



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
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CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHIES
TROPHY-BEARING CLASSES WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

Reception
Snowy Owls
97.2%

Key stage one
Puffins
98.7%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

Children have returned to school absolutely beautifully. Everyone clearly has had a restorative break and enjoyed spending time with their families.

Children are thoroughly enjoying their new topics and you will read about these in more detail in the year-group pages.

Some of you will have spotted that we have been filming in school this week. It's been a very exciting process and we have high hopes for the end product. The filmmaker does all the PR filming for lots of universities, including for example Magdalen College, Oxford. Here's an example of his work: [There's more to Magdalen - Magdalen College](#)

We think our school rivals an Oxford College in terms of the quality of our provision any day! We might not have deer scampering about but we have our own pet fox! And we want to show our beautiful school in the best possible light and showcase how fantastic we and our children are so hopefully this filmmaker will do us proud. The most immense thanks to everyone who spoke so passionately about why you love our school!

Supporting Your Family with School Attendance workshop: Thank you to the parents/carers that joined Miss Hill and Miss Stanton at the workshop on Thursday morning. The workshop presentation and accompanying resources are available on the school website: [Supporting Your Family with School Attendance workshop](#)

Value of the month for April: The value of the month for April is Patience. This important value focuses on showing self-control and staying calm in the face of frustration or boredom.

Class photographs: These will be taken this coming Monday 20th April.

Message from a former pupil, Tom: *Hi, my name is Tom and I'm a former pupil of The Giles Nursery and Infants' School. I am currently volunteering with Feed Up Warm Up - a homeless charity based in Stevenage and Hitchin. I help set up the weekly food bank, which really needs more donations. If you are able to donate even one item, you will be making a big difference. Items such as pasta, rice, jars of pasta sauce, tinned goods, cereals and biscuits are always needed. If you could please bring an item into school by Monday 27th April, they will be collected and taken to the food bank, where they will be gratefully received. For more information about the charity, please visit www.feedupwarmup.co.uk. Thank you very much.*

Thank you Tom – we're so proud of you and inspired by you. We'll be so grateful for any donations from our generous parents and families.

Reception and Junior School (September 2026) Allocation Day: *Allocation Day was yesterday, Thursday 16th April, so you should have received an email from Hertfordshire County Council with your allocation of school. Parents/Carers have until Thursday 23rd April 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.*

Nursery school places for September 2026: *There are a few places available in our Nursery Class from September 2026; 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 2026. Eligible children will have birth dates between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023.*

Cleaning staff vacancies: *We have vacancies for part time cleaning staff, working after school closes. If you are interested, please email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk*

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards

*Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

Recommended Books of the Week

Books for children

"This is my favourite book because it is all about the sport that I enjoy playing."

Harrie, Puffin Class



Books for adults

"I've loved this book since I was little. The rhymes are just so funny! I used to know the Cinderella rhyme by heart. The writing is very cheeky and is guaranteed to make you laugh, even as an adult."

Mrs Ballard, SENCo



Nursery: *The children have settled back in beautifully after the Easter break. It was wonderful to welcome back smiling, happy children ready to learn and play. They returned full of enthusiasm and have shown confidence in rejoining their routines.*

A highlight of the week was releasing the class butterflies who have been cared for brilliantly by Ladybird Class. The children cheered with delight as 'Rock Steady', 'Ken', 'Poppy', 'Milky', 'Stella', 'Lightning McQueen', 'Woven', 'Fadie', 'Chappy', 'Rose' and 'Benny' flew out of their enclosures to find their new home. Betsy G shared, "They are going to find a flower to make more butterflies."



In understanding the world, the children thoroughly enjoyed a spring walk to the Forest School nature area. The children used all their knowledge of signs of spring to identify beautiful flowers and the buds growing on the trees. Emilija shared, "It's growing. Look, flower! I found more bluebells." Jared excitedly said, "There's a den! I wonder who lives in there."



In phonics, the children learnt the letter sound /s/. They practised saying lots of words beginning with the /s/ sound and loved the challenge of finding new ones to share. The children have consolidated listening for initial sounds in words and blending sounds together using their 'robot arms'. They were excited to identify the hidden objects and quickly found the objects that had the initial sound /s/.

Next week, the children will be learning about frogs and their lifecycle. In phonics, the children will learn the letter sound /a/.

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

Dotty for showing lots of interest and enjoyment during our spring walk.

Mila for recalling lots of facts about spring and identifying signs of spring during our walk.

Mivaan for brilliant phonic knowledge this week when learning the letter sound /s/.

Zyra for wonderful engagement and interest during our spring walk.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children began by being 'story detectives' investigating clues linked to this half term's topic. From the clues, the children worked out the story is the traditional tale of 'The Little Red Hen'. The children listened to a version of the story and were introduced to the Makaton signs used. The children created a story map and used signs to retell the story, with many children using super story language. Whilst retelling his version of 'The Little Red Hen', Ben in Barn Owl class said, "So, the hen got some wheat and she said, 'Dog, can you help?' He said, 'Woof, no,' The dough got mixed together and the hen said, 'Who wants to eat it?' The dog said, 'Yes', the cat said, 'Yes', the duck said, 'Yes' and the hen said, 'Nooooo!'"

In mathematics, the children have been finding out how to create teen numbers using Numicon. They loved playing a game where all the children in the class stood in a circle and each child in turn said a number in ascending order. However, when a child said the number thirteen, they had to sit down, and the counting began again.

In understanding the world, the children used pastels to draw a specific tree in the school grounds for the season of spring, and this will be added to their 'Seasons of a Tree' book.

In literacy next week, the children will write a factual sentence about chicks, as an incubator will be in Reception for the next fortnight. There will be ten eggs in the incubator, and the children will have the opportunity to observe daily. Some children may even experience watching a chick hatch.

In mathematics, the children will use tens frames to create teen numbers and in understanding the world, the children will create the lifecycle of a hen using a variety of media.

Stars of the Week

Snowy Owl Class

*Charlie for retelling 'The Little Red Hen' story so beautifully using his own words.
Arlo for being able to use the Numicon to make teen numbers confidently.*

Tawny Owl Class

*Alfie for amazing independent reding.
Kolby for a fantastic retelling of 'The Little Red Hen' story using his story map.*

Barn Owl Class

*Ava for drawing a beautiful spring tree using pastels.
Bertie for confidently recognising teen numbers when using Numicon.*

Year 1: The children have settled in beautifully after the Easter break. We hope that you all had a wonderful time together.

This week in English, the children were most excited to discover some mysterious footprints had appeared in the school grounds. They followed the footprints, speculating about who might have made them, and found they led to the woodland area. Scattered around the woodland, they spotted many clues in the form of words and pictures which they pieced together to identify their new topic: 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. They have begun to learn to recite the story, using Makaton signing to support them, and have made story maps of the key events. In music, the children began to think about how a story can be told through sound and how music can be represented through symbols. They learnt to associate an instrument with a beanbag colour and to follow a sequence of beanbags to play a range of instruments in a set order. Over the next few weeks, they will compose their own musical retelling of 'The Gruffalo' and notate their story using colours. The children have also begun to learn 'The Gruffalo' song using Makaton signs.

In phonics, the children revised some of the phase 5 sounds. They have shown their teachers how well they can read real and alien words using their phonic knowledge and blending.

This week in mathematics, the children have enjoyed investigating capacity and measuring volume using different containers.

The children started their new science unit focusing on plants this week by showing their teachers what they already know. Over the term, they will learn to identify some plants and trees, as well as name parts of a plant.

New homework will be coming home today on a Gruffalo theme. Please complete one of the suggested activities and return to school by Wednesday 29th April. We will also start our new speaking and listening topic of 'my favourite animal'. Please check the rota with your child's class teacher.

Next week, the children will learn how to write verbs in the past tense using the suffixes '-ed' and '-ing', where they do not have to change the spelling; for example, turning 'walk' into 'walked' or 'walking'. In mathematics, they will begin to look at multiplication, counting in twos, fives and tens. In design and technology, they will design a healthy Gruffalo snack. The ingredients used will be rice cakes, cream cheese, cheese slices, cucumber, blueberries, lettuce and chives. If your child has an allergy to any of these ingredients, please speak to their class teacher.

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class

***Shiva for creating a fantastic leaf person during Forest School.
Ellis for super following of the actions, whilst singing 'The Gruffalo' song.***

Red Fox Class

***Alfie for independently completing his Gruffalo story map.
Aariya for a fabulous story map of 'The Gruffalo.'***

Walker Bear Class

***Ayla for being a kind and helpful member of Walker Bears.
Yoosuf for creating a super piece of work in PSHE, all about families.***

Year 2: We were pleased to welcome the children back to school after the Easter holidays for the start of the summer term. We hope you had a wonderful break and enjoyed the spring weather. The children have returned very settled and ready to start a new term of learning.

In English this week, the children finished their end of unit writing based on 'Last Stop on Market Street' by Matt de la Peña. They wrote about a journey that they regularly make in the style of the story, noticing the magical and marvellous which might normally be missed. Their imagination and use of adjectives was fantastic. Well done, Year 2!

In mathematics, the children learnt about length and height. They learnt to use a ruler correctly to measure in centimetres, measured in metres using a metre stick and compared and ordered lengths and heights.

In art and design, the children learnt about photography and how to use a camera. They used iPads to take photographs of nature around the school. In PSHCE, the children looked at different types of families and created a recipe for a happy home. 'Love' and 'lots of hugs' were very popular ingredients! In RE, they learnt what a ceremony is and reflected on ceremonies they have attended. In PE, they began new units of work practising striking and fielding and learning net and wall games.

In English next week, the children will begin a new unit of work looking at explanation texts, using 'Monsters: An Owner's Guide' by Jonathan Emmett as a stimulus. In mathematics, the children will continue their learning about multiplication and division. In science, they will learn to classify different items as 'alive', 'used to be alive' or 'never alive'. In computing, they will learn to use and create pictograms to record data. In art and design, the children will learn about impressionism and in PSHCE, they will think about how we use touch to communicate. In RE, they will learn about the Islamic ceremony of Aqiqah.

Stars of the Week

Pelican Class:

*Luca for trying his best in all aspects of school life all week.
Mya-Jae for super writing about 'Last Stop on Market Street'.*

Penguin Class:

*Afna for fantastic work in phonics practising the sounds.
Dominic for settling in so well to Penguin Class.*

Puffin Class:

*Harrie for excellent writing in the style of 'Last Stop on Market Street'.
Kiki for using excellent oracy skills in class discussions.*

Earth Day

Saturday 18 April, 12noon-4pm

Free to visit, just drop in!



**Relax and enjoy
mindful drawing...**

**... or bring something
to repair!**



**Sharpen your sewing
skills with button art**



**and make a sewing kit
for easy repairs**

**Find out about (and try)
tasty vegan food!**



**and see Stevenage-based artist
Shaunak Samvatsar's humour-
infused cartoons sharing climate
insights.**

@Stevenage Museum, St George's Way, SG1 1XX.

TERM DATES 2025-26

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

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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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
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December '25						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	

March '26						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April '26						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May '26						
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June '26						
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29	30					

July '26						
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27	28	29	30	31		

August '26						
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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 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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
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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
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- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2026/27 Pupil Holidays
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