



THE  
GILES NURSERY  
AND  
INFANTS'  
SCHOOL



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**24.04.2026**

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

**Reception**  
**Tawny Owl Class**  
**98.7%**

**Key stage one**  
**Puffin Class**  
**99%**

**FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!**



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

***The weather has been lovely this week and children have had the most wonderful time.***

***The highlight of the entire week has definitely been the Living Eggs that were delivered to Reception. Being involved in the hatching of chicks is something our Reception children will always remember – a real joy. After hatching, the chicks remain with us for some time and the children are able to handle these beautiful birds and observe how they grow and change.***

***Classes looked absolutely stunning during the Kittle Photo shoot on Monday. I hope you are all pleased with the results.***

***On Wednesday, the children celebrated Earth Day. They thought about the actions they take to look after our planet and protect it for the future. Some of the children helped tidy the outside spaces around school and across Year 2 they have made pledges to look after our Planet Earth.***

***To support Allergy Awareness Week, the children have learnt about different allergens and how to help someone in an emergency. In Year 2, the children met Arlo the Armadillo and learned about his allergies, then designed him an allergy-friendly pizza.***

***Sponsored Event activities have gone out today. I hope you enjoy doing these with your children and thank you in advance for any contributions.***

***Nursery Closed on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June: The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. This is in order to allow the children who will be joining us in September 2026 an opportunity to visit with their parents. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.***

**Diary Dates:** Please note the following dates. These are also listed in the diary dates below.

- **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May:** *Jungle Book* performance for KS1 pupils
- **W/c Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May:** Sponsored Event to take place
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2.50-3.10:** Year 1 stay-and-read
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May:** Great Fire of London workshop for Year 2 pupils
- **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2.50-.3.10:** Year 2 stay-and-read
- **w/c Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May:** Big Write Week
- **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May:** FROG bake sale after school

**Reception and Junior School (September 2026) Allocation Day:** Parents/Carers had until yesterday Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to accept places. 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](mailto: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**

"I really love the stories about the Gruffalo. I can't wait to read *Gruffalo's Granny*, but it will be released in September, my mum told me."

Daniel, Orca Class



#### **Books for adults**

"*Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens is one of the most moving books I've read in a while. Set in 1950/60s America, it's a coming-of-age book and beautifully written – you feel like you're amongst the birdlife and marshlands of North Carolina."

Mrs Duhamel, Administrative Assistant



**Nursery:** *This week in Nursery, the children have begun learning all about frogs. They listened to stories and looked at non-fiction books to find out facts about frogs. The children were fascinated to learn that frogs hibernate in winter, a baby frog is called a froglet and a mummy frog lays the eggs, and these are called frogspawn. The children particularly enjoyed watching a video of an adult frog using his long tongue to catch his dinner. Tommy exclaimed, "Woah! that's a long tongue!"*



*In understanding the world, the children learnt about the lifecycle of a frog. They looked closely at photographs of frogspawn and learnt that each egg is surrounded by jelly, and the eggs stick together to form clumps. The children were excited to paint frogspawn using different techniques and worked carefully to make tiny eggs with a cotton bud. The children looked at pictures and models of the frog lifecycle before sequencing on a paper plate. Matti remembered, "Frogs inside the egg."*

*Outside in the garden, the children loved performing 'Five Little Speckled Frogs' with their friends, using the green crates as lily pads. Reuben said, "I did a really big jump!" as he bravely leapt off a crate, landing safely on the ground.*

*In expressive art and design, the children created a variety of frog crafts, such as a paper plate frog and a split pin frog.*

*In phonics, the children learnt the letter sound /a/. They practised saying 'apple', 'ant', 'avocado', and many more. They learnt the song 'a, a, ants on my arm, a, a, ants on my arm, a, a, ants on my arm, they're causing me alarm', sung to the tune of 'Skip to My Lou'.*



*Next week, the children will continue to explore pond life and learn more facts about frogs. In phonics, they will learn the letter sound /t/ and revisit finding words that rhyme.*

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

##### **Ladybird Class**

***Rasheed for brilliant counting and singing when acting out the 'Five Little Speckled Frogs' song.***

***Tommy for listening beautifully during story time.***

***Andi for being very enthusiastic when painting his frogspawn picture.***

***Grace for taking part in the actions for 'Five Little Speckled Frogs'.***

***Reception:*** On Monday, an incubator arrived with ten eggs. The children have been so keen to check if the chicks had hatched. The first chick hatched on Wednesday afternoon and by Thursday afternoon, eight out of ten chicks had hatched and the remaining two were beginning to use their egg tooth to peck their way out of the shell. The children learnt that the yellow chicks are male, and the female chicks are brown. When discussing how long a chick takes to develop inside an egg, Lana in Barn Owl class said, "Twenty-one days is such a long time. I will be older then." Bertie in Snowy Owl class said, "I am so excited to hold a chick!"



*In literacy, the children watched an amazing video of a chick embryo developing in an egg. The video generated lots of discussion, and the children used their observational skills to write factual sentences about chicks.*

*In understanding the world, the children looked at the lifecycle of a hen and learnt a range of facts about chicks. They created their own lifecycle of a hen using a range of media and materials.*

*In mathematics, the children worked with a partner to count on from a given number up to twenty using a dice and two tens frames. Some of the children noticed patterns when the same number on the dice was thrown consecutively and found this quite amusing!*

*Next week in literacy, the children will write a sentence about how it felt to hold a chick, using their phonic knowledge to segment words. In mathematics, the children will add on from a given number and in art and design, they will learn facts about five common breeds of British hen. They will create a collage picture of a hen of their choice.*

#### **Stars of the Week**

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

***Noelle for writing a factual sentence about a chick.***

***Bertie for writing a factual sentence about a chick.***

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

***Aliyah for a great explanation of how a lifecycle works.***

***Marley for demonstrating an excellent knowledge of numbers to 20.***

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

***Ben for writing two interesting facts about chicks.***

***Evie for lovely recall of how a chick develops inside an egg.***

***Year 1: This week in English, the children learnt about writing in the past tense. They used the suffixes 'ed' and 'ing'. The children wrote about actions the characters in the Gruffalo might have done, such as 'Mouse squeaked'. The children rehearsed telling the story with Makaton signing and singing the Gruffalo song. They are looking forward to performing it for their grown-ups in the summer concerts. The children continued to revise phonics sounds and practised reading and putting sound buttons on real and alien words. Our story this week was 'Where the Wild Things Are' by Maurice Sendak. Walker Bear children had a super discussion about whether the story is a dream or not and looked for clues in the pictures and text to support what they said. They loved learning the word 'rumpus'.***

***In design and technology, the children chose which healthy snack they would like to make and made a plan to show what it will look like and which ingredients and tools they will need to use. Next week, the children will make and eat their delicious snacks and evaluate them. Please be aware that the ingredients are 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 on Monday. The children will make their snacks in the second half of the week.***

***The children started a new mathematics unit focusing on multiplication and division. They practised counting in twos, fives and tens, forwards and backwards, and looked for patterns in the numbers to help them.***

***In science, the children looked carefully at the parts of a plant and identified the roots, stem, leaves, flowers and fruit. They drew their own diagram of a plant and labelled it. Some children added extra labels, such as 'petals'. They also completed a weather chart for the week. In PE, the children learnt about 'batters' and 'fielders' and their role in ball games. In PSHCE, the children considered the qualities of a good friend.***

***Next week, the children will investigate warm colours in art. They will make, eat and evaluate their healthy Gruffalo character snack. In English, they will write poems about a character from the story of 'The Gruffalo'. They will recognise and add equal groups and make arrays in mathematics. Forest School will take place on the normal days. Thank you for swapping the days this week for the class photographs. Please return homework books by Wednesday.***

**Stars of the week:**

**Big Cat Class**

***Bowie-Moon for trying her best with reading.  
Arlo for writing a fantastic description of the Gruffalo.***

**Red Fox Class**

***Daisy for following the beat of the music in PE to move like a robot and an aeroplane.  
Annabelle for being a kind friend and always making sure others feel happy.***

**Walker Bear Class**

***Evie for demonstrating excellent listening when discussing a story by saying, 'I agree with you', building on an idea and giving reasons.  
Elsie for super knowledge of counting in twos, fives and tens in mathematics.***

***Year 2: It has been a lovely week in Year 2, made all the better by the wonderful, warm sunshine!***

***In English this week, the children started a new unit of work based on the book 'Monsters: An Owner's Guide' by Jonathan Emmett. They listened carefully to the story before answering comprehension questions. Once they had proved their knowledge of the monsters, they were taken on as employees at the Monstematic Toy Company. Their first job was to write a polite response to a disgruntled customer, whose monster had caused chaos when they took him to school!***

***In mathematics, the children revisited their work on multiplication and division. They have explored the two, five and ten times tables and looked at the corresponding division facts.***

***In science, the children learnt that things can be classified as 'alive', 'used to be alive' or 'never been alive'. They drew and labelled examples in each category. In PSHCE, the children discussed the kind of touch they like and do not like. They were reminded to tell a trusted adult if someone touches them in a way they do not like. In art and design, they were introduced to impressionism art and looked at some famous impressionist paintings. In computing, they began to learn about data collection and how to represent data using a pictogram. In RE, the children learnt about the Islamic ceremony of Aqiqah.***

***In English next week, the children will continue their learning around the book 'Monsters: An Owner's Guide'. They will imagine their own monster and write a guide explaining how to take care of it. In mathematics, the children will continue to learn about multiplication and division. In science, they will identify animals and their offspring. In RE, they will explore what happens at a Bar Mitzvah / Bat Mitzvah ceremony. In computing, they will learn how to use 'yes' and 'no' questions to sort data. In PSHCE, they will discuss strategies to resolve conflict.***

***Information about the Year 2 Sponsored 'Learn a Language' event has been sent home today. We hope you will have fun supporting your child to learn the colours in Spanish.***

### **Stars of the Week**

#### **Pelican Class:**

***Oliver for super knowledge of the two times table and explaining to the class how he uses doubling and halving to help him.***

***Mason for having a wonderful interest in Earth Day and the world around us.***

#### **Penguin Class:**

***Joshua for great work on the two and ten timetables.***

***Esther for trying hard to remember to use a capital letter at the start of every sentence.***

#### **Puffin Class:**

***Cormac for making excellent progress with his independent writing.***

***Emmie for her colourful bus design in design and technology.***

## SUMMER TERM EVENTS

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Jungle Book performance – KS1 pupils	Friday 01/05/26	
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 04/05/26	
MENTAL HEALTH WEEK	W/C 11/05/26	
Sponsored Event to take place	W/C 11/05/26	
Nursery Tour for prospective parents	Tuesday 12/05/26	4.30pm-5.30pm
Stay and Read – Year 1	Tuesday 12/05/26	2.50pm-3.10pm
Great Fire of London workshop – Year 2	Wednesday 13/05/26	
Stay and Read – Year 2	Thursday 14/05/26	2.50pm-3.10pm
BIG WRITE WEEK	W/C 18/05/26	
Buddha's birthday assembly in school – pupils only	W/C 18/05/26	
HALF TERM	Monday 25/05/26 to Friday 29/05/26	
INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED	01/06/26	
WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK / MATHS WEEK	W/C 01/06/26	
Children return to school	Tuesday 02/06/26	
Nursery Tour for prospective parents	Thursday 04/06/26	4.30pm-5.30pm
Non-Uniform Day – Tombola / £1 Donation for FROG	Friday 05/06/26	
Phonics Screening Check week	W/C 08/06/26	
Reception Summer Concert – Barn Owl class	Tuesday 09/06/26	9.15am
Reception Summer Concert – Snowy Owl class	Thursday 11/06/26	9.15am
Reception Summer Concert – Tawny Owl class	Friday 12/06/26	9.15am
Nursery closed to all current children	Friday 12/06/26	
MONEY WEEK	W/C 15/06/26	
INCo/Attendance Coffee Morning	Tuesday 16/06/26	8.50am-9.30am
Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair	Thursday 18/06/26	5.00pm-6.30pm
Father's Day	Sunday 21/06/26	
Welcome to Reception talk for parents/carers	Tuesday 23/06/26	5.00pm-5.45pm
Year 1 Summer Concert – Big Cat class	Tuesday 23/06/26	2.30pm
Year 1 Summer Concert – Walker Bear class	Thursday 25/06/26	1.30pm
Year 1 Summer Concert – Red Fox class	Thursday 25/06/26	2.30pm
Seaside workshop – Year 1	Friday 26/06/26	
Woburn Safari Park – Year 2	Wednesday 01/07/26	
Ark Farm Animals – Reception	Thursday 02/07/26	
INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSE	Friday 03/07/26	
Glow Dance Workshop	Monday 06/07/26	
INCo/Attendance Coffee Morning	Wednesday 08/07/26	8.50am-9.30am
Welcome to Nursery talk for parents/carers	Wednesday 08/07/26	5:00pm-5:30pm?
Moving Up Day	Thursday 09/07/26	
FROG Summer Fete	Thursday 09/07/26	3.30pm
Nursery Pirate Day	Friday 10/07/26	
Rocksteady Concert – by invitation	Wednesday 15/07/26	9.30am
ONE WORLD WEEK	W/C 13/07/26	
Sports Day	Tuesday 14/07/26	
Chinese Dragon Dance Workshop	Thursday 16/07/26	
Orca Sports Afternoon	Monday 13/07/26	
Rocksteady Concert	Wednesday 15/07/26	9.30am
Reserve Sports Day	Monday 20/07/26	
Year 2 Leavers' Assembly – Penguin class	Tuesday 21/07/26	9.15am
Year 2 Leavers' Assembly – Pelican class	Tuesday 21/07/26	10.30am
Year 2 Leavers' Assembly – Puffin class	Tuesday 21/07/26	2.30pm
Year 2 Leavers' Assembly – Orca class	Wednesday 22/07/26	
Class parties	Wednesday 22/07/26	
LAST DAY OF TERM	Thursday 23/07/26	School closes 1.00pm

**TERM DATES 2025-26**

***Summer Term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 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
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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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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						
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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
- = 2025/26 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2026/27 Pupil Holidays
- = Inset Day - school closed to pupils
- = Occasional Day - school closed to pupils

