



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Assistant Heads: Miss Lisa Hill and Mrs Tania Dalton

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13.12.2024

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 the most marvellous, magical, busy week in school. The Year 1 Nativity in All Saints Church was absolutely stunning, and the children looked so lovely. They also behaved impeccably and sang with true musicality. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our tremendous Year 1 team, every child knew every word and enacted a flawless performance. Thank you so very much to all the parents who accompanied the children on their walk to and from the church. Thank you also to the parents, grandparents and relatives who attended – it is greatly appreciated. This is such a very special event.



The Year 2 Nativity was quite simply jaw-droppingly marvellous – I can honestly say it's the best school production I've ever seen. The entire year-group took part all together and the performance was utterly joy-filled from beginning to end. All the children played their parts so beautifully - they all sang with such beauty that there was hardly a dry eye in the house. A huge well done and really immense thanks go to all our staff for their hard work and to our lovely children. This has really set the tone for the season!

The Nursery class concerts were also just lovely and we are so very, very proud of our dear youngest children. It was tremendous to share with parents the fabulous work they have done this term, thanks to our incredible Nursery staff. Our Ladybirds all sang so sweetly and everyone who attended felt that this beautiful performance brought the spark of this festive season into all our hearts. Thank you to our wonderful Nursery team.

Our much-appreciated FROG parents will be coming in next week on Wednesday to decorate the hall in real style for Christmas dinner – and they will also give their time to help out and serve for the duration of the meal. This is so very kind and adds greatly to the children’s enjoyment – I know you will all join me in thanking them on behalf of our school!

In this very special week, we also had the inauguration of our new school council. The outgoing councillors were thanked for their hard work, particularly on the project for solar panels to be installed on the school roof. Thank you Ayla-Kaye, Reid, Ella-Rae, Veronika, Ava, Milla, Sol, Ivy and Jaxon. The new councillors received their badges and certificates of office. Welcome to our new councillors: Reception – Annabelle, Archer and Amelie; Year 1 – Kobi, Sumayyah and Katy; Year 2 – Isabella, Parth, Jamal.

Do remember that school closes at 1pm on the final day of term – next Friday 20th December.

Rocksteady Concert: Parents and carers of Rocksteady pupils are invited to a concert to take place on Wednesday 18th December at 9.30am in the school hall.

Year 2 Christmas Concert songs performance: 2.15 Tuesday 17th December outside in the Year 2 playground, weather permitting

Christmas Dinner: On Wednesday 18th December, the children will be having a Christmas dinner. Our fantastic FROG kindly decorate the entire hall so that it is Christmassy and sparkling! Our cook is aware of those children with dietary allergies and will prepare special puddings for those children.

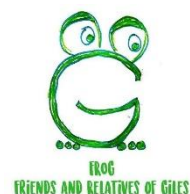


Grapes: If you are giving your child grapes to eat in school, please will you cut them in half lengthwise first. Unfortunately, grapes present a choking hazard. Cutting them in half along the length reduces the risk of choking. Thank you.

After School Club: We would like to remind you that at the end of each term when school finishes at 1pm, there is no After School Club so please remember that it will not be open on Friday 20th December.

Reception Tours On Tuesday January 7th, Reception will run a tour from 3.45-4.30pm. If you have a child entering Reception next September (or know anyone else who does!), please visit [The Giles Nursery and Infants’ School - Prospective Parent Tours](#) to book a place or call or visit the school office. The application process closes on 15th January.

FROG Christmas Event – Tuesday 17th December: Come and join us from 3.15pm in the main school hall for some exciting Christmas activities organised by our FROG team.



Children due to start Reception in September 2025: The application process for Reception year to start in September 2025 will close on 15th January 2025. Applications can be made via [Primary, junior and middle school places | Hertfordshire County Council](#).

Children due to start Nursery in September 2025: Applications/admissions are managed by the school. Applications opened on 1st November 2024. An application form is available on the school website.

Applications for school places for Year 3 upwards: Year 2 Parents/Carers - please be reminded that you will need to apply for your child's Year 3 place for September 2025. The deadline for this is 15th January 2025 and applications are made on-line - please follow the link below: [Primary, junior and middle school places / Hertfordshire County Council](#)

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. Some volunteers also go on to do apprenticeships with us so if you are interested in this, do please speak to me.

Spare clothing for Reception and Year 1 classes: Reception and Year 1 are in desperate need of spare clothing as they are running extremely low. In particular, they need girls' and boys' underwear, girls' tights, and socks and trousers for both boys and girls. If your child has grown out of any of these, the Reception and Year 1 staff will happily accept any donations.

Wednesday 18th December, Christmas Lunch:

On Wednesday 18th December we will have our Christmas lunch, helped by FROG to make the occasion very special for the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers to school on Wednesday.



Aged 40-74? Find out about a FREE NHS Health Check near you.



Even though you might be feeling great, if you're over 40 you may be at risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, diabetes or dementia. A FREE NHS Health Check can help you reduce these risks and make sure that you stay healthy.

Checks are running in Stevenage on:

- 27th and 31st December
- 2nd, 13th, and 27th January
- 24th February

Appointments need to be booked in advance.

If you cannot make the available dates, you will be placed on a waiting list and we will contact you when new dates are available. To check if you're eligible and to book: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthchecks

Holiday camp: Sports2Inspire will run a Christmas themed sports and activity camp at Giles Junior School for children from Reception to Year 6. The camp will take place on Monday 23rd December, Thursday 2nd January and Friday 3rd January. It will begin at 8.30am and finish at 3.30pm. The camp costs £17.50 per day. Please use this booking link – www.bookwhen.com/sports2inspire . Children will be

SPORTS 2 INSPIRE

offered a complimentary breakfast on arrival. On Monday 23rd December, children will have the chance to meet Father Christmas, as well as participate in their favourite sports. On Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd January, children will participate in their favourite sports and arts and crafts whilst continuing the festive spirit.

Nursery: *It has been a wonderful week in Nursery continuing with Advent celebrations, having the Christmas tree shining bright and Christmas music playing. The children showed tremendous effort in practising singing songs and actions ready for their special concerts. They were all fantastic and we are so proud of them! We hope you enjoyed the Christmas concerts as much as we did.*



The children enjoyed making Christmas cards for you and these will be inside their special folder with their wonderful work from this term. They worked carefully to stamp their special Christmas folders, showing skill and control when printing. The children had lots of fun making a 3D Christmas tree and added baubles using bright paint colours.



Through the week, the children thoroughly engaged in Christmas stories and everyone loved hearing and watching the story 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson. In expressive art and design, they explored activities linked to the story. The children created a water wheel, joined sticks together to create their own stick man and created a stormy sea scene.

Our role play area this week was full of excited children exploring Santa's workshop. They enjoyed wrapping presents, writing gift tags and making cards for their friends.



The children are all looking forward to the Christmas party on the afternoon of Thursday 19th December. There is no morning Nursery that day. Please will everyone arrive in party clothes at 12.30pm. We kindly ask that you take your child's coat home with you. They will not need to change their shoes.

Reception: *This week the children have really enjoyed listening to and participating in the Nativity story with actions. They created story maps of the Nativity and used them to retell the story in their own words to a friend. Molly in Snowy Owl class said, 'The Fairy Godmother told Mary she was going to have a baby.' Aariya in Barn Owl class said, 'Once upon a time the angel said to Mary that she was going to have a baby. The home keeper let Mary go in a cottage. The shepherd had to carry a sheep on his head and the three Wise Men brought baby Jesus a present,' and Myles in Tawny Owl class said, 'The Wise Men brought baby Jesus, gold, Frankenstein and merge.'*

Our poem of the week is the children's carol, 'Away in a Manger'.

***Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay.***

Please encourage your child to read or sing this to you, a member of their family or a family friend. These weekly poems are to aid your child's fluency in reading. The children really enjoy learning the poem each week.

In mathematics, the children focused on position, for example, they had to place a bear under a log, next to a rock or in between two trees.



Next week the children will be discussing the sequence of a day and drawing pictures of something they do at home in the morning, an activity they enjoy at school and something they do after school has finished.

Year 1: What a beautiful and special day we had on Tuesday! Thank you for joining us for our Christmas at Church celebration which forms part of the RE curriculum. It was wonderful to see so many family members there. The children walked so safely and well to and from All Saints Church at The Oval. Thank you if you walked with your child. We were blown away by their tuneful singing of Christmas carols. The children who had speaking parts spoke clearly and confidently and the actors fulfilled their roles wonderfully well. All the costumes were splendid. Well done Year 1!

This week in English the children have been learning about performance poetry. They learnt that there are lots of different types of poems and that the author of a poem is called a poet. The children learnt that when they read a poem, it is helpful to think about the tone of voice to use, any actions that might express the ideas in the poem, and also the setting of the poem. They learnt the poem 'Peppermint Stick' by an unknown poet and practised using an excited voice, a secretive voice, and a cheeky voice to recite it, whilst also using facial expressions and actions. They performed the poem to their peers.

In phonics the children have continued learning about the split vowel digraphs. They have segmented and blended words with split vowel digraphs, looking for the 'friend on the end'. They have put sound buttons on words to demarcate each sound.

The children have been finishing their learning all about 2d and 3d shapes in mathematics. They have made and identified patterns using shapes, sorted shapes and

learnt to describe a shape, referring to the sides and corners. The children have looked for 2d and 3d shapes around them. They discovered that the faces on 3d shapes are in fact 2d shapes. They enjoyed drawing around 3d shapes to see what 2d shapes the faces made on their paper. The children learnt that a 2d shape cannot be picked up. The children have learnt to identify and name the 3d shapes: cylinder, sphere, cuboid, cube, cone and pyramid. They learnt to recognise and name the 2d shapes: square, rectangle, circle, triangle. Some children demonstrated their knowledge of other 2d shapes including hexagons and octagons. They learnt that a square is a special type of rectangle but a rectangle is not a square. We are really proud of the fabulous progress the children have made in mathematics this term.

In science the children have learnt all about fish during their animal classification work. They have researched types of fish and their characteristics and discussed how they are different to the other animal groups learnt so far. They learnt that a jellyfish is not a fish even though it has the word 'fish' in its name.



In outdoor learning, the children enjoyed listening to the story 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson. They made their own stick person and had a wonderful time making up adventures for it in the woodland area. Some children made a girl, some made a man, some made a superhero. Some sticks were Santa or Santa's elves. There was even a mermaid!

Next week, the children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers on Wednesday. We have our class Christmas parties on Thursday. Please provide your child with their own named bag of party food that day. As some children have allergies, please do not include any nuts or foods with nut-based ingredients. If your child has a packed lunch normally, they will need that too. The children may wear party clothes on Thursday.

Please note, there will be no outdoor learning next week. Outdoor learning will restart the second week after the holiday – week commencing 13th January. It will be very wintry. Please ensure your child has warm winter outdoor clothes and a spare change of shoes (the boots get very muddy!) on their outdoor learning day: Mondays – Walker Bears; Thursdays – Red Foxes and Big Cats.

Finally, we have a special plea to make. We are very short on spare clothing in school. If you are having a clear-out, we would be extremely grateful for any donations of pants, socks, tights, leggings, trousers or jogging bottoms in suitable sizes for Year 1 children.

We wish you all a wonderful weekend and look forward to a very exciting last week of term!

The Year One Team

Year 2: What a fantastic week it has been in Year 2! The children put on an incredible Christmas concert that absolutely wowed the audience, performing it not once, not twice, but three times over the week, twice for their families, and once for the Year 1 children. All the Year 2 classes came together for the performance and what an amazing job they did, listening carefully to directions, remembering their lines and

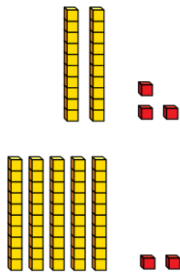
places, and kindly helping each other if anyone got a little stage struck. We are so very proud of every single one of them!



In between rehearsals and performances, the children have been continuing to learn about addition and subtraction. This week, they focused on adding two 2-digit numbers. They have learnt how to add the ones in each number and then the tens to find the answer, regrouping ones for a ten when they need to.

Adding two 2-digit numbers (not crossing ten):

$$23 + 52 =$$

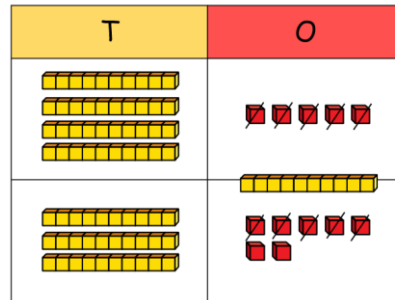


Tens	Ones
7	5

$$23 + 52 = 75$$

Adding two 2-digit numbers (crossing ten):

$$45 + 37 =$$



I can regroup some ones for a ten.

There are 8 tens and 2 ones.

$$45 + 37 = 82$$

The children have enjoyed lots of Christmas themed activities and crafts, including some surprises that they will bring home next week.

Next week is another busy one! The children will hear some festive stories and enjoy some Christmas crafts. They will finish off their history topic for this half term by designing and making a coat of arms. In design and technology, they will make a castle out of card. They will learn how to make different features by folding and cutting the card.

On Tuesday, the children will perform the Christmas performance songs on the playground from 2.15pm. This is an opportunity for any family member to attend and hear the wonderful singing, guaranteed to get everyone in the festive spirit! The FROG Christmas event will then take place in the school hall from 3.15pm.

Wednesday is Christmas dinner day, kindly supported by the FROG team. Children may come to school wearing a Christmas jumper that day.

Class Christmas parties will take place on Thursday afternoon, and we hope to see a special visitor on his rounds! Children can come to school in party clothes for the day. Please can each child bring in a named individual bag of party food, to avoid any problems with allergies. This should be in addition to a packed lunch if your child has one.

School closes at 1.00pm on Friday for the Christmas break. There is no after-school club on this day.

We wish you a restful weekend.

The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PENGUIN CLASS

99.1%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	All the children for fantastic singing and a wonderful concert.
Snowy Owls	Archie for being able to recognise and describe 2D shapes. Rowan for applying your phonic knowledge to write a caption about a wolf. Chayson for being a kind and polite member of Snowy Owl class. Mya for creating a wonderful story map about 'The Nativity' story.
Tawny Owls	Yoosuf for demonstrating a great knowledge of prepositions. Cody for fantastic independent writing. Aden for a brilliant retelling of the Christmas Story.
Barn Owls	Adalyne for using your story map to retell a wonderful version of the Nativity. Teddie for using your story map to retell a super detailed version of the Nativity. Alfie for super letter formation during phonics. Eshaal for lovely reading when sharing a new reading book.
Red Foxes	Muna for a detailed drawing and labelling of a fish. Irina for always working hard in all areas of learning.
Big Cats	Joshua for having a fantastic understanding of 2D shapes and patterns. Hannah for making a wonderful stick man during outdoor learning.
Walker Bears	Mason for using mathematical words to describe shapes. Sophie for making fabulous progress in reading.
Pelicans	All of the children for a fantastic performance in the Christmas concert.

<i>Puffins</i>	<i>All of the children for a fantastic performance in the Christmas concert.</i>
<i>Penguins</i>	<i>All of the children for a fantastic performance in the Christmas concert.</i>

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

*Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SCHOOL DATES AND EVENTS AUTUMN TERM 2024-25

1.00 Tuesday 17th December Orca class invites parents in for Christmas celebration

2.15 Tuesday 17th December Year 2 Christmas Concert songs performance outside in the Year 2 playground, weather permitting

3.15-4.30 Tuesday 17th December FROG Christmas Event

9.30 Wednesday 18th December Rocksteady concert – parents / carers of children taking part in Rocksteady band lessons only.

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Dinner

Thursday 19th December – Christmas Parties with possible surprise visitor

***Friday 20th December – END OF TERM
SCHOOL CLOSSES 1.00 PM***

TERM DATES 2024-25

Autumn Term: Monday 2nd September 2024 – 20th December 2024

School finishes on Friday 20th December 2024 at 1.00pm

[Christmas Holidays: Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025]

Children return to school on Monday 6th January 2025

Spring Term: Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 4th April 2025

[Half term: Monday 17th February 2025 – Friday 21st February 2025]

Children return to school on Monday 24th February 2025

School finishes on Friday 4th April 2025 at 1.00pm

[Easter Holidays: Monday 7th April 2025 – Monday 21st April 2025]

Children return to school on Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Summer Term: Tuesday 22nd April 2025 – Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Monday 5th May 2025 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 26th May 2025 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025]

Monday 2nd June 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Monday 30th June 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 1.00pm

ONLY £17.50 PER DAY

SPORTS 2 INSPIRE

GILES CHRISTMAS CAMP

Dates: Monday 23rd December 2024, Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd January 2025
Location: Giles Junior School, Durham Rd, SG1 4JQ
Timings: 8:30am-3:30pm
Age: Reception- Year 6

Monday 23rd December 2024
-Meet Father Christmas
-Fun filled Christmas themed day
-Sports activities
-Arts & crafts

Thursday 2nd/ Friday 3rd January 2025
-Fun filled Christmas themed day
-Sports activities
-Arts & crafts

Remember to bring
Comfortable sportswear including trainers.
A packed lunch, a water bottle and a huge amount of ENERGY!

To book
All bookings and payments are made through our easy and efficient booking platform: www.bookwhen.com/sports2inspire

FAQ
-Children from any school are welcome
-Children will cover at least 4 different sports a day
-Children will be in age appropriate groups

TALK 2 US
HOW TO FIND US
☎ +447932688067
✉ info@sports2inspire.co.uk

HCL

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas Turkey and Chipolata Sausage, Trimmings of Sage and Onion Stuffing and Gravy

OR

Festive Quorn Fillet (v) with a Veggie Sausage (v), Trimmings of Sage and Onion Stuffing and Vegetarian Gravy

With Roast Potatoes and a Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

A Choice of Christmas Desserts

Facebook: HCLcatering Twitter: @HCLcatering LinkedIn: HCLcatering



2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
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						

October '24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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28	29	30	31			

November '24						
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December '24						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January '25						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February '25						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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28	29	30				

May '25						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June '25						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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
- = 23/24 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2024/25 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
- = Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)

