



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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

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13.03.2026

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

Reception

Barn Owl Class 97.9%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!

Key stage one

Penguin Class 98.8%



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an indescribably brilliant Science Week, led inspirationally by our science lead, Mrs Humphrey. She has devised such fresh, creative and imaginative activities and experiments! Throughout the school, children have engaged in the most wonderful activities, ranging from sinking and floating to creating aeroplanes and helicopters for which the windy weather was a real bonus! The children have learnt so much! Please read below for details of the learning that has taken place in different year groups, and I hope you enjoy the photographs.

Years 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed the Circus Skills Workshop on Tuesday and loved working with all the different equipment and trying out new skills. Enormous resilience and perseverance were shown with children continuing to engage and to try their best even when faced with quite challenging tasks. This is how children learn best so it was wonderful to see this kind of engagement in action.

Thank you to all those parents who attended the Year 2 Mathematics Workshop for parents which was held after school in the hall and also online in the evening. A recording of the presentation can be found on the school website: [Year 2 Mathematics Workshop](#). Thank you to our dedicated Year 2 teachers and I hope you found this instructive.

On Monday we had our Summer Visit, the second of our annual County inspections. On this occasion we focused on Voice 21, a programme focusing on oracy skills which is a key part of our school's objectives for 2025-26. Oracy is being led with incredible skill and dedication in our school by Miss Hill, Mrs Dalton and Miss Wright. A fantastic Forest School session led by Mrs Brown was observed as well as absolutely outstanding lessons by Mrs Collinson in Red Fox class and Mrs Peace in Penguin class. The children behaved fantastically and were impressively articulate.

A magical show-and-tell session by Ivy in Puffin class talking about her favourite book was observed as well as the loveliest pupil voice activities from children in Barn Owl, Tawny Owl and Puffin classes. It was altogether the most incredible day and as usual

our amazing children were wonderful, all our staff completely phenomenal, and the school looked so beautiful.

I am delighted to announce that we were graded Outstanding. We should all feel so very proud.

School Facebook Page: *We are very excited to have launched our own Facebook page! The page will be updated regularly with 'sneak peeks' at the week ahead, reminders about school events, photographs of the children's learning and other useful information. Please give us a 'like' and a 'follow'! [The Giles Nursery and Infants' School Facebook page](#)*

Please note, we will only include photographs of children if parents/carers have given consent. If you would like to check the permissions you have given, please speak to your child's class teacher or email admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk. Thank you.

Oracy Week: *Next week is our first Oracy Week in school. A focus of school improvement this year, oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, engage with others, and express oneself fluently and effectively through spoken language. It involves learning to talk and learning through talk, encompassing physical, linguistic, cognitive, and social-emotional skills. The children have already learnt so much, including how to show good listening, how to encourage others, and how to disagree politely. Next week, they will have the opportunity to take part in lots of fun oracy games and activities to further develop their new skills.*

Rocksteady Concert: *Our fabulous Rocksteady band musicians will perform a concert for the Year 1 and 2 pupils on Wednesday 18th March. Parents or carers of Rocksteady band members are welcome to attend. It starts at 9.30am in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you there.*

FROG (PTA) Easter Stay-and-Play: *Our dear FROGs have been so very busy lately. The kindness of this group in purchasing, preparing and distributing our beautiful Mother's Day daffodils is such a gift. It is appreciated by every family in the school. Thank you so very much, FROGs!*

And next week they will be running an Easter activity session. This will take place on Thursday 19th March across the main hall and dining room. After School Club will kindly be held in Penguin/Puffin classrooms and will move back into the dining hall once the Stay-and-Play has finished.

The session will run from 3.20 to 4.00pm. Please note that this is an accompanied event. To aid movement around the space, we may have to limit entry for safety reasons. We thank you for your understanding.

Do come along with your children and take part in a range of lovely spring activities. This is a community occasion for all to enjoy. Entry is free, as are most of the activities but do remember to bring some change for refreshments etc.

Upcoming Stay-and-Play Dates:
Year 2 – Wednesday 18th March from 2.50-3.10pm
Year 1 – Thursday 19th March from 2.50-3.10pm

Ramadan: *We wish all those who are fasting an easy fast until the end of next week and then a most joyful Eid.*

Nursery Tours for children wishing to join: *Our next tour will take place on Monday 16th March from 4.30-5.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come and look around our*

fabulous Nursery – and especially those who are looking for a place for their child or whose child will be starting in September.

Red Nose Day: *There is another non-uniform day on Friday 20th March. Donations for this charitable cause are very welcome. Thank you for your generosity.*

Parent/Teacher Consultations: *These will take place as below. Timeslots for consultations are displayed in classes for you to select one that is convenient. If you do not drop your children in school, please either call the office on 01438 359747 to ask for a time, or email me on head@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk. We will let class teachers know that you've been in touch so that they can call you back to arrange a time to meet. If you would prefer an online or telephone consultation, please speak to your child's class teacher.*

Parent Consultations – Nursery	Monday 23/03/26	2.30-5.50pm
	Tuesday 24/03/26	2.30-5.50pm
	Wednesday 25/03/26	2.30-5.50pm
Parent Consultations - Reception	Monday 23/03/26	3.30-5.30pm
	Tuesday 24/03/26	3.30-5.30pm
	Wednesday 25/03/26	3.30-5.30pm
Parents Consultations - Years 1/2	Tuesday 24/03/26	3.40-6.30pm
	Wednesday 25/03/26	3.40-6.30pm
Orca class	Tuesday 24/03/26	1.30-3.00pm
		5.00-5.30pm

Charlie Chicks for Garden House Hospice: *Beautiful hand-crocheted spring chicks are available to purchase from the school office 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.*



Have a lovely weekend and a very Happy Mother's Day to all who celebrate!

Kindest regards

*Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

Recommended Books of the Week

Books for children

"I love 'The Good Little Wolf' by A. H. Benjamin. The main character is my favourite animal. The wolf wants to be good but everyone thinks he's bad. He gets into lots of trouble, but it has a happy ending."

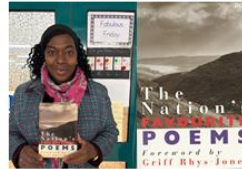
Ivy, Penguin Class



Books for adults

"I bought this poetry book when my daughter was about four years old. She wasn't a fan of reading, but poetry inspired her to persevere. She has a master's degree and teaches in a secondary school now. What a difference a good book can make!"

Mrs Scantlebury, Breakfast Club leader and SEND support



Easter Saturday Family Fun Day

4th April

2-4pm

at St Nicholas Church

Rectory Lane SG1 4DA



Easter egg hunt/quiz

Teddy bear zip wire from the tower

Make an Easter bonnet or top hat

Easter bonnet/top hat parade

Flower Group stalls

Tombola

Adopt a teddy

Tea, coffee and cakes

in the Parish Room.

Entrance free

Nursery: *It has been another lovely week in Ladybird Class with lots of continued learning about spring. The children have planted their own sunflower seeds and created their own woolly lambs. The children used a range of materials and explored how to join the materials together. The Ladybirds have also watched a timelapse video showing a seed growing throughout the different germination stages. Charlotte D created an amazing flower, drawing the parts of the flower and labelling them with Mrs Morgan.*



In phonics, the children were introduced to a robot called Metal Mike. They learnt that Metal Mike will only eat the words if they use robot talk to say each sound and then blend them together. This is an important skill called segmenting and blending. Segmenting focuses on breaking up words into their individual sounds and blending is the process of combining sounds together to create a word. For example, the word 'dog' is made up of three sounds, /d/ /o/ /g/. Together, these sounds produce the spoken word 'dog'.

The children continued to observe their science investigation, carefully noticing the changes to their seeds as they continue to change and grow each day.



Parent consultations will take place on Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March. Please speak to your child's key worker to book onto the evening they are conducting.

Next week, the Ladybird children will continue to learn about healthy eating learning and will make fruit pattern kebabs.

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

Maria for exploring her environment independently.

Novelle for brilliant writing of her own name and her peers.

Cody for fantastic speaking and listening during group times.

Lolo for super recall of key spring knowledge and showing a love for stories.

Artina for wonderful exploration of the nursery environment.

Reception: This week, the children have been 'Super Kittens' finding out about the importance of road safety. They have learnt about where it is safe to cross the road and what they must do when crossing. The children have acted out how to use a zebra crossing safely using prompts from the 'Super Cat Safety Rap' from a 'Super Cat' road safety story.

The children participated in a road safety quiz. The quiz enabled the children to discuss with each other different scenarios about whether the illustration of children and adults crossing the road was a safe place to cross.

In keeping with the Science Week theme of 'curiosity', the children investigated which type of peg would be best for holding washing on a line. When Harry in Barn Owl class was making his predictions, he said, "The plastic pegs are the best because at home my nan uses plastic pegs, and her washing never blows away." Arlo in Snowy Owl class predicted, "The plastic peg because it looks really strong, it does not bend, and it looks like a crocodile's mouth."



In mathematics, the children focused on doubles to ten. They learnt a doubles song and loved the activity where they rolled a die with spots up to five to create doubles using a tens frame.

Next week in understanding the world, the children will investigate reflective materials suitable to wear out in the dark and in a second understanding the world activity, the children will investigate magnets. In literacy, the children will write a speech bubble sentence linked to road safety and in mathematics, the children will investigate 3D shapes.

Next Friday will be the last Stay and Read of the term. You will be able to look through your child's books to see their fabulous learning this term.

Please may we ask you to save and donate any Pringles tubes that you use at home. We are collecting them for an exciting activity that the children will complete after the Easter break.

Stars of the week

Snowy Owl Class

***Reggie for fantastic improvement with his letter formation.
Summer for explaining how to cross the road safely.***

Tawny Owl Class

***Evelyn for demonstrating an excellent knowledge of doubles to ten.
Savannah-Rose for a brilliant explanation of how to cross the road safely.
Kolby for recalling lots of interesting facts about our Musician of the Month, Bill Haley.***

Barn Owl Class

***Harper for showing a good understanding of how to be safe when crossing the road.
Murray for showing a good understanding of how to be safe when crossing the road.
Harry for a super prediction and evaluation when investigating which pegs are best to hang up washing.
Macy for fantastic work in PE.***

Year 1: It has been a very exciting Science Week in school. The Year 1 children investigated how to make a boat that can float. Some children explored different structures; others investigated different materials. They also investigated what type of paper would make the best paper aeroplane. In Red



Fox class, Vincent predicted, "Card would be better because when it's windy the paper will get floppy." Daisy said, "Paper because it is thin and makes it fly fast." A lot of fun was had!



Another fabulous highlight this week was the Circus Skills workshop. The children demonstrated marvellous dexterity, balance and coordination as they used all manner of wonderful items such as ribbon sticks, stilts, balancing beams, spinning plates, spinning sticks, hoops and scarves.

In English, the children developed their ideas for an alternative ending to the story of 'Cinderella'. They chose a place for Cinderella to go instead of the ball and described a character she would meet instead of a prince. We can't wait to see their fabulous endings when they write them up next week! Our Book of the Week was 'SuperJoe Does Not Do Cuddles' by Michael Catchpool and Emma Proctor.

The children are working really hard in mathematics to master their understanding of tens and ones. They are practising counting in tens and counting objects by creating groups of ten.

We have been talking with the children about our trip to Shepreth Zoo next week. There is an online briefing about it at 5.00pm today. Please use the link that was emailed to you to join. You should have received a letter about how to prepare your child for the day and timings for drop-off and pick up at school. If your child needs to take any medications on the trip, please take them to the school office and fill out a medication form on Monday. Medicines, including travel sickness remedies, are only to be carried by the teachers.

If you missed the phonics talk last week, there will be an online phonics screening check briefing at 5pm on Wednesday 18th March. You should have received an email with the link to join.

Stars of the week

Big Cat Class

***Roman for making a wonderful foil boat in science.
Brayden for making super contributions during guided reading.
Naomi for creating a fantastic setting for Cinderella to visit.***

Red Fox Class

***Teddy for being a super friend helping his friends make a paper aeroplane.
Freya for creating a lovely story using a picture from the 'Three Little Pigs' story.***

Walker Bear Class

***Louis for constructing a super boat to investigate floating and sinking in science.
Archer for careful construction of a wooden raft to investigate floating and sinking in science.***

Year 2: The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in all the activities for Science Week. The theme this year was 'Curiosity: What's your Question?' and the children have been asking extraordinary questions. They began the week with an introduction to Science Week and discussed what 'curiosity' means. They enjoyed exploring the different STEM careers people have, including a marine biologist, an astronaut, an astronomer, a veterinarian and a dentist.



On Wednesday, we welcomed Professor Nick Rogers, the school's joint Chair of Governors, who spent time with the classes sharing his experiences as a geologist. The children were so excited to ask him questions and listened intently as they explored different fossils and rocks, including trilobite which is a mineral found in rock, obsidian which is volcanic rock and Hertfordshire pudding stone. The children also completed the 'create a plant' challenge provided by STEMPOINT. Their task was to work in pairs to use four sheets of paper from the recycling bin to create a model plant.

Another highlight of the week was the Circus Skills workshop. The children loved exploring stilts, balancing beams, spinning plates, spinning sticks, hoops and scarves.



In English this week, the children created their own non-fiction book about the indigenous peoples of North America. Their books included chapters about buffalo, wampum belts, food, games and totem poles.

In mathematics, the children continued learning about multiplication. They learnt how to draw pictures to demonstrate a multiplication sentence as a repeated addition; for example, $3 \times 6 = 18$ is the same as $6 + 6 + 6 = 18$. They explored arrays and learnt how to write number sentences to match an array.

In PSHCE this week, the children learnt about medicines and medicine safety. In computing, they explored how stories can be presented in different ways; for example, in an e-book, as a concept map and as a quiz. In design and technology, they learnt about the function of dreamcatchers in the culture of the indigenous peoples of North America and made their own using a paper plate, wool, feathers and beads.

In English next week, the children will start a new unit of work based around the book 'Last Stop on Market Street' by Matt de la Peña. In mathematics, they will be introduced to division. In history, the children will learn about famous people with indigenous heritage.

Stars of the week

Pelican Class

***Eva for always looking after our classroom and taking care of our equipment.
Oliver for listening intently and asking geologist Professor Nick Rogers fantastic questions.***

Penguins Class

***Andrew for wonderful progress with his reading.
Hannah for great facts when writing her non-fiction book about the indigenous people of North America.***

Puffin Class

***Layla for working independently on her non-fiction book in English.
Evie for being curious during our science week investigations.***

SPRING TERM

Event	Date	Time
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

School finishes on Friday 27th March 2026 at 1.00pm

[Easter Holidays Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026]

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

Children return to school on Monday 13th April 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

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
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November '25						
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December '25						
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January '26						
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February '26						
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March '26						
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April '26						
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May '26						
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June '26						
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July '26						
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August '26						
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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 1st September 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Autumn Term: Wednesday 2nd September 2026 – Friday 18th December 2026

Children return to school on Wednesday 2nd September

[Half Term: Monday 26th October 2026 - Friday 30th October 2026]

Monday 2nd November 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 4th December 2026 Occasional Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Friday 18th December 2026 at 1.00pm

[Christmas Holidays: Monday 21st December 2026 – Friday 1st January 2027]

Monday 4th January 2027 – INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Spring Term: Tuesday 5th January 2027 – Thursday 25th March 2027

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2027

[Half term: Monday 15th February 2027 – Friday 19th February 2027]

School finishes on Thursday 25th March 2027 at 1.00pm

[Easter Holidays Friday 26th March 2027 – Friday 9th April 2027]

Summer Term: Monday 12th April 2027 – Thursday 22nd July 2027

Children return to school on Monday 12th April 2027

Monday 3rd May 2027 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 31st May 2027 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 31st May 2027 – Friday 4th June 2027]

Monday 7th June 2027 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 8th June 2027

Friday 2nd July 2027 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Thursday 22nd July 2027 at 1.00pm

2026 / 27 School Calendar

September '26						
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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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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
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- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2026/27 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
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