



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
Website: www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

08.05.2026

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

Reception
Snowy Owl Class 99%

Key stage one
Puffin Class 98.3%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a lovely week in school, and everyone benefited from having had a terrific long weekend. Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a cricket workshop yesterday, organised by our PE lead, Mrs Brown. The children had the chance to bat and field and demonstrated excellent hand-eye coordination. The workshop was provided by Hertfordshire Cricket, who support the All Stars programme, a first experience of cricket for children aged 5-8 years old. For more information, visit [All Stars Cricket](#).

Next week is Mental Health Week across the entire school and children will engage in activities including mindfulness, yoga and meditation. Year 2 pupils will have the opportunity to engage in a day-long workshop on the Great Fire of London. This event has long been one of the best-remembered and most richly educational experiences for our pupils. All children will complete their sponsored events and please see below for stay-and-play timings for Years 1 and 2 next week.

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

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

Census Day is Thursday 14th May: We will as usual swap the Thursday and Friday school meals around. Please encourage your child to have a school meal on Thursday even if they don't usually have one and want to have a packed lunch as well. We get our funding for the school meals from the numbers of children who have one on Census Day so it's very important. Thank you for helping.

Packed Lunches – safety note: *If you are including grapes in your child's packed lunch, please would you ensure that they are cut in half, this reduces the choking hazard and has the added benefit that they can't roll away!*

Safety on School Grounds: *Please may we politely remind everyone that children should dismount bicycles and scooters before they enter the school grounds. Drop off and pick up times are very busy, and we want to make sure there are no accidents. Thank you for your ongoing support to keep everyone in our school community safe.*

Year 2 Climbing Frame and Playground: *The Year 2 playground is used as the outside space for After School Club. As the weather gets warmer, we have noticed children staying on the Year 2 playground after school has finished. Sometimes they are using the climbing frame, before and after school, which is only for the use of pupils under the supervision of school staff. We would be most grateful if parents and children can vacate the playground promptly so After School Club can use the space, and that the climbing frame is not used at any time. Thank you.*

Suncream: *Now that it is becoming warmer, please apply suncream when wished to your child before they come to school in the morning. Long-lasting suncream or spray is best as unfortunately adults are not permitted to apply sunscreen while children are in school. Thank you.*

Nursery Closed on Friday 12th June: *The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 12th June. This is 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.*

Transition from our Nursery to Reception September 2025: *For children who currently attend our Nursery and will be joining our Reception in September 2026, we will be holding a stay-and-play session after school on Tuesday 16th June 2026 from 3.45-4.30pm and we ask that you please attend. Further information and key dates will be sent to you soon.*

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

"My favourite book is *Knuffle Bunny* by Mo Willems. I love this book. It makes me laugh. The baby does funny stuff!"

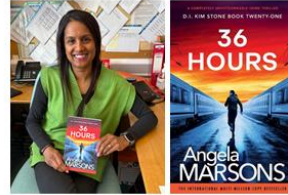
Marshall, Red Fox Class



Books for adults

"I like to read crime thrillers, and this is a fantastic example of the genre. The DI Kim Stone series are brilliant for keeping you hooked. Expect some late nights as you won't be able to put this book down!"

Mrs Nakarasa, School Business Manager



Nursery: This week in Nursery, the children listened to the story 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister and thought about sharing and being kind to others. They learnt the Makaton signs for 'rainbow fish' and learnt a special song, which is sung to the tune of '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, once I caught a fish alive.'

***1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Rainbow Fish has scales bright,
6, 7, 8, 9, 10, he does not want to share them.***

***1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Rainbow Fish has changed his mind,
6, 7, 8, 9, 10, he has shared out 9 of them.***

In expressive arts and design, the children created their own sea creature sun catchers and patterned fish. They used thin brushes to create patterns, which challenged their fine motor skills. Great work Ladybirds!



The children were excited to explore our new 'under the sea' role play area. They were amazed to see so many sea creatures. They took part in a deep-sea exploration and discovered coral, shells and sea plants. Charlotte D looked closely and commented, "Jellyfish! They sting you. I can see lots of starfish." Andi shared, "Sharks look for fish to eat." Maximos eagerly searched for sea creatures and said, "Be careful of the sharks. They might bite you."



In phonics, the children learnt the letter sound /p/ and practised identifying a variety of objects, animals and toys which all began with the same initial sound. They also learnt the song:

***Puff out the candles on the pink pig cake, /p/ /p/ /p/ /p/ /p/ /p/,
Puff out the candles on the pink pig cake, puff, puff, puff!
(sung to the tune of 'The Wheels on the Bus')***

Next week, the children will continue their 'under the sea' topic. They will paint their own Rainbow Fish, which will be proudly displayed in Ladybird Class. They will also take part in a very exciting 'under the sea' yoga session.

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

Mason for wonderful imaginative play in the 'under the sea' role play area.

Seth for completing fantastic fine motor activities this week.

Betsy G for recalling lots of wonderful facts about creatures who live under the sea.

Rihanna A for representing numerals confidently using her fingers.

Reception: In literacy this week, the children generated factual sentences using their knowledge of different breeds of hen. To help them write about the features, they looked at a photograph of a hen. They discovered hens have a red crown or comb on top of their head and a wattle underneath the beak.

In mathematics, the children used a tangram to investigate 2D shapes by moving, flipping, and rotating the shapes. They used tangram pictures to practise making animals such as a cat, snail, and a butterfly before using their tangram shapes to create a picture of their own.

In an expressive arts and design activity, the children looked at the painting 'Haystacks' by Claude Monet and used the Sketchbook app to draw haystacks in the style of the artist. Whilst using an iPad to paint his picture, Tito in Snowy Owl class said, "I liked drawing the haystack on the iPad because it was fun and I learnt how to change the colours."

In understanding the world, the children created a map with symbols, to help direct the little red hen to the windmill.

Next week, the children will participate in Big Write. They will focus on the story of 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. The children will listen to the story, use musical instruments to add sound effects and participate in yoga moves to act out the story. The children will make a collage of a flower in the style of Eric Carle's illustrations and will label parts of a flower. They will independently write a factual sentence linked to the story.

In mathematics, the children will create new shapes by moving, flipping, and rotating different shapes, and in expressive arts and design, the children will use shapes to make a windmill.

Stars of the Week

Snowy Owl Class

***Ava-Mae for creating a wonderful 'Haystack' picture in the style of Claude Monet.
Tito for independently writing factual sentences about a hen.***

Tawny Owl Class

***Avlin for adding fine details to her version of 'Haystacks' by Monet.
Alora for fantastic sentence writing about a hen.***

Barn Owl Class

Amira for super segmenting and blending when writing a factual sentence about a hen.

Archie for great segmenting and blending when writing a factual sentence about a hen.

Year 1: It has been a short week but a busy one! Many thanks to Mrs Brown, our PE leader, for organising a super cricket workshop! It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to apply some of the striking and fielding skills they have been learning this term. They had a wonderful time.



In English, the children started a new unit, learning how to write instructions. They began by following a set of instructions to plant a sunflower seed. They then sequenced the instructions themselves and learnt that instructions contain a 'bossy verb'. They loved playing 'Simon Says' to practise using commands. We hope the children enjoy looking after their sunflower seeds at home! Next week, they will be writing their own version of the instructions, remembering to use a 'bossy verb', as well as capital letters, full stops and finger spaces.

Our story this week was 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. The illustrations provide rich material for discussion to deepen understanding of the words. It is a lovely story of friendship, in line with our PSHCE topic this term on relationships.

The children finished their mathematics unit on multiplication and division. They practised sharing things into equal groups. They may enjoy equally sharing out treats, toys or other items at home. Their new unit of learning is all about fractions, with a focus on halves and quarters. Their understanding of equal groups is essential to support this.

In science, the children learnt to identify some common garden plants and designed a garden containing their favourites. Over the next couple of weeks, they will learn about wild plants and the basic structure of trees. In PSHCE, the children considered people who help us in different situations. Next week, they will think about how they can be their own best friend. In art and design, they will continue to work on their sunflower pictures using a technique of their choosing. This may be collage, painting, printing, drawing, or a combination of media.

Now that the weather is warming up, please consider applying suncream to your child in the mornings. Next week, Forest School will take place on the usual days. Please provide your child with long sleeves and long trousers/leggings. They love clambering through the trees and shrubs!

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class

***Jaxon for fantastic independent writing.
Ivy for completing your work independently.***

Red Fox Class

***Vincent for writing fantastic descriptive sentences about the Gruffalo.
Kiara for using super confidence in PE.
Ayla for lovely participation in a kick rounders game.***

Walker Bear Class

***Max for being ready for learning and giving it his best.
Gracie for working really hard at neat handwriting.
Oliver for super batting in the cricket workshop.***

Year 2: It has been a lovely week in Year 2. On Thursday, the children were fortunate to take part in a free cricket workshop, provided by Hertfordshire Cricket. They practised their throwing skills, tried to aim to hit the stumps with a ball, and had a turn at batting and fielding. It was a fantastic afternoon, and all the children thoroughly enjoyed it.



In English, the children studied the free verse poem, 'Into the Blue' by Hilda Offen. In the poem, the author imagines they are holding on to a balloon and floating through the sky. The children imagined they were floating over Stevenage and adapted the poem to feature local landmarks. They included some wonderful descriptive language in their work.

In mathematics, the children learnt how to measure mass, capacity and temperature. They measured the mass of objects using milligrams and grams. They measured the volume of containers using millilitres and litres.



In science, the children planted seeds, which they will monitor for growth over the next few weeks. In art and design, they explored the work of the impressionist artist Claude Monet. In computing, they learnt how data can be sorted in a binary tree. In RE, the children learnt about a Dastar Bandi, a Sikh ceremony where a young person is formally tied a turban (dastar) for the first time in front of the congregation. In PSHCE, they learnt about 'good secrets' and 'worry secrets' and thought of adults they can share 'worry secrets' with.

In English next week, the children will learn about the Great Fire of London. In mathematics, they will start a new unit of work exploring fractions.

On Wednesday, the children will take part in a Great Fire of London workshop. Children are welcome to dress up in historical clothing, to add to the authenticity of the day. Following the workshop, the children will make a house as part of our design and technology curriculum. Please can you send in two small boxes, no bigger than 30cm, for your child to use.

The children will take part in their 'learn a language' sponsored event next week, so please do support your child to practise at home.

Year 2 Stay-and-Read will take place from 2.50pm next Thursday. We look forward to seeing you there!

Stars of the Week

Pelican Class:

***Darcie for showing kindness and caring for others.
Noah for super batting skills in the cricket workshop.***

Penguin Class:

***Luka for fantastic improvement with his reading.
Carina for taking such care over her beautiful, neat handwriting.***

Puffin Class:

***Ivy for always making a superb effort with her home learning.
George for writing a superb poem inspired by 'Into the Blue' by Hilda Offen.***

SUMMER TERM EVENTS

Event	Date	Time
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 13th April 2026 – Thursday 23rd July 2026

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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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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