



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ
Telephone: 01438 359747
Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

16.05.2025

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,

This wonderful week started with our Year 2 pupils entering into the past for an exciting day during the Great Fire of London. Everyone looked absolutely incredible in their costumes and it was a tremendous experience for our children. I'm sure they all came home buzzing with everything they'd learnt and engaged in and I hope they enjoyed sharing with you all the artefacts they'd created.

All our Year 1 classes took part with enormous enthusiasm and energy in Active Maths, led by Stevenage Sporting Futures, on Wednesday.

The undoubted highlight of the week – and perhaps even of the entire term! – was the day spent with Pete Thompson, a.k.a. Skip and The Skipping Ninja, multiple winner of Guinness World Records for skipping. The day began with a truly inspirational assembly. I've never seen anything like what Skipping Ninja was able to achieve with his skipping rope. It was simply incredible and the children watched with their mouths open until they started spontaneously clapping. As he says, skipping costs next to nothing, it's tremendous exercise, it makes you fit and strong, it makes you happy and it even makes your brain work better! Thank you so much to Mrs Brown, our sensational and hard-working PE lead, for organising this unbelievable day.

I am definitely going to get myself a skipping rope! And as it happens, Mrs Dacombe is undertaking a '100 skips a day in May' challenge for Cancer Research UK. If you would like to sponsor her please follow this link:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/lisas-giving-page-170785>

The last day of our sponsored spell (years 1 and 2), sponsored Road Safety Experience (Reception) and sponsored Count (Nursery) ended today. Any donations can be given to your class teacher or left at the school office – thank you everyone. The School Council children encouraged their peers with beautiful motivational posters for their classrooms. Children have been practising their spellings so carefully and have made absolutely wonderful progress. You should be very proud of them! Nursery children have done fabulously with their counting, while Reception pupils all engaged with great excitement in their Road Safety Event. This was a first for our school and everyone thought it was very successful. You'll find more details below in the year-group letters.



Census Day: Thank you everyone for encouraging your child to have a school meal yesterday – we had record numbers and as you know, this does help our school budget.

FROG Bake Sale: Thank you to everyone for their kind donations of cakes and biscuits and for coming to help support this event. A big thank you to our fabulous FROG members for their hard work and dedication.

Online safety: Minecraft is still the best-selling game of all time and enjoyed by millions of people. Please see this week's Wake-Up Wednesday poster for guidance on how to ensure your child can play this game safely and happily. The poster is at the end of this newsletter, or available to see on our website: [The Giles Nursery and Infants' School - Wake-Up Wednesday e-Safety information](#) Please be aware that Minecraft has a PEGI rating of age 7 years and is therefore not recommended for younger children.

Suncream: Now that it is becoming warmer, please apply suncream when wished to your child before they come to school in the morning. Long-lasting suncream or spray is best as unfortunately adults are not permitted to apply sunscreen while children are in school. Thank you.

Sports Day: Sports day will take place on the morning of Tuesday 8th July. More information will follow nearer the time.

Reception races will take place from 9.05-10.00

Year 1 races will take place from 10.05-11.10

Year 2 races will take place from 11.15-12.20

Open Evening and Book Fair (Thursday 19th June): Please note this date for your diary: we will be holding a whole school Open Evening on Thursday 20th June, 5.30pm–7.00pm. The Book Fair will also be here. This is a wonderful opportunity to come along and visit the whole school including of course your child's classroom and also all the classrooms in the year-group where they'll be in September. The Year 2 pupils will be receiving a letter from their teacher outlining their special roles on that evening.

Transition from our Nursery to Reception September 2025: For children who currently attend our Nursery and will be joining our Reception in September 2025, we will be holding a stay-and-play session after school on Tuesday 17th June 2025 from 3.45-4.30pm and we ask that you please attend. Further information and key dates will be sent to you soon.

Nursery school places for September 2025: There are a few places available in our Nursery Class from September 2025 – if you would like to visit, please contact the school for an appointment. We ask our families to share this information with friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2025. Eligible children will have birth dates between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022.

Nursery closed on Friday 20th June: The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 20th June. This is in order to allow the children who will be joining us in

September 2025 an opportunity to visit with their parents. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Nursery: *In Nursery this week, the children listened to the story 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister and thought about sharing and being kind to others. They learnt a special 'Rainbow Fish' song and counted the numbers on their fingers superbly whilst singing.*

In expressive art and design, the children painted a beautiful rainbow fish with lots of bright colours. They placed a shiny scale in the middle and added a googly eye. Lyra said, 'The rainbow fish went to see the octopus and he told him to share and be kind.' After hearing the story, Hallie said, 'He was really sad when his friends went, then he was happy when he shared all of his scales.'



The children were excited to explore our new Under the Sea role play. They were amazed to see so many sea creatures. They took part in a deep-sea exploration and discovered coral, shells and sea plants. Candace looked closely and commented, 'Jellyfish! They sting you. I can see lots of starfish'. Haadi shared, 'Sharks look for fish to eat.' Marnie eagerly searched for sea creatures and said, 'Be careful of the sharks. They might bite you. Seaweed is on my list, we found some.'

In understanding the world, the children observed changes in the weather. They noticed the weather has mostly been sunny this week and it hasn't rained. As a class, we recorded the weather each day and compared the weather in the morning to the afternoon. The children thought about the clothes they need to wear now it is warm and sunny. They agreed they don't need to wear their warm coats anymore and can wear summer dresses or shorts to Nursery. Please remember to apply sun cream in the morning as all of the children love to play outside.

In phonics, the children have learnt the letter sound /p/ and practised saying 'peg', 'pig', 'paintbrush', 'purse' and many more. They also learnt the song 'Puff out the candles on the pink pig cake. /p/ /p/ /p/, /p/ /p/ /p/. Puff out the candles on the pink pig cake. Puff! Puff! Puff!', sung to the tune of 'The Wheels on the Bus'.

Next week, the children will continue to enjoy a range of exciting activities linked to the story of 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister. In phonics, the children will learn the letter sound /i/.

Reception: In understanding the world, the children researched five of the most common chicken breeds living in Britain. Did you know there are ninety-three different breeds of chicken in Britain? Did you know the Orpington hen is the best hen to have around children? The children found out several facts and discussed the plumage of each breed. When remembering facts about the Lincolnshire Buff hen, Archer in Tawny Owl class said, 'This hen lays 120 to 130 eggs.' The children created collage hens using a variety of materials. When choosing which breed of chicken to draw, Annabelle in Barn Owl class said, 'I'm drawing the Orpington hen because it is really good with children. Just like us in Barn Owl class!'



In literacy this week, the children generated factual sentences linking their knowledge about different breeds of hen. To help them write about the features, they looked at a photograph of a hen and discovered hens have a red crown on top of their head and a wattle underneath the beak.

This week's poem is titled, 'Good Morning, Mrs Hen.'

***Good morning, Mrs Hen
How many chickens have you got?
Madam, I've got ten.
Four of them are yellow,
Four of them are brown,
And two of them are speckled red,
The nicest in the town.***

In mathematics, the children were adding on from a given number. They had to listen to how many marbles were dropped into a jar first and then count on from that number. The children used a tens frame to display their answer.



Yesterday, the children thoroughly enjoyed the Skipping Ninja. He encouraged them to move in different ways with the skipping rope and all the children had a try at skipping. The children loved playing Ninja Musical statues and when the music

stopped, they had to pose just like a ninja! Freya in Barn Owl class when hearing the music said, 'I am moving to the beat!' The Skipping Ninja awarded Alfie J in Snowy Owl class and Elijah in Tawny Owl class a ninja headband for showing some very good skipping techniques and ninja moves with the skipping rope.

Next week the children will be participating in Big Write. They will listen to the story of 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. They will use musical instruments as sounds effects whilst the story is being read and use yoga moves to act out the story. The children will make a collage of a flower in the style of Eric Carle's illustrations. They will label parts of a flower. The children will write a factual sentence linked to the story.

In mathematics, they will investigate 2D shapes using a tangram. They will create new shapes through movement, flipping, and rotating when placing different shapes side by side. In expressive arts and design, the children will use the Sketchbook app on the iPad to draw a picture in the style of the artist Claude Monet. In a second art activity, they will print brick shapes onto paper in preparation for making a 3D windmill.

Year 1: The Year 1 children have had a fabulous PE week, organised by our super PE curriculum leader, Mrs Brown. We had a very special visit from the world-record breaking Skipping Ninja. He inspired the children to be amazing skippers by never giving up, learning some tricks to practise and living healthy and active lives. The children were very excited. Sporting Futures also came and played some active maths games with the children. This included measuring their own jumps, quick mental arithmetic running and agile spotting of missing numbers. Thank you, Mrs Brown.



This week in English, the children have focussed on poetry. They learnt about shape poems and saw examples of poems written in the shape of what they describe. The children looked carefully at how Julia Donaldson describes the Gruffalo. They identified the adjectives and the nouns. Then the children discussed other animals in the story and how they could be described. They wrote their own poems to describe the mouse. In phonics, the children continued to practise the phase 5 sounds and graphemes. They practised spelling words in readiness for the Sponsored Spell which took place on Friday. All the children put in their very best effort and we are extremely proud of them. Well done Year 1! Our book of the week was 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. The children reflected on the friendship between the boy and the penguin. They enjoyed looking for story details in the pictures that were not mentioned in the words.

In mathematics, the children explored counting in fives and making and recognising equal groups. They used the sentence stem 'There are ... equal groups of ...' as shown here:



There are _____ equal groups of _____ pencils.

In computing, the children talked about how computer games need to have code to work. They linked this to writing the code last week to make aeroplanes take off. The children then learnt that there needs to be a scene. They learnt how to create their own scene, using a background and objects. They applied their previous learning to make the objects move by coding events. They watched the code as it executed.

The children learnt to identify and name some common wild plants in science. In PSHCE they understood that the grown-ups in school are here to help them. They discussed when they might need help and how to ask for it. The children returned to exploring colour in art. This week they talked about warm colours, comparing them to cool colours. They mixed a warm colour using red and yellow paint and then made warm tints and shades by adding white or black.

Next week in mathematics, the children will learn about arrays, doubling and making equal groups. They will learn about writing instructions in English. The children will learn about the structure of a tree in science. In art, they will look at the 'Sunflowers' work by Vincent Van Gogh and will create their own sunflower picture.

Next week is Walk to School Week. We encourage the children to walk, scoot or cycle part or all of the way to school each day – a very practical way to build on the fabulous fitness focus we have had this week! On Wednesday, we welcome you to the Year 1 classrooms for a stay and read session from 2.50 to 3.10pm. During the day on Wednesday, the children will take part in a cricket workshop for their PE lesson.

*Wishing you a wonderful weekend,
The Year 1 Team*

Year 2: *It has been such an exciting week in Year 2!*

On Tuesday, the children joined the Great Fire of London workshop, led by History Off the Page. The children were transported back to 1666 to experience life in London at that time. In the first part of the workshop, the children tried their hand at different jobs, including weaving, sewing, ink making, and candle making. They helped to be ratcatchers and apothecaries in the bustling London streets. In the second part of the workshop, the children learnt about the impact of the fire and became archaeologists, searching in the rubble for clues to work out who had lived in the area and what their life may have been like.



The children had a wonderful time, and it was lovely to see them dressed up in role for the day. Workshops like this really bring learning to life for the children. Milla said, 'I liked it when he taught us how to put the fire out. You had to hook the houses and then pull them down.' Eliot explained, 'I learnt how to weave, and I really enjoyed it. They needed to be able to weave so they could make clothes.' Livia exclaimed, 'I liked writing with the feather and ink. It's called a quill. The smoke made me think there was really a fire!'

Thank you to Mrs Skea and Mrs Barton, our Year 2 volunteers, for helping on the day. Thank you also to all the Year 2 team for their hard work helping to set up and clear up after the event.

On Thursday, all the children took part in the Skipping Ninja workshop, delivered by five times world record holder, Pete Thompson. The day started with a thrilling assembly, in which the Skipping Ninja demonstrated his fantastic skills and shared his journey to success with the children. Wynter from Penguin class was very brave and demonstrated her skipping skills for Years 1 and 2, and she won a ninja costume, mask and headband for her efforts. Well done, Wynter! During the day, the children had the opportunity to learn to skip or improve their current skills, while learning how ninja skipping and jumping can support mental health and wellbeing. It was such a fun and exciting day. Well done to the children for taking part!



Following the workshop earlier in the week, the children learnt more about the Great Fire of London, sequencing the events of the fire and discovering how we know what happened. They also considered what life must have been like after the fire and the impact it had on the people of London. In mathematics, the children began to learn about fractions. They were introduced to parts and wholes and practised recognising equal and unequal parts. They learnt to recognise and find halves of shapes and amounts.

In art and design, the children used pastels and card silhouettes to create pictures of the London skyline during the Great Fire. In science, they planted seeds, which they will monitor for growth over the next few weeks. In design and technology, they learnt what houses were made from in 1666 and designed their own house.

In English next week, the children will write free verse poetry, inspired by the poem 'Into the Blue' by Hilda Offen. In mathematics, they will continue to learn about fractions, exploring quarters and thirds of shapes and amounts.

In design and technology, the children will create houses to recreate a street during the Great Fire of London. If you haven't already done so, please can you send in two small boxes, no bigger than 30cm, for your child to use to create a house from 1666. In PSHCE, the children will talk about secrets, when they should be kept, and when they should be shared.

There are more exciting activities taking place next week. It is Walk to School week and the children will think about why it's important to walk, scooter or cycle to school. On Wednesday, the children will take part in a cricket workshop. Please can you make sure they are wearing trainers that day.

The children took part in the Sponsored Spell this week and we have received many generous donations of sponsorship already, thank you! If you haven't already, please return sponsorship money to your child's class teacher or the school office by Monday. Thank you.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

The Year 2 Team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

RED FOX CLASS AND PELICAN CLASS

100%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	<p><i>Xach for a beautiful painting of a Rainbow Fish.</i></p> <p><i>Summer for a beautiful painting of a Rainbow Fish.</i></p> <p><i>Freya R for using your super imagination in the under the sea role play.</i></p> <p><i>Haadi for using your super imagination in the under the sea role play.</i></p> <p><i>Jo Jo (Josiah) for super listening and being a kind friend.</i></p> <p><i>Jana for fantastic matching of numerals to a quantity.</i></p>
Snowy Owls	<p><i>Roman for joining in with our phonic activities.</i></p> <p><i>Calliope for writing a lovely sentence about a hen.</i></p>
Tawny Owls	<p><i>Elsie for writing a fantastic factual sentence about a hen.</i></p> <p><i>Elijah for being an amazing skipping ninja!</i></p> <p><i>Max for scoring an incredible run in rounders during PE.</i></p>
Barn Owls	<p><i>Maya for always joining in enthusiastically with kick rounders.</i></p> <p><i>Freya for thoroughly enjoying participating in skipping with the Skipping Ninja.</i></p>
Red Foxes	<p><i>Toby for super listening and completing all of your learning.</i></p> <p><i>Cormac for working independently using your phonics to write a lovely Gruffalo poem.</i></p> <p><i>Emmie for excellent listening this week and being ready to learn.</i></p>
Big Cats	<p><i>Myla for writing a wonderful poem describing the mouse from 'The Gruffalo'.</i></p> <p><i>Ibrahim for super counting in fives in mathematics.</i></p>
Walker Bears	<p><i>Lola for working carefully to mix tints and shades in art.</i></p> <p><i>Ayla-Kaye for working independently to write a poem describing the mouse from 'The Gruffalo'.</i></p> <p><i>Samuel for using great mathematics language when talking about equal groups.</i></p>
Pelicans	<p><i>Fred for your wonderful knowledge and understanding about the Great Fire of London.</i></p>

	<i>Ariana for your beautiful Great Fire of London artwork.</i>
<i>Puffins</i>	<i>Charlie and Jacob for demonstrating kindness towards all teachers around the school.</i>
<i>Penguins</i>	<i>Aoife and Odin for demonstrating perseverance and making great progress in all areas of the curriculum.</i>

I hope you all have a restful and happy weekend.

*Kindest regards,
Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

SCHOOL DATES AND EVENTS SUMMER TERM 1 2025

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK	W/C 19/05/25	
Big Write Reception only	W/C 19/05/25	
Stay and Read Year 1	Wednesday 21/05/25	2.50 - 3.10
HALF TERM	Monday 26/05/25 – Friday 30/05/25	

SCHOOL DATES AND EVENTS SUMMER TERM 2 2025

INSET DAY	Monday 02/06/25	
Children return	Tuesday 03/06/25	
FROG Meeting	Wednesday 04/06/25	2.30
Non-Uniform Day - tombola Donation to FROG/or £1	Friday 06/06/25	
PHONICS SCREENING WEEK YEAR 1	W/C 09/06/25	
Inco coffee session	Tuesday 10/06/25	8.50 - 9.50
FROG clothing collection	Wednesday 11/06/25	
Reception Summer Concerts: Barn Owl Concert	Tuesday 10/06/25	9.10
Tawny Owl Concert	Wednesday 11/06/25	9.10
Snowy Owl Concert	Thursday 12/06/25	9.10
KS1 Summer Treat Wizard of Oz	Thursday 12/06/25	2.00
Year 2 Scooter Workshop	Friday 13/06/25	
Father's Day FROG contribution	Friday 13/06/25	
MONEY WEEK KS1	W/C 16/06/25	

<i>Reception Stay-and-Play for children joining Reception from our Nursery</i>	<i>Tuesday 17/06/25</i>	<i>3.15 - 4.30</i>
<i>Kittle Class Photographs</i>	<i>Thursday 19/06/25</i>	
<i>Open Evening whole school</i>	<i>Thursday 19/06/25</i>	<i>5.30 - 7.00</i>
<i>Book Fair</i>	<i>Thursday 19/06/25</i>	<i>5.30 - 7.00</i>
<i>NURSERY CLOSED TO ALL CURRENT CHILDREN, NEW PUPILS VISIT</i>	<i>Friday 20/06/25</i>	
<i>Welcome to Reception talk for parents</i>	<i>Monday 23/06/25</i>	<i>5.00 - 5.45</i>
<i>Year 1 Summer assemblies</i>	<i>W/C Monday 23/06/25</i>	
<i>Walker Bear Concert</i>	<i>Wednesday 25/06/25</i>	<i>2.30</i>
<i>Big Cats Concert</i>	<i>Thursday 26/06/25</i>	<i>1.30</i>
<i>Red Foxes Concert</i>	<i>Thursday 26/06/25</i>	<i>2.30</i>
<i>Year 1 Seaside Workshop for pupils</i>	<i>Friday 27/06/25</i>	
<i>INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS</i>	<i>Monday 30/6/25</i>	
<i>Welcome to Nursery talk for parents</i>	<i>Tuesday 01/07/25</i>	<i>5.00 - 5.30</i>
<i>Circus Skills Workshop – Reception, Years 1 and 2</i>	<i>Wednesday 02/07/25</i>	
<i>Reception Stay-and-Play for all children joining in September</i>	<i>Wednesday 02/07/25</i>	<i>3.45 - 4.30</i>
<i>FROG Summer Fete</i>	<i>Thursday 03/07/25</i>	<i>3.15 - 4.30</i>
<i>Sports Day:</i>	<i>Tuesday 08/07/25</i>	<i>Morning</i>
	<i>Reception: 9:05 - 10:00am</i>	
	<i>Year 1: 10:05 - 11:10am</i>	
	<i>Year 2: 11:15 - 12:20pm</i>	
<i>Rocksteady Concert by invitation only</i>	<i>Wednesday 09/07/25</i>	<i>9.30</i>
<i>Moving Up Day</i>	<i>Thursday 10/07/25</i>	
<i>Pirate Day for Nursery</i>	<i>Friday 11/07/25</i>	
<i>One World Week</i>	<i>W/C 14/07/25</i>	
<i>FROG Nursery Bedtime Story</i>	<i>Monday 14/07/25</i>	<i>6.00 - 6.30</i>
<i>African Dance Workshop</i>	<i>Tuesday 15/07/25</i>	
<i>Sports Day Reserve</i>	<i>Wednesday 16/07/25</i>	<i>Morning</i>
<i>Mosaic Workshop Year 2</i>	<i>Thursday 17/07/25</i>	
<i>Chinese Dragon Workshop</i>	<i>Monday 21/07/25</i>	
<i>Puffin Leavers Assembly</i>	<i>Tuesday 22/07/25</i>	<i>9.15</i>

<i>Pelican Leavers Assembly</i>	<i>Tuesday 22/07/25</i>	<i>10.15</i>
<i>Class parties</i>	<i>Tuesday 22/07/25</i>	
<i>Penguin Leavers Assembly</i>	<i>Wednesday 23/07/25</i>	<i>9.15</i>
<i>Last day – school finishes at 1pm</i>	<i>Wednesday 23/07/25</i>	

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

TERM DATES 2025-26

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

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

Children return to school on Thursday 4th September 2025

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

Monday 3rd November 2025 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 4th November 2025

Friday 28th November 2025 – OCCASIONAL DAY SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 19th December 2025 at 1.00pm

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

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

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

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026

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

School finishes on Friday 27th March 2026 at 1.00pm

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

Monday 4th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 25th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

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

Monday 1st June 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Friday 3rd July 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Thursday 23rd July 2026 at 1.00pm



MAY HALF-TERM CAMP

Roebuck Primary Academy

St Margarets, Broadwater, Stevenage SG2 8RF

TUESDAY
27th May

NINJA WARRIOR DAY

- ★ Obstacle Courses
- ★ Camouflage
- ★ Speed, Agility & Quickness
- ★ Ninja Dodgeball

WEDNESDAY
28th May

FOOTBALL & GYMNASTICS DAY

- ★ Matches & Tournaments
- ★ Jumps & Rolls
- ★ Ronaldo Skill School
- ★ Gym Routines & Performance

THURSDAY
29th May

SUPER SPORTS DAY

- ★ Dodgeball
- ★ Tennis
- ★ Cricket
- ★ Football



To Book:

Visit www.superstarsport.co.uk
'Book Now' For more information
call 07810 550 823

FULL DAY



HALF DAY





MAY HALF-TERM CAMP

Roebuck Primary Academy

St Margarets, Broadwater, Stevenage SG2 8RF

Tue 27th May - Thu 29th May

FULL DAY:

£25 per day

£70 for the week

Year 1 - 7

9AM - 3PM

HALF DAY:

£15 per day

£42 for the week

Year 1 - 7

9AM - 12:45PM



To Book:

Visit www.superstarsport.co.uk
'Book Now' For more information
call 0781 0550 823

FULL DAY



HALF DAY



Essex Fire Museum Open Days

2025



Sunday 25th & Tuesday 27th May

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

Book Now



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk



SUMMER ART CLUB



'MONSTERS AND MERMAIDS'

Join us as we get creative and explore the mysteries of the deep this Summer Holiday Club

Ages 5 - 11

Including...

- Collage
- Paint a canvas
- Clay modelling
- Pop up pictures
- Moving diorama

When and where

28th July - 1st August
9.30am - 12.00pm
Weston Primary School
Weston nr. Hitchin
SG4 7AG

 artexplorers1@gmail.com

www.artexplorers.co.uk

 [@artexplorerscreative](https://www.instagram.com/artexplorerscreative)

Can you help change the lives of bereaved families?

Stand-by-me provides life changing support for bereaved children and young people in North Herts & Stevenage.

Join Us on
7th June
10-12 noon
to find out more



Bereavement Support Volunteers Needed

Do you have a background in Education, Health or Social Care with strong interpersonal and listening skills?

We are looking for compassionate individuals to train as volunteers, supporting children, young people, and their parents or carers as they navigate grief and loss.

As a volunteer, you will:

- Receive training and ongoing support
- Develop valuable skills
- Make a meaningful impact in your local community

To book your place please email:
info@stand-by-me.org.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 8 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



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2024 / 25 School Calendar

September '24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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
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July '25						
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August '25						
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-  = 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)

2025 / 26 School Calendar

September '25						
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February '26						
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





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June '26						
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August '26						
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31						

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