



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy / Acting 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

25.09.2026

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

Reception
Tawny Owls
100%

Key stage one
Walker Bears
99.1%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been such a super week in school. Children are highly engaged throughout the school and yesterday's assembly in the hall for Years 1 and 2 was an example of really outstanding behaviour.

FROG Annual General Meeting and Vacancies: This will take place at 9.00am on Tuesday 13th October in the main school staff room – please come to the front office. It's a tremendous group who contributes so much to our school community, to the happiness and enjoyment of our children and to the wider life of the school. All those who join in contribute what they're able to – some might only be able to help once a year to decorate the children's Christmas table but anything you can do is appreciated! Do come along, meet some new people and find out what it's all about.

If anyone is interested in joining, helping out, or would like more information please contact the main office or email gilesfrog@gmail.com.

Census Day Thursday 1st October – School Dinner Menu change: Please do encourage your child to try a school dinner – it potentially means more money for the school if numbers are high. Your child can always bring in their own packed lunch but also have a school dinner 'on the side' that day! Thank you for your support.

Friday lunches are the favourite, so Thursday and Friday lunches will be swapped next week.

National Poetry Day: This takes place next Thursday 1st October. Children will enjoy hearing lots of different poems throughout the day. They will learn some poems by heart and have a go at writing their own.

October is Black History Month: We will be celebrating across the school the achievements of inspirational leaders, sportspeople, musicians, poets, writers, artists

and other role models from across black communities with special assemblies, shared reading, lessons and activities.

Bulbs or plant donations: *All the school planters will be sown and re-potted between now and half-term. Donations of bulbs, plants or seeds will be gratefully received.*

Harvest Assembly: *The children are celebrating and practising songs for our Harvest Assembly. We would be so very grateful for any donations of dried goods items, tins and the like. Miss Busby will be taking your contributions to the Feed Up Warm Up charity. Please bring any donations to your child's class teacher from Monday 28th September onwards. We have a beautiful harvest table in the hall set up by our wonderful Mrs Furr and this allows us all to remember those in need at this time of year. Thank you very much for your generosity*

Tears and Tissues / Inclusion Coffee Morning: *Apologies that this was delayed. This will now take place on Tuesday September 29th at 8.50 am.*

Parent/Teacher Consultations: *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 Pelicans and Penguins, Walker Bears, Red Foxes and Big Cats*

Tuesday 29th September 12.30-3.00pm Puffins

Wednesday 30th September 3.30-6.30pm all Year 1 and Year 2 classes

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.

Prospective Parent Tours: *Applications are being accepted for Nursery places to start January/September 2027. Applications with Hertfordshire County Council for Reception places to start September 2027 open on 2nd November 2026 and close on 15th January 2027.*

Tours of our Nursery available by appointment only on: Tuesday 6th October, Monday 2nd November, Tuesday 10th November and Monday 7th December from 3.45 to 4.30

Tours of our Reception classes available by appointment only on: Monday 5th October, Tuesday 3rd November, Monday 9th November, Wednesday 9th December and Wednesday 6th January – 3.45 to 4.30pm – to book your tickets call us on 01438 359747. www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

Nursery:



This week, the children were fascinated to learn facts about ladybirds. They discovered ladybirds have six legs and can fly by opening their red and black shell to spread their wings. In addition, the children

found out that ladybirds are a type of beetle and there are male and female ladybirds.

The children loved listening to the book of the week 'Ten Little Ladybirds' by Melanie Gerth and enjoyed counting backwards from ten. They looked at a range of photographs to paint a ladybird, counting carefully to make sure their ladybird had six legs.

In understanding the world, the children found out about the life cycle of a ladybird and were surprised when looking at a photograph of ladybird larvae. When discussing how the larvae metamorphose into ladybirds, Daniel said, 'The ladybird goes into a cocoon.'

In physical development, the children pretended to be ladybirds, first using their hands and feet to crawl like a ladybird and then using scarves to create a ladybird shell to fly from leaf to leaf in an imaginary ladybird garden.

Next week, the children will learn the rhyme 'Five Currant Buns' and will have the opportunity to play in the bakery role play area. The book of the week will be 'The Bad-Tempered Ladybird' by Eric Carle. The children will create paper plate ladybirds using a range of materials. In mathematics, the children will use natural resources to investigate shape. In physical development, the children will develop their ball skills by practising throwing and catching a large ball and throwing a ball into a bucket.

The Makaton signs for next week are 'good morning' and 'good afternoon'.

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

Nabeelah for a beautiful painting of a ladybird.

Sonny for super facts about ladybirds.

Maeva for knowing the actions in the big book 'The Jigaree'.

Henry for super understanding of 'more' and 'fewer'.

Aiden for settling in nursery and for fantastic behaviour during bucket time sessions.

Reception: *This week in literacy, the children generated and ordered a simple caption about a pig. They were encouraged to say their caption aloud a few times and used their fingers to count how many words were in their caption. The children watched an adult model writing their caption before it was cut up for them to order. Once*

they had ordered their caption the children used their 'reading finger' to read their caption to an adult. The children listened to different versions of the traditional tale 'The Three Little Pigs'. In one version of the story, they discovered that 'growled,' 'cried,' 'roared' and 'squealed' were alternative words for 'shouted.'

This week in phonics, the children learnt the phonemes: /i/, /n/, /m/ and /d/. Please see below the patten the staff use to help the children form the letters correctly.

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

n - start at the top, come down, bounce back up, go over, down and flick.

m - start at the top, come down, bounce back up and over. Down, bounce back up and over. Down and flick.

d - make a curve, go all the way up, come back down and flick.

In mathematics, the children used the mathematical terms 'more', 'fewer' and the 'same' whilst placing animals into two groups. Some children were able to recognise the difference just by looking at the number of animals whilst others used counting skills. When looking at two groups of objects, Isabella in Tawny Owl class said, 'We can count them to check if it is more or fewer.'



The children continued to discover more about the season of autumn. They used iPads to take photographic evidence. When the children were out investigating the school grounds, Joseph in Tawny Owl class said, 'I saw red leaves on the trees.', Frankie in Snowy Owl class said, 'I see yellow and orange leaves.' and Mason in the Barn Owl class said, 'The leaves change colour.'

This week's poem is very seasonal for this time of year with the title 'Autumn Trees'.

*The trees are kind of pretty,
In their autumn gold and brown.
Some leaves are orange or red,
But all will soon fall down.
Then they dry and crackle,
As we crunch them with our shoes.
I guess it's time for autumn now,
As summer takes a snooze.*

This week the children were very excited to begin PE! On Tuesday, they pretended to be witches and wizards creating spells and flying high and low across the land. On Wednesday, the children had to listen carefully and place different part of their bodies on the floor. They loved the challenge of placing just one foot and one hand on the floor! The children also had a go at balancing on one leg and walking around the hall balancing a beanbag on their hand. Reception children do PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Next week, in literacy the children will celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday 1st October. They will play a rhyming pairs game. During the week, the children will listen to rhyming stories, sing songs and participate in many rhyming activities. In mathematics, the children will focus on size and use mathematical language of 'big', 'little', 'large' and 'small' by creating a teddy bears tea party. In a second

mathematical activity, the children will investigate weighing by being 'human scales' to describe which of two boxes is heavier and which one is lighter. In expressive arts and design, the children will visit the Enchanted Garden and act out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They will take turns to be a pig or the Big Bad Wolf!

All the children in Reception have received a reading book. Please would you make sure your child's reading book and orange record book are in their book bag every day. If your child has read at home and you have written a short comment, then your child will receive a new reading book.

Each week in Reception, the children have an opportunity to choose and take home a library book to share their family. Library days in each class are:

Tawny Owls – Tuesday

Barn Owls – Thursday

Snowy Owls - Friday

Please ensure your child's library book is in their book bag so they can change it on their library day.

Stars of the Week:

Snowy Owl Class

Zadie for recognising some common exception words in our shared reading.

Tawny Owl Class

Mila for generating fantastic WOW words in your caption about a little pig.

Barn Owl Class

Isaac for trying your best at handwriting jobs this week and forming lovely letters.

Year 1: This week in English, the children used oracy skills to discuss their houses. They drew and labelled either their real home or their dream home. The children then thought about their classroom and used geography skills to draw and label a plan of it. The children talked about being a member of our school community. They drew and labelled a picture of themselves in school uniform. In mathematics the children learnt to compare numbers and quantities. They used the words more, fewer, same, less than, greater than and equal to. They learnt the inequality symbols through this song: [Number Gators \(Greater Than, Less Than Symbols Song\) – YouTube Kids](#). In computing, the children enjoyed logging on to their Purple Mash account and making an avatar. They learnt that it is very important to keep their password private. Thank you for sending in recycling items for junk modelling. In design and technology the children used the materials to make a clock tower inspired by the Stevenage clock tower. They found out why the clock tower is a significant landmark and the history of the development of the New Town. The children started their RE topic on Christianity. This term their enquiry question is 'what do Christians believe about God'. They reflected on how it feels to create something. They made a beautiful creation and gave it as a gift to someone special. The children talked about how they hoped it would be treasured. The book of the week was 'Would You Rather...' by John Burningham. The children enjoyed discussing the options they would prefer and justifying their choice using 'because'. In poetry, the children learnt to recite the poem 'Just Watch' by Myra Cohn Livingston. In PE, they worked as a team to play a variety of games with a parachute. In phonics, they revised the sounds and graphemes 'ar' (car), 'or' (fork), 'igh' (light), 'ur' (surf) and 'ow' (cow). Our musical moment this week was the piano composition 'September: by the river' by Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel.

Next week, the children will celebrate poetry and rhyme to mark National Poetry Day. In mathematics they will practise comparing numbers and learn about the number line. In RE, the children will hear about the Jewish festival of Sukkot and the Christian story of creation. In music, they will continue to explore hip hop music and learn a hip hop song. They will learn how to create and save work on Purple Mash in computing. Next week we begin our first 'show and tell' topic: my favourite place to go in Stevenage. This is part of our oracy focus. There is a rota for the children to present. The teachers will inform you of the rota for their classes. We would like to invite you to support your child to prepare. The first children have their planning template this weekend. Please spend a few minutes talking with your child about places they like to go, using the sentence stems. The teacher will use this plan to support your child to talk to the class.

Please return your child's homework book by Wednesday. We love seeing the beautiful activities. We look forward to meeting you all at parent consultations on 29th and 30th September. Happy weekend!

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class

Xavier for making a wonderful self-portrait.
Tommy for creating a fantastic map of the classroom and using labels.

Red Fox Class

Macy for always sitting beautifully and following our class rules.
Harry for super mathematics finding one less.

Walker Bear Class

Muriha for wonderful use of our mathematics vocabulary 'more', 'fewer' and 'same'.
Ava-Mae for working really hard in phonics.

Year 2: It has been a fantastic week in Year 2. In English, the children read the story of 'The Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl and learnt all about his 'cunning plans' and 'clever tricks'. They imagined what they would do if he appeared on the playground and how they could catch him. There were some fantastically imaginative ideas! The children used their ideas as a basis to learn how to write a set of instructions. They made an example, which will help them with writing their own set of instructions next week. In mathematics, the children learnt about partitioning; for example, 43 can be partitioned into 40 and 3, 30 and 13, 20 and 23. In art and design, the children explored ways of creating lines through collage. In computing, the children learnt about the 'collision detection' event. In science, they learnt about the healthy food plate and how much of each type of food we should eat to stay healthy. In PSHCE, the children thought about rewards and consequences, and ways to make our classroom a safe and fair place.

Next week in science, the children will learn about why exercise is important to keep us healthy and think of different ways we can enjoy exercising. English will link to our 'Healthy Me' topic, as the children continue their learning about instructions. They will begin the week discussing how to brush their own teeth and will start thinking about how to write a set of instructions for how to brush a crocodile's teeth. They will use the example they made this week to support them. In mathematics, the children will learn how to order and compare numbers to 100. In RE, the children will learn about the Harvest Festival. In PSHCE, the children will think about how their behaviour affects others. In art and design, they will make a crocodile collage applying everything they have learnt about line. On Thursday, the children will celebrate National Poetry Day. They will have the opportunity to read poems, act them out and discuss how they make them feel. If you would like more information about the event, please visit the website: Poems and Resources - National Poetry Day.

We look forward to seeing you at parent consultations on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th September. We hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Stars of the Week

Pelican Class

Maximillian for always focussing on your learning and trying your best with all tasks.

Eliza for going above and beyond with your homework.

Penguin Class

Alex for always being ready to learn and trying your best.

Autumn for always being a kind and patient friend.

Puffin Class

Gracie for demonstrating excellent understanding when using a number line in mathematics.

Kiara for always using your marvellous manners around our school.

Parents and Carers talk about self-harm and recovery

Please join us at an information session to learn more about self-harm and get practical ideas and strategies to help your child towards recovery

Where: Online over Zoom.

When: Tuesday 6th October, 7pm to 9pm

For more information or to book your place:

Call: 01992 58 69 69

Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk

Go online: www.carersinherts.org.uk/events



About Carers in Hertfordshire

We are a charity that provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers - people looking after a partner, relative or friend, who is ill, elderly, has a physical or learning disability, or misuses substances.

We support carers of all ages - young people and adults - living, working or caring in Hertfordshire. Our services are free to carers and bereaved carers, who can access support for three years after the death of the person they looked after.

We provide services to carers to help them with their caring role or have a break from caring, to improve their health and wellbeing, and to have a voice in shaping health and community services.

We are partly funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS in Hertfordshire. In partnership with them and other local organisations we work to ensure unpaid carers are identified, informed, supported and heard.

Carers in Hertfordshire

The Red House, 119 Fore Street, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1AX.

Tel: 01992 58 69 69 Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk

www.carersinherts.org.uk

Our support for parents and carers.

We have a team of Carer Engagement Workers who can provide advice and information and also support you to speak up.

We also:

- Give you a chance to meet and talk to other parents, carers and staff who understand;
- Give you the opportunity to represent your views to the authorities that commission and manage Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) in Hertfordshire;
- Provide free training and learning opportunities; and
- Offer a Carers' Passport Discount Card that gives savings in shops, restaurants and other venues (contact us to apply for one today!)



AUTUMN TERM		
MEETING	DATE	TIME
Parent Consultations Year 1 & 2	Tuesday 29/09/26 Wednesday 30/09/26	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Puffins Parent Consultations	Tuesday 29/09/26 Wednesday 30/09/26	12.30pm-2.50pm 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
History of Toys Workshop Year 1	Friday 27/11/26	
Year 2 Puffins Festive Journey	Tuesday 01/12/26	1.00pm-2.30pm
Barn Owls Christmas Concert	Tuesday 01/12/26	9.15am
Year 2 Pelicans Festive Journey	Wednesday 02/12/26	1.00pm-2.30pm
Snowy Owls Christmas Concert	Wednesday 02/12/26	9.15am
Year 2 Penguins Festive Journey	Thursday 03/12/26	9.30am-11.00am
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

[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
					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						

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

