



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
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12.07.2024

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 quite simply an extraordinary week in school! We have had Sports Day, Year 2 Scooter Experience, Year 1 trip to Shepreth, Nursery Pirate Day, Year 1 Victorian Seaside Workshop and Moving Up Day!

I've had so many comments from parents that Sports Day this year, organised by our phenomenal sporting apprentice Mr Pullin, was the best many parents had ever seen. We owe a real debt of gratitude to Mr Pullin because he runs this event with real leadership – he works so hard, prepares the site and the pupils with such care and conscientiousness. He is truly a credit to himself, to our school and to our pupils. And didn't the children do themselves proud! Sportsmanship as well as really high-level skill was in evidence throughout. Mr Pullin delivers sessions to each class on the Olympic Values prior to the races and I would say these were demonstrated consistently throughout. Well done to everyone!



The Year 1 and Orca children had an amazing day at the zoo on Wednesday.



Year 2 pupils absolutely adored the spectacular Scooter Experience, run by Terry Price, a former World Champion, who did a jaw-dropping back flip for the children in our hall. This too was one of the best and most inspirational workshops we've ever had.



Year 1 pupils have enjoyed a Victorian Seaside Workshop today, which will enrich the history and geography topic of the term. They will come home with some wonderful creations to share with you.



The Grand Finale is today with the beyond fabulous Nursery Pirate Day – one of the absolutely key events of the year! What a week!



You can read about this incredible week in more detail in the year-group section of the newsletter – it has certainly been one to remember!

Next week is One World Week, and we have some terrific workshops lined up. Children will spend the week learning about different countries and cultures. We are so lucky in having families from all over the world in our school – 38 different languages are spoken. Some parents have offered to come in and read a story in another language, or to share information about the culture, music, food etc from a country they have a connection with. If you would like to do this, please speak to your child's class teacher.

In the final week of term, we sadly say goodbye to our current Year 2 children, with our wonderful leavers' assemblies. Families are of course very welcome to attend.

- *Monday 22nd July at 9.15am – Puffin class with Mrs Brown*
- *Monday 22nd July at 10.15am- Pelican class with Mrs Trott and Mrs Humphrey*

- **Tuesday 23rd July at 9.15am – Penguin class with Miss Hill**

Class parties will take place in the afternoon of Monday 22nd July. Please see your class teacher for details on the arrangements for food. These days because of allergies in most classes children are asked to bring their own little pack of party food. Children may wear party clothes on Monday (but we kindly ask that children do not come in dressing up outfits).

Please note that it's back to school uniform for Tuesday, the last day of this school year.

School finishes for the term on Tuesday 23rd July at 2pm. Please note, there will be no after school club.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL HOURS IN SEPTEMBER: Please note that government requirements for the length of the school day change in September and school will start at 8.45am and finish at 3.15pm.

Rocksteady Band Lessons: If your child will be in Year 1 or Year 2 in September, you may like to consider Rocksteady Band Lessons for them. It's an incredible opportunity for your children to learn to play their favourite songs in their very own band with a choice of drums, keyboards, electric guitar, bass guitar or vocals. As well as learning new musical skills, lessons also boost children's confidence, wellbeing, social skills and teamwork. Lessons take place every week during school time. These fun and inclusive lessons are taught by highly trained, professional musicians who know how to inspire a life-long love of music. At the end of each term each band will perform in a concert for the school and their families, so you can see how far they have come!

- **All instruments are provided.**
- **No musical experience necessary.**
- **Most lessons take place during school time.**
- **You'll receive regular online updates via the Rocksteady Parent Timeline.**
- **There's a money back guarantee for the first month.**
- **You can cancel at any time.**

You can sign up for lessons online at bit.ly/parent-sign-up If you have any questions about Rocksteady band lessons, you can call 0330 113 0330 (local rate, office hours are Monday to Thursday, 8.00am–8.00pm, Fridays 8.00am–6.00pm).

NHS Dentists: Local children are not registered with NHS dentists or are not attending regularly for check-ups. We wanted to let you know that Shephall Dental are taking on NHS patients under the age of 16. These are FREE for children and essential to good oral health.

If anyone would like to make an appointment, please call the surgery on 01438 351 556.

Summer Club: Over the Summer Holidays, Little Performers is working alongside the Happy Camps program to deliver workshops in Stevenage to children between the ages of 5 to 12 years.

These camps are FREE of charge for children on benefit related free school meals. There will be a range of activities on each day and a FREE hot meal for all children who attend. Please see attached flyer.

The Little Performers - Dance Camps

Age 5 - 11 years

Camp Locations:
Great Ashby Community Centre, Stevenage
& Sele Farm Community Centre, Hertford

Dance, Arts & Crafts, Enrichment sessions,
Character Visits & daily hot meals/snacks



Book your place here!
<https://playwaz.com/discover/result?Item=PhysicalEducation99754-B&type=Activities&communityid=7d4bm1fxcelab>

<https://playwaz.com/discover/result?Item=PhysicalEducation99754-B&type=Activities&communityid=7d4bm1fxcelab>




Hertfordshire's
Holiday Activity Programme

HAPPY



Nursery: This week in Nursery, the children have been excitedly counting down the number of sleeps until Pirate Fun Day. They have listened to lots of pirate stories and loved singing pirate songs with their friends. The children have made bunting to decorate the Nursery, a sign to welcome all pirates, and pirate flags.

In physical development, the children enjoyed pretending to walk the plank in the garden with their friends. They loved taking part in a Cosmic Yoga session and thoroughly enjoyed an adventure with 'Popcorn the Dolphin'. Square group were excited to hold their hands together, move up and down and click like a dolphin as they swam to the smuggler's cave to find the treasure.

The children went to visit their Reception classes on Thursday and did incredibly well adjusting to the changes. They came back happy, excited children and everyone had a smile on their face.

On Friday, we had a fantastic time at Pirate Fun Day! The children were eager to get involved with the pirate themed activities and looked amazing in their pirate costumes. They all went home with a wonderful collection of art and craft activities, including treasure maps, medallions, parrots, pirate hats and telescopes. The children sailed the seven seas in the pirate ship and bravely walked the plank! They decorated and ate a biscuit and even had some popcorn too! It was a wonderful day enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to all the parents for your support.

Could all parents please check their child's bookbag is the correct one. Unfortunately, a named book bag has gone missing. It had keychains and was named clearly. Many thanks.

Next week, the children will have lots of fun preparing for their summer break and enjoying time in Nursery with all their friends.

Please can we ask for all library books to be returned. If you are having a summer clear out, we would be grateful for any donations of school uniform and girls' underwear.

Reception: On Tuesday, the children participated in Sports Day. They were very excited as they had been practising these races for the past couple of weeks. Mr Pullin had shown each class his Olympic presentation about the values of the Olympic games and all the children had designed an Olympic torch. Parker in Barn Owl class was chosen to carry the Olympic torch for Reception, and he was very proud to lead the way to the sports field. All the children loved cheering on their friends and all of them behaved impeccably. When discussing their favourite part of Sports Day, Beau in Snowy Owl class said, "I like the hoop race the best!" and Harrie in Snowy Owl class said, "I liked seeing my parents."

In literacy the children wrote sentences about different activities they are able to do. They wrote about being able to read, do star jumps and burpees and even do the hovering at home!

In mathematics, the children used positional language to describe where different animals were in a small world activity. They worked with a partner and took turns to ask where a particular animal was and listen to their partner's response.

In understanding the world, the children found out how the harvesting of wheat has changed over the years and created a pictorial timeline. They watched a man using a scythe, a film clip from 1938 of a combine harvester being pulled by at least a dozen horses and a film of a modern combine harvester cutting the crops and dispensing the wheat into a tractor trailer. The children loved making scythes made from rolled tubes and pieces of curved card and acted out cutting the crops using their scythes.

Next week the children will be participating in One World Week. They will be focusing on a version of the story 'Noah's Ark'. The children will be counting in twos by making a pair of animals of their choice and acting out the song, "The animals went in two by two." They will be using the app Sketchbook on the iPad to draw a rainbow and making a rainbow using collage materials. The children will be choosing pairs of animals to go into their ark.

Next week, the Reception staff will be collecting in library books and the children will be able to choose a new library book when they begin their Year 1 class in the autumn term.

Year 1: What an extraordinarily exciting week we have had in Year 1. On Tuesday morning the children demonstrated fantastic sporting values on Sports Day. Every child demonstrated their athletic skills, and when waiting for their turn they cheered on their year group peers. It was a lovely atmosphere of sport, respect, and mutual support. Thank you to all those families who were able to attend. Special mention goes to Alana from Walker Bear class who designed the Year 1 Olympic Torch!

On Wednesday, the children enthusiastically climbed aboard the coaches to go on our trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park. They were a credit to our school, listening carefully to the instructions given by the Wildlife Park Rangers and moving safely and respectfully around the park. They loved seeing all the animals, playing on the outdoor equipment and chatting away whilst eating their lunch. There was a very informative talk all about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores, when the children were able to showcase their scientific knowledge by explaining these terms. They also learnt about a food chain and had a go at working out the steps in a chain. They loved seeing some real animal skulls, examining the teeth in order to work out if it was a skull from a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore. They were amazed to discover that one was the skull of a horse and another was that of a polar bear! Clark said, "I liked the reptile house because there were lots of my favourite animals there." Eliot liked the bats because, "they were funny and they were moving around and making a funny noise." Aimee enjoyed the social experience of the trip, saying, "I liked being with my friends in the wildlife park." Odin couldn't decide what he liked best about the day, declaring, "I liked every single thing. It was the best day!" If you would like to see some photographs from the visit, please take a look at the class photo galleries on our website:

[*Big Cats Shepreth Visit | The Giles Nursery and Infants' School*](#)

[*Walker Bear Shepreth Visit | The Giles Nursery and Infants' School*](#)

[*Red Foxes Shepreth Visit | The Giles Nursery and Infants' School*](#)

Thursday was Moving Up Day. The children had a reassuring time visiting their Year 2 classrooms and spending some time with their new teachers.

On Friday, we had a fascinating history workshop in school all about the seaside and seaside holidays in Victorian times. The children had a wonderful time taking part in all sorts of historically accurate activities. They made souvenirs and postcards and visited lots of traditional attractions that might be found on a pier, including a fish and chip shop and a place to play games, including roll-a-penny and hook a duck.

Next week, the fun continues with One World Week. The children will have the opportunity to take part in workshops promoting aspects of culture from around the world as well as other activities.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend and enjoy discussing all these fabulous activities with your children.

Year 2: It has been an incredibly exciting week in Year 2! The children took part in some fantastic activities, which began with Sports Day on Tuesday. We are so proud of all the children for taking part and trying their very best. Amelia in Pelican class said, "I liked the skipping race. It was fun to race with my friends." The children demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and perseverance, showing the Olympic values. Well done Year 2!

The children had two transition sessions to Giles Junior School this week. On Tuesday afternoon, the children visited their new classrooms, asked the current Year 3 children lots of questions and explored their new playground. On Thursday morning, the children spent time with their new teachers and completed an 'all about me' activity.

On Wednesday, the children took part in a scooter workshop, led by former World Scooter Champion, Terry Price. The day started with an assembly, where Terry gave an inspirational talk about his scootering journey, from his nervous beginnings at the age of 11 to becoming European and then World Scooter Champion. He showed some of his brilliant tricks, including a tail whip and a back flip. Even the teachers gasped in amazement!

Each child got to take part in an hour-long scooter workshop. They were reminded of how to stay safe on a scooter before playing some games, including trying out some tricks on a ramp. Adrian in Penguin class said, "I loved all of it! Riding around and going over the ramp!" The workshop was so inspirational, teaching 'growth mindset on wheels.' Terry gave each child a signed postcard, but better than that, they all finished the workshop with a feeling of pride in their achievements.

On Thursday, every child made their own pizza, choosing a variety of healthy toppings. Aaron in Puffin class said, "It was great! The best bit was putting the toppings on." The activity is part of our design and technology curriculum, teaching the children about the importance of healthy eating and basic food hygiene. We hope you enjoyed tasting the pizza at home.

Next week is One World Week. The children will take part in two special activities – a South American dance and a Chinese Dragon workshop. They will read the book 'My Granny Went to Market' and learn about some of the countries Granny visits on her magic carpet.

We will send home your child's workbooks next Friday. Please send in a sturdy plastic bag as the books are very heavy!

Looking forward to the final week of term, end of year parties will take place on Monday 22nd July. Children should bring their own party food in a labelled bag,

separate to their packed lunch if they have one. They can wear party clothes for the day but return to school uniform for the last day of term on Tuesday 23rd.

Leavers' Assemblies will take place as follows:

- Monday 22nd July at 9.15am – Puffin class with Mrs Brown
- Monday 22nd July at 10.15am – Pelican class with Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Trott
- Tuesday 23rd July at 9.15am – Penguin class with Miss Hill

We hope you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing some of you at the Todd in the Hole Festival on Sunday, where our school choir will perform at 11.30am on the main stage.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PENGUINS CLASS

98.3%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

<p>Ladybird Nursery Classes</p>	<p><i>Gracie for fantastic control during yoga.</i></p> <p><i>Bertie for being a super helper.</i></p> <p><i>Ayla for showing perseverance using scissors to make a pirate shape picture.</i></p> <p><i>Yoosuf for excellent participation in yoga.</i></p> <p><i>Darius for fantastic participation in yoga.</i></p>
<p>Snowy Owls</p>	<p><i>Nyameye for using her words.</i></p> <p><i>Francesca for always using her kind words.</i></p> <p><i>Oscar M for applying his phonic knowledge to write sentences independently.</i></p>
<p>Tawny Owls</p>	<p><i>Luka for fantastic use of prepositional language to describe the location of small world toys.</i></p> <p><i>Ivy for brilliant sounding out when independently writing sentences.</i></p> <p><i>Albie for persevering when trying to get across the monkey bars.</i></p>
<p>Barn Owls</p>	<p><i>Katinca for writing fabulous sentences about the different things she can do.</i></p>

	<i>Mason for asking interesting questions about how a combine harvester works.</i>
	<i>Noah for using super prepositional language in a mathematics activity.</i>
Red Foxes	<i>Ava for creating a wonderful E-book in computing.</i>
	<i>Olivia for showing such confidence in computing.</i>
Big Cats	<i>Lennox for sharing excellent knowledge all about materials in design and technology.</i>
	<i>Reggie for excellent geography work, identifying human and physical features.</i>
	<i>Hollie for giving super answers during the animal talk at Shepreth.</i>
	<i>Juliette for super work in mathematics when learning about fractions.</i>
Walker Bears	<i>Roman for showing great resilience when sewing.</i>
	<i>Connie for super learning about alternative spellings in phonics.</i>
Pelicans	<i>Neithan for being Terry's 'most improved' student in the scooter workshop.</i>
	<i>Finn for writing a fantastic story in the style of The Papaya That Spoke.</i>
Puffins	<i>Vienna for designing and making a wonderful healthy pizza.</i>
	<i>Maria for super understanding of time.</i>
Penguins	<i>Adriana for always being a kind and caring friend.</i>
	<i>Albert for listening carefully to instructions when making a pizza.</i>

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

School Calendar Dates 2023/24

JULY 2024	
Week of 15 th	ONE WORLD WEEK
Monday 15 th	South American Dance Workshop
Tuesday 16 th	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th	Rock Steady Concert, 10.00am – <i>by invitation only</i>
Thursday 18 th	Chinese Dragon Workshop
Monday 22 nd	Class Parties – children can come to school in party clothes
Monday 22 nd	Puffins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Monday 22 nd	Pelicans Leavers Assembly – 10.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Penguins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Last day of term – children to wear school uniform. Finish at 2.00pm , no After School Club.





Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Looking for something different to keep your child's inquisitive mind active this summer?

We are excited to announce that we will be running STEM Camps on **29th July – 9th August 2024 (2 weeks) at Camps Hill Primary School, SG2 0LT &** and on **12th – 23rd August 2024 (2 weeks) at Longmeadow Primary School, SG2 8LT** from **9 am to 4 pm** each day.

We are at each locations for 2 weeks, with 2 exciting themes with a host of **new activities** [click here](#) to see a few

Week 1 - Robotics, VR and Tech Fun

Program robots, design video games, model 3D creation, experience VR and lasertag, plus much more! A week of inspiration and creation with maximum excitement. We encourage children to experiment and challenge themselves, instilling a variety of exciting, real-world skills.

Week 2 - Minecraft Coding and Lego Engineering

Designed for ultimate fun and education. Students learn circuitry workings using Redstone and coding fundamentals in Minecraft Education edition creating magnificent masterpieces. Then take the virtual world to the real work and make LEGO ingenious inventions with sensors and motors. This week is designed to encourage students to experiment and push the boundaries of their imagination, while developing skills that will aid them in their future.

Our camps are for **ages 5-12**. Spaces are LIMITED and we are giving our best offer yet for bookings **before the end of June** with **1 week at £175**, or **2 weeks at only £299 (individual days also available)**! There are a limited number of HAF spaces available please check the HAF section on our website for more details. Please see the attached flyer for more information or to book now simply visit:

<https://www.nextthing.education/summer-camps/>

2023 / 24 School Calendar

September '23						
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February '24						
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





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August '24						
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-  = Term Time
-  = 22/23 Pupil Holidays
-  = Bank and Public Holidays
-  = 2023/24 Pupil Holidays
-  = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
-  = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)



2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
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November '24						
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December '24						
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February '25						
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April '25						
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June '25						
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July '25						
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August '25						
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- = Term Time
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