

The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

Summer Term 2026 Newsletter



Year Two

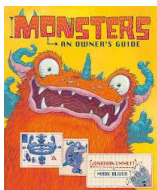
Pelicans, Penguins and Puffins

We were very excited to welcome the children back to school after the Easter break and to settle them back into their routines. We are thrilled to be starting our summer term topic 'Nature Detectives'.

This is a very busy term for the children, with a trip to Woburn Safari Park and the start of transition to junior school towards the end of the term. The children will be working hard on their Leavers' Assemblies and taking part in lots of fantastic workshops. Please note the following dates for your diary:

- Sponsored Event – from Friday 24th April to Friday 15th May
- Jungle Book performance – Friday 1st May
- Great Fire of London workshop (children to dress up) – Wednesday 13th May
- Year 2 Stay and Read – Thursday 14th May
- Big Write – week beginning Monday 18th May
- Walk to School Week – week beginning Monday 1st June
- Maths Week – week beginning Monday 1st June
- Phonics Screening Check – week beginning Monday 8th June (more information below)
- Money Week – week beginning Monday 15th June
- School Open Evening and Book Fair – Thursday 18th June
- Trip to Woburn Safari Park – Wednesday 1st July
- Glow Dance workshop – Monday 6th July
- Move Up Day – Thursday 9th July
- Sports morning – Tuesday 14th July (adverse weather back up – Monday 20th July)
- Chinese Dragon workshop – Thursday 16th July
- Leavers' Assemblies – Tuesday 21st July
- Class parties – Wednesday 22nd July

English



The children have started the new term looking at a hilarious explanation text. *Monsters: An Owner's Guide* by Jonathan Emmett explains how to assemble and look after a monster, with very funny results! The children will learn how to write their own explanation text in the form of an owner's guide or manual. Following the Great Fire of London workshop, the children will find information in non-fiction texts. The children will explore the poem *Blue Balloons and Rabbit Ears* by Hilda Offen and learn to write and perform their own free verse poetry.

After May half term, the children will read *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers and learn how to extend a story. They will learn to recite the traditional African tale of *The Papaya That Spoke* and write their own version of the story following the pattern of the original. They will also hear and respond to

the nonsense poem *The Quangle Wangle's Hat* by Edward Lear.

The children will continue to have daily phonics sessions, to ensure they are using their knowledge and skills to help them spell a growing number of words correctly. They will also learn grammar for punctuation and spelling. They will continue to learn to form letters accurately and join their handwriting correctly.

The children will continue to read and be read to each day. Reading in Year 2 includes guided reading with an adult, 1:1 reading with an adult, whole class reading, reading fluency sessions and story time with our fantastic selection of reading spine stories.

Reading books are checked daily to see if reading is taking place at home and for your child to choose a new book when they are ready. It is so important that you hear your child read regularly at home and mark it in their reading record. Not only does this have a huge impact on their progress, but each time you read at home, your child receives a reading ticket that enters them into the weekly raffle to take home our reading teddy, Elmer! Children also receive a certificate when they have read five books.

Mathematics

In mathematics, the children will learn about mass, capacity and temperature, fractions, time, statistics, and position and direction.



Science

This term's science learning focuses on living things and their habitats. The children will learn about animals and their offspring before exploring different habitats and the animals that live in them. They will plan where to build a bug hotel and plot the location on a map. They will look at different food chains, including humans, and research how to take care of animals.

Computing

In computing, the children will use and create pictograms. They will use yes / no questions to separate information and create a binary tree. They will use a database to answer questions.

Humanities



The children will learn about the Great Fire of London and experience a fantastic hands-on workshop, which will take them back in time to 1666. The children will compare London now and then, learn about life in 1666 and sequence the events of the Great Fire using the diary of Samuel Pepys as a historical source.

Creative

In music sessions, the children will learn to sing and sign songs, make rhythms and explore composition using instruments. As part of the unit of work 'Our Big Concert', the children will practice singing and playing instruments as part of an ensemble. In design and technology, the children will design and make their own healthy pizza. As part of their learning about the Great Fire of London, they will make their own Tudor house. The children will also learn how to sew and make their own cushion. In art and design, the children will explore the work of the impressionist painters and create their own artwork in similar styles.



Physical Education



As well as outside play sessions, the children have PE lessons on Monday and Friday. Children should come into school wearing their PE kit on these days. Lessons will include net and wall games, striking and fielding, athletics and yoga. For safety reasons, children with pierced ears should only wear small stud earrings to school and should cover these with micropore tape during PE lessons.

PSHCE (Personal, social, health, citizenship and economic education)

Our themes this term are 'Relationships' and 'Changing Me'. In the first half term, children will learn about families and how these can be different. They will talk about different kinds of physical contact and how some is acceptable, and some is not. They will learn some positive problem-solving techniques to resolve conflicts with friends. They will think about different kinds of secrets and when these need to be shared with a trusted adult.



In the second half term, children will learn about growing from young to old and consider how they have changed since they were babies. They will learn about the physical differences between boys and girls and learn the correct names for parts of the body, and which parts are private.

The children will also look ahead to junior school and what they are looking forward to in Year 3. A full transition program will be arranged to support the children as they move on to the next stage of their education, which you will be informed of in due course. We kindly ask that you refrain from talking about the move to junior school before transition starts in school, as it can be a very unsettling time for the children. In our experience, talking about the move before the May half term can cause worry about the unknown. Children will be more able to cope if conversations begin once transition starts.

Religious Education

In religious education, the children will learn about ceremonies. They will find out what a ceremony is and explore important ceremonies of different religions.



Statutory Assessments

Year 2 children who need to re-take the phonics screening check will do so the week beginning Monday 8th June. Results will be reported to you in your child's end of year report.

Attendance

Attending school regularly helps children to achieve stronger academic outcomes, build friendships and develop social skills, strengthen emotional wellbeing and resilience, establish positive habits for future education and employment and engage fully in school life and activities. We ask that all families support the following expectations:

- Children attend school every day it is open, unless they are unwell.
- Children arrive on time at 8.45am and ready to learn.
- Families follow the school's attendance policy.
- Parents/carers notify the school promptly when their child is absent unexpectedly.
- Medical appointments are scheduled outside of school hours where possible.
- Requests for leave of absence are made in advance and only in exceptional circumstances.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you wish to ask any questions, please speak to the teachers at the beginning or end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Mrs. M. Humphrey
Mrs. K. Simmons
Mrs. J. Peace
Miss H. Wright
Mrs. E. Owen
Class teachers

Miss L. Hill
Year group lead

Mrs. G. Phillips
Mrs. T. Verschuren
Miss E. Mills
Mrs. S. Pentiu
Miss K. Szczypiorowska
Support staff

