



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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

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20.03.2026

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

Reception

Snowy Owl Class 94%

Key stage one

Puffin Class 99.6%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a glorious change to the weather and long may it continue! The children and staff have all thoroughly enjoyed the sudden, very late appearance of spring and many year groups have taken advantage of the lovely sunshine to go on walks around the school grounds looking at seasonal change. Nursery children have had rich experiences this week and have painted and drawn the most beautiful spring flowers. Do see below and the website for photographs.

The highlight of this week was the Year 1 trip to Shepreth. The Year 1 team has written in more detail below but in brief the trip was a resounding success. Weather was perfect, the children's behaviour impeccable and each and every child returned to school thrilled with everything they'd experienced.

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the Year 1 and 2 stay-and-play sessions; we hope you enjoyed spending time with your children in class.

Today was Red Nose Day and the children looked very colourful. Thank you for your generous donations to Comic Relief.

This week, we have celebrated Oracy Week throughout the school. This has been led by our inspirational leaders Miss Hill, Mrs Dalton and Miss Wright and children have engaged in a wide range of new activities, games and contests which challenge and enhance their speaking skills. This is a new venture and programme for us, and we are seeing some really strong results already including the improvement of children's abilities to listen to one another without getting angry when they disagree.

Huge thanks go to our dear FROGs for the simply lovely Easter Arts and Crafts session they held yesterday after school. So much work had been put into sourcing and creating the most creative, innovative and attractive craft activities for our children to enjoy. There was a simply beautiful range. Children clearly loved engaging in these and we all

extent the deepest gratitude for the work this wonderful team of parents puts into making these events happen. Thank you.

Farewell to Mr Pullin: *I am very sad indeed to have to announce that today is Mr Pullin's last day with us. He has been given a terrific opportunity and will be moving on, having worked with us for six years. I'll never forget him coming to interview for the role of sporting apprentice. He was already showing signs of becoming the steadfast, principled, hard-working, caring adult he has become. He was a wonderful apprentice, was awarded outstanding at every level and has stayed at this school to become a highly skilled, professional teaching assistant. We will all miss him dreadfully but know that he will go on to shine in his next career. Good luck Mr Pullin!*

Rocksteady Concert: *A huge congratulations to the phenomenal Rocksteady Bands for their sensational performance at the Rocksteady Concert on Wednesday! We were amazed by the progress shown by band members who have taken part for some time and impressed by the courage shown by those who were performing for the very first time. We are sorry to say farewell to Olivia who has been the band leader since Rocksteady lessons started in our school but delighted that her musical talent and teaching skill has earned her a promotion within Rocksteady Music School. We welcome our new Rocksteady band leader Mark. He has been shadowing Olivia for the last few weeks and will be taking over in the summer term. We still have some places available for new band members. If you would like to consider enrolling your child for Rocksteady band lessons, please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter. You can also visit the Rocksteady Music School website: <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>*

Ramadan: *Eid Mubarak to everyone who is celebrating!*

Next week *is the final week of the term. In recognition of Neurodiversity Celebration Week, we will be celebrating our own Neurodiversity Day on Tuesday. There is a coffee morning, hosted by our INCo team and deputy headteacher from 8.50-9.30am on the day. All are welcome to attend. On Thursday, the Year 2 children have a Scooter Workshop and on Friday, children will be parading and singing spring songs wearing their lovely bonnets. They look so incredibly sweet and I secretly must admit that this is my very favourite day of the school year!*

Please remember that school finishes at 1.00pm next Friday as it is the last day of term. There will be no After School Club that day.

Parent/Teacher Consultations: *These will take place next week as below. Please speak to your child's class teacher to book a slot, if you haven't already done so.*

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, everyone!

Kindest regards

***Rouane Mendel
Headteacher***

Nursery: This week, the children have continued to take part in a range of activities linked to plants and growing. They have enjoyed the opportunity to explore the Giles Garden Centre role play, taking turns to buy flowers and seeds. The children particularly enjoyed role playing planting seeds, using tools and gardening equipment, "just like Mummy does," Betsy B shared.



In physical development, the children had lots of fun dancing and weaving in and out of a circle whilst singing, 'In and Out the Dusty Bluebells.' Triangle group particularly enjoyed completing this in the garden.

In mathematics, the children tried identifying 'more' and 'fewer'. They took turns to create two groups of sheep and tried to identify which group had the most lambs or the fewest.



In literacy, the children have been sharing the story of 'Oliver's Fruit Salad' by Vivian French. "I like apples," Isla shared. "My mummy buys me strawberries," recalled Jospeh. The children then created their own fruit kebabs, identifying which fruit they wished to try, just like Oliver in the story. The Ladybirds even made repeating patterns using their pieces of fruit. Amazing work, Ladybirds!

Next week, the Ladybird children will be celebrating Easter by creating a range of Easter crafts. They will learn to sing the song 'Hot Cross Buns' and have the chance to taste one!

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

We are running low on spare pairs of joggers, shorts and socks in Nursery. If you have any that you wish to kindly donate, we will be very grateful.

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

***Winnie for fantastic understanding of 'more' and 'fewer' this week.
Betsy B for creating a beautiful observational drawing of daffodils.
Nuria for her fantastic development with communication and making friendships.
Betsy G for using her super phonic knowledge to match initial sounds.***

Reception: This week in literacy, the children recalled aspects of road safety to write a speech bubble sentence and drew a road safety picture.

In mathematics, the children investigated 3D shapes by building a tower for Rapunzel. Whilst making their towers using a variety of 3D building blocks, the children were encouraged to name the shapes they used and describe features of the shapes.

In understanding the world, the children investigated a range of fabrics to discover which were reflective and suitable to wear if out in the dark. When learning about reflective materials and looking at reflective jackets, Xavier in the Tawny Owl class shared, "My Dad has one of those for work!"

In a second understanding the world activity, the children drew a scene to include a path for a gingerbread man to travel along on a piece of coloured card. They drew and cut out a gingerbread man and attached a metal paper clip. The children used a magnet to help him travel along their path. Whilst discussing what the word 'magnetic' means, Caleb in Snowy Owl class said, "Magnetic means it sticks to metal objects, but not all metals are magnetic."



Next week in literacy, the children will write a sentence to accompany a road safety poster and in mathematics, they will create repeating patterns using a variety of resources. In understanding the world, the children will use recycled materials to build a bridge to help the Gingerbread Man cross the river.

Stars of the Week

Snowy Owl Class

Aaryan for identifying the initial sounds of words in his writing.

Josiah for being able to identify which objects are magnetic.

Ottilie for making a good prediction about which materials are reflective.

Tawny Owl Class

Avlin for enthusiastic investigation of reflective and non-reflective materials.

Lola for independently using a capital letter and full stop when writing a sentence.

Barn Owl Class

Lana for writing a fantastic road safety speech bubble.

Dominik for writing a super road safety speech bubble.

Florence for building an amazing tower for Rapunzel using 3D shapes.

Archie for always being a good friend in Barn Owl Class.

Year 1: What an exciting and busy week we have had in Year 1! The children had a wonderful time visiting Shepreth Wildlife Park on Tuesday. They stayed sensibly with their groups, listened attentively to a fascinating talk about camouflage and were very skilled at spotting extremely well-hidden animals in photographs. For some, the highlight was riding on a coach, for others it was playing in the playground, whilst many cited seeing various animals as their best moment. Cody in Walker Bear class exclaimed on more than one occasion, "This is a great day!"

Thank you for coming to Stay and Play on Thursday. The children were excited to share their toys and games with you. It has also been Oracy Week. The children have had fun playing games to develop their speaking and listening skills including 'Count to 20', and 'If I Ruled the World'. Finally, we were immensely proud of the brilliant performances of the Year 1 Rocksteady band members at their concert on Wednesday. Well done Year 1 on an absolutely amazing week!

In English, the children have been publishing their alternative endings to the fairy tale of Cinderella. They focused on the use of capital letters, full stops, and finger spaces, whilst using adjectives to describe their new settings and characters. Our Book of the Week was 'Peace at Last' by Jill Murphy. In mathematics the children have been working with number lines to 50, filling in missing numbers, estimating numbers and finding 'one more' and 'one less'. Some children have worked on length and height and enjoyed measuring classroom objects using cubes. The children loved hearing about the history of Stevenage and were fascinated to hear that the New Town was built to provide homes for people made homeless in London by World War II. They learnt about the significance of the clock tower in the New Town which commemorates its opening by Queen Elizabeth II in 1959. The children sequenced pictures of Stevenage to show its growth and development on a timeline. In science, the children investigated the best material for an umbrella to keep teddy dry.

Next week, the children will be busy with all kinds of Easter activities, including understanding the Christian story of Easter, singing spring-time songs and making Easter bonnets.

Thank you if you attended the phonics screening check online briefing on Wednesday. We look forward to seeing you at parent consultations on Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

Stars of the week

Big Cat Class

Kennedy for writing a wonderful alternative ending to 'Cinderella'.

Mina for having a fantastic understanding of length and height.

Ella Rose for writing a wonderful alternative ending to Cinderella.

Red Fox Class

Joshua for being a super team player when building a den in forest school.

Thea for super mathematics counting in tens and ones.

Gracie for a fabulous alternative ending to the 'Cinderella' story.

Walker Bear Class

Evie for writing and illustrating a lovely alternative ending for the story of 'Cinderella'.

Teddy for demonstrating super knowledge and understanding of tens and ones in mathematics.

Eliza for thinking hard about Stevenage and the places she recognised in the New Town.

Year 2: In English this week, the children started a new unit of work based around the story 'Last Stop on Market Street' by Matt de la Peña. They discussed how the characters in the story see the world around them, and how the character of Nana sees wonder in the most everyday things. The children worked together to create a character profile of Nana, thinking about how her actions show what kind of person she is. They also wrote descriptive sentences using imaginative adjectives.

In mathematics, the children started to learn about division. They explored how to make equal groups by grouping; for example, if there are eight children and they get into groups of two, there will be four groups. They also explored how to make equal groups by sharing; for example, if there are 15 cookies altogether and they are shared between three plates, there will be five cookies on each plate. The children also learnt two times table facts. Practising the two-, ten- and five-times tables at home is a fantastic way to help your child with their mathematical fluency.

It has been Oracy Week in school, and the Year 2 children have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to talk and engage in discussion. They have participated in talking tasks as talk partners and listening detectives. They have enjoyed working as pairs, and in trios. They played lots of fun games – a favourite was 'Articulate!'

In PSHCE this week, the children revisited their learning from the autumn term. They discussed what they remembered about the healthy eating plate and planned a healthy meal. In computing, they learnt how to create multiple choice quiz questions on Purple Mash. In art and design, the children etched a pattern on a foam tile and used ink and rollers to create a repeated printed design. In history, they learnt about Jason Momoa, an actor of indigenous heritage.

In English next week, the children will continue their learning around the book 'Last Stop on Market Street'. They will write a narrative about a familiar journey they take, in the style of the book. In mathematics, they will learn doubling and halving facts and explore odd and even numbers. In design and technology, they will learn about wheels and axles. In art and design, they will explore photography.

Year 2 parent consultations take place next Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March. Please check your time with your child's class teacher.

The Year 2 children will take part in an exciting Scooter Workshop on Thursday next week. Please give consent for your child to participate via Arbor. Thank you.

Stars of the week

Pelican Class

Charlie for brilliantly following the class oracy guidelines during a discussion in shared reading.

Parker for always taking care of our classroom and showing great respect for school equipment at playtime.

Lola for excellent effort and progress in multiplication and division in mathematics.

Penguins Class

John for great work in phonics, spotting sounds and reading words beautifully.

Kiel for being such a kind and welcoming friend to our new member of Penguin Class.

Puffin Class

Hannah for working hard on her Navajo pattern in art and design.

Beau for speaking confidently with his peers in class.

**ROCK
STEADY**

DOES YOUR CHILD WANT TO PLAY MUSIC IN THEIR OWN BAND?



With Rocksteady, children learn to play an instrument through fun and inclusive weekly in-school rock and pop band lessons.

It's the perfect way to learn new musical skills, make friends and have a great time - all at school! There's no musical experience necessary and instruments for lessons are provided.

Rocksteady lessons are also shown to boost confidence, improve wellbeing and encourage teamwork!



Scan QR code to
find out more!

98%

OF PARENTS SAY
THEIR CHILD LOVES OR
ENJOYS ROCKSTEADY
BAND LESSONS



94%

OF PARENTS SAY
ROCKSTEADY
IMPROVES THEIR
CHILD'S CONFIDENCE



0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com

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

SPRING TERM

Event	Date	Time
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
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October '25						
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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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30	31					

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

