THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Tania Dalton

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23.01.2026

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

Reception	***Key stage one***
Barn Owls 95.8%	***Puffins 98.3%***

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite it being 'Blue Monday' and apparently the gloomiest time of the year, in school it has been a marvellous week. The children are loving the spring topics and you will read more below.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch: ***Our Year 1 children study birds throughout the spring term and this year we would like also to encourage our Year 2 children to build on their learning from last year. The Big Garden Birdwatch is a chance for our children to be scientists with their families, collecting valuable data. For more information, please visit It's Big Garden Birdwatch Weekend. If you do not have a garden, you could go to a local park or nature reserve. Some suggestions include Fairlands Valley Park and Sishes Wood in Stevenage, or a short journey away could take you to the RSPB headquarters at Sandy, Fowlmere Nature Reserve, or Jordan's Mill.***

Phonics Workshop for Reception: ***This will take place Thursday 5th February after school. We are aiming to start at 3.30pm so the teachers have time to set up all the lovely phonics activities for the children; we hope you won't need to wait long. The training will take place in the Reception classrooms, and your children will have an opportunity to try out all the phonics activities. Do come along – you will discover lots of ways you can support your child's progress at home!***

Stay and Read Year 1: ***Tuesday 27th January 2.50-3.10pm. Please come and join your child's class and share a book with them.***

Stay and Read Year 2: Thursday 29th January 2.50-3.10pm. Please come and join your child's class and share a book with them.

Holocaust Memorial Day: ***This takes place on Tuesday 27th January and pupils will be acknowledging this day, if age-appropriate and in age-appropriate ways, within school.***

Big Write: *Next week is Big Write Week for our key stage one children. We can't give away any details at this stage, but it will be a very exciting week in school!*

Severe Weather/Public Emergency: *If the school has to close due to severe weather/public emergency, we will send you an email and/or text message to advise whether the school remains open. We will also update the school website with important information on the main page www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk.*

Winter weather: *Please make sure your children are wrapped up warmly in a waterproof coat so that they can enjoy outside play, regardless of the weather. Please provide your child with a named hat, scarf and gloves – thank you!*

Reception Screening Tests: *These will continue on Monday 26th January and Monday 2nd February.*

FROG Bake Sale: *The FROG Bake Sale will take place from 3.15pm on Thursday 12th February in the school hall. Store-bought or homemade, all contributions are gratefully accepted; please bring any donations to the school office on the day. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Such events help to raise vital funds to support the school.*

Parking around school site: *We have been made aware that parents are parking on double yellow lines along the main road and blocking residents' cars and garages when dropping off and picking up their children. We appreciate that parking is extremely limited around the school site, and we politely request that you walk to school if possible. Parking on double yellow lines makes it dangerous for other vehicles and pedestrians, and we want to ensure the safety of our children and parents at all times. Thank you for your support and consideration.*

Lip balm in class: *At this time of year, we appreciate that a small number of children suffer with extremely chapped lips that require treatment. Staff are happy to oversee the application of lip balm, but we must ask that this is handed in at the school office and a permission form completed. Some children and adults can be allergic to quite a number of the potential components of lip balm, which could be life-threatening. Thank you for helping to keep everyone at our school safe.*

Safety on school grounds: *Our staff do their very best to make sure all games and equipment are stored safely at the end of the day, to ensure the school grounds are clear for parents to collect / drop off their children safely. On the rare occasion that a toy or ball has been left out, please may we ask that you hand it to a member of school staff, who will be able to store it safely. May we also remind you that children should dismount from bikes and scooters before they enter the school grounds. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone*

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Date 2026: *This will take place the week of 8th-12th June. Please can holidays be strictly avoided at this time. Thank you.*

MSA and cleaning roles available in school: *If anyone is interested, please email us on admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk for further details.*

Kindest regards

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

Nursery: ***This week, the children have continued their learning about animals. They learnt about African animals and looked at the world map to see how far away Africa is located. The children were excited to learn all about the climate, the animals and their habitat. Maximos commented, "It's really far away, you have to go on a plane." A highlight of the week was becoming Jungle Explorers, discovering different animals, such as snakes, lions, monkeys, and crocodiles hidden within our jungle role play area. Alyza said, "I see a wild cat, I see a rattle snake up in the tree!" Mason excitedly shared, "I'm standing in the waterhole with the elephants."***



In mathematics, the children identified corners and sides on different shapes. They showed super knowledge of shape names, identifying squares, triangles, rectangles, ovals and circles. The children learnt that a corner is where two sides meet. A triangle has three corners, and a square has four corners. Raphael said, "A rectangle has four sides and four corners."



In expressive arts and design, the children looked at African rock art paintings and learnt that they were made using natural materials found in the earth, such as clay. They explored mixing red and green powder paint with glue to give their painting a rocky effect.

In literacy, the children have shared, sequenced and acted out the story of 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Cambell. Cody recalled, "He's too big!" when drawing an elephant and Betsy B shared, "So we sent him back!"

In understanding the world, the children enjoyed listening to African drum music before playing a variety of different drums to several beats and rhythms. They showed fantastic hand eye coordination and timing. Benjamin commented, "I liked playing the drums."



Next week, the children will learn all about animals who live on a farm. They will hear the story of 'Farmer Duck' by Martin Waddell and develop their understanding of animals and their young.

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

Jenson for consistently using the five signs of learning during group time.

Isaac L for using his fantastic imagination in the jungle pole play area.

Xenia for amazing sequencing of the animals in the 'Dear Zoo' story.

Ethan for a super giraffe painting.

Emily for super drumming to African music.

Reception: ***This week in literacy, the children continued to apply their expanding phonic knowledge to write a simple sentence and include a WOW word (an adjective). They have been writing about the dog from the traditional tale of 'The Gingerbread Man'. Here are some examples of sentences written by the children:***

'The dog has a soft tail.'

'The dog has sharp teeth.'

'The dog has floppy ears.'

In mathematics, the children investigated ways to make six, seven and eight. They loved creating different combinations of spots to go onto a ladybird shell and began to look at similarities and differences between the combinations.

In understanding the world, the children continued to find out more about seasonal changes. For their second drawing of a specific tree in the school grounds, the children used charcoal, and this drawing will be added to their 'Seasonal Changes of a Tree' book. Andrew in Barn Owl class said, "There are no leaves on the trees, and it is cold."

Next week in literacy, the children will use their phonic knowledge to write a descriptive sentence about another character from 'The Gingerbread Man' story. This time, the children will be writing about the cow.

In mathematics, the children will investigate doubles up to eight using dice to play a caterpillar doubling game.

In understanding the world, the children will be 'science detectives' continuing to find out more about seasonal changes. They will investigate the school grounds for signs of winter. The children will use iPads to take photographic evidence of the season.

Stars of the week:

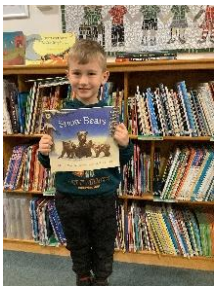
Snowy Owl Class
Arlo for finding different ways to make six.
Zainab for making good progress with learning the Phase 2 sounds.
Kaitlin for writing a wonderful sentence about the dog from 'The Gingerbread Man' story.

Tawny Owl Class
Jana for fantastic independent reading.
Alfie for a brilliant explanation of hibernation when talking about winter.

Barn Owl Class
Noah for using his phonic knowledge to write a super sentence about a dog using a WOW word.
Maeve for demonstrating great skills in gymnastics.

Year 1: ***In English this week, the children wrote their own story opener, inspired by the start of 'Bear and Wolf' by Daniel Salmieri. They used adjectives to make their writing interesting. Some children used 'and' to link adjectives or clauses. In phonics this term, the children are learning that some letters can have more than one sound; for example, the letter 'i' has a short sound in 'ink' and a long sound in 'find'. The children are learning to recite poems to become fluent readers. This week they practised the poem 'Dragon Smoke' by Lilian Moore. Teddy in Walker Bear class commented that, "you can see your breath in cold weather." The children have their own copy of the poem. Please enjoy reading it together.***

In mathematics, the children practised finding 'one more' and 'one less' than a given number using a number line. To support your child, you could count forwards and backwards from zero to 20 and 20 to zero starting on any number, and practise using the words 'one more' and 'one less'.



The first groups of children have delighted us with their presentations about 'My Favourite Book'. The children who will present next week are bringing home their prompt sheets today. This is part of our oracy learning. The children are practising speaking clearly to an audience and using full sentences. Thank you for supporting your child to prepare for their turn.

It is the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend. This is a great way for you to help your child to take part in real scientific research. Each child has a survey sheet with instructions. Next week in computing, they will make a pictogram to show which birds their teachers spotted during the RSPB Birdwatch.

Next week is Big Write and the children have an exciting week of literacy to look forward to! In mathematics, the children will compare numbers and order numbers from smallest to greatest or greatest to smallest. Thank you for sending in cardboard tubes for the children to make windsocks as part of their learning about the weather and seasonal changes.

There is a new homework sheet today. Please return homework books to school by Wednesday 4th February. Congratulations to all the super readers who have earnt certificates by reading ten times with an adult!

Finally, consent and payments can now be made on Arbor for the trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park on Tuesday 17th March. Thank you if you have already done this.

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class
Harrison for writing a fantastic opening to a story.
Jaxon for making a wonderful bird feeder during Forest School.

Red Fox Class
Theo for fantastic independent writing.
George K for super phonics.

Walker Bear Class
Elsie for growing in confidence in all areas of learning.
Mia for super listening in story time to solve the mystery of what made the footprints that Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet followed.

Year 2: ***This week in English, the children have explored 'fractured fairytales', reading alternative versions of fairytales, told from the perspective of different characters, and thinking about how the stories change when told from a different point of view. They thoroughly enjoyed adapting a fairytale by changing the characters and the setting. The children created a backdrop and paper character puppets to tell their story orally. Fantastic work Year 2!***



In mathematics this week, the children counted the faces, edges and vertices on 3D shapes to reinforce their learning of the shape names and properties. They also made patterns with 2D and 3D shapes.



In geography, the children learnt more about the Arctic and Antarctica. They explored some of the similarities and differences between them. In RE, they learnt that Muslims worship at a mosque and found out about the rituals that take place inside. In PSHCE, the children chose a goal and thought of steps that could help them achieve it. In science, they compared the suitability of materials for different purposes and in art and design, they learnt about the artist Blaze Cyan, a local artist who works with charcoal.

Next week is Big Write and the children will take part in an exciting surprise theme. More information will follow next week. In mathematics, the children will extend their learning about addition and subtraction.

In geography, they will learn about the human and physical features of Antarctica. In science, they will look closely at the properties of materials. In RE, they will learn about a Sikh Gurdwara. In PSHCE, they will spend time working towards their chosen goal. In art and design, they will learn how to add perspective to a picture and in history, they will learn about the race to be the first person to reach the South Pole.

All parents and carers are invited to the Year 2 Stay and Read, which takes place at 2.50pm next Thursday 29th January. This is a great chance for you to visit your child's classroom and spend some time reading with them. We look forward to seeing you.

Stars of the week:

Pelican Class
Emilee for super independent learning in English all week.
Solamish for settling in so well to Pelican class.

Penguin Class
Nicholas and Davis for being so brave and settling in Penguin class so well. Well done!

Puffin Class
Irina for working hard in computing to produce a digital footprint poster.
Layla for excellent re-telling of her 'fractured fairytale'.

SPRING TERM

Event	Date	Time
BIG WRITE WEEK	W/C 26/01/26	
Reception Screening	Monday 26/01/26	
Stay and Read – Year 1	Tuesday 27/01/26	2.50pm-3.10pm
Stay and Read – Year 2	Thursday 29/01/26	2.50pm-3.10pm
Junk Percussion Workshop	Monday 02/02/26	
Reception Screening	Monday 02/02/26	
INCo/Attendance Coffee Morning	Tuesday 03/02/26	8.50am-9.30am
Phonics Workshop for Reception parents	Thursday 05/02/26	3.30pm
E-SAFETY WEEK	W/C 09/02/25	
Safer Internet Day with assembly and training for pupils	Tuesday 10/02/26	2.40pm
FROG/PTA Bake Sale	Thursday 12/02/26	3.15pm
HALF TERM	Monday 16/02/26 to Friday 20/02/26	
Children return	Monday 23/02/26	
BOOK WEEK	W/C Monday 02/03/26	
Holi festival (Hindu) assembly in class – children only	Wednesday 04/03/26	
Year 1 Phonics Workshop for parents	Thursday 05/03/26	3.30pm-4.15pm
Nursery Tour	Thursday 05/03/26	4.30pm-5.30pm
WORLD BOOK DAY	Thursday 05/03/26	
SCIENCE WEEK	W/C 09/03/26	
Circus Skills Workshop	Tuesday 10/03/26	
Year 2 Mathematics Workshop for parents	Wednesday 11/03/26	3.30pm-4.00pm
ORACY WEEK	W/C 16/03/26	
Nursery Tour for new parents	Monday 16/03/26	4.30pm-5.30pm
Year 1 trip to Shepreth	Tuesday 17/03/26	
Rocksteady Concert	Wednesday 18/03/26	9.30am
Stay and Play – Year 2	Wednesday 18/03/26	2.50pm-3.15pm
Stay and Play – Year 1	Thursday 19/03/26	2.50pm-3.10pm
Eid-al-Fitr (Islam) assembly in class – children only	Thursday 19/03/26 - Friday 20/03/26	
Red Nose Day	Friday 20/03/26	
Easter (Christian) assembly in class – children only	Monday 23/03/26 (actual date Sunday 05/04/26)	
Easter activities in school	Week of 23/03/26	
NEURODIVERSITY DAY	Tuesday 24/03/26	
INCo/Attendance Coffee Morning	Tuesday 24/03/26	8.50am -9.30am
Parent Consultations – Nursery	Monday 23/03/26 Tuesday 24/03/26 Wednesday 25/03/26	2:30pm-5:50pm 2:30pm-5:50pm 2:30pm-5:50pm
Parent Consultations – Reception	Monday 23/03/26 Tuesday 24/03/26 Wednesday 25/03/26	3.30pm-5.30pm 3.30pm-5.30pm 3.30pm-5.30pm
Parent Consultations – Year 1 and Year 2	Tuesday 24/03/26 Wednesday 25/03/26	3.40pm-6.30pm 3.40pm-6.30pm
Parent Consultations – Orca	Tuesday 24/03/26	1.30pm-3.00pm 5.00pm-5.30pm
Kittle – Class Photos (main hall)	Wednesday 25/03/26	8.00am
Year 2 Scooter Workshop	Thursday 26/03/26	
Easter bonnet parades	Friday 27/03/26	
LAST DAY OF TERM	Friday 27/03/26	School closes at 1.00pm

DRAMA SINGING DANCE

JIGSAW
EST. 1995



Give your child a confident start! Learn social skills and build self-esteem through fun in dance, drama and singing.

Children aged 3–4 years and 5–6 years attend a one-and-a-half-hour session, divided into three sections of dance, drama and singing. These sessions are taught by specialist teachers who are experienced and trained by Jigsaw Arts to work with these age groups.

Classes for students aged 7–18 years also available, students attend a three-hour session which includes an hour of dance, an hour of drama and an hour of singing, each with a specialist coach. Students are divided into age bands and rotate among the three disciplines.

The safety of our students is a priority, whilst maintaining a fun and engaging environment. All teachers are DBS checked.



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@JigsawStevenage

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Contact us via WhatsApp
01438 518336

CLASSES IN:

STEVENAGE

Saturday mornings

Barnwell Upper School
Shephall
Stevenage
SG2 9SR

3–4 year olds:
9.30am – 11.00am
11.30am – 1:00pm

5–6 year olds:
9.30am – 11.00am
11.30am – 1.00pm

7–18 year olds:
10.00am – 1.00pm

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW

T: 01438 518336
W: jigsaw-arts.co.uk/stevenage

Jigsaw Performing Arts

SUPER STAR SPORT



FEBRUARY HALF-TERM CAMPS

ROEBUCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

ST MARGARETS, BROADWATER, STEVENAGE SG2 8RF

MON 16TH FEB - FRI 20TH FEB



FULL DAY	09:00AM - 15:15PM FULL DAY - £25.50	FULL WEEK - £110.00
HALF DAY	09:00AM - 12:45PM HALF DAY - £15.30	HALF FULL WEEK - £65.00



SCAN HERE

To book:

Visit www.superstarsport.co.uk

Go to "Book Now" & select your club!

TERM DATES 2025-26

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Spring Term: Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026

[Half term: Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026]

School finishes on Friday 27th March 2026 at 1.00pm

[Easter Holidays Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026]

Summer Term: Monday 13th April 2026 – Thursday 23rd July 2026

Children return to school on Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 4th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 25th May 2026 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

[Half term: Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026]

Monday 1st June 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Friday 3rd July 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Thursday 23rd July 2026 at 1.00pm

2025 / 26 School Calendar

September '25						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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29	30	31				

October '25						
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November '25						
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December '25						
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January '26						
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February '26						
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March '26						
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April '26						
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June '26						
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July '26						
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August '26						
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31						

= Term Time

= 24/25 Pupil Holidays

= Bank and Public Holidays

= 2025/26 Pupil Holidays

= Inset Day - school closed to pupils

= Occasional Day - (school closed to pupils)

TERM DATES 2026-2027

Tuesday 1st September 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Autumn Term: Wednesday 2nd September 2026 – Friday 18th December 2026

Children return to school on Wednesday 2nd September

[Half Term: Monday 26th October 2026 - Friday 30th October 2026]

Monday 2nd November 2026 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

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						
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October '26						
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November '26						
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December '26						
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January '27						
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February '27						
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March '27						
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April '27						
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May '27						
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June '27						
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July '27						
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August '27						
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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

Silver Eco-Schools Silver Award

Stevenage SFT Sporting Futures Team

Healthy Schools Hertfordshire Spring 2014

Hertfordshire Quality Standards 2016

Youth Sport Trust Bronze Quality Mark

Green Tree School Platinum Award