



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ  
Telephone: 01438 359747  
Email: [admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk](http://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk)

**27.03.2026**

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

*Reception*  
**Barn Owl Class 97.4%**

*Key stage one*  
**Puffin Class 96%**

**FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!**



***Dear Parents/Carers,***

***Children have had such a happy week. Today, Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2 took part in an Easter Bonnet Parade and displayed the most beautiful bonnets while singing all our Easter and Spring songs. They looked lovely in their spring- or topic-based bonnets and some photos will be going on the website and on our Facebook page.***

***In recognition of Neurodiversity Celebration Week, we celebrated our own Neurodiversity Day on Tuesday. Thank you to those who attended the coffee morning, hosted by our INCo team and deputy headteacher on the day. Children across the school celebrated the talents of neurodiverse minds and found out about some famous people who are neurodiverse.***

***The Scooter Workshop, held for Year 2 pupils, was knockout. The leader, who has held the titles of European and World Champion, performed a back flip on his scooter in our hall to loud intakes of breath from everyone. His message of resilience, 'practice makes progress', picking yourself up after a fall and the importance of keeping going was inspiring and the children learnt so much from this incredible workshop.***

**Head Lice: Unfortunately, live head lice are an eternal issue in school. Break times are a good opportunity to get on top of this problem so we would be grateful if you could all please check your child's head. The guidance issued by County is as follows: head lice is a community issue, not just the responsibility of schools. All parents need to check their children's heads regularly for the presence of live lice using a fine tooth comb. The advice is to fine tooth comb the hair every time hair is washed and to be on the watch at all times. The school staff are ever vigilant and will always let parents know if they suspect a child has head lice.**

***Special lice shampoo or lotion can be used and below is another effective method.***

***New Baby Lotion or Olive Oil Miracle Cure for Head Lice:***

- 1) Cover your child's hair with oil.
- 2) Wrap the entire head with cling film.
- 3) Hold this in place with a woolly hat or swimming cap.
- 4) Leave on overnight.
- 5) In the morning, your child can bend their head over the bath while you remove cling film etc. The lice will all fall off, having suffocated.
- 6) Comb through with a lice comb to remove any eggs.
- 7) Add shampoo directly to oily hair so that the hair is well-washed.
- 8) If necessary, repeat the following weekend.

*It would be really helpful if all parents could check children's hair over the holiday.*

**Attendance Award Certificates:** *Many children in school will come home this week with an Attendance Award Certificate to recognise good attendance for the spring term. There are three levels of award:*

**Gold:** 100% attendance  
**Silver:** 98% - 99% attendance  
**Bronze:** 96% - 97% attendance

*Certificates were also given out during parent consultations to celebrate improved attendance.*

*Attending school regularly and on time has a positive impact on learning, progress and therefore the best life chances for a child. Research shows that attendance and punctuality are the most important factors in school success. Thank you for working with us to ensure that your child is able to make the most out of their school life.*

**Reception and Junior School (September 2026) Allocation Day:** *Allocation Day is 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026, when you will receive an email from Hertfordshire County Council with your allocation of school. Parents/Carers will then have until 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 to accept the place. If you have any questions regarding your allocation, please kindly contact Hertfordshire Admissions, as we are unable to assist with this.*

**First Day of Term:** *We look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.*

*Have the most wonderful Easter break!*

*Kindest regards*

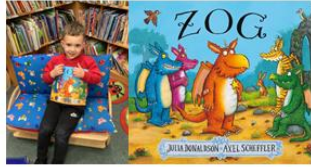
**Rouane Mendel**  
**Headteacher**

## Recommended Books of the Week

### Books for children

"I love 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson. It's my favourite book. He blows fire!"

Rocky, Ladybirds Class



Mrs Edwards adds, "Zog" is a great book for developing children's number vocabulary."

### Books for adults

"All of the Harlan Coben books are amazing, with so many twists and turns that leave you guessing until the end. And they're so much better than the TV series!"

Miss Lee, School Administrator



**Easter Saturday  
Family Fun Day**  
4<sup>th</sup> 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 a wonderful week in Nursery, filled with fantastic Easter activities. The children made colourful Easter bonnets in preparation for their very first Easter Bonnet Parade. They proudly wore them as they sang joyfully in a delightful celebration led by Mrs Mendel. The children thoroughly enjoyed performing the songs 'Chick, Chick, Chick Chicken' and 'Little Peter Rabbit'. Their voices filled the garden with energy and excitement as they sang and joined in with actions.***

***The children learnt the song 'Hot Cross Buns' and during snack time, they tasted a delicious hot cross bun. Reggie B said, "They taste good, really yummy." Betsy G shared, "I love them!" It was lovely to see them exploring new tastes and talking about the food they like to eat.***

***The children took part in a variety of Easter expressive art and design activities. They used forks to create stunning yellow chicks, made colourful Easter baskets and decorated eggs with beautiful repeating patterns. The children loved using different tools and materials to create their work and they are showing tremendous development in skills such as cutting with scissors.***



***In mathematics, the children explored numbers and quantity by matching the correct number of chicks to a numbered Easter egg.***

***After the holidays, we will be enjoying a lovely Spring Walk to our school nature area as well as continuing our learning about life cycles. This time we will be learning about the life cycle of a frog.***

***The children have worked incredibly hard this term, and we are so proud of their achievements. Thank you for all your support and thank you to those parents who joined us to celebrate your child's accomplishments during parent consultations this week.***

***We wish you a restful and joyful Easter break!***

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

##### **Ladybird Class**

***Rudi for super tower building, identifying the tallest and shortest.***

***Isaac B for trying his best during group times and whole class learning.***

***James for listening and following Nursery routines.***

***Noah for safe playing and exploring lots of learning areas in Nursery this week.***

***Reception:*** This week in literacy, the children have continued to recall their experiences and knowledge of road safety by writing a sentence for a road safety poster.

*In mathematics, the children have used natural materials to create and continue repeating patterns. Some of the children challenged themselves to create and continue more complex patterns.*

*In understanding the world, the children had the challenge of using recycled materials to build a bridge for the Gingerbread Man to cross the river, so he did not need to ask the sly old fox for help. The children had a variety of resources to use, and it was great to see them persevering and adapting their bridges even when the construction of their bridge did not go according to plan! When watching a time-lapse video of a bridge being built, Ben in Barn Owl class said, "The bridge is being connected. Connected means you join pieces together."*



*When reflecting about making a bridge, Billy in Snowy Owl class said, "I liked the bridge for the gingerbread man to cross," and when building a bridge together, Alfie and Ava in Tawny Owl class said, "We worked as a team to build our bridge."*

*The children enjoyed listening to a range of Easter themed stories and learnt why Christians celebrate Easter. Throughout the week, they have enjoyed participating in Easter themed activities. They have enjoyed singing Easter songs and making an Easter bonnet for the Easter bonnet parade.*

*After the Easter holiday, the children will focus on the traditional tale of 'The Little Red Hen'. Please could you save any Pringles tubes for an exciting activity later in the term.*

*Please remember your child has log in codes for the online learning platforms, Bug Club and Numbots, which are on the inside cover of your child's reading record.*

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

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

*Muriha for creating a repeating pattern.  
Gracious for making a wonderful bridge using recycled materials.  
Raahi for writing a super sentence about road safety.*

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

*George for working collaboratively to build a bridge for the Gingerbread Man.  
Alora for brilliant continuing of repeating patterns in mathematics.*

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

*Hallie for writing a fantastic sentence about road safety.  
Guy for persevering when building a bridge to help the Gingerbread Man.  
Vivienne for always being a kind friend to the children in Barn Owl class.  
Jiyan for being a great team member when participating in relay games in PE.*

#### **Value of the month: forgiveness**

*Snowy Owl Class – Summer, Charlie and Billy*

*Tawny Owl Class – Xach*

*Barn Owl Class – Rose, Myles and Harry*

***Year 1: Spring is here, and the Year 1 children are eagerly anticipating the holidays! It has been a wonderful week of Easter activities. The children learnt about the Christian story of Easter. They sequenced the events of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. The children also made beautiful Easter bonnets and learnt lots of traditional springtime songs including 'Hot Cross Buns', 'Little Peter Rabbit' and 'Chick, Chick, Chick, Chick Chicken'. Today they proudly paraded their bonnets whilst singing. They made lovely cards for their families – we are sure you will adore them.***



***After the break, the children will begin a new topic on plants. In English, they will read a popular story by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler about a mouse who goes for a walk in a wood. In mathematics, they will learn about mass and volume. The new PSHCE topic will focus on relationships.***

***Thank you for coming to the parent consultations this week. We hope you found them informative and enjoyed browsing through your children's workbooks. It really is quite amazing the amount of learning they have achieved so far! There is no homework for the holidays as the children are ready for a good rest before the excitement of the summer term. Please do, however, keep up the reading. Bug Club is a great resource for reading material for your child and their log in details are inside their reading record. For mathematics practice, please use the White Rose 1-Minute Maths app or Numbots. The log in details for Numbots are in your child's reading record. Playing board games and card games is also a fun way to support mathematical fluency.***

***We look forward to welcoming the children back and hearing all their news on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April. Forest School will take place that week on the usual days. Whatever you are doing in the holidays, we hope you have a restful, peaceful and joyous time.***

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

##### **Big Cat Class**

***Nedu for making a wonderful Easter bonnet.  
Shiva for fantastic work on volume and capacity.  
Bear for writing a wonderful poem about a bee.***

##### **Red Fox Class**

***Maya for using a super confident voice during learning time.  
Albert for writing a fabulous bee poem using lots of adjectives.  
Teddie for writing a fabulous bee poem using lots of adjectives.***

##### **Walker Bear Class**

***Gracie for thinking deeply about what she would give up to help another person.  
Henry P for resilient running during daily mile.  
Maxi for writing a super poem about a bee.***

##### **Value of the month: forgiveness**

***Big Cat Class – Bowie-Moon and Hadley  
Red Fox Class – Adalyne and Bertie  
Walker Bears Class – Mollie and Sabin***

***Year 2: What a wonderful week the children have had! The sun has been shining (sometimes!) and they have enjoyed some lovely Easter themed activities. The highlight was most definitely the Easter bonnet parade. Mrs Mendel led the children in singing some spring themed songs as they paraded around the playground.***



***On Thursday, the children enjoyed a Scooter Workshop, led by the former World Scooter Champion, Terry Price. The day started with an assembly, where Terry gave an inspirational talk about his scootering journey. He showed some of his brilliant tricks, including a tail whip and a back flip. During the workshop, the children were reminded how to stay safe before playing some games, including trying out some tricks on a ramp. The workshop was so inspirational, teaching 'growth mindset on wheels'.***

***In English this week, the children continued their work based around the story 'Last Stop on Market Street' by Matt de la Peña. They explored how the suffixes '-ful' and '-less' can be added to some words to create adjectives. They wrote sentences to create a diary for the character of CJ, using a story journey to help them. They were encouraged to use conjunctions, such as 'and', 'but', 'because' and 'so' to extend their sentences.***

***In mathematics, the children revised their Year 1 learning about doubling and halving. They learnt that doubling a number is the same as adding it to itself and multiplying by two. For example, double 4 = 8, 4 + 4 = 8 and 4 x 2 = 8. They learnt that halving a number is the same as sharing it between two or dividing it by two. For example, half of ten = 5 and 10 ÷ 2 = 5. They also learnt how to recognise odd and even numbers.***

***In PSHCE, the children prepared and tried healthy snacks, including vegetable batons, fruit salad, rice cracker treats and smashed avocado on oat cakes. In RE, the children learnt about the Christian Easter story and sequenced the events of Holy Week.***

***After the Easter break, the children will start their exciting new 'Nature Detectives' topic.***

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

##### **Pelican Class**

***Stefan for making excellent progress with writing and presentation.  
Ayla for always trying her best with her learning and being a super role model.  
Mason for showing enjoyment and making fantastic progress with reading.  
Ahmed for always spreading smiles around the classroom.***

##### **Penguin Class**

***Nicholas for super work with multiplication.  
Albie for great springtime crafts.***

##### **Puffin Class**

***Jude for an excellent speaking and listening presentation all about his favourite book.***

***James for his hard work and determination in the spring term.***

#### **Value of the month: forgiveness**

***Pelican Class – Nancy-Mae and Oliver  
Penguin Class – Hunter and Esther  
Puffin Class – ChloeElla and Oscar M***

**TERM DATES 2025-26**

***[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
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				

January '26						
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	

February '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	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	

March '26						
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					

April '26						
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			

May '26						
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

June '26						
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					

July '26						
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		

August '26						
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						

- = 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
24	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				

October '26						
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 '26						
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 '26						
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			

January '27						
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

February '27						
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

March '27						
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				

April '27						
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		

May '27						
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						

June '27						
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				

July '27						
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	

August '27						
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					

- = 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

