



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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Deputy / Acting Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill
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17.07.2026

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

Reception
Snowy Owl Class – 94.2%

Key stage one
Puffin Class – 96.9%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been quite simply an extraordinary week in school! One World Week is always a spectacular success, and all our fantastic staff have worked hard to enable children to extend their learning and to experience a wide range of exciting activities from around the world. This week, children have enjoyed some glorious workshops including a new Glow Dance workshop enjoyed by pupils from Reception through Year 2. On Thursday, Nursery and Years 1 and 2 had a beautiful Chinese Dragon dance workshop. Each year group has explored different countries and children have engaged in many other lovely activities which will be outlined in class sections below.



And even more excitingly, this week we have had a beyond fabulous Sports Day, the most incredible Rocksteady Concert and today our Year 1 pupils are experiencing their day-long Seaside Workshop. A very busy, very fulfilling week. A huge thank you to so many of you who have spoken to me so kindly and appreciatively about Sports Day. I've had so many comments from parents that Sports Day this year, organised by our phenomenal sports lead Mrs Brown, was the best many parents had ever seen. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Mrs Brown because, as many of your kind comments indicate, this event does require a lot of preparation and thought. She runs this event so beautifully – and didn't the children do themselves proud! Sportsmanship as well as really high-level skill was in evidence throughout. The staff deliver sessions to each class on the Olympic Values prior to the races, and I would say these

were demonstrated consistently throughout. The weather was glorious and the children certainly deserved their ice pops afterwards! Well done to everyone!



One parent wrote in so kindly that we would like to add his letter here:

'This morning I had the privilege of attending one of the county's finest annual sporting occasions. Months of preparation, meticulous planning and years of athlete development culminated in a breathtaking display of speed, determination and unwavering competitive spirit. It may not yet have the global profile of Wimbledon or the Olympics, but, judging by the atmosphere, it surely can't be far away.'

The opening sprint race showcased everything from explosive acceleration to a more measured approach, with some competitors taking time to acknowledge family and friends before continuing towards the finish. The technically demanding hoop race demonstrated that while some athletes negotiated the obstacles with laser-like precision, others regarded them as more of a friendly suggestion. The finale, the egg and spoon race, once again blurred the line between "balancing an egg" and "making absolutely sure it didn't fall off".

As ever, the loudest cheers were reserved not for the winners, but for every child who crossed the finish line, regardless of time, technique or the occasional creative interpretation of the course.

When the closing ceremony arrived, it felt as though only moments had passed since the first starting whistle.

In all seriousness, a huge thank you to everyone at Giles Nursery and Infants' School. Events like this appear effortless only because of the enormous amount of planning behind the scenes. The staff's patience, encouragement and enthusiasm ensured every child had their moment to shine, making it a wonderful morning for the participants and spectators alike.'

Thank you so much to Mr Searle for this glowing review! Recognition of the hard work of our staff means the world to us.

School closes for the summer at 1.00pm on Thursday 23rd July. Please note, there will be no after school club on this day.

Autumn Term starts Thursday 3rd September.

Gold KS1 Games Mark: We are delighted that our school has successfully achieved the Gold KS1 Games Mark again this year. This award recognises the school's commitment to providing high-quality physical education, school sport and physical activity opportunities for our key stage one pupils. It reflects the dedication of our staff in creating an inclusive environment where children can develop their fundamental movement skills, build confidence and enjoy being physically active.

Stevenage Sporting Futures, who award the Games Mark, noted that our 'application demonstrated the positive experiences you provide for your pupils and your commitment to helping children develop the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm needed to lead active and healthy lives. Thank you ... for the continued effort you invest in supporting physical activity within your school. Your work is making a real difference to the lives of your pupils.'

Thank you to Mrs Brown, our dedicated PE curriculum lead, and all the staff who plan and deliver outstanding physical education to all of our pupils. Congratulations!

Reception clothing plea: If you have any socks, pants, trousers, skirts or tops that fit Reception age pupils, we would be very grateful for donations. We always need spares and we are running out. Thank you.

Year 1 Forest School clothing plea: If you have any jogging bottoms, long-sleeved t-shirts, raincoats, puddle suits or welly boots suitable for Year 1 children, we would be very grateful to receive them as spare clothing for Forest School. Thank you.

Year 2 – Parent View: We would be so very grateful if you would have the time to go to the Ofsted Parent View website. This would be your last gift to our school. We will miss you all terribly. There is a link to this on the landing page of our website, or you can click on the following link [Parent View Ofsted](#). Parents of children in other year groups are also invited to complete this. Very, very many thanks.

Next Week: In the final week of term, we sadly say goodbye to our current Year 2 children, with our wonderful leavers' assemblies. Families are of course very welcome to attend.

- ***Tuesday 21st July at 9.15am – Penguin class with Mrs Peace***
- ***Tuesday 21st July at 10.30am – Pelican class with Mrs Humphrey***
- ***Tuesday 21st July at 2.30 pm – Puffin class with Miss Wright***

Class parties will take place in the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd July. Please see your class teacher for details on the arrangements for food. Because of allergies in most classes, children are asked to bring their own little pack of party food. Children may wear party clothes on Wednesday (but we kindly ask that children do not come in dressing up outfits such as Superhero outfits etc).

Please note that it's back to school uniform for Thursday, the last day of this school year. School finishes for the term on Thursday 23rd July at 1.00pm. Please note, there will be no after school club.

End of Universal Free School Meals for children moving to the Junior School in September: As you are probably aware, this benefit is only available to children of infant school age. If you are in receipt of benefits, you will need to apply online at [Hertfordshire County Council](#) for Free School Meal status.

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 in Nursery, the children enjoyed looking back at the many stories, songs and special moments we've shared throughout the year. They revisited some of their favourite books and talked excitedly about the characters, pictures and authors they've come to love. It was heartwarming to hear them remember not just the stories but also the activities. They fondly remembered all the painting activities and role play themes sparked by the pages of a book.

The children proudly shared which stories had made them laugh and learn as they joined in with repeated refrains. They recalled rhymes and there was a lot of joy as they took turns to sing their favourite songs. The children sang the rhymes with enthusiasm and joined in with the actions.

In mathematics, the children continued to explore numbers to five, using subitising skills to recognise small amounts without counting. The children revisited their knowledge of shapes and confidently identified triangles, squares, rectangles, ovals and star shapes. They counted the number of corners and sides on each shape and sang their group shape songs proudly.



On Thursday, the children were excited to take part in a Chinese Dragon workshop. They listened beautifully to a variety of instructions and followed the steps to dance to the traditional Chinese music. The Ladybirds then took turns to dance with fans, umbrellas and the Chinese Dragon. Well done, Ladybirds!

Next week, the children can wear their own clothes on Wednesday for our class party. They will enjoy a variety of party games and a small party snack (provided) to celebrate their time in Ladybird Class.

Please can we ask for all library books to be returned if they have not already been.

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

***Mila for her wonderful dancing and listening during the Chinese Dragon workshop.
Isaac RB for amazing perseverance and effort during the Chinese Dragon workshop.***

Maximos for wonderful dancing in the Chinese Dragon workshop.

Mollie for being super helpful in Ladybird Class, tidying away and helping the adults.

Reception: On Monday, the Reception children had the most fantastic time participating in a Glow Dance workshop. Each child was given two glow sticks, and they enjoyed copying the actions of Miss Faith, the workshop leader. The final song the children danced to was the K Pop Demon Hunters theme tune, and the children sang their hearts out! After the workshop, Raahi in Snowy Owl class said, "I liked the George Ezra song and dancing with the glow sticks."



On Tuesday, after a few weeks of practising, the children took part in a fantastic Sports Day. Evie from Barn Owl class won the Olympic torch design competition and carried the torch proudly on behalf of all the Reception children. When discussing what they enjoyed about Sports Day, Teddy in Barn Owl class said, "My favourite was the egg and spoon race because it was a challenge, but I did it."

To celebrate One World Week, the children focused on the Christian story of 'Noah's Ark'. They enjoyed watching a version of the story by Lucy Cousins, which you will find here: [Noah's Ark](#). After watching the story a few times, the children were set the challenge of naming the animals who went aboard Noah's Ark, and this helped them decide which animals would go onto their ark to make a class book. The children loved the song 'The Animals Went in Two by Two' and enjoyed parading around the classroom, the corridor and the garden, singing the song with a partner.

The children found out how a rainbow is formed and created rainbows using paper plates. They also used the iPads to create a rainbow, using the colour wheel to carefully select the seven colours.

In literacy, the children wrote sentences about the movements they can do in PE. Many wrote about actions such as star jumps, running and crossing the monkey bars. They accompanied their writing by drawing a picture of themselves doing an action of their choice.

Next week, the children will participate in activities linked to summer and the end of term. On Wednesday afternoon, the children will have an end of term party. Please could your child bring in a named bag of party food. They can wear party clothes to school for the day. Your child's party bag is separate and in addition to a school lunch/packed lunch.

Stars of the Week:

Snowy Owl Class

***Snowy Owl class for taking part in a fantastic Sports Day!
Aaryan for joining in well with the Glow Dance Workshop.
Ruby for joining in well with the Glow Dance Workshop.***

Tawny Owl Class

***Tawny Owl class for taking part in a fantastic Sports Day!
Sia for brilliant drawing in the class 'Noah's Ark' book.
Evelyn for brilliant independent sentence writing.***

Barn Owl Class

Barn Owl class for taking part in a fantastic Sports Day!

Value of the Month: Charity

***Snowy Owl Class – Zainab, Tito and Reggie
Tawny Owl Class – Evelyn and Lyra
Barn Owl Class – Rylie and Freya***

Year 1: What an incredibly busy and fun week! On Monday, the children danced in an exciting Glow Dance workshop. On Tuesday, they competed magnificently and with great sportsmanship during Sports Day. On Wednesday, the Rocksteady bands wowed everyone with a rock concert. On Thursday, they had a marvellous time learning about Chinese Dragon dancing and on Friday, they immersed themselves in a fantastic history workshop all about seaside holidays. In class, the children have listened to stories about Anansi Spider, found out about the country of Ghana, painted sunset pictures and decorated sea turtles in the style of indigenous art of the Torres Strait Islanders. It has been a wonderful One World Week. Well done Year 1!



In English, the children wrote recounts of their trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park. They used the past tense and recorded key moments in the day in the order that they happened. They practised sequencing the events using words like 'first', 'next', 'then' and 'finally'. They made sure to punctuate their sentences with capital letters, full stops and spaces between words.

In mathematics, the children consolidated their learning, concentrating their efforts on key skills.

Next week, the children will complete some textiles work in design and technology. They will make sea creatures by applying sequins to pre-cut felt shapes. Class parties will take place on Wednesday. Please send a small bag of party food in for your child. Please label it clearly and please do not include anything containing nuts. In light of the hot weather, please avoid adding anything that needs to be kept in a fridge.

We have collected in the reading records as the children will continue to use them in Year 2. Finally, please will you send in very strong carrier bags next week to take home all your child's learning books.

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class:

Amelie for writing a fantastic recount.

Naomi for creating a wonderful sunset picture.

Molly for showing great sportsmanship during Sports Day.

Red Fox Class:

Kiara for super mathematics when learning about time.

Gracie for writing a fabulous recount of the trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park.

Walker Bear Class:

Mia for excellent recall of the story of 'Anansi and Turtle go for dinner'.

Finley for writing a super recount of the trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park.

Tillie for great resilience on Sports Day.

Value of the Month: Charity

Big Cat Class – Autumn, Nedu and Chayson

Red Fox Class – Theo, Albert and Archer

Walker Bear Class – Aden, Louis and Yoosuf

Year 2: It has been an incredibly exciting week in Year 2! The children took part in some fantastic activities, which began with a Glow Dance workshop on Monday. The children were enthralled as they danced around with glow sticks. The music and fast-paced dancing certainly got them energised!

On Tuesday, the children took part in our annual Sports Day. We are so proud of all the children for trying their best and cheering each other on. The children demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and perseverance, showing the Olympic values. Well done Year 2!

On Thursday, the children enjoyed a wonderful Chinese Dragon workshop. They learnt to move to traditional music, holding fans, umbrellas and the Chinese Dragon. The end result was a truly beautiful display.

End of year reports will be sent home next week, along with your child's workbooks. We would be grateful if you can please send in a couple of sturdy plastic bags, as the books are very heavy.

Looking ahead to the final week of term, Leavers' Assemblies will take place as follows:

- Tuesday 21st July at 9.15am – Penguin class with Mrs Peace***
- Tuesday 21st July at 10.30am – Pelican class with Mrs Humphrey***
- Tuesday 21st July at 2.30pm – Puffin class with Miss Wright***

End of year parties will take place on Wednesday 22nd July. Children should bring their own party food in a labelled bag, separate to their packed lunch if they have one. Please remember, we are a nut-free school. Children can wear party clothes for the day but return to school uniform for the last day of term on Thursday 23rd July.

School closes for the summer at 1.00pm on Thursday 23rd July.

Stars of the Week

Pelican Class

***Lola for always showing good learning behaviours.
Aston for fantastic participation during the Glow Dance workshop.***

Penguin Class

***Kayan for great perseverance when sewing.
Esther for great listening during the Chinese Dragon workshop.***

Puffin Class

***Oscar M for excellent sportsmanship during Sports Day.
Francesca for fantastic participation in the Glow Dance workshop.***

Value of the Month: Charity

Pelican Class – Lola, Aston, Mason, Jason and Noah

Penguin Class – Kiel and Muna

Puffins Class – Shaineha and Noah

SUMMER TERM EVENTS

Event	Date	Time
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

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						
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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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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

