



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

02.10.2026

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

Reception

TAWNY OWL CLASS
98.5%

Key stage one

PENGUIN CLASS
98.1%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has truly been a simply wonderful week in school, definitely helped by the absolutely glorious autumnal weather. Children are loving their topics and are so settled. They are enjoying Harvest songs and the beautiful harvest table in the hall. Thank you very much for any donations of food.

Yesterday, National Poetry Day was celebrated fully throughout the school along the guidelines planned by our English lead, Miss Hannah Wright. You will find more information in the year group sessions below.

We hope that all parents and carers with children in years 1 and 2 enjoyed parent/teacher consultations and that you felt proud of your children's achievements and how well they have settled.

To promote our wonderful school, we have had a tour professionally filmed. Please find the link below – and do please share it if you know of any families who might potentially be interested in a place for their child at our school. The film is such tremendous testimony to the fabulous facilities at our school as well as the care all staff take of it and the phenomenal care they put into displays of our children's work. Please find the link here:

<https://replay.dropbox.com/share/3zhpgoGKd6U5EC64>

We also have testaments given by staff, parents and governors and I will share these with you in due course.

Census Day: There was an excellent uptake of school dinners on Census Day so thank you for your help in supporting this.

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.

FROG uniform sale: this will take place on Thursday after school. Please find the flyer at the bottom of this newsletter.

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.

Parent/Teacher Consultations:

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

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 are 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 are 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



Value of the Month: our value for September was 'respect'. Please see in each year group update who was awarded the value of the month certificate. Our value for October is 'unity'.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

**Kindest regards
Rouane Mendel
Headteacher**

Nursery: This week in Nursery, the children continued exploring the theme of ladybirds. They enjoyed listening to the story of 'The Bad-Tempered Ladybird' by Eric Carle and linked the main character to 'red' and 'green' choices of behaviour. In art, the children made paper plate ladybirds to go on a ladybird garden display. During this activity, many children recalled facts about ladybirds.

In physical development, the children worked in pairs to practise throwing and catching a large ball. They enjoyed throwing the large ball into a bucket and cheered when they scored a 'goal'.

In mathematics, the children used a range of mostly natural resources to create shapes or pictures. They were encouraged to talk about the shapes they could see and describe what they were creating.



The rhyme of the week was 'Five Currant Buns' and throughout the week, all the children had the opportunity to play in the bakery. They wrote shopping lists, filled their shopping baskets with a range of bakery goodies and counted out coins when arriving at the till.

Next week, the children will learn the rhyme 'Humpty Dumpty' and the Makaton sign 'goodbye'. The book of the week will be 'Baby Goes to Market' by Atinuke. In mathematics, the children will investigate simple patterns through printing and in PE, they will move in different ways. In literacy, the children will have a go at early writing and in PSED, they will begin to look at aspects of being healthy by listening to the story of 'Sammy the Shark' and having a go at cleaning his teeth!

Stars of the Week

Ladybird Class

Anthony for fantastic throwing and catching of a large ball.

Abdul for super balancing along planks of wood.

Yusuf for brilliant throwing and catching of a large ball.

Adam for amazing throwing and catching of a large ball.

Zachary for wonderful independent work when making a paper plate ladybird.

Reception: This week in Literacy, the children celebrated National Poetry Day. They matched rhyming pairs of objects and throughout the week they enjoyed singing rhyming songs, saying nursery rhymes and listening to rhyming stories. Lottie in Snowy Owl class said, 'Rhyming words sound the same.' This week in phonics, the children learnt the phonemes /g/, /o/, /c/ and /k/. This is the patten used to help the children form the letters correctly:

g - make a curve, go up to the top come all the way down and curve to the left.

o - make a curve, go all the way round.

c - make a curve.

k - start at the top, come all the way down, bounce halfway back up. Loop. Slope and flick.

The children visited the Enchanted Garden where they all had a marvellous time acting out the story of the Three Little Pigs. They enjoyed taking on different roles and exploring the Three Little Pigs' houses. The children enjoyed watching the Disney version of the Three Little Pigs called 'Silly Symphony', made in 1958. This version always makes the children laugh. This week's poem was the nursery rhyme 'One, Two, Buckle My Shoe'.

One, two, buckle my shoe.

Three, four, knock at the door.

Five, six, pick up sticks.

Seven, eight, lay them straight.

Nine, ten, a big fat hen.

In mathematics, the children investigated weighing. They selected pairs of boxes. First, they predicted which of the boxes would be heavier or lighter or if they would weigh the same. Then, they were 'human scales', stretching out their arms to allow a partner to place a box in each hand and moving their arms just like balancing scales. Felix in Snowy Owl class said, 'The sponge is lighter.' Also in mathematics, the children prepared a picnic for big bear and little bear by unpacking a picnic basket of plates, cups, and cutlery of two different sizes. They discussed which size item would be best for each bear, using mathematical language 'little', 'big', 'large' and 'small'. Mason in Barn Owl class said, 'We can say big or giant!' and Artina in Barn Owl class



commented, 'That's the biggest, that's super big. Large spoon and small spoon.'

In RE, the children thought about special people in their lives, and specifically role models. Lottie D in Tawny Owl class said, 'My sister is my role model because she teaches me how to play Barbies.'

Next week in Literacy, the children will generate a caption about the Big Bad Wolf from the story of the Three Little Pigs. They will use their fingers to count the number of words in their caption and watch an adult writing it. In mathematics, the children will investigate capacity. They will also copy and create patterns using natural resources. In expressive arts and design, the

children will use a range of materials to create a collage of a scene from the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. In phonics, they will learn the phonic term 'digraph.' A digraph is two letters that work together to make one sound, such as '-ck'. To support your child in learning to read, the school subscribes to Bug Club, an online reading scheme you can use at home. Your child's log-in details are inside their reading record book.

On Monday 5th October, outside each class there will be a list of appointment times for parent consultations which take place the week beginning 19th October. Please sign up.

Stars of the Week:

Snowy Owls

Cody for always trying your best with your handwriting.

Tawny Owls

Rihanna for always trying very hard in P.E.

Barn Owls

Frankee for wonderful knowledge of measure when balancing scales as well as identifying heavy and light.

Value of the Month

Snowy Owls: Jude

Tawny Owls: Mila and Dhairya

Barn Owls: Charlie

***Year 1:** It has been a wonderful week of poetry and rhyme in Year 1. The children listened to rhyming poems and stories and detected rhyming words. They made a rhyme wheel to generate words for a rhyming string. The children had a lot of fun creating sentences using some of the rhyming words. On Thursday, it was National Poetry Day. This year's theme was 'wonder'. The children enjoyed listening to the poem 'Six Ways of Looking at a Leaf' by Kate Wakeling. They then did lots of different activities to investigate leaves, including an autumn walk, making leaf characters and leaf rubbings and prints. The children reflected on the wonder of trees. Charlie in Walker Bears knew that trees provide shelter, Tito knew that many trees lose their leaves. Hendrix explained that trees help create air for us to breathe. In mathematics the children learnt how to place numbers on a number line. They also practised sequencing numbers from smallest to greatest and greatest to smallest. In RE the children listened to the Christian story of creation and thought about the Christian belief that the Earth is like a gift made by God. The children also learnt about the Jewish festival of thanksgiving, Sukkot. They made pictures of a sukkah and listened to the story, 'Sammy Spider's First Sukkot' by Sylvia A. Rouss.*

Next week the children will learn about different parts of the body, singing 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. They will identify the following parts of the body: head, neck, arms, elbows, legs, knees, face, ears, eyes, hair, mouth, teeth. They will label parts of the body, using their labelling skills of connecting the label to the object and writing from left to right. They will listen to the story 'Funny Bones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and make skeleton pictures inspired by the story in art. They will begin their new unit of mathematics learning on addition and subtraction.

It has been an absolute delight to see the beautiful home-learning the children have completed, and to listen to the first speakers presenting their show and tell topic of 'my favourite place to go in Stevenage'. The children presenting were encouraged to speak clearly and in full sentences, whilst the children listening were encouraged to ask relevant questions and show they were listening attentively by looking at the speaker. Well done to our first presenters! There is a new selection of homework activities coming home today. Please return the homework books by Wednesday 14th October.

Finally, thank you for coming to talk with the teachers at parent consultations this week. We find it very helpful to meet with you and we hope you found it useful too.

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class

Augustin for sharing super ideas during learning time.

Ava for fantastic work on place value in maths.

Red Fox Class

Rylie for always trying your best and showing fantastic progress in phonics.

Teddy for a super rhyming string.

Walker Bear Class

Freya for a fabulous show and tell all about your favourite place in Stevenage.

Amelia for being a super role-model, showing the five signs of learning.

Value of the Month

Big Cat Class: Mahum, Kolby and Xach

Red Fox Class: Guy and Rose

Walker Bear Class: Arlo, Zainab and Kaitlin

Year 2: It was a pleasure to meet the families of the Year 2 children at parent consultations this week. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us.

The children have had a wonderful week in Year 2. On Thursday, they enjoyed celebrating National Poetry Day. This year the theme was 'wonder'. The children listened to the poem 'Six Ways of Looking at a Leaf' by Kate Wakelin. This ignited their curiosity and they went on a nature walk. On their walk they observed the leaves closely and discussed all the possibilities a leaf may hold. This inspired some fantastic poetry in the classroom which we cannot wait to share with you. In English, the children applied what they learnt last week to begin writing their own set of instructions, explaining how to clean a crocodile's teeth. In mathematics, the children learnt how to compare numbers, and order objects and numbers. They also practised counting in twos, fives and tens. In computing, the children continued to learn how to code. They learnt to use a timer to control when objects appear or move. In science, the children learnt why exercise is important for keeping our bodies healthy and shared their favourite ways to exercise. In art and design, they applied their learning about line to create a crocodile collage. In PSHCE, the children worked in groups to discuss how the behaviour we choose affects others. In PE, the children enjoyed teambuilding and fitness activities.



Next week, the children will finish their instructions for how to clean the crocodile's teeth. In mathematics, they will learn to count in threes and begin a new unit of work on addition and subtraction. In science, the children will learn how to be hygienic. In computing, they will learn about different object types in coding. In design and technology, the children will design a healthy, balanced meal. In PSHCE, they will learn how following the class charter helps everyone to learn. In RE, the children will continue to learn about Harvest.

Please make a note of the Year 2 class concert dates:

Puffin Class – Tuesday 20th October at 2.30pm

Pelican Class – Wednesday 21st October at 2.30pm

Penguin Class – Thursday 22nd October at 9.30am

Stars of the Week

Pelican Class

Mollie for keeping your smile on all week and making a fantastic crocodile collage.

Oliver for superb listening at carpet time.

Penguin Class

Kennedy - for excellent ideas of how to keep your teeth clean and healthy.

Rowan - for always being ready to learn on the carpet. Thank you!

Puffin Class

Maya - for your super editing skills in English.

Misha - for creating a fantastic crocodile collage in Art

Value of the Month

Pelican Class: Cody and Elsie

Penguin Class: Nedu and Chloe

Puffin Class: Myles, Albert and Thea

The Little Performers

Create Have Fun Be You

THRILLER MJ THEMED CAMP

Get ready to groove, create and have fun with our Thriller and MJ themed camp!

- LEARN THRILLER MOVES
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- GAMES
- 2 COURSE HOT LUNCH & JUICE

E12
A CHILD
(INCLUDES HOT MEAL)

9-1PM
30/10/26

AGES
4-11

At Norton Parish Hall,
Common View,
Letchworth Garden City,
Hertfordshire, SG61DA

To book please contact
The Little Performers on **07779095923**

The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

ON 8TH OCTOBER

AT 3:15PM

in the school's main hall

Donations Welcome Too!

FROG FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF GILES

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
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	
Flu Vaccinations	Monday 02/11/26	
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	
Flu Vaccinations	Monday 30/11/26	
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

