



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy / Acting Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill
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19.06.2026

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

Reception
Barn Owl Class
98.2%

Key stage one
Pelican Class
98.2%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a marvellous, full-on week in school with a combination of Money Week, Planting Day, Open Evening and visits for all our new Reception and Nursery children starting in September! Quite a week!

For Money Week, all classes from Nursery through to Year 2 have engaged in rich and diverse activities. In Nursery, the children explored money and used language related to money when selling and purchasing ice creams in the Giles Ice Cream Parlour. In Years 1 and 2, the children have been coming up with ideas for an enterprise to earn money to spend on resources for their classrooms. Starting with a budget of £10, they have been tasked with thinking of a game that people will pay to play. More information will follow when the games have been finalised!

Children across the school enjoyed Planting Day and worked hard to refresh all of the pots, troughs and borders around the school with beautiful flowers and plants. Our school looks truly delightful!

The week culminated in the most marvellous Open Evening. All the staff worked so incredibly hard to make the school look beautiful.

It was absolutely lovely to see so many parents and children and the evening gave everyone a terrific opportunity to see the fantastic work the children have done, and for children with their parents to visit next year's class and also previous classrooms and teachers. All the staff thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we hope you did, too.

Thank you to those who purchased books from the Book Fair. This raises money for us to spend on books for the classrooms and is very much appreciated.

Miss Mullins and Miss Lee took charge of Parent and Pupil Voice and Feedback on the night and we are all thrilled by the lovely comments you have made. The children's

comments were especially precious. Thank you so very much to all those who attended and thank you to our dedicated staff.

Thank you everyone for giving fantastic feedback! Here are some samples:

FEEDBACK FROM OPEN EVENING 18TH JUNE 2026

“Wonderful, caring staff – the best infant school in Stevenage!”

“Five stars.” – Archer, Walker Bear class

“I like phonics.” – Ayla, Red Fox class

“What a fantastic place! Words cannot express how amazing Giles Nursery and Infants’ is. The staff are fantastic, and nothing is too much trouble. I would recommend Giles to anyone! Thank you for everything.”

“A wonderful start to our daughter’s school life. The most nurturing atmosphere, teaching the children respect, morals and boundaries. So happy we chose Giles!”

“I can’t sing the praises of the staff enough. Especially the office staff who are always there to help and go above and beyond. As an SEN parent, it’s comforting to know they’re there on the hard days.”

“My son loves being at Giles! He has come on so far whilst being here. All of the staff are amazing, and my son truly loves going to school.”

“This is a wonderful school, and both of my children have been very happy here. I will be very sad when it’s time to leave!”

“We love Giles!”

“I had the best time in Year 2 at the scooter workshop.” James (now at Giles Juniors)

A message from our fantastic FROGS: *“A huge thank you to parents, staff and FROG volunteers who have contributed to FROG fundraising efforts over the past year. As well as putting on lots of events and activities for the school to enjoy, we are delighted to share that we have been able to raise enough money to cover a large part of the cost of the coaches for the school trips this year. This makes it possible to reduce the cost of trips for everyone and ensure that the school can continue to offer really exciting opportunities even when costs are rising.*

We have masses of lovely plans for our school fete this year and hope to see lots of families there. If anyone can spare a little time on the day to help set up, support a stall or set down (even if just half an hour) then it would be a great help. Please get in touch at gilesfrog@gmail.com if you can lend a hand. Everything we raise on the day will be used to support the school in the next academic year.”

And we would like to add our enormous thanks to all our incredible FROG members and an especial thank you for their wonderful Father’s Day presents this week! You are so amazing and dedicated and kind!

Key dates for next week:

- *Tuesday 23rd June, 2.30pm: Big Cat class Summer Concert*
- *Tuesday 23rd June, 5.00-5.45pm: Welcome to Reception talk for parents/carers*
- *Thursday 25th June, 1.30pm: Walker Bear class Summer Concert*
- *Thursday 25th June, 2.30pm: Red Fox class Summer Concert*
- *Friday 26th June: Seaside Workshop for Year 1 children*

Hot weather next week: Summer has finally arrived! With temperatures set to reach 30 degrees next week, children are welcome to come to school in their PE kit to help them keep cool. Footwear with closed toes should still be worn; Crocs, sandals and party shoes are not safe for children to wear in school. Please make sure your child has a sun hat and full water bottle, to keep them protected and hydrated in the hot weather. Sun cream should be applied before school.

Nursery are planning lots of water play to help the children keep cool. It would be very helpful if you can send your child with a spare pair of clothes.

Year 1 children will still need to wear a long-sleeved top and bottoms on the day of their Forest School session. They are welcome to bring a change of clothes on that day, so they can change into something cooler.

Todd in the Hole Festival: Children in Years 1 and 2 have received a separate letter about this event earlier this week. This incredible event is taking place from 3rd to 5th July this year. Our school will perform on Sunday 5th July and we are privileged in being the ONLY school to perform. We will be sending more information in due course but please speak to your child's class teacher as soon as possible to book your child's place. It is only to Year 1 and 2 children and all children will be given a free ticket for the day plus one free adult ticket. Further tickets can be purchased at a discount and we will provide you with the code when you confirm your child's place. Thank you everyone – it is truly an opportunity not to be missed!

Sports Day: Sports Day will take place on the morning of Tuesday 14th July. More information will follow nearer the time.

- Reception races will take place from 9.05-10.00am.
- Year 1 races will take place from 10.05-11.10am.
- Year 2 races will take place from 11.15-12.20am.

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.

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone!

Kindest regards
Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

Nursery: *This week, the children have continued their learning about the seaside. They used their imaginations to travel on their very own bus to the seaside! The children took it in turns to be the bus driver, carefully counting the correct number of passengers onto their bus. Once the children arrived at the seaside, they visited the beach, created their own sandcastles with their very own flags and visited the Giles Ice Cream Shop. There was much excitement and talk about our favourite flavours of ice cream. The children also explored money and used language related to money when selling and purchasing their ice creams. Matti proudly shared, "That's 100 pound please!" Seth added, "And this one's 250 pounds please."*



In mathematics, the children have been identifying numbers one to ten in a variety of ways and then selecting the correct amount of sea creatures or shells to represent the number.

The children have been busy creating a surprise and learning a song for Father's Day. Please ask them to sing their special Father's Day song. They loved hearing many different stories linked to Father's Day including 'Big Bear, Little Bear' by Tim Warnes. It was very special to hear the children share the reasons why they love their daddies and grandads, and how much they cherish the special hugs and kisses that you give them.

***Father's Day I Love You Song
(Sung to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'.)***

***Daddy, Daddy, you're the best!
You are greater than the rest!
And I love you, that is true,
Daddy, Daddy, I love you.
Daddy, Daddy, you're the best!
You are greater than the rest!***

Next week, the children will be exploring floating and sinking as well as creating their own boats!

Stars of the week

Ladybird Class

Artina for matching the correct number of shells to the numerals 1 to 5.

Jenson for trying his best during fine motor pattern activities this week.

Rianna R for amazing patterns and mark making skills.

Betsy B for independently practising number formation.

Novelle for brilliant number skills, identifying one more than an amount to ten.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children focused on alliteration. They enjoyed listening to the story of 'Lily's Purple Plastic Purse' by Kevin Henkes and thought of alliterative words for a range of animals. In their sentence writing, the children chose an animal and generated an alliterative sentence. Some examples included, 'The octopus is operating', 'The dog is dancing in the dark' and 'The reindeer is running'. When children were generating an alliterative sentence about themselves, Lucas in Tawny Owl class said, "Lucas likes lions," which has lots of /l/ sounds in it. Well done, Lucas!

In mathematics, the children investigated different ways of grouping twelve cubes into equal towers. They discovered they could group them into two groups of six, three groups of four, four groups of three and six groups of two.

Over the past couple of weeks, the Reception children have been practising different races for Sports Day on the playground. Next week, they will be moving to the Junior School playing field in preparation for Sports Day on Tuesday 14th July. Please would you make sure your child brings in a sunhat or sun cap to shield them from the sun.

Next week in literacy, the children will be writing a list of ingredients to make bread. In mathematics, the children will be focusing on doubles, playing 'Doubles Bingo' and participating in many activities linked to doubles. In understanding the world, the children will be using their muscles to knead a ball of dough when making a bread roll.

Stars of the Week

Snowy Owl Class

Emma for writing her name independently.

Jaxon for trying really hard with phonics.

Tawny Owl Class

Frankie for lovely reading of stories to his friends.

Mahum for fantastic independent reading of her reading book.

Barn Owl Class

Lana for always using her 'golden words' at lunchtime.

Noah for fantastic segmenting and blending when writing.

Guy for writing a fantastic alliterative sentence.

Year 1: This week, the children finished publishing their beautiful non-fiction books about the seashore. The final steps were to make a cover, including the name of the author, and a contents page. In phonics, the children started to learn alternative spellings. This week, they learnt two ways to spell the sound /ch/: 'ch' and 'tch'. They also learnt three ways to write a /j/ sound: 'j', 'g' and 'dge'.

In mathematics, the children continued to learn about place value within 100. They practised counting forwards and backwards within 100. They made numbers using base 10 equipment and explained how many tens and ones were in each number. They recalled the inequality symbols for 'greater than' and 'less than' and compared numbers. Please continue to do lots of counting with your child at home.

In history, the children looked at seaside holidays in the past. They looked at some old postcards and discovered that people used to write postcards to their friends to tell them about their holiday. In our digital age, this was quite amazing to think about! The children were fascinated to hear about the clothes people used to wear to go to the seaside in Victorian times and to see bathing carriages. They drew their own historical seaside postcards. The children learnt to identify human and physical features of the seaside in geography. In art and design, the children made a special message for a male role-model in their life. In PE, they started to practise Sports Day races, learning how to run in lanes, jump hurdles and balance an egg on a spoon.

The children rehearsed their concerts and are very excited for their grown-ups to come and watch them next week! We do hope lots of parents and carers will be able to attend. The dates are:

- ***Big Cats*** – 2.30pm on Tuesday 23rd June
- ***Walker Bears*** – 1.30pm on Thursday 25th June
- ***Red Foxes*** – 2.30pm on Thursday 25th June

As we near the end of the year, please may we ask you to consider donating your child's Forest School puddle suit, waterproofs or welly boots to us? It is most helpful to have spares. Our last Forest School sessions will take place in the week of 6th July.

Next week, the children will be rehearsing their concerts and learning to speak clearly to be heard by the audience. They will also have a very exciting history day on Friday. Please will you send your child to school on Friday dressed in shorts and t-shirt as if they are going to the seaside (but not in swimwear please). Homework is due in on Wednesday please. In PSHCE, the children will learn to identify the parts of the body that make boys different to girls. They will learn the correct scientific name for these parts: penis, testicles, vagina, vulva and anus. This is part of the safeguarding duty of the school as well as the PSHCE curriculum.

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class

Nedu for fantastic singing during concert rehearsals.

Alfie H for making a wonderful seascape picture.

Red Fox Class

Geroge Knapp for fantastic mathematics using tens and ones with numbers over 50.

Freya for super guided reading, joining in with lovely expression.

Walker Bear Class

Marissa for thinking of a super example of a skill you can do now.

Amari for making super progress with writing.

Year 2: It has been a lovely week in Year 2. In English this week, the children finished their work on the story 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers. They wrote a sequel explaining what the boy got up to with the star, once he had caught it. The children were challenged to use lots of adjectives to make their work exciting to read, and to describe how they thought the boy and the star would be feeling. The children worked really hard to write their stories and showed just how much they have learnt since September.

In mathematics, the children continued to learn to tell the time. They learnt how to tell the time 'past the hour'; for example, five minutes past three and 'to the hour'; for example, ten minutes to three. Learning to tell the time is one of the trickiest skills and the best way of securing learning is to keep practising, so if you have an analogue clock at home, please remember to ask your child, "What's the time?"

In design and technology, the children designed their own cushion cover, which they will make in the next few weeks. In PSHCE, the children discussed how they can do different things as they grow up and they made a timeline to show the changes. The children also helped plant some beautiful plants around the school grounds, helping to make our school look terrific.

Next week, the children will begin a new unit of work in English, starting by learning to recite the African folktale 'The Papaya That Spoke'. In mathematics, they will be introduced to statistics. In design and technology, they will practise sewing using plastic needles and hole-punched card. In geography, they will learn how to use an atlas.

In PSHCE, the children will learn to recognise the physical differences between boys and girls and use the correct names for parts of the body, including the vocabulary 'penis', 'testicles', 'vagina', 'breasts' and 'anus'. This forms part of our science and PSHCE curriculum and supports safeguarding of our children. If you have concerns or would like to discuss this in more detail, please speak to your child's class teacher.

The Year 2 trip to Woburn Safari Park is less than two weeks away! If you haven't already, please log on to Arbor to give your consent and make payment. Thank you.

Stars of the Week

Pelican Class

Aston for excellent perseverance with all his learning all week.

Blaze for bringing joy to the classroom all week.

Penguin Class

Myla for having a fabulous attitude to mathematics and trying a challenge.

Andrew for great effort in writing.

Puffin Class

Toby for demonstrating excellent creativity in his story extension plan.

Noah for demonstrating excellent creativity in his story extension plan.

ChloeElla for working hard in guided reading and making fantastic inferences.

GILES NURSERY AND INFANTS

FREE
ENTRY

School fair

AFTER
SCHOOL

THURSDAY
9TH JULY

TOMBOLA
BOUNCY CASTLE
ICE CREAM VAN
CRAFTS & GAMES
REFRESHMENTS
SPECIAL GUESTS

IN THE PLAYGROUND

PLEASE BRING CASH

SUMMER TERM EVENTS

Event	Date	Time
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 CLOSED	Friday 03/07/26	
KS1 performance at Todd in the Hole Festival	Sunday 05/07/26	
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

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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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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
Wednesday 2nd September 2026 INSET day SCHOOL CLOSED

Autumn Term: Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Friday 18th December 2026

Children return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2026

[Half Term: Monday 26th October 2026 - Friday 30th October 2026]

Children return to school on Monday 2nd November 2026

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
	= 2025/26 Pupil Holidays
	= Bank and Public Holidays
	= 2026/27 Pupil Holidays
	= Inset Day - school closed to pupils
	= Occasional Day - school closed to pupils

