends. They have thought carefully about being sensible in their learning environment and have created their class rules. The children have sorted 'red' and 'green' behaviour posters showing how to be kind and helpful towards each other. They watched an e-Safety film about being safe when using the internet.

In understanding the world, the children have begun to find out about autumn. They listened to a wonderful story, 'Hello Autumn' by Jo Lindley, and used autumn coloured tissue paper to make a tree.

The children have been introduced to the Musician of the Month, the British folk singer Ralph McTell. His most famous song is 'The Streets of London'. The children learnt interesting facts, such he can play the guitar, piano and harmonica and he is 80 years old. Throughout the month of September, the children will listen to different songs he has written.

Next week, the children will be introduced to this half's term's topic theme 'The Three Little Pigs'. They will be given clues to work out which traditional tale they will be focusing on. In literacy, they will listen to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and learn Makaton signs to support them telling the story. The children will create a story map and use this map to retell the story in their own words.

In mathematics, the children will sort a group of animals using their own criteria and explain how they sorted them into two groups.

In understanding the world, the children will find out more about autumn and use their observational skills to draw a tree in the school grounds. During the year, the children will observe the seasonal changes of the tree and use different forms of media such as crayons, charcoal, and paints to record their observations.

In RE, the children will find out why people around the world celebrate harvest.

In music, the children will appraise new music, practise finding the pulse in different ways and learn a nursery rhyme with actions.

In PSED, the children will learn how it feels to belong and that we are similar and different.

The Reception teachers would like donations of grape containers for an activity the week beginning Monday 6th October. Please see the photograph of an example. Thank you for your help!



For parents who missed the Reception parent information talk on Monday, it is available on the school website: [Welcome to Reception](#)

Year 1: This week in English, the children learnt all about labels. They discussed why labels are useful and enjoyed spotting labels in 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.

Our 'Book of the Week' was 'Cleversticks' by Bernard Ashley. Please ask your child about the text and discover what Ling Sung could do in the class. You can listen to the story here: [Cleversticks by Bernard Ashley](#)

In handwriting, the children have begun to learn the long-legged giraffe letters. They enjoyed using playdough to warm up their fingers during Dough Disco and learnt the correct formation for the lower-case letters 'l', 'i' and 't', following the patten:

- 'l' – Start at the top, come all the way down and flick.
- 'i' – Start at the top, come down and flick. Lift and dot.
- 't' – Start at the top, come all the way down and curve. Lift and cross.

The children practised sorting and grouping in mathematics using different criteria such as colour, shape or size. They also practised counting out from a larger group,

reminding themselves to find a way to avoid counting the same thing twice. They pointed with their finger, coloured or circled on picture representations, or moved physical objects whilst counting.

In science, the children identified different parts of the body, using the key vocabulary 'head', 'neck', 'arms', 'elbows', 'legs', 'knees', 'face', 'ears', 'eyes', 'hair', 'mouth' and 'teeth'. They will use this knowledge next week to draw and label parts of the body.

In PSHE, the children thought about what they do to help each other learn in class. They recapped the five signs of learning and thought about the importance of sharing resources, listening carefully and taking turns to speak. In RE, they discussed belonging to their class community and the school community. They drew pictures of themselves in their school uniforms. The children practised finding the beat in music and started to learn their new unit song, 'Hey You!'

Next week in English, the children will learn a poem and develop rhyming strings. In mathematics, they will learn to count on from any number and identify one more than a number. They will also rehearse counting backwards within ten and identifying one less than a number. In computing, the children will begin learning about online safety. They will think about who they could ask for help when using the internet. They will learn that they must always ask a grown up before going online and speak to a trusted adult if they have any worries. You may like to discuss this with your child too. In PSHE, the children will discuss their rights and responsibilities as members of a class.

Today the children have brought home their homework books. Please select one of the suggested activities to complete with your child. There will also be some words to practise reading and spelling. Please return the homework books to school by Wednesday 24th September. We hope you have lots of fun supporting your child's learning in this way. They also have their home reading books. Please listen to your child read a couple of pages every day and write a brief comment in their reading record book.

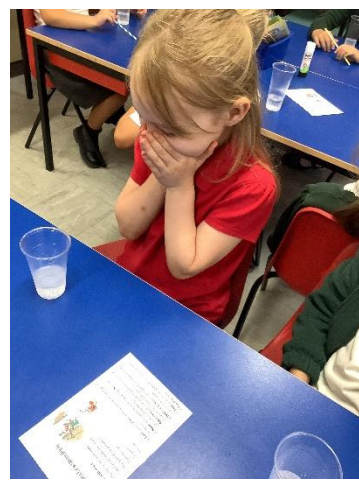
Thank you to all the families who attended the Year 1 parent information talk. The presentation is available on the school website: [Welcome to Year 1](#)

Parent consultations will take place on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th September from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. A clipboard will be available outside your child's classroom next week for you to book an appointment time. We look forward to meeting you all.

Year 2: This week in Year 2, the children started their topic for this term, 'Life in the UK – then and now'.

In English, the children listened to a shortened version 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!

Before writing a recount, the children learnt how to include time conjunctions – 'first', 'next', 'then', 'after that', 'finally' – to explain the order something happened. They had a really good try at writing their recount, including when it happened, who was there and what they did. Some children finished their recount with their opinion.



In mathematics, the children revisited learning from Year 1 by revising numbers to 20. They learnt to count objects to 100 by making tens and practised partitioning two-digit numbers into tens and ones. For example, 64 has six tens and four ones.

In science, the children began their 'healthy me' topic by sharing everything they know about being healthy. In art and design, the children learnt about different types of line and experimented with different lines. In computing, the children revised how to stay safe online, particularly when playing games. They recalled how they should speak to an adult they trust if anything online gives them a 'funny feeling in their tummy'. They created posters to remind themselves of how to stay safe, using the slogan 'stop, close, tell'.

Next week in English, the children will explore different vegetables and come up with exciting adjectives (describing words) to write a poem. In mathematics, the children will continue to learn about place value. They will secure their understanding of how to partition numbers into tens and ones and learn how numbers can be partitioned in different ways.

In art and design, the children will learn about the life and work of Paul Cezanne. They will use what they have learnt about line to draw cross-sections of vegetables. In computing, the children will learn what an algorithm is and create their own algorithms. In PSHCE, the children will look at how to be a good friend.

Our autumn newsletter and topic web were sent via email last week. They are also available to view in the class section on our website. A copy of the slides from the parent information talk held on Wednesday is also available: [Welcome to Year 2](#)

Parent consultation booking sheets will be available outside your child's classroom next week. Penguin and Puffin class consultations will take place on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th September from 3.40-6.30pm. Pelican class consultations will take place on Wednesday 24th September from 2.20-5.00pm and Thursday 25th September from 3.30-6.30pm. Miss O'Regan has been selected for jury service so unfortunately won't be available for the parent consultations, so Mrs Humphrey will meet parents on her own.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

*Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

WALKER BEAR CLASS – 98%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



STARS OF THE WEEK

<i>Snowy Owl Class</i>	<i>All the children for settling beautifully into Snowy Owl class.</i>
<i>Tawny Owl Class</i>	<i>All the children for settling wonderfully into Tawny Owl class.</i>
<i>Barn Owl Class</i>	<i>All the children for settling brilliantly into Barn Owl class.</i>
<i>Big Cat Class</i>	<i>Chloe for writing fantastic labels.</i> <i>Alfie J for settling into Year 1 beautifully.</i>
<i>Red Fox Class</i>	<i>Harry for a brilliant start to Red Fox class, always listening and following instructions.</i> <i>Thea for sharing super knowledge when labelling parts of the body.</i>
<i>Walker Bear Class</i>	<i>Marissa for creating a fabulous self-portrait.</i> <i>Sabin for always following the five signs of learning.</i>
<i>Pelican Class</i>	<i>Blaze for a fantastic start to Year 2.</i> <i>Mya-Jae for excellent effort in handwriting.</i>
<i>Penguin Class</i>	<i>Dev for always putting his hand up and waiting his turn.</i> <i>Myla for being such a kind friend to those who were feeling sad and helping others.</i> <i>Hannah for always stopping straight away when the bell goes.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Kobi for always using his listening ears during learning time.</i> <i>Ivy for settling into Puffin class and modelling our school rules.</i>

Family Lives Free Autumn Term Parenting Groups

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group
Friday 26th September to 7 November 9.45am to 11.45am OR

Tuesday 14 October to 25 November 7.00pm to 9.00pm

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our free online group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group
Thursday 2 October to 13 November 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Dads Together (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 5 November to 10 December 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Calling all Dads - join our free online group, come along and receive support from other dads and learn how to change the way you communicate with your child, respond better and feel more in control.

Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop
Autumn term dates to be confirmed

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop
Autumn term dates to be confirmed

Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop
Autumn term dates to be confirmed



SCAN ME!

For more information, please contact Louise on **0204 522 8700/8701**, or email **services@familylives.org.uk**. Please scan our QR code for our referral form.



TERM DATES 2025-26

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Autumn Term: Thursday 4th September 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025

Children return to school on Thursday 4th September 2025

[Half term: Monday 27th October 2025 – Friday 31st October 2025]

Monday 3rd November 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 4th November 2025

Friday 28th November 2025 – OCCASIONAL DAY SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 19th December 2025 at 1.00pm

[Christmas Holidays: Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026]

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Spring Term: Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026

[Half term: Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026]

School finishes on Friday 27th March 2026 at 1.00pm

Summer Term: Monday 13th April 2026 – Thursday 23rd July 2026

Monday 4th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 25th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026]

Monday 1st June 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Friday 3rd July 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Thursday 23rd 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	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				

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)

