



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**26.9.2025**

**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,***

***It has been such a super week in school. Children are highly engaged throughout the school and yesterday's first assembly in the hall for Years 1 and 2 was an example of really outstanding behaviour.***

***We have a new Hertfordshire Improvement Partner named Mandy Abley. She has taken over from Carol Hintridge and will conduct three County inspections annually on the school. As Carol, our previous HIP, loved the school so much and thought of it so very highly, we were understandably slightly nervous about the change.***

***Mandy conducted her first visit to the school on Tuesday and I'm delighted to report that as I showed her round, she commented, 'I've never seen a school like this before!' and said that she would love to have her grandson come to a school like ours. Her final comment before leaving was that she will need to write several reports annually on the school but, from what she had seen today, felt she might struggle to find areas for improvement! She also said that she had never before seen a school so clean and with an environment so inviting and well-prepared for the pupils.***

***I was so deeply proud of, and grateful to, our incredible staff and also our phenomenal children.***

***Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 1 and 2 parent/teacher consultations. Children have settled so well and I hope that you all felt very proud of the achievements of your children!***

***Sponsored Spell money: Year-groups are deciding how to spend this money with their children and we will share with you the final choices as soon as we have the lists. I know that Year 1 is currently spending lots of time with catalogues focusing on outdoor equipment, while Year 2 staff are looking into special purchases for Friday Golden Time. Watch this space! But thank you for your incredible generosity. You raised a total of £2364.36 for the children!***

***FROG Annual General Meeting and Vacancies: This will take place at 9.00am on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November in the main school staff room – please come to the front office. It's a tremendous group who contributes so much to our school community, to the happiness and enjoyment of our children and to the wider life of the school. All those***

*who join in contribute what they're able to – some might only be able to help once a year to decorate the children's Christmas table but anything you can do is appreciated! Do come along, meet some new people and find out what it's all about.*

*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).*

*Census Day Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – School Dinner Menu change: Please do encourage your child to try a school dinner – it potentially means more money for the school if numbers are high. Your child can always bring in their own packed lunch but also have a school dinner 'on the side' that day! Thank you for your support.*

*Friday lunches are the favourite, so Thursday and Friday lunches will be swapped next week.*

*National Poetry Day: This takes place next Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Children will enjoy hearing lots of different poems throughout the day. They will learn some poems by heart and have a go at writing their own.*

*October is Black History Month: We will be celebrating across the school the achievements of inspirational leaders, sportspeople, musicians, poets, writers, artists and other role models from across black communities with special assemblies, shared reading, lessons and activities.*

*Bulbs or plant donations: All the school planters will be sown and re-potted between now and half-term. Donations of bulbs, plants or seeds will be gratefully received.*

*Harvest Assembly: The children soon will be celebrating and practising songs for our Harvest Assembly. We collect dried goods items, tins and the like, which we will distribute to local families in need and the hospice. Miss Busby will also be taking contributions to the Feed Up Warm Up charity. Please bring any donations to your child's class teacher from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September onwards. We will have a beautiful harvest table in the hall which will allow us all to remember those in need at this time of year. Thank you very much for your generosity.*

*Volunteer work in school: We appreciate our volunteers so greatly and it is a role that in turn can give those who volunteer in school a lot of happiness. Our children are so fantastic and the teaching staff so incredible – it's an opportunity to make new friends and to pick up new skills at the same time as supporting our children's learning. Please speak to me if you are interested in doing some volunteer work in our school.*

*After School Club/Breakfast Club role: There is currently a space available. If you are interested, please speak to me.*

*Parent Talks: Please find the links below for annual presentations which provide information for parents and carers:*

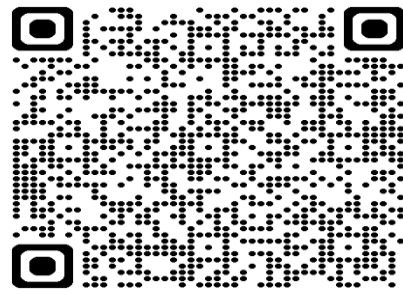
*Nursery: [Welcome to Nursery](#)*

*Reception: [Welcome to Reception](#)*

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

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

***Prospective Parent Tours: Applications are being accepted for Nursery places to start January/September 2026. Applications with Hertfordshire County Council for Reception places to start September 2026 open on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 and close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.***



***Tours of our Nursery and Reception classes available by appointment on: Tuesday 7th October, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Tuesday 11th November, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, Tuesday 9th December and Thursday 8th January – 3.45 to 4.30pm – please use the QR code to book your tickets or call us on 01438 359747. [www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk](http://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk)***

**Parent/Teacher Consultations:**

***Thank you to all those who attended Years 1 and 2 parent/teacher consultations this week. Consultations will be held during the week of 20<sup>th</sup> October for Reception and Nursery.***

***Reception: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 3.30-5.30pm  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 3.30-5.30pm  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 3.30-5.30pm***

***Nursery: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2.30-5.50pm  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2.30-5.50pm  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](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.***

***Nursery: This week the Nursery children have enjoyed sharing the story 'Apples and Honey' by Jonny Zucker, which is about celebrating the Jewish New Year festival of Rosh Hashanah. They loved trying apple slices dipped in honey for a special snack. Noah shared, "Honey is sweet."***



***The children enjoyed printing with apples in red and green paint for our Celebrations display, explored pomegranate seeds and created cards for their family. Mivaan said, "They wear new clothes."***

***In mathematics this week, the children have been learning about 2D shapes. They enjoyed creating a variety of pictures including a train, a house, a rocket and their favourite animals using 2D shapes. Ammar proudly shared, "I have a rectangle for door. I need a window. I have a star for window."***

*Next week, the children will learn the rhyme 'Five Currant Buns' and will have the opportunity to play in a bakery shop as part of the role play area.*

*In phonics, the children will explore drumming outdoors, discovering how different sounds can be made by tapping or stroking with a beater.*

*There will also be a focus of 'Healthy Body' and 'Healthy Me' next week, with the children taking part in a yoga session as well as learning how to keep their teeth healthy and how to eat a rainbow!*

*Please remember to bring in your child's book bag on Monday each week so that their new rhyme ring can be added, and a new library book can be chosen. We hope you all have a lovely weekend.*

**Reception:** *This week in literacy, the children have been generating and ordering a simple caption about a pig. They were encouraged to say their caption aloud a few times and used their fingers to count how many words were in their caption. The children watched an adult model writing their caption before it was cut up for them to order. Once they had ordered their caption, the children used their 'reading finger' to read their caption to an adult. The children have listened to different versions of the traditional tale of 'The Three Little Pigs'. In one version of the story, they discovered that 'growled,' 'cried,' 'roared' and 'squealed' were alternative words for 'shouted.'*

*This week in phonics, the children have learnt the phonemes 'i', 'n', 'm' and 'd'. Please see below the patter the staff use to help the children form the letters correctly.*

*'i' - Start at the top, come down and flick. Lift and dot.*

*'n' - Start at the top, come down, bounce back up, go over, down and flick.*

*'m' - Start at the top, come down, bounce back up and over. Down, bounce back up and over. Down and flick.*

*'d' - Make a curve, go all the way up, come back down and flick.*

*In mathematics, the children used the mathematical terms of 'more', 'fewer' and 'the same' by placing animals into two groups. Some children were able to recognise the difference just by looking at the number of animals, whilst other used counting skills to work out 'more', 'fewer' or 'the same'. When looking at two groups of objects, Kaitlin in Snowy Owl class said, "To check if there is more or fewer, you have to count." Alora in Tawny Owl class said, "This one has more and this one has future (fewer)!" Guy in Barn Owl class said, "I need to count them, so I know how many there are in each one."*



*The children have continued to discover more about the season of autumn. They used iPads to take photographic evidence. When the children were out investigating the*

*school grounds, Hallie in Barn Owl class said, "I love autumn because I go out with my family for a walk."*

*This week's poem is very seasonal for this time of year and is titled, 'Autumn Trees':*

*The trees are kind of pretty,  
In their autumn gold and brown.  
Some leaves are orange or red,  
But all will soon fall down.  
Then they dry and crackle,  
As we crunch them with our shoes.  
I guess it's time for autumn now,  
As summer takes a snooze.*

*This week, the children begun PE and they were all very excited! On Tuesday, they pretended to be witches and wizards creating spells and flying high and low across the land. On Wednesday, the children had to listen carefully and place different part of their bodies on the floor. They loved the challenge of placing just one foot and one hand on the floor! The children also had a go at balancing on one leg and walking around the hall balancing a beanbag on their hand. PE days for children in Reception each week are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.*

*Next week in literacy, the children will celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. They will play a rhyming pairs game, matching up objects which rhyme. During the week, the children will listen to rhyming stories, sing many songs and participate in many rhyming activities.*

*In mathematics, the children will focus on size and develop their understanding of the words 'big', 'little', 'large' and 'small' by creating a teddy bears tea party. In a second mathematical activity, the children will investigate weighing, predicting which boxes are 'heavy' or 'light' by being 'human scales' to describe which one is heavier and which one is lighter.*

*In expressive arts and design, the children will visit the Enchanted Garden to act out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' taking turns to be one of the pigs or the Big Bad Wolf!*

*All the children in Reception will now have received a reading book. Please make sure your child's reading book and orange record book are in their book bag every day. If your child has read at home and you have written a short comment, then your child will receive a new reading book.*

*Each week in Reception, the children have an opportunity to choose and take home a library book to share their family. Library days in each class are below:*

*Tawny Owls – Tuesday*

*Barn Owls – Thursday*

*Snowy Owls – Friday*

*Please ensure your child's library book is in their book bag so they can change on their library day.*

*Year 1: It has been an absolute delight to meet the families of the Year 1 children at parent consultations this week. We hope you found the meetings as helpful as we did. Thank you for making the time to meet with us.*

*This week, the children have begun to think about the season of autumn. In English, they listened to the autumnal story 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves' by Julia Rawlinson.*

*They used their skills of observation to look closely at a picture from the book and to note what they could see in it. They learnt that when writing they need to leave finger spaces between words, and they practised doing so. They enjoyed making lolly stick spacers to help them. In a cross-curricular science and English activity, the children went on autumn walks as part of their immersion into the story. Evie in Walker Bear class collected a whole pocketful of acorns in our school woodland!*

*Our Book of the Week was 'Would You Rather' by John Burningham. The children thought about what choices they would make in each scenario. They practised telling each other using the sentence stem, "I would rather... because..."*

*In mathematics, the children practised comparing groups to say if they had 'the same', 'fewer' or 'more' and they began to look at the inequality symbols for 'less than', 'greater than' and 'equal to'. The [Number Gator song](#) is a super way to help embed your child's understanding of the inequality symbols. This is an activity you may like to try at home to practise using the inequality symbols: lay out some playing cards face down (not the picture ones). Ask your child to turn over two and decide which one would the Number Gator want to eat.*

*In science, the children began to investigate their senses. This week, they considered the sense of hearing. They enjoyed making big ear headbands and doing some listening exercises. They also considered what it would be like to live with a hearing impairment.*

*The first computing lesson using a device was a moment of great excitement across the year group. The children enjoyed using their personal log-in details to log on to Purple Mash. They designed their own avatars and learnt how to use the paint programme. Your child's Purple Mash details are in their reading record, should you wish to access the programme at home.*

*Next week, the children will continue to enjoy the story of 'Ferdie and the Falling Leaves', using it as a stimulus for writing captions in English. In mathematics, the learning will focus on comparing numbers, ordering numbers and using a number line. The children will investigate the sense of sight in science. In RE, they will learn about harvest and harvest thanksgiving. They will hear about a Christian view of harvest.*

*Thank you for helping your child to produce some truly wonderful homework. Your child has a new homework activity sheet. Please return the books by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October.*

*Have a wonderful weekend.*

*Year 2: It was a pleasure to meet the families of the Year 2 children at parent consultations this week. We hope you found the meetings useful and thank you for taking the time to meet with us.*

*It has been a fantastic week in Year 2. In English, the children read the story of 'The Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl and learnt all about his cunning plans and clever tricks. They imagined what they would do if he appeared on the playground and how they could catch him. There were some fantastically imaginative ideas! The children used their ideas as a basis to learn how to write a set of instructions. They made a model example, which will help them write their own set of instructions next week.*

*In mathematics, the children have been revisiting their learning about place value and practising key skills. They learnt how to find 'one more' and 'one less' than a given number and compared two-digit numbers with the same number of tens, before comparing two-digit numbers with different numbers of tens.*

*In art and design, the children explored ways of creating lines using different media. In computing, the children learnt about the 'collision detection' event. They created a program where a frog turns into a prince once it collides with a princess. In science, they learnt why exercise is important to keep us healthy and thought of different ways to exercise. In PSHCE, the children thought about rewards and consequences, and ways to make our classroom a safe and fair place.*

*Next week in science, the children will learn about the importance of dental hygiene. English will link to science, as the children write a set of instructions explaining how to brush a crocodile's teeth. They will use the model example they made this week to support them. In mathematics, the children will learn how to partition two-digit numbers in different ways. In design and technology, the children will recall what they know about healthy eating and design a healthy salad. In PSHCE, the children will think about how their behaviour affects others. In art and design, they will make a crocodile collage applying everything they have learnt about line.*

*On Thursday, the children will celebrate National Poetry Day. The theme this year is 'play'. The children will have the opportunity to read poems, act them out and discuss how they make them feel. If you would like more information about the event, please visit the website: [Poems and Resources - National Poetry Day](#)*


*I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.*

*Kindest regards,*

*Rouane Mendel  
Headteacher*

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHYS**

#### **TROPHY-BEARING CLASSES WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK**

<i>Reception</i>	<i>Key stage one</i>
<b><i>Barn Owls class – 99.3%</i></b>	<b><i>Red Fox class – 98.9%</i></b>
<b><i>FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!</i></b>	
	

### **STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b><i>Ladybirds Class</i></b>	<p><i>Rudi for coming into school like a super star.</i></p> <p><i>Isabella for a fantastic 2D shape picture – “A house with wheels.”</i></p> <p><i>Lottie M for independently noticing shapes in the environment.</i></p> <p><i>Jenson for super listening and joining in during carpet sessions.</i></p> <p><i>Xenia for fantastic 2D shape recognition.</i></p>
<b><i>Snowy Owl Class</i></b>	<p><i>Ottilie for coming into school beautifully.</i></p> <p><i>Tito for generating a caption, ordering the words, and reading the caption back.</i></p>

<b>Tawny Owl Class</b>	<p><i>Therry for always demonstrating excellent listening when learning on the carpet.</i></p> <p><i>Mahum for amazing use of the mathematical language 'more' and 'fewer' to describe two groups of objects.</i></p>
<b>Barn Owl Class</b>	<p><i>Guy for demonstrating a fantastic understanding of 'more', 'fewer' and 'the same' in mathematics.</i></p> <p><i>Vivienne for thoroughly enjoying PE.</i></p>
<b>Big Cat Class</b>	<p><i>Molly for being a kind and caring friend.</i></p> <p><i>Arlo for writing a fantastic caption in English.</i></p>
<b>Red Fox Class</b>	<p><i>Hashir for super independent writing using finger spaces.</i></p> <p><i>Wolfie who is always ready for learning.</i></p>
<b>Walker Bear Class</b>	<p><i>Archer for being a super role model on the carpet for learning.</i></p> <p><i>Gracie for always being ready for learning.</i></p>
<b>Pelican Class</b>	<p><i>Emilee for being a super listener and always ready to learn.</i></p> <p><i>Oliver for always being actively involved and trying his best with his learning.</i></p>
<b>Penguin Class</b>	<p><i>Reid for excellent improvement with his handwriting. Well done!</i></p> <p><i>Carina for great effort in mathematics with our place value work, even when it was really tricky! Well done!</i></p>
<b>Puffin Class</b>	<p><i>ChloeElla for independently writing a super set of instructions explaining how to catch a crocodile.</i></p> <p><i>Cormac for working hard during handwriting lessons.</i></p>

## 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 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
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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
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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
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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
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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)

