



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel  
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill  
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Tania Dalton

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**06.02.2026**

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

**Reception**  
**Barn Owls 98.2%**

**FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!**



**Key stage one**  
**Pelicans 96.7%**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

***It's been another tremendous week in school, starting on Monday with an inspirational Junk Percussion Workshop for all classes from Reception through to Year 2. The children learned how to make drums, maracas and other terrific instruments from repurposed products – and each class ended with a tremendous musical performance!***



***Thank you to all those who came in for the INCo coffee morning; we hope you found it helpful to meet with Miss Stanton and Miss Hill.***

***During this week in Reception, the children have participated in Big Write. They listened to the story 'The Gingerbread Girl' by Lisa Campbell Ernst. They labelled parts of her body and wrote a sentence using a 'WOW' word (an adjective). During child-initiated learning, the children curled paper for her liquorice whip hair, designed a new dress by cutting out sweets and used speech recorders to record questions to ask her. The Gingerbread Girl visited each of the classes and sat in the 'hot seat' to answer some fantastic questions from the children. Their work has shown the most incredible progress, and we are so proud of how hard our Reception children have worked this week!***

***Next week, we will be celebrating E-Safety week in school with Mrs Dalton leading a special Safer Internet Day assembly. Lessons and activities will take place throughout E-Safety Week teaching the children skills that will help them to keep safe online. We hope that you find the E-Safety updates we send you useful in supporting your work to keep your children safe when they're on tablets, laptops or mobile phones at home. Children in our school are very aware of what it means to be safe online and display their understanding in conversation and in their work.***

***Next week, we also have the FROG bake sale and a concert for the families of children participating in our special choir club, which is led by Mrs Dalton.***

***Next Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February is the last day of school before half-term. School closes at the usual time and I hope you all have a fantastic week off. We look forward to seeing you back on Monday 23<sup>d</sup> February.***

***Value of the month: Our value for the month of February is love. Love is about caring for someone or something, looking after them and keeping them safe. Children will think about how love makes them feel. They will learn how we can show someone we love them, by saying thank you and giving compliments.***

***FROG Bake Sale: The FROG Bake Sale will take place from 3.15pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February in the school hall. Store-bought or homemade, all contributions are gratefully accepted; please bring any donations to the school office on the day. Please bring change to pay for treats on the day. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Such events help to raise vital funds to support the school.***



***Safety on school grounds: Our staff do their very best to make sure all games and equipment are stored safely at the end of the day, to ensure the school grounds are clear for parents to collect / drop off their children safely. On the rare occasion that a toy or ball has been left out, please may we ask that you hand it to a member of school staff, who will be able to store it safely. May we also remind you that children should dismount from bikes and scooters before they enter the school grounds. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone***

***Charlie Chicks for Garden House Hospice: Beautiful hand-crocheted spring chicks will be available to purchase from the school office from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February to raise money for Garden House Hospice. They are £2.50 with a hat, £1.50 without a hat. Please support Garden House Hospice by purchasing one – or more! We can take cash or card payment. Thank you for your continued support.***



***MSA and cleaning roles available in school: If anyone is interested, please email us on [admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk) for further details.***

***Kindest regards***

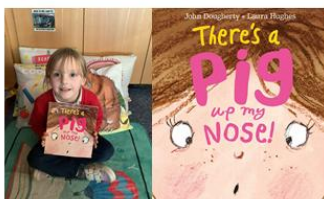
***Rouane Mendel  
Headteacher***

## **Recommended Books of the Week**

### **Books for children**

"My favourite book is 'There's a Pig Up My Nose!' by John Dougherty. I love it because it's funny!"

Ella Rose, Big Cat Class



### **Books for adults**

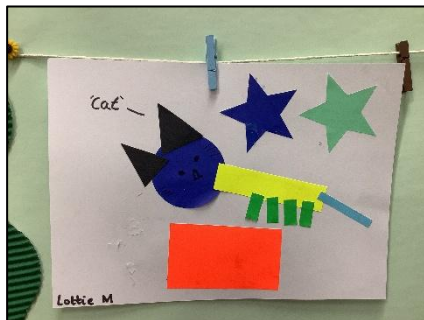
"I'm reading 'Percy Jackson and the Battle of the Labyrinth' by Rick Riordan. I used to read it when I was younger, and I still love it."

Mr Ayres, Sports Apprentice



***Nursery:*** This week, the children loved learning about pets. They thought about which animals make good pets and how to take care of a pet. The children learnt the four key things animals need to be happy, safe and settled – sleep, food, water and exercise. Lottie M remembered, “Pets need sleep” and Isaac L added, “And water for a drink. They don’t drink fizzy drinks.” The children also learnt that poorly pets are cared for by adults who are called vets.

***In expressive arts and design this week, the Ladybird children became vets, caring for the injured animals around the nursery. Marli-Grace stated, “The bunny needs a plaster on his paw.” Rianna gave the puppy some food and Emilija answered the telephone stating, “Hello, vets today. Cat poorly tummy.” The children also enjoyed creating their very own fish tanks and paintings of cats using a fork instead of a paintbrush.***



***In mathematics this week, the children continued to consolidate their learning about shape. The children identified 2D shapes and used them to create an image of their favourite animal or pet.***

***In phonics, the children have been concentrating to use their voices to make sounds that objects make. For example, a clock makes the sound, “tick tock, tick tock” and a bumble bee makes the sound,***

***“buzz buzz.”***

***Next week, the children will celebrate Lunar New Year. This year, it will be Year of the Horse. The children will taste some noodles and prawn crackers, as well as dancing to music as a Chinese Dragon and hearing the story of ‘Cleversticks’ by Bernard Ashley. The children will also explore the Chinese Restaurant role play area. It’s going to be a busy week in Ladybird Class!***

***Thank you to all the parents and carers who have kindly sent in donations towards resources for our ‘Spring and Life Cycles’ topic. They will be used to enhance the children’s learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and where plants come from.***

#### **Stars of the week:**

##### **Ladybird Class**

***Daniel for taking part in small group time this week.***

***Lottie B for being such a kind friend in Ladybird Class.***

***Lottie M for an amazing shape picture of a cat.***

***Rocky for brilliant one to one counting correspondence.***

***Reception:*** This week, the children thoroughly enjoyed Big Write linked to the story 'The Gingerbread Girl' by Lisa Campbell Ernst. The children loved the story and predicted the Gingerbread Girl would end up being gobbled up by the fox, but they had a pleasant surprise! The children applied their phonic knowledge to label parts of the Gingerbread Girl, such as her liquorice hair and lollipop shoulders. They wrote a sentence about the character and read their sentence back to an adult. When answering a question about the fox as the Gingerbread Girl in a hot seating activity, Lyra in the Tawny Owl class said, "I need to get back so I can teach the fox some more manners."

*In mathematics, the children enjoyed investigating length. For one of the lesson introductions, the children had to search in their classrooms for either a long or short object and place it in the correctly labelled hoop. The children found the story, 'I Can Only Draw Worms' by Will Mabbitt very funny! For the main activity, the children ordered pieces of ribbon by length and made comparisons.*

*In understanding the world, the children investigated what would happen to a gingerbread man when placed in water, milk, fruit juice and oil. They had to predict what might happen and then evaluate their findings. The gingerbread men were left in the different liquids for a few hours, and the children came back to see if their predictions were correct.*

*Next week in literacy, the children will use their phonic knowledge to write a descriptive sentence about another character from 'The Gingerbread Man' story. This time, the children will be writing about the fox.*

*In mathematics, the children will listen to the traditional tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and use large sheets of paper to create a beanstalk. The children will compare the differing heights of their beanstalks.*

*In understanding the world, the children will use their senses to investigate the ingredients of a gingerbread man recipe.*

#### **Stars of the week**

##### **Snowy Owl Class**

***Ava-Mae for making a fantastic prediction about what may happen to a gingerbread man when placed in milk.***

***Caleb for fantastic understanding of long and short in mathematics.***

##### **Tawny Owl Class**

***Aliyah for amazing drumming in the Junk Percussion Workshop.***

***Lyra for fantastic hot seating as the Gingerbread Girl and answering the questions carefully.***

***Xavier for remembering to use a full stop at the end of a sentence.***

##### **Barn Owl Class**

***Ziyaan for super independent work when labelling and writing a sentence about the Gingerbread Girl.***

***Aiden for demonstrating fantastic control when dribbling a ball in PE.***

***Year 1: This week, the children started a new topic in English about traditional tales. They enjoyed hearing old favourites, including 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. They worked in teams to put on their own performances for their peers. The children also took to the hot seat, pretending to be a character and thinking carefully to justify their answers to questions.***

***The children started to design a puppet theatre in design and technology. Please send an empty cereal box (nut-free cereal) into school for your child to make their design. Our Book of the Week was 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear?' by Martin Waddell. If you would like to listen to the story, here is a link: [Can't You Sleep Little Bear?](#)***

***In mathematics, the children learnt to add by counting on. They also revised number bonds and used number bonds to add numbers up to 20. The children started to learn about doubles.***

***The children started their new science topic on materials. They will investigate the properties of materials and consider which materials are best for different purposes. On a musical note, the children had a wonderful time at the Junk Percussion Workshop!***



***Next week in English, the children will listen to the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. They will write a balanced sentence using the conjunction 'and'. In mathematics, they will start to learn methods for subtraction. Next Tuesday is Safer Internet Day. The children will learn about voice-assistants such as Alexa and other similar AI tools.***

***This week's homework is all about traditional tales. It is due back on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February.***

***You can now give consent and make payment on Arbor for the trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park, which takes place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. We would like to thank FROG for all their hard work fundraising to support initiatives like our school trips.***

**Stars of the week:**

**Big Cat Class**

***Archie for making fantastic contributions during guided reading.***

***Calliope for asking wonderful questions during hot seating.***

**Red Fox Class**

***George G for showing such confidence and enthusiasm when sharing his favourite book.***

***Dazi for always trying her best in all learning.***

**Walker Bear Class**

***Finley for impressive mathematics finding number bonds for 20.***

***Ayla for participating well in the first school council meeting.***

***Year 2: The week got off to a fantastic start, with each class taking part in a Junk Percussion Workshop. The children loved having the opportunity to play different 'junk' instruments, which were made from repurposed materials. They followed and created some complex rhythms, demonstrating their listening skills as well as their co-ordination.***

***In English, the children began a new unit of work learning how to write a fact file. They spent this week using the internet and non-fiction texts to research animals that live in the polar regions.***

***In mathematics, the children applied their learning about addition and subtraction in different ways, including mixed addition and subtraction problems, comparing number sentences and solving missing number problems.***

***In geography, the children compared the features of Stevenage to the features of Antarctica. In science, they investigated the suitability of different materials to make a sleeping mat for an expedition to the south pole. In RE, the children learnt about Buddhist temples and how each part of the temple represents one of the five elements – earth, water, fire, air and wisdom. In art and design, they learnt how to show perspective in their artwork and created beautiful landscape scenes using charcoal. In history, they compared the expeditions of Sir Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen.***

***A highlight for Year 2 this half term has been gymnastics in PE. The children have enjoyed using the apparatus, including climbing ropes, balancing on beams and learning how to jump and land safely. Well done to all the children for listening and following instructions carefully to make sure they stayed safe.***



***Next week is E-Safety Week, including Safer Internet Day on Tuesday. The theme this year is 'Smart tech, safe choices'. The children will focus on voice assistants, such as Siri and Alexa, and how to use them safely. In English, they will write fact files about their chosen polar animal. In mathematics, they will start a new unit focused on money. In geography, they will compare the weather in Stevenage and Antarctica and consider why people do not live in Antarctica. In PSHCE, they will share and celebrate the progress they have made towards their chosen goal and reflect on what has helped them to make progress. In art and design, they will add colour to their landscape scenes using pastels and in history, they will compare cold weather clothing from the past with clothing available today.***

**Stars of the week:**

**Pelican Class**

***Blaze for always trying her best with her learning.  
Samuel for fantastic listening and learning all week.***

**Penguin Class**

***Hunter for incredible artwork, creating a perspective drawing using charcoal to show light and dark.***

***Ibrahim for great writing during Big Write. You were so proud of yourself, well done!***

**Puffin Class**

***Evie for producing an outstanding Big Write.***

***Amelia for always modelling the school values in her attitude, behaviour and learning.***

## SPRING TERM

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
E-SAFETY WEEK	W/C 09/02/25	
Safer Internet Day with assembly and training for pupils	Tuesday 10/02/26	2.40pm
FROG/PTA Bake Sale	Thursday 12/02/26	3.15pm
HALF TERM	Monday 16/02/26 to Friday 20/02/26	
Children return	Monday 23/02/26	
BOOK WEEK	W/C Monday 02/03/26	
Holi festival (Hindu) assembly in class – children only	Wednesday 04/03/26	
Year 1 Phonics Workshop for parents	Thursday 05/03/26	3.30pm-4.15pm
Nursery Tour	Thursday 05/03/26	4.30pm-5.30pm
WORLD BOOK DAY	Thursday 05/03/26	
SCIENCE WEEK	W/C 09/03/26	
Circus Skills Workshop	Tuesday 10/03/26	
Year 2 Mathematics Workshop for parents	Wednesday 11/03/26	3.30pm-4.00pm
ORACY WEEK	W/C 16/03/26	
Nursery Tour for new parents	Monday 16/03/26	4.30pm-5.30pm
Year 1 trip to Shepreth	Tuesday 17/03/26	
Rocksteady Concert	Wednesday 18/03/26	9.30am
Stay and Play – Year 2	Wednesday 18/03/26	2.50pm-3.15pm
Stay and Play – Year 1	Thursday 19/03/26	2.50pm-3.10pm
Eid-al-Fitr (Islam) assembly in class – children only	Thursday 19/03/26 - Friday 20/03/26	
Red Nose Day	Friday 20/03/26	
Easter (Christian) assembly in class – children only	Monday 23/03/26 (actual date Sunday 05/04/26)	
Easter activities in school	Week of 23/03/26	
NEURODIVERSITY DAY	Tuesday 24/03/26	
INCo/Attendance Coffee Morning	Tuesday 24/03/26	8.50am -9.30am
Parent Consultations – Nursery	Monday 23/03/26 Tuesday 24/03/26 Wednesday 25/03/26	2:30pm-5:50pm 2:30pm-5:50pm 2:30pm-5:50pm
Parent Consultations – Reception	Monday 23/03/26 Tuesday 24/03/26 Wednesday 25/03/26	3.30pm-5.30pm 3.30pm-5.30pm 3.30pm-5.30pm
Parent Consultations – Year 1 and Year 2	Tuesday 24/03/26 Wednesday 25/03/26	3.40pm-6.30pm 3.40pm-6.30pm
Parent Consultations – Orca	Tuesday 24/03/26	1.30pm-3.00pm 5.00pm-5.30pm
Year 2 Scooter Workshop	Thursday 26/03/26	
Easter bonnet parades	Friday 27/03/26	
LAST DAY OF TERM	Friday 27/03/26	School closes at 1.00pm



**TERM DATES 2025-26**

***[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***

***[Easter Holidays Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026]***

***Summer Term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026***

***Children return to school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 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
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		

November '25						
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

December '25						
M	M	W	T	F	S	S
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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
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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
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23	24	25	26	27	28	

March '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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
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May '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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June '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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29	30					

July '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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27	28	29	30	31		

August '26						
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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)

**TERM DATES 2026-2027**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Autumn Term: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026**

**Children return to school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**[Half Term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2026 - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026]**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2026 Occasional Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**School finishes on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026 at 1.00pm**

**[Christmas Holidays: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2026 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027]**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027 – INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Spring Term: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2027 – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2027**

**[Half term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2027 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2027]**

**School finishes on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027 at 1.00pm**

**[Easter Holidays Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2027 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2027]**

**Summer Term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2027**

**Children return to school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2027 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**

**[Half term: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2027 – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2027]**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2027 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2027**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2027 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED**

**School finishes on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2027 at 1.00pm**

# 2026 / 27 School Calendar

September '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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October '26						
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November '26						
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December '26						
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January '27						
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February '27						
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March '27						
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April '27						
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May '27						
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31						

June '27						
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July '27						
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August '27						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- = Term Time
- = 2025/26 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2026/27 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
- = Occasional Day - school closed to pupils

