



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy / Acting Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill
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11.09.2026

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

Reception
Tawny Owl class – 98.9%

Key stage one
Big Cat class – 99.6%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have had the most wonderful first week back and have settled into their new classes absolutely beautifully. Everyone seems to have had a lovely, rejuvenating summer and they have come back to school very ready for learning. Also, I think all the work we did last summer on transition and organising time for them to spend in their next year's classroom was beneficial.

The new Reception and Nursery children have come in so happily and we all feel it's going to be a fantastic school year.

Children are engaging in their new topics with enormous enthusiasm. They will be a little tired by the end of today and I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Thank you for your patience at the end of the day when waiting outside the classroom door. It does take staff time to get to know all your faces – there are thirty children in most classes, and some children have several different adults coming to pick them up. Thank you for being patient and helping us to make sure that everyone stays very safe!

Thank you to all those who attended the Talks for Parents held by year groups Reception to Year 2, with Nursery to come next week. The power points for all the talks are available on the school website as the first item on each of the year group pages. It was so wonderful to see so many of you and we hope you found them useful. For parents who were unable to join us due to other commitments, please see the links below for the presentations:

Reception: [Welcome to Reception](#)

Year 1: [Welcome to Year 1](#)

Year 2: [Welcome to Year 2](#)

Talks for parents taking place in the school hall: The Nursery talks will take place next week on Monday 14th September at 2.00pm and 4.30pm.

Tears and Tissues / Inclusion Coffee Morning: Wednesday 23rd September, 8.50-9.50am. Come and meet our Special Educational Needs Team, Mrs Ballard and Miss Stanton.

Change of contact details: If you moved house or changed your mobile phone number over the holidays, please do let us know so that we can update your child's record. Please email admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk.

Nuts and grapes in lunch boxes: Please note that this is a NUT-FREE school so please do check labels as nuts can be hidden ingredients in some products.

Please note also that health and safety advice indicates that grapes – because they are round and soft – are actually a significant choking hazard for young children. Please cut all grapes in half when providing your child with grapes as a snack or in their lunch box.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Pupil Absence: In line with national Safeguarding procedures, all children must be accounted for daily. If your child will be absent for any reason, please ensure that you let us know either by email, admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk, telephone 01438 359747 or using the Arbor in-App message facility. Please look out for further information regarding school attendance which will be added to the school website over the coming weeks.

Parent/Teacher Consultations: We have decided to continue with the earlier consultation time so that parents/carers can meet properly with their children's teachers on a 1-1 basis soon after the start of term. This will give you an opportunity to discuss with teachers how your child is settling, as well as ask any individual questions or talk about any concerns.

The target-setting process is as important as ever and will take place at the same time as in former years – that's to say, in November. Individual sheets showing your child's own next steps will be given to all parents after half-term so that you are able to support your children in their learning.

Consultations will be held during the week of 28th September for Years 1 and 2 and the week of 19th October for Reception and Nursery.

Years 1 and 2: Tuesday 29th September 3.30-6.30pm
Wednesday 30th September 3.30-6.30pm

Reception and Nursery: Monday 19th October 3.30-5.30pm
Tuesday 20th October 3.30-5.30pm
Wednesday 21st October 3.30-5.30pm

Timeslots for consultations will be displayed in classes for you to select one that is convenient.

If you do not drop your children in school, please either call the office on 01438 359747 to ask for a time, or email admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk. We will let class teachers know that you've been in touch so that they can call you back to arrange a time to meet.

We hope very much that the additional separation of consultations for key stage 1 and foundation stage pupils will make this process easier and more convenient for you all.

Bumped Head Text Messages: *You may receive a text message if your child has a bumped head. Please don't worry if you receive a message as this will only be for a small bump where no medical help is needed. If a head bump is more serious, we will always telephone you.*

Any other scrapes etc will be relayed to you at pickup time by the class teacher.

After School Club: *After School Club has its own mobile number: 07511 718699. Please use this number to contact After School Club staff once the school office has closed. Thank you.*

Rocksteady Band Lessons: *The Rocksteady Music School visit our school each Wednesday morning to provide music lessons to children in Year 1 and 2. If you are interested in your child taking up a place, please visit the Rocksteady website for more information and costs. You can also sign up via the website: [Rocksteady Music School](#)*

Polite reminders:

- *Bikes and scooters should not be ridden through the school playgrounds. We have lots of very little children who could easily be knocked over. Please walk your bike or scooter to the school entrances before riding them when leaving the school at the end of the day.*
- *Bikes and scooters should only be left in the bike racks and not outside classrooms or padlocked to school gates.*
- *Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds; this includes dogs which can be carried. Dogs must not be left attached to the outside school gates.*
- *Parking – the car park is for staff members only. Parents/carers are only allowed access if they have a Blue Badge. It is so difficult with such a tiny car park, but health and safety must come first, and cars should not be entering the gates without permission.*
- *Names on uniform and water bottles – please ensure your child's name is on their water bottle and on the inside of their uniform, especially jumpers / cardigans and fleeces.*
- *Children are not allowed to play on the Year 2 climbing frame outside of school hours. We kindly ask that you do not allow your children on the climbing frame.*

PE days:

Reception: Tuesday and Wednesday (starting week commencing 21st September)

Year 1: Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 2: Monday and Friday

Children may come to school already dressed in their PE Kit and will remain in it for the rest of the day. Earrings must be taped or removed before arriving at school. Children may wear a white or school logo t-shirt and blue/black shorts. When the colder weather starts, you might prefer them to come wearing a tracksuit.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone! May we wish all our Jewish families the happiest of New Years and we hope you have lovely celebrations with your families this weekend.

*Kindest regards
Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

Letter from the children's commissioner asking for your opinions (link below):

Dear Headteacher,

As children and young people return to school for the new academic year, I am writing to ask for your support in making sure pupils at your school have the opportunity to take part in my national survey, The Big Future.

The survey can be completed here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

Every child's voice matters, and I want to make sure that children and young people in every school and college, in every community, have the opportunity to shape the picture of childhood that I will share with Government.

Thank you for your support in helping to make sure your children's voices are heard as we begin the new school year.

**Yours sincerely,
Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England**

IS YOUR CHILD STRUGGLING TO ATTEND SCHOOL?

**Join us for practical support, real
answers and no judgement.**



**SCHOOL
AVOIDANCE
AWARENESS
WEEK** 21st - 25th SEPT
2026
www.schoolavoidance.co.uk



Nursery: *This week and last week, our new Nursery children have started and are all gradually settling into the Nursery routine. Each day they are investigating a different area of the Nursery with their key workers, finding out how to play safely and how to keep that area tidy once they have finished playing.*

At snack, the children were introduced to their first Makaton sign: 'please'. Each week, the children's key worker will introduce and model a Makaton sign, and the children will be encouraged to use it. The focus Makaton sign will be placed in the Nursery window for parents and carers to see.

During the week, the children have focused on belonging. They have found out they belong to The Giles Nursery and Infants' School and have looked at the uniform and the school logo. They also found out they belong to the Ladybird class and within Ladybird class, they are in a group. Each group is named after a shape – Square group, Triangle group, Star group, Rectangle group and Oval group.

Next week, the children will continue to investigate different areas of the Nursery. They will learn their first rhyme 'One, Two, Three Little Ladybirds' and this will go on their rhyming ring, which will be attached to their book bag. Please would you make sure your child comes to Nursery with a named book bag.

The Makaton sign for next week is 'thank you'.

Next week, the Ladybird library will begin. Each week, your child will have the opportunity to choose a book from the library to take home and share with members of the family. If your child returns their library book the following week, they will be able to choose a new book.

Library days are as follows:

- *Tuesday: Square and Oval groups*
- *Wednesday: Triangle and Rectangle groups*
- *Thursday: Star group*

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

Aarohi for being super helpful and tidying up around the Nursery.

Millie for persevering at trying to pedal a tricycle.

Seth for super tidying up independently.

Andy for being very kind and welcoming the new children in Rectangle group.

Lana for settling into Nursery life so well.

Reception: *The Reception children have settled in beautifully into their classes and are beginning to familiarise themselves with the daily routine and make new friends. They have thought carefully about being sensible in their learning environment and have created their class rules. The children have sorted red/green behaviour posters showing how to be kind and helpful towards each other and watched an e-Safety film about being safe when using the internet.*

In understanding the world, the children have begun to find out about autumn. They listened to a wonderful story, 'Hello Autumn' by Jo Lindley, and used autumn coloured tissue paper to make a tree.

The children have been introduced the Musician of the Month, the British folk singer Ralph McTell. His most famous song is 'The Streets of London'. They are learning interesting facts such as, he can play the guitar, piano and harmonica and he is 81 years old. Throughout the month of September, the children will be listening to different songs he has written.

Next week, the children will be introduced to this half's term's topic theme 'The Three Little Pigs' and will be given clues to work out which traditional tale they will be focusing on. In literacy, they will be listening to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and will be using Makaton signs to support them telling the story. The children will be creating a story map and using this map to retell the story in their own words.

In mathematics, the children will be sorting a group of animals by their own criteria and explaining how they sorted them into two groups.

In understanding the world, the children will be finding out more about autumn and using their observational skills to draw one tree in the school grounds. During the year, the children will be observing the seasonal changes of the tree and using different forms of media such as crayons, charcoal, and paints to record their observations.

In RE, the children will be finding out why people around the world celebrate harvest. In music, the children will be appraising new music, practising finding the pulse in different ways and learning a nursery rhyme with actions. In PSED, the children will be learning about how it feels to belong and that we are similar and different.

For parents/carers who missed the Reception Talk for Parents on Thursday, it is available on the school website: [Welcome to Reception](#)

The Reception teachers would like donations of grape containers for an activity the week beginning Monday 5th October. Here is a photograph of an example:



Stars of the Week:

Snowy Owl Class

Snowy Owl children for setting in beautifully into Snowy Owl class.

Tawny Owl Class

Tawny Owl children for setting in wonderfully into Tawny Owl class.

Barn Owl Class

Barn Owl children for setting in brilliantly into Barn Owl class.

***Year 1:** It has been an absolute delight to welcome the new Year 1 pupils. They are settling beautifully into their new classes. Thank you for attending the Talk for Parents. You can now find the information on the website: [Welcome to Year 1](#)*

This week, the children considered how to make the classroom a place where they feel safe and happy. They listened to the stories 'The Colour Monster' and 'The Colour Monster Goes to School' by Anna Llenas. They discussed emotions including happy, sad, angry, calm, fear and love. The children reflected on their responsibility to keep everyone safe and happy and agreed classroom rules.

Our book of the week was 'Cleversticks' by Bernard Ashley, all about a child starting school. Please ask your child about the text and the special skill Ling Sung had.

In handwriting, the children enjoyed Dough Disco to warm up their fingers. They learnt how to write letters 'l', 'i' and 't', following the patter:

'l' – start at the top, come all the way down and flick.

'i' – start at the top, come down and flick. Lift and dot.

't' – start at the top, come all the way down and curve. Lift and cross.

In phonics, the children revised the digraphs 'sh', 'ch', 'th' and 'ng'. In oracy, they learnt to take turns to speak with a partner, using a talk object. They practised repeating back what their partner said to show they had listened well. The children started their first mathematics unit: place value within ten. They practised sorting and grouping using criteria such as colour, shape or size. They also practised counting accurately by pointing at or moving objects whilst counting them.

Next week, the children will talk about their families. They will learn to label a picture of their family. This will be for their 'Marvellous Me' book. In art and design, they will make a collage self-portrait. In PE, they will learn about fitness and team skills. They will find 'one more' and 'one less' than a number within ten in mathematics. In computing, the children will discuss online safety and who to talk to if they feel worried when using technology.

The children have their reading books this weekend. Please spend a few minutes daily listening to your child read. Please will you save any useful clean recyclable boxes and tubs for junk modelling; the children will need them to make their own version of a significant Stevenage landmark in a couple of weeks. Thank you.

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class:

Daisy for writing a lovely sentence in English.

Damola for fantastic work on place value to ten.

Red Fox Class:

Vivienne for settling beautifully into Red Fox class.

Maeve for always showing super listening and being ready for learning.

Walker Bear Class:

Kabir for settling into school beautifully.

Hendrix for super turn-taking in speaking and listening time.

Year 2: The children have settled wonderfully into their new classes and are doing so well learning the new routines. Thank you so much for your patience waiting for your children at the end of the day. We are starting to remember faces but very much appreciate the odd reminder this early in the year!

This week in Year 2, the children started their topic for this term, 'Life in the UK – then and now'.

In English, the children listened to a shortened version of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. They found out how Charlie and Grandpa Joe sneakily tried Willy Wonka's 'fizzy lifting drinks' and had a go at making their own. Luckily, none of the children floated away! Before writing a recount, the children learnt how to include time conjunctions – 'first', 'next', 'then', 'after that', 'finally' – to explain the order something happened.

In mathematics, the children revisited learning from Year 1 by revising numbers to 20 and started their Year 2 learning on place value. They learnt to count objects by making tens and ones. For example, 14 has one ten and four ones.

In art and design, the children learnt about different types of line and experimented with different lines. ***In computing,*** the children revised how to stay safe online, particularly when playing games. They recalled how they should speak to an adult they trust if anything online gives them a 'funny feeling in their tummy'. They created posters to remind themselves of how to stay safe.

Next week in English, the children will explore different vegetables and come up with exciting adjectives to write a poem. ***In mathematics,*** the children will continue to learn about place value. ***In art and design,*** the children will learn about the artist Paul Cezanne and will use line techniques to draw cross-sections of vegetables. ***In computing,*** the children will learn what an algorithm is. ***In PSHCE,*** the children will look at how to be a good friend. ***In science,*** the children will begin their 'Healthy Me' topic.

Thank you to all the families who attended the Year 2 Talk for Parents. The presentation will be available on the school website: [Welcome to Year 2](#)

Parent consultations will take place on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th September. A clipboard will be available outside your child's classroom next week for you to book an appointment time. We look forward to meeting you all.

Stars of the Week

Pelican Class

***Teddy for super listening and trying his best with his learning all week.
Tillie for being a kind friend and comforting her peers.***

Penguin Class

***Jaxon for always being ready to learn on the carpet and always putting his hand up.
Molly for being such a kind friend and sharing the bikes when somebody else wanted a turn.***

Puffin Class

***Annabelle for showing kindness to everyone.
Vincent for demonstrating excellent perseverance.***

AUTUMN TERM		
MEETING	DATE	TIME
INSET Day	Tuesday 01/09/26	
INSET Day	Wednesday 02/09/26	
Children Return to School	Thursday 03/09/26	
Year 1 Welcome Talk	Tuesday 08/09/26	2.30pm – Hall 5.00pm - Online
Year 2 Welcome Talk	Wednesday 09/09/26	2.30pm- Hall 5.00pm - Online
Discovering the year in Reception presentation	Thursday 10/09/26	2.30pm – Hall 5.00pm - Online
Reception First Full Day	Thursday 10/09/26	
Nursery Talk	Monday 14/09/26	2.00pm and 4.30pm- Hall
Orca Talk	Tuesday 15/09/26	1.30pm and 3.30pm
Coffee Morning- INCo	Wednesday 23/09/26	8.50am-9.30am
Parent Consultations Year 1 & 2	Tuesday 29/09/26 Wednesday 30/09/26	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Reception Tour – For Prospective New Families	Monday 05/10/26	3.45pm
Nursery Tour- For Prospective New Families	Tuesday 06/10/26	3.45pm
Stay and Play Year 1	Monday 12/10/26	2.50pm
Harvest Assembly – Children in School	Tuesday 13/10/26	2.40pm
Stay and Play year 2	Wednesday 14/10/26	2.50pm
Parent Consultations Nursery and Reception	Monday 19/10/26	3.30pm-5.30pm
Parent Consultations Nursery and Reception	Tuesday 20/10/26	3.30pm-5.30pm
Parent consultations – Orca	Tuesday 20/10/26	1.30pm-3.00pm 5.00pm-5.30pm
PUFFINS Autumn Concert	Tuesday 20/10/26	2.30pm
Parent Consultations – Nursery and Reception	Wednesday 21/10/26	3.30pm-5.30pm
PELICANS Autumn Concert	Wednesday 21/10/26	2.30pm
PENGUINS Autumn Concert	Thursday 22/10/26	9.30am

HALF TERM	Monday 26/10/26 to Friday 30/10/26	
Nursery Tour - For Prospective New Families	Monday 02/11/26	3.45pm
Coffee Morning - INCo	Tuesday 03/11/26	8.50am-9.30am
Reception Tour - For Prospective New Families	Tuesday 03/11/26	3.45pm
Year 2 Mountfitchet Castle	Thursday 05/11/26	
Stay and Read Starts for Reception	Friday 06/11/26	8.45am
Reception Tour - For Prospective New Families	Monday 09/11/26	3.45pm
Nursery Tour - For Prospective New Families	Tuesday 10/11/26	3.45pm
Nursery Stay and Play Starts	Thursday 12/11/26	8.30am
Non-Uniform Day – FROG Tombola donations	Friday 13/11/26	
Kittle Individual Photo	Thursday 19/11/26	
Open Evening	Thursday 26/11/26	5.00pm- 6.30pm
Barn Owls Christmas Concert	Tuesday 01/12/26	9.15am
Snowy Owls Christmas Concert	Wednesday 02/12/26	9.15am
Tawny Owls Christmas Concert	Thursday 03/12/26	9.15am
Occasional Day – SCHOOL CLOSED	Friday 04/12/26	
Nursery Tour - For Prospective New Families	Monday 07/12/26	3.45pm
Rocksteady Concert – Invite Only	Wednesday 09/12/26	9.30am
Reception Tour - For Prospective New Families	Wednesday 09/12/26	3.45pm
Nursery Christmas Concert	Thursday 10/12/26	11.00am and 2.00pm
Year 2 Christmas Performance	Date to be confirmed	Time to be confirmed
Big Cats Christmas Performance	Tuesday 15/12/26	9.15am
Walker Bears Christmas Performance	Tuesday 15/12/26	10.30am
Red Foxes Christmas Performance	Tuesday 15/12/26	2.30pm
Orca Christmas Celebration	Tuesday 15/12/26	1.00pm
Christmas Dinner - FROG	Wednesday 16/12/26	
Christmas Parties	Thursday 17/12/26	PM
Nursery CLOSED AM- Party in the afternoon for ALL children	Thursday 17/12/26	12.30pm-3.30pm
LAST DAY OF TERM	Friday 18/12/26	Finish at 1pm

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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
24	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				

October '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			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	

November '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						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						

December '26						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	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			

January '27						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				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

February '27						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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

March '27						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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				

April '27						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			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		

May '27						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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						

June '27						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	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				

July '27						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			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	

August '27						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						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					

	= 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

