



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy / Acting Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill
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16.10.2026

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

Reception
SNOWY OWL CLASS
96.8%

Key stage one
RED FOX CLASS
97.9%

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we have celebrated Big Write, led inspirationally by Miss Wright. Children were absolutely amazed to learn on Monday morning that the story book characters were missing and some of the books were completely blank! A mystery to be solved! Upon reading a letter from the story characters, the children learned that Goldilocks and The Three Bears had enough of the same adventures and packed their belongings to start a brand new adventure. The children agreed the traditional tales will not make sense without the characters so they set about creating a plan to get them back. In Year One the children imagined their own story characters. They drew them, added labels to describe them and even had a go at writing about them. In Year Two the children wrote clear instructions on how to catch a character and return it to its story. Mrs Mendel followed each instruction carefully and we are happy to report that all the characters have been restored to their stories. For some of the children, this was their first attempt at extended writing. We will give you their Big Write books to keep when your child leaves the Infants' School and we're sure you will treasure them.

School Face Book Page: Unfortunately, due to an issue connected with inactivity over the summer, we lost access to our previous Facebook Page. Please find below the link to our new official page. We would greatly appreciate it if you could like, follow and share our new page. <https://www.facebook.com/share/19Ak7PGSf8/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

Stay-and-play in Year 1 and Year 2: Thank you for such an amazing turnout for stay and play sessions in Key Stage 1 this week. The children are so proud of their classrooms and absolutely loved showing you the toys and games they access, as well as their beautiful learning so far.

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

FROG Annual General Meeting and Vacancies: Thank you to everyone who took part. This is 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! If you are interested in helping, meeting some new people and finding out what it's all about do please drop me a line or go on our FROG Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/gilespta/>

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!

A journalist from the Comet wrote to me today to let me know that the video has been viewed over 3000 times, which is apparently extremely unusual, so people must have really liked and shared it. It would be wonderful if you yourselves could also share it with friends and family and also like or make a comment on the section of the Comet's Facebook page where they're promoting it. Thank you everyone. It's phenomenal free advertising for our lovely school.

Here's a link to the story on their website: [Stevenage school launches virtual tour for families / The Comet](#). It would be absolutely fantastic if some of you could go on and comment!

And here's a link to the Facebook page: [The Comet - "Young children learn best through fun,... / Facebook](#)

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 rhyme of the week was 'Incy Wincy Spider' and the children were fascinated to learn all about spiders. They discussed facts and learnt how spiders catch their food. They discovered that spiders are hairy! Yusuf said, 'A baby spider is called a spiderling,' and Harry said, 'Spiders are arachnids.' In understanding of the world, the children investigated the rhyme by placing spiders at the top of tilted drainpipes and pouring water from watering cans or jugs to see whether their spider would be washed out. Daniel exclaimed, after watching the spider shooting down the drainpipe, 'The water washed my spider out!'



In art, the children thoroughly enjoyed creating sparkly spider webs by dribbling PVA glue to create the web and covering their web with glitter. In physical development, they used black playdough to create 3D spiders and used a range of resources to create legs. In mathematics, the children had lots of fun counting the number of sounds they heard or actions they created with their bodies. They carefully counted a number of objects.

Next week, the children will learn the rhyme 'Autumn Leaves' and the Makaton sign will be 'no'. The book of the week will be 'Ready Steady Go' by Kes Gray and Marta Kissi. The focus next week will be on how to be healthy. The children will take part in a yoga session, move in a range of ways for exercise, discover the importance of cleaning teeth and taste a range of fruit and vegetables.

Please remember parent consultations will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Appointment times to see your child's keyworker will be placed in the window. If you have not signed up, Mrs Dacombe has the appointment board, so there is still time to book an appointment.

Monday: Mrs Kimble 3.30 to 5.30pm

Tuesday: Mrs Dacombe 3.30 to 5.30pm

Mrs Morgan 3.30 to 5.30pm

Mrs Aba and Mrs Ravi 3.30 to 5.30pm

Wednesday: Miss Smith 3.30 to 5.30pm

Stars of the Week

Rome for gesturing that the spider would go down the drainpipe.

Samuel for remembering so many spider facts.

Poppie for thoroughly enjoying all the activities linked to Incy Wincy Spider.

Nathan for super facts about spiders.

Reception: This week in Big Write, the children enjoyed listening to a story about a wolf called Wilfred in 'The Healthy Wolf' by David Bedford. Wilfred did not look after himself so after many years of not eating healthily, nor looking after his teeth, nor doing any exercise, he was a very unhealthy wolf. Wilfred the wolf visited the classes and sat in the 'hot seat' answering questions from the children. When being Wilfred, James in Tawny Owl class said, 'My favourite water is mountain water!' For the Big Write activity, the children used phonic mats to support them to label parts of Wilfred's body and write a caption about him or about ways to be healthy. Marli-Grace in Barn Owl class wrote, 'Wilfred brushed his teeth,' and Rylee in Barn Owl class wrote, 'Wilfred eats apples.' In Snowy Owl class, Rudi wrote, 'He hides sweets.' and Felix in Snowy Owl class wrote, 'The wolf is not healthy.'

In phonics, the children learnt the phonemes: /h/, /b/, /f/, /ff/, /l/, /ll/ and /ss/. Please see below the patten the staff use to help the children form the letters correctly.

- ***h*** - start at the top and come all the way down, bounce halfway back up go over, down and flick.
- ***b*** - tart at the top, come all the way down, bounce halfway back up and go all the way round.
- ***f*** - make a curve, come all the way down, curve to the left. Lift and cross.
- ***l*** - start at the top and come all the way down and flick.

This week's poem was 'How many people live in your house?'

***How many people live in your house?
How many people live in your house?
One, my mother, two, my father,
Three, my sister, four, my brother.
There's one more, now let me see,
Oh yes, of course, it must be me!
How many people live in your house?
How many people live in your house?***



In mathematics, the children enjoyed playing a game of representing up to three actions using counters. For example, if a child clapped twice, the other children had to place two counters on a five-frame board.



Next week is Science Week and the focus is 'Healthy Living'. The children will participate in activities about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. They will listen to the story 'Ready, Steady, Mo!' by the athlete Mo Farah and participate in some fun and energetic activities in PE to discover the importance of exercise. The children will answer questions by the character 'Supersoap' when reading the story about the importance of washing hands. They will find out why they should clean their teeth twice a day and about the importance of having a healthy diet. One of the activities linked to healthy diet will be tasting a selection of fruit and vegetables. The children will role-play a bedtime routine using dolls, making sure they have cleaned their teeth. They will read a bedtime story to a doll. They will also participate in activities to relax their bodies through meditation and mindfulness.

Now the colder weather is approaching, your child will be wearing a coat to school every day. Please encourage your child to put their coat on by themselves and show them how to do the zip up.

Stars of the Week

Snowy Owls

Rianna for trying your best with your Big Write about Wilfred the Healthy Wolf.

Tawny Owls

James for amazing hot-seating as Wilfred the Wolf!

Barn Owls

Raphael for an amazing Big Write about Wilfred the Wolf.

***Year 1:** First of all, thank you for such a phenomenal show of support on Monday for stay and play! The children were overjoyed to show you their classrooms. The next opportunity to visit the classrooms will be Open Evening on Thursday 26th November from 5pm until 6.30pm.*

What an amazingly creative week the Year 1 children have had! It started with the fabulous launch to Big Write week. The children were astonished to receive the news that the story characters had escaped from their books. They planned a mission to find them, thinking about where to look. They decided the 'deep, dark wood' was a good place to start. The children searched the school woodland and found many characters hiding in the trees and holes in the ground. They then headed over the trippety-trappety bridge into the Enchanted Garden and found more characters by the wishing well and in the houses of the Three Little Pigs! The children talked about why the characters had gone to the woodland and what they thought they would do next. Some children thought they had been tricked by the Big Bad Wolf. Others thought they had gone to hunt the Big Bad Wolf. Some children said they would play hide and seek. Back in class, the children drew their own story characters and labelled. Some children challenged themselves to use adjectives as part of their labels. The teachers were hugely impressed by how well the children applied themselves to their independent writing. Well done Year 1, and thank you Miss Wright for such an inspiring theme.

In other learning, the children enjoyed looking at the book 'Beautiful Oops!' by Barney Saltzberg. It is a super book for talking about resilience when things go wrong, and how to make the best of an 'oops!'. The children learnt about addition fact families in mathematics. In RE, they considered what Christians believe about how God wants them to treat others. They learnt the word 'agape', meaning helping someone without expecting anything in return. The children thought of examples of how they can help other people. In computing, the children used the paint tools to create a picture and learnt to save it to their own work area. In phonics, the children learnt to listen for, read and spell consonant blends at the beginning of words.

Next week the children will have a topic focus on their senses. They will be learning about seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching. The children will have the opportunity to take part in a taste test and a smell test. They will also make and eat their own fruit kebabs. Please see the separate letter that was sent earlier this week. Please inform your class teacher by Monday 19th October if your child has any allergies to the following: grapes, banana, pineapple, orange, pear, grapefruit, strawberries, ketchup, onion, vinegar, lemon, or coffee. You can inform the school via email to the admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk address. Please put 'allergy' as the subject line. Alternatively, you can speak to the class teacher at the door on Monday morning.

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class

*Sia for drawing and labelling a wonderful book character.
Avlin for having a fantastic understanding of addition in mathematics.*

Red Fox Class

*Harper for fantastic independent writing.
Lana for trying super hard in mathematics.*

Walker Bear Class

*Bertie for challenging yourself with your learning.
Zainab for super resilience in mathematics and not giving up.*

Year 2: *It has been a very exciting week in Year 2. It was 'Big Write' week and the theme was 'The Escaped Characters'. On Monday morning, the children were very shocked to find that words and characters were missing from the stories in their classrooms. A mystery to be solved! George K said, 'I think they have hidden in our woodland area'. Annabelle G said, 'I have found some of Cinderella's carriage on the Year 2 playground'. After reading a letter from the characters, the children went to the woodland area to look for them. In the woodland area, the children found the escaped story characters and lots of speech bubbles which said, 'I have escaped from my story!'. The children agreed the traditional tales would not make sense without the characters, so they set about creating a plan to get them back. They enlisted the help of Mrs Mendel and wrote clear instructions on how to put the characters back in their stories. Mrs Mendel followed each instruction carefully and we are happy to share all the characters are back in their stories.*

In mathematics, the children continued with addition and subtraction. They revised the bonds to ten, which they learnt in Year 1, and explored addition and subtraction bonds within 20, learning strategies to work them out quickly. In computing, the children learnt about the function of buttons in a program. In RE, the children listened to the story 'The Boy Who Threw Stones' and discussed how to look after nature. In Geography, the children learnt about the countries of the United Kingdom.

Next week, the children will learn about onomatopoeia as they write poems about rainy weather. In mathematics, the children will continue to learn about addition and subtraction, focusing on the bonds to 100. In science, they will begin to learn about teeth hygiene. In geography, they will continue to learn about the countries of the United Kingdom, focussing on the capitals and populations.

The children will also present 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*

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 lovely weekend!

Stars of the Week

Pelican Class

Marissa for excellent listening during circle time.

Mia for always being kind and helpful.

Penguin Class

Chloe for fantastic ideas on how to rescue the storybook characters.

Alfie H for always trying hard in all that you do.

Puffin Class

Teddy G for always modelling excellent listening skills and sharing super ideas in class discussions.

George G for sharing excellent ideas during the Big Write.



**Garden
House
Hospice
Care**

Garden House Hospice Care, Gillison Close,
Letchworth Garden City SG6 1QU.
enquiries@ghhospicecare.org.uk
www.ghhospicecare.org.uk
01462 679540

Dear families,

The 'Farmers Christmas Lights Tour' and Garden House Hospice are running a special 'Design a Christmas Tractor Scene' competition for local school children. We are inviting your children to take part by designing a festive scene. Please find the design sheet attached, which needs to be returned to school by **Friday 27th November 2026**.

The best design will be selected as the winner and will have a special visit to their school with the tractor and a prize. As well as their prize and the visit they will also receive a copy of the special Christmas Lights Tour fiction book 'Tractor – Where Are You Going Today!'

We look forward to seeing your Christmas design... think Santas, snowmen, reindeer, twinkling lights, tinsel and baubles!

Good luck!

About the Farmers on Christmas Lights Tour

Get ready to wrap up warm and hit your local high street - the Farmers on Christmas Lights Tour is back for its sixth year! For one night only, the tractor rally will see over 100 festive farm vehicles hit the roads of Baldock, Letchworth and Hitchin, bringing the magic a few days before Christmas. It's the biggest farm, family-friendly event of its kind in Hertfordshire and is certain to put a smile on the faces of all who stop to watch.

This wonderful event is organised by local farmers in aid of Garden House Hospice Care, with every penny raised in donations directly supporting our cause. At a time where we need our community to gather around us most, the Farmers on Christmas Lights Tour cannot be missed!

Approximate timings: Sunday 20th December 2026

- 6.00pm Baldock: Convoy begins in Clothall Road and onto the High Street.
- 6.45pm Letchworth: Arrives via Pixmore Way, into Norton Way South, up Gernon Road and back down Eastcheap and Broadway Gardens.
- 7.30pm Hitchin: Leads via Hitchin Road, ending at St Marys Car Park for the perfect finale of fairground rides, treats and thank you's.

Donations

Last year we raised over £56,000 from this event and we are committed to beating that target in 2026!

Volunteers will be visible with collection tins on the night, or you can donate through our website, via JustGiving or by texting TRACTOR to 70460 to donate £5. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message. You can also find a QR code on your design sheets.

Kind Regards,

Connie Chappell
Fundraising Assistant
connie.chappell@ghhospicecare.org.uk

AUTUMN TERM		
MEETING	DATE	TIME
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
Christmas Activities - FROG	Wednesday 02/12/26	3.15pm-4.15pm
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

