



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy / Acting Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill
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09.10.2026

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

Reception

BARN OWL CLASS
95%

Key stage one

PENGUIN CLASS
100%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

What an amazing week it has been in school! Children participated beautifully in the Harvest and Sukkot assemblies and we will continue to sing autumn and harvest songs until half-term. Thank you again for your generous donations of dry, packed and tinned foods; these will be delivered to the homeless during the half-term break.

Next week is Big Write, led by our inspirational English lead, Miss Wright. More news to follow next week as we don't want any spoilers, but I can promise that your children are going to be truly wowed! Huge thanks to Miss Wright for all her extensive – and exciting – preparation.

Heartfelt thanks to our tremendous FROG team for the FROG uniform sale!

Stay-and-play Year 1: Monday 12th October 2.50-3.10

Stay-and-play Year 2: Wednesday 14th October 2.50 to 3.10pm

These are our first Stay-and-Plays of the year so please do pop in and spend some time in your child's class playing games and enjoy a lovely opportunity to visit your child's beautiful classroom and spend time with them.

October is Black History Month: We are 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. So many people have given generous donations of bulbs, plants or seeds! We are so grateful and your kind gifts will both support children's learning and make our school even more beautiful!

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

Year 2 Autumn Concerts: *Timings are as follows:*

Puffin class – Tuesday 20th October at 2.30pm

Pelican class – Wednesday 21st October at 2.30pm

Penguin class – Thursday 22nd October at 9.30am

Fantastic article about our school in the COMET: *Please be advised that the Comet has picked up our school tour and has published the most wonderful article! It's apparently also being promoted on the Comet's Facebook page. Here's a link to the story, which has just gone on the website: [Stevenage school launches virtual tour for families / The Comet](#). It would be absolutely fantastic if some of you could go on and comment!*

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: 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: 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!

Kindest regards

Rouane Mendel

Headteacher

Nursery: *This week in nursery, the children focused on the traditional nursery rhyme 'Humpty Dumpty'. They had great fun using construction resources such as Duplo, coloured bricks and large wooden bricks to build a wall for Humpty to sit on. The children loved singing the rhyme and letting Humpty Dumpty fall off the wall!*

In art, the children used a range of materials to create a scene where Humpty Dumpty is sitting on a wall. When creating her Humpty Dumpty, Poppie said, "Humpty is an oval shape."



In literacy, the children had a go at early writing, by writing their name and drawing a picture of themselves.

In mathematics, the children began to look at patterns and created a simple repeating pattern using two colours. Mariah said, "My patterns are of the shells of a mermaid's tail."

Next week, the children will learn the rhyme 'Incy Wincy Spider' and the Makaton sign will be 'yes'. The book of the week will be 'The Very Busy Spider' by Eric Carle. In understanding the world, the children will investigate whether a spider can stay at the top of a drainpipe when water is poured through it. In art, the children will make glittery spider webs. In physical development, the children will make spiders using playdough. They will add different art materials to create the legs and eyes. In mathematics, the children will begin to order number names.

Stars of the Week

Mariah for building a fabulous wall for Humpty Dumpty and singing the rhyme on your own.

Aidan for fantastic independent counting of the children at snack time.

James for creating a super Humpty Dumpty.

Derek for building a brilliant wall for Humpty Dumpty.

Reception: *This week in literacy, the children continued to listen to different versions of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They generated captions about the big bad wolf. A big bad wolf came to visit the classes and sat in the 'hot seat' answering questions from the children. When generating a caption about the wolf, Lucas in Tawny Owl class said, 'The wolf is frustrated!' and explained that this is because the wolf couldn't blow the brick house down. In phonics, the children learnt the phonemes: 'ck', 'e', 'u' and 'r' and were introduced to a new phonic term, 'digraph.' This is when two letters are snapped together to make one sound, such as 'ck'. Please see below the patten the staff use to help the children form the letters correctly.*

- *ck - make a curve. Lift. Start at the top, come all the way down, bounce halfway back up. Loop. Slope and flick.*
- *e - start with a loop, then make a curve.*
- *u - start at the top, come down and curve. Go back up, come down and flick.*
- *r - start at the top, come down, bounce back up and over.*

This week's poem was 'Colours' by Sheldon Silverstein, to celebrate Black History month.

*My skin is kind of brownish,
Pinkish yellowish white.
My eyes are greyish blueish green,
But I'm told they look orange in the night.
My hair is reddish blondish brown.*

*But it's silver when it's wet.
And all the colours I am inside,
Have not been invented yet.*

In art and design, the children created a scene from the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', using a range of materials. They used shredded paper for straw, painted art straws for sticks and paper squares for bricks. For the pig, the children used colouring pencils and once their pig was decorated, they filled a tub with compost and sprinkled on grass seed. To finish off their 'Three Little Pigs' scene, the children carefully placed their house and pig in the tub. When planting his grass seed, Jared in Snowy Owl class said, 'It's a really good day for plants to grow because the rain will go into the soil and help the seed to grow.'



In mathematics, the children thoroughly enjoyed investigating 'more' and 'less' in a capacity activity using a range of different sized containers. They filled pots with water and made comparisons with the amount in their container. In a second mathematical activity, the children created repeating patterns using natural resources such as fir cones, conkers, and shells. Ammar in Barn Owl class said, 'Pinecone, leaf, pinecone, leaf. That's the pattern.' Jenson in Barn Owl class said, 'Conker, conker, pinecone, conker, conker, pinecone. A pattern.'

In RE, the children listened to the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. They thought about rules and the rules that they follow at school. The children also thought about what would happen if there were no rules to follow and how the world around them would look different.

Next week in literacy, the children will participate in their first ever 'Big Write', focusing on the story of 'The Healthy Wolf' by David Bedford. This story introduces them to aspects of healthy living which the children will explore further the following week during Nature and Nurture Week. The children will label parts of Wilfred the Wolf and write a caption. In mathematics, the children will represent numbers one, two, and three through actions and objects by taking part in a counting game.

Stars of the Week

Snowy Owls

Lottie for always participating so well during carpet time.

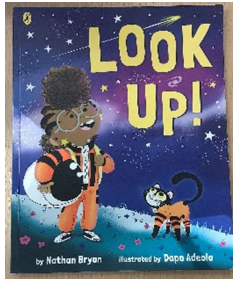
Tawny Owls

Lucas for ordering an amazing caption about the Big, Bad Wolf.

Barn Owls

Oscar for trying your best with your handwriting.

Year 1: The children started to reflect on our diversity as part of Black History Month. They listened to 'Something Inside So Strong' by Labi Siffre as our daily musical moment. Our story this week has been 'Look Up!' by Nathan Bryon, illustrated by Dapo Adeola. The children enjoyed finding out about the first African-American female astronaut Mae Jemison who is an inspiration for the story's main character. They took part in a draw-along with the illustrator Dapo Adeola. This is the picture that Bertie in Walker Bears drew! The children recalled listening to the story 'Hey You!' by Dapo Adeola.



In RE, the children learnt about harvest and harvest festivals. They also learnt about why Christians believe humans have a special duty to look after our world. They thought about ways in which they can help to look after our world and resources. In English and science, the children practised naming parts of the body. They had lots of fun drawing around their arms, hands and legs and labelling them. They loved singing 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' and playing 'Simon says'. In art, the children listened to the story 'Funnybones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and then made their own 'Funnybones' pictures using art straws. In handwriting, the children practised writing the capital letters U, J and Y. They began to learn about consonant blends in phonics and listened particularly hard to hear them at the ends of words and segment their sounds. For example, in the word 'hand' there is the consonant blend 'nd'. The children learnt that it is not a digraph because the two letters make two different sounds. In mathematics, the children started their new topic of addition and subtraction within 10. They learnt that a number can be broken down into smaller numbers. They learnt to identify the broken down bits as 'parts' and when they are put back together they make the 'whole'. They used counters and part, part, whole models to practise breaking numbers down into two smaller numbers and to see that they still had the same total number of counters.

Next week will be the very exciting Big Write week! We also look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the Year 1 classrooms on Monday afternoon for Stay and Play. Please arrive at the classroom door for 2.50pm. We hope you have enjoyed the home-learning activities. Please return the homework books by Wednesday 14th October.

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class

George for fantastic labelling of the body.

Lola for always helping others.

Red Fox Class

Ollie for making green choices and completing most of your learning.

Murray for a super funny bones picture.

Walker Bear Class

Jaxon for excellent listening to follow a 'draw along' with an illustrator.

Reuben for super focus in mathematics to write number sentences.

Year 2: It has been a lovely week in Year 2, singing songs for harvest and learning songs for our class concerts.

In English, the children worked so hard to finish their instructions. They learnt how to read back through their writing and edit mistakes in the punctuation, including capital letters and full stops. In mathematics, they learnt how to compare amounts using the language of 'more' and 'less'. They compared pictures and numbers and learnt how to use the 'greater than' and 'less than' symbols. They also learnt about 'equal to'. They practised ordering numbers, and counted in twos, fives, tens and threes. In computing, the children learnt about different object types in code. They created their own scene, added some objects and added code to make their objects move. In science, the children learnt about staying hygienic, including effective handwashing to prevent the spread of germs and allergens. In design technology, the children recalled what they know about healthy eating and designed a healthy meal.

Next week is our Big Write, which is our whole school approach to writing around an unusual event or a particular story. We don't want to spoil the surprise for the children, but we can say it's going to be a very exciting week! In mathematics, the children will continue their new unit of work focused on addition and subtraction. In computing, the children will learn about the function of buttons in a program. In design technology, the children will design a healthy salad. In geography, they will start to learn about the countries of the United Kingdom, focusing first on England.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our stay and play next week, on Wednesday, at 2:50pm.

Next week, the children will begin rehearsing for the Year 2 class concerts, which will take place as follows:

***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

***Maxi for always showing you are ready to learn on the carpet.
Darcey for excellent focus during computing.***

Penguin Class

***Hadley for always stopping with the bell and being ready to listen.
May for a fantastic set of instructions on how to brush a crocodile's teeth.***

Puffin Class

***Bertie for creating a beautiful piece of artwork inspired by Alma Thomas for Black History Month.
Ariella for persevering with a new skill in computing.***

Please may we remind you that the Year 2 trip to Mountfitchet Castle is taking place on Thursday 5th November. Please log on to Arbor to give consent for your child to attend and make payment, if you haven't done so already.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

AUTUMN TERM		
MEETING	DATE	TIME
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

