



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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

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20.12.2024

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,

What a wonderful week we have all had in school!

Our inspirational FROG mums have excelled themselves this week. The Christmas fete on Tuesday was impeccably well-organised, great fun and enjoyed by all! The final count is being done but it looks as though just under £600 has been made for the school. And then FROG volunteers came in again on Wednesday to decorate the hall in sparkling style for Christmas dinner! They also gave their time to help out and serve for the duration of the meal. That was kindness itself and I thank them on behalf of the school from the bottom of my heart. The children loved their meal and looked terrific in their Christmas jumpers.



The Rocksteady Concert was phenomenal and we are so proud of all our talented pupils! Thank you to everyone who attended the performance of the Year 2 Christmas Concert songs – the children sing so fabulously well, it's a joy to hear them.

Party Day has been the glorious highlight of the week – and a very special visitor went to all classes bearing gifts!

The children have worked so hard and are all ready for their break.

Merry Christmas to all those who celebrate this festival and a very Happy Hanukkah to everyone celebrating this lovely festival. I hope you all have a peaceful, restful and joyful holiday and I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 6th January 2025.

Advent Reading Tree: This year we have once again enjoyed having our Advent Reading Tree in school. We purchase reading books to give out each day of Advent, selecting children's names at random. This year, we were pleased to give out books to the following children:

***Nursery – Alora, Josiah, Muriah
Barn Owls – Kiara, Bertie
Snowy Owls – Heidi
Tawny Owls – Yoosuf
Walker Bears – Ayla-Kaye, Jeremiah***

*Big Cats – Reggie
Red Foxes – Shaineha
Pelicans – Marliya
Puffins – Reggie
Penguins – Milla
Orcas – Rauri*

We hope that the children enjoy reading their new book and that you all have the opportunity to settle down, snuggle up and relax with a good book over the busy festive period.

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.

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.

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 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: The children had the most enjoyable week with a variety of festive activities. They loved singing Christmas songs and particularly enjoyed 'Ten Little Elves' sung to

the tune of our Ladybird song. The children were excited to hunt for reindeer in the garden; they gleefully searched for Santa's reindeer to find out which one was missing. They found Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen, but couldn't find Rudolph!

In expressive art and design, the children practised their scissor control creating elf hats and snowflakes. They had a wonderful time using their imaginations to create sleigh prints and footprints in flour. Haadi shared, 'I like snow; my favourite is making snowballs.' Harper said, 'Snow is cold.' The children painted bright colourful stockings and created fantastic shape pictures including presents, angels and Christmas trees.



In mathematics, the children were thoroughly engaged in counting elves. They recalled how to use their superpower of subitising and could say when there were 1 or 2 elves in the picture. The children have learnt the number rhymes for numbers from 1 to 5 and showed brilliant recall of the number formation and rhyme. Well done Ladybirds!

The children counted the sleeps until party day and the Christmas holidays. Party Day was a wonderful celebration, with a magical visitor and a brilliant entertainer. All of the children joined in the festive games, singing, dancing and playing in bubbles.

The Nursery Team would like to thank you for all your support this term and we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Reception: *This week the children have listened to many stories linked to Christmas and have enjoyed participating in a range of activities linked to this festive season. For example, the children used their phonics knowledge to write a Christmas present list. They made a snowman head with a special twist – the snowman's face is their own! They enjoyed decorating a tree with baubles. The children have loved singing Christmas songs such as 'Jingle Bells,' 'When Santa Got Stuck Up The Chimney' and 'Five Mince Pies In The Baker's Shop.'*



In mathematics the children looked at the routine of their day. They had to sequence three activities they do during the day. They thought about something they do at home in the morning, an activity at school and something they do at the end of the day.

*This week's poem is 'Winter Poem' by Dorothy Aldis.
The street cars are like frosted cakes,
All covered up with cold snowflakes.*

*The horses' hoofs scrunch on the street;
Their eyelashes are white with sleet.
And everywhere the people go,
With faces tickled by the snow.*

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

The Musician of the Month for December has been the composer George Frideric Handel. The children found out facts including that Handel was born in Germany and when he was an adult, he was the Kapellmeister (the official composer) for George I, King of England. There is a story that King George I was so emotional when he heard Handel's 'Hallelujah!' chorus from 'Messiah' that he stood up. If the King stood up, this meant everyone else had to stand up as well! When watching the choir of Kings College performing the 'Hallelujah!' chorus, the children noticed the musicians playing an instrument like a trumpet called a baroque trumpet. Handel's 'Hallelujah!' chorus can be found using this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3TUWU_yg4s

The children loved their Christmas dinner on Wednesday, especially opening their crackers, and were keen to hear the different jokes. On Thursday they had a wonderful time at their class Christmas party and delighted in singing Christmas songs to Father Christmas.

Next term, the children will be focusing on science investigations and food technology linked to a traditional tale. They will be thinking about how a character can travel safely when on a journey.

Stay and Read begins on Friday 10th January, from 8.45 until 9.15am. Everyone is welcome. Please come in and read lots of exciting books with your child.

All the staff and children in Reception would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 1: What a very joyous week we have had in year 1! From Christmas jumper and lunch day, Christmas party day (with a special visitor bearing sackloads of gifts for the classes), to games, singing, music, crafting and celebrations of our fabulous learning, the week has been exciting, happy and merry.



Thank you for all the gifts, cards and well-wishes you have given to the staff. We love our work and it is an honour to play a small part in your children's lives at such a key point in their development.

We are so proud of all the learning the children have done this term and their superb transition to year 1. They are all settled beautifully in the year and ready to continue to grow when they return to us on Monday 6th January. If you would like to see some photographs of activities the children have done since September, please take a look at the following:

[Walker Bear class autumn 2024](#)

[Red Fox class autumn 2024](#)

[Big Cat class autumn 2024](#)

In the meantime, we wish you all a relaxing, restful and happy holiday time, however you are using it. We hope you enjoy the calendar, card and other crafts the children have brought home with them over the past few days.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Year 1 team.

Year 2: What a wonderful festive week it has been in Year 2! The children have been busy making lots of Christmas crafts, which we hope you will appreciate at home.



Thank you to those who joined the children on Tuesday afternoon as they gave a final performance of the songs from their Christmas play. It was lovely to see you all and enjoy the beautiful singing one last time.

On Wednesday, the children enjoyed their Christmas dinner, complete with Christmas songs, crackers and of course, Christmas jumpers!



On Thursday afternoon, the children had a fantastic time at their Christmas party. They enjoyed some party games, ate their picnic snacks and opened some presents, following a visit from Father Christmas himself!

We would like to thank you for your generous Christmas gifts and for all your support this term. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year, when school re-opens on Monday 6th January 2025.

With best wishes,

The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PENGUINS

99.2%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	All of the children for fabulous dancing at the party.
Snowy Owls	Bowie-Moon for making good progress in phonics. Nedu for always being kind, polite and a helpful member of Snowy Owl class. Fife for trying really hard with learning your phonic sounds.

	<i>Arlo for being able to sequence events of the day independently.</i>
Tawny Owls	<i>Henry O for a brilliant week in the Tawny Owl class.</i> <i>Darcey for fantastic learning during phonics.</i> <i>Eliza for excellent drawing when creating your sequence of the day.</i> <i>Henry P for demonstrating good listening skills when in P.E.</i>
Barn Owls	<i>Hashir for always being a kind friend in the Barn Owl class.</i> <i>Harry for always being a good team member in PE games.</i> <i>Albert for thinking of lovely activities he does during his day.</i>
Value of the Month Responsibility	<i>Snowy Owls: Amelie, Jaxon and Calliope.</i> <i>Tawny Owls: Marissa, Evie and Cody.</i> <i>Barn Owls: Harry, Gracie and Bertie.</i>
Red Foxes	<i>Cormac for super writing about the Christmas story.</i> <i>Layla for fantastic writing using your phonics.</i>
Big Cats	<i>Joshua for writing a wonderful sentence about the Christmas story.</i> <i>Remi for having a fantastic term in Year 1.</i> <i>Noah for having a wonderful understanding of 3D and 2D shapes.</i>
Walker Bears	<i>Eleonora for always trying your best with your learning.</i> <i>Katinca for having a fantastic first term in Year 1.</i>
Value of the Month Responsibility	<i>Red Foxes: Kobi and Hannah.</i> <i>Big Cats: Ivy and Reggie.</i> <i>Walker Bears: Eva and Oliver</i>
Pelicans	<i>Phoebe for being positive and a great helper.</i> <i>Yamihle for being a supportive classmate.</i>
Puffins	<i>Samuel for showing excellent manners to all adults in our school.</i> <i>Hollie for being a role model to all children.</i>
Penguins	<i>Muhammed for a fantastic first week in Penguin class.</i> <i>Sabah for being a welcoming and kind member of the class.</i> <i>Bella for super attention to detail during an art activity.</i>
Value of the Month Responsibility	<i>Puffins: Zachary, Jacob and Ava.</i> <i>Penguins: Aoife, Alexander and Milla.</i> <i>Pelicans: Ellie and Noah.</i>

I hope you all have the most wonderful break and look forward to seeing you again on 6th January 2025.

Kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SCHOOL DATES AND EVENTS SPRING TERM 2025

**Monday 6th January 2025 START OF SPRING
TERM/CHILDREN RETURN**

3.45 – 4.30 Tuesday 7th January Reception Tour

Monday 13th January Reception Screening

3.30 – 4.15 Thursday 16th January Year 2 workshop for parents - Maths

Week Commencing 20th January BIG WRITE

Monday 20th January Reception Screening

Monday 27th January Reception Screening

2.50 – 3.10 Monday 27th January Stay and Read Year 1

Wednesday 29th January Lunar New Year Assembly pupils only

2.50 – 3.10 Wednesday 29th January Stay and Read, Year 2

3.30 Thursday 30th January Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents

8.50 – 9.50 Tuesday 4th February INCo/FROG Coffee Morning

Week Commencing 10th February E-safety Week

Tuesday 11th February Safer Internet Day Assembly for pupils

3.15 – 4.30 Thursday 13th February FROG/PTA Bake Sale

**Monday 17/02/25 - Friday 21/02/25 HALF TERM
Monday 24/02/2025 Children Return**

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
clothing 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.bookwhats.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



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

February '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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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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)

