

THE GILES NURSERY AND INFANTS' SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Deputy / Acting Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill
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26.06.2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I think we can all be very proud of ourselves for having coped with this week so beautifully, inside the school and out. Thank you for working with us with such kind understanding as rules and timings changed constantly throughout the week. We got there in the end! Staff worked tirelessly to make sure that classrooms and spaces were as cool and possible and children as comfortable as they could possibly be.

Attendance trophies will not be awarded this week, in light of the relaxed attendance.

The absolute highlight of this week was the Year 1 Summer Concerts. These were absolutely delightful – children behaved and performed so beautifully and the range of work demonstrated was stunningly impressive. Evidence of how much progress the children have made was abundant and the children's memorisation and internalisation of the fabulous story, 'The Gruffalo' was awe-inspiring! Hugely well done to our children – we are so proud of them! And enormous thanks to our fantastic, caring, inspirational staff!

Please remember that school is closed next Friday 3rd July for inset day. I hope you all have a lovely day with your families.

Important dates for next week:

Talk for next year's Orca parents	***Tuesday 30th June***	***3.30pm***
Reception Stay-and-Play for all children joining in September	***Wednesday 1st July***	***3.45-4.30pm***
Welcome to Reception talk for parents	***Wednesday 1st July***	***4.30-5.15pm***
Trip to Woburn Safari Park for Year 2	***Wednesday 1st July***	
Inset day (school closed to all pupils)	***Friday 3rd July***	

Catering Team: ***We are delighted to share with you that our fantastic catering team have been honoured with special recognition by HCL. Both Mrs Scott and Ms Morrison have been selected because, 'The staff at Giles Nursery and Infants' School are exceptionally well-organised and operate smoothly, demonstrating the outstanding teamwork within the unit… They scored an impressive 95% in the Allergen Audit, and 97% in the Health and Safety Unit. (This) is testament to their hard work, dedication and strong teamwork ethic which must be recognised.'***

We are so proud of our wonderful team! Well done and thank you for everything you do to make mealtimes happy and lunches nutritious and served hygienically. Thank you!

Sports Day: *Sports Day is on Tuesday 14th July. Please be prepared for cancellation in the event of the school field being too wet. We will text or send an email and put a message on the school website if a decision to cancel is taken in the morning. The reserve date will be Monday 20th July.*

- ***Dress:*** *Please dress children in their PE kits (polo shirts, shorts and training shoes) in the morning. They will need to wear a hat and sunscreen. Please supply your child with a water bottle.*

- ***Times of events:***
  - *Reception: 9.05-10.00am*
  - *Year 1: 10.05-1.10am*
  - *Year 2: 11.15-2.20pm*

- ***Access to school field:*** *At 9.00am, the school caretaker will lock all external gates as usual except the Nursery entrance gate which will be kept open all morning. Please enter and exit the school premises through this gate. Please enter the sports field by walking along the Year 1 playground, then through the field gate.*

- ***Spectator rules:*** *We'll be marking off with barrier tape the spectator area which we would ask you to stay inside please. We will also have some chairs available.*

  - *Children must stay with their classes and not go with parents, for example, to use the toilet.*
  - *The event should be conducted in the same way as an assembly – families are there as spectators and should not approach the children, including at the end when they are walking back to class.*
  - *We did have incursions last year so please be aware that this year I will stop the races if any adults come outside of the allocated areas.*

I know this is difficult and we understand that you're very proud of your children but this is a big event, and we need to keep all the children safe. This event taking place as it does on the sports field outside is the one time in the year when the school is not in control of who turns up to watch. We therefore have to make incredibly sure that we are keeping a clear gap between spectators and the children. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Todd in the Hole Festival: *Children in Years 1 and 2 have received a separate letter about this event earlier this week. This incredible event is taking place from 3rd to 5th July this year. Our school will perform on Sunday 5th July and we are privileged in being the ONLY school to perform. We will be sending more information in due course but please speak to your child's class teacher as soon as possible to book your child's place. It is only to Year 1 and 2 children and all children will be given a free ticket for the day plus one free adult ticket. Further tickets can be purchased at a discount and we will provide you with the code when you confirm your child's place. Thank you everyone – it is truly an opportunity not to be missed!*

Nursery school places for September 2026: *There are a few places available in our Nursery Class from September 2026; if you would like to visit, please contact the school for an appointment. We ask our families to share this information with friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2026. Eligible children will have birth dates between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023.*

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone!

Kindest regards
Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

Nursery: ***This week, the children have loved continuing to learn all about the seaside. They learnt about different types of beaches and talked about sandy, pebbly and rocky shores. They looked at photographs of seaside places and shared their own experiences. During carpet time, the children joined in singing 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat' and paired up with friends to pretend they were rowing together in the sea. They showed great confidence as they used new vocabulary, such as 'cliff', 'pier' and 'harbour'.***

In mathematics, the children created their own tin foil boat and explored how many figures their boat could hold in the water. The children quickly discovered, the more figures they had in their boat, the heavier their boat became and the more likely it was to sink!





In phonics, the children have practised segmenting and blending. They are developing confidence using their 'robot arms' to segment a range of words including, 's-u-n', 's-o-ck' and 'l-o-g'. Please encourage your child to listen carefully to the sounds they can hear in short words.

In expressive arts and design, the children have been creative with a variety of seaside-themed activities. They enjoyed creating beach balls using collage materials as well as making colourful ice cream cones using tissue paper. The children also created their own boats using shapes and created a crab seaside picture using cupcake cases.

Important dates coming up in Ladybird Class:

- ***Wednesday 1st July, 3.45-4.30pm: Reception Stay and Play***
- ***Wednesday 1st July, 4.30-5.15pm: Welcome to Reception talk for parents***
- ***Friday 3rd July: Inset day – school closed***
- ***Friday 10th July: Pirate Day (morning and afternoon slots available). Please come and enjoy this special celebration with your child. Letters have been emailed to parents this week and a paper copy has also been given out.***

Next week in phonics, the children will consolidate their knowledge of the letter sounds learnt this term and continue to practise segmenting and blending. In PSHCE, they will remember some of the fun things about Nursery and look back at photographs from the year.

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

Rocky for always being ready to learn and a helpful member of Ladybird Class.
Rudi for developing his independence and showing super cutting skills this week.
Dotty for being a helpful member of Rectangle Group.
Frankee for her amazing progress with number skills.

Reception: ***This week in understanding the world, the children made bread rolls. They took turns to mix the ingredients in the bowl, and each child was given a ball of dough to knead. When making bread rolls and kneading the dough, Dominik in Barn Owl class said, "At home with my mummy, she lets me knead the dough to make bread." After making bread, Aliyah in Tawny Owl class said, "My hands were covered in dough, I had to give them a jolly good wash!" The children took their rolls home at the end of the school day. The following morning, many said they enjoyed eating their roll for their tea.***





In literacy, the children wrote a list of ingredients for making bread. The children found out the importance of yeast and because they did not know what yeast looked like, a sachet was opened for the children to investigate. Maeve in Barn Owl class said, "It looks a bit like brown powder."

Next week in literacy, the children will write sentences about the fillings they like in a sandwich. In understanding the world, the children will look at a map and discover breads from around the world. In this activity, they will use their sense of touch to feel the texture of the bread, their eyes to look at the colour and shape of the bread, their sense of smell, and of course, their sense of taste when sampling some! In mathematics, the children will create and continue a repeating pattern using multilink cubes. They will be challenged to create a more complex repeating pattern.

Stars of the Week

Snowy Owl Class

Raahi for being able to recognise doubles and reverse doubles.
Kaitlin for being able to recognise doubles and reverse doubles.
Josiah for identifying initial sounds of words when writing a list.

Tawny Owl Class

Xavier for excellent kneading of the dough to make his bread roll.
Lyra for a brilliantly written bread-making shopping list.

Barn Owl Class

Maeve for applying phonics to write the ingredients needed to make bread.
Freya for fabulous kneading of dough when making a bread roll.
Rose for fabulous kneading of dough when making a bread roll.
Ollie for super work on doubles and reverse doubles.

Year 1: ***It has been a somewhat exceptional week in Year 1. The children adapted incredibly well to changes to their normal routines and curriculum to cope with the unprecedented heatwave.***

Thank you to all families for working with us to enable the children to showcase their learning in the Summer Concerts. The children work so hard to prepare for the concerts, not just learning lines, but also preparing themselves to perform in front of an audience. We are immensely impressed by the progress the children have made this year, socially and academically. We are sure your hearts must have been bursting with pride! Well done to all of Year 1.

In mathematics this week, the children learnt about money. They learnt to identify British coins and notes. They learnt to understand the value of the different coins and notes. The children worked hard to find ways to combine coins and notes to 'buy' different items. They used their skill of counting in twos, fives and tens to add together sets of coins.

In English, the children focussed on preparation for their concerts and speaking and listening presentations. They also began to look at the book 'Barnaby Bear at the Seaside'. They are using this text to find out about beach safety, including sun protection, safe swimming, and the role of the coastguards and RNLI.

Next week, the children will be formulating questions to ask about the RNLI and the work of coastguards and lifeguards. They will be practising writing questions using a question mark and a question word. They will complete their work on money in mathematics and begin their final mathematics topic of the year – telling the time. You might like to talk to your child about different types of clocks and your daily routine at home. In Year 1, the children learn to tell the time at o'clock and half-past.

The PSHCE lesson that was planned for this week will take place next week instead, to ensure all children take part. Children will learn to identify the parts of the body that make boys different to girls. They will learn the correct scientific name for these parts: penis, testicles, vagina, vulva and anus. This is part of the safeguarding duty of the school as well as the PSHCE curriculum.

As we near the end of the year, please may we ask you to consider donating your child's Forest School puddle suit, waterproofs or welly boots to us? It is most helpful to have spares. Our last Forest School sessions will take place in the week of 6th July.

There is a new homework sheet – the last one of the year! The theme is money.

Stars of the week:

All the Year 1 children for working so hard throughout the year to make fantastic progress and to prepare your summer concerts.

Year 2: ***What a hot week it has been! Well done to the Year 2 children for staying focused and being understanding of the adaptations in school. Thank you to parents and carers for your support and understanding.***

In English this week, the children started to learn the traditional African folktale, 'The Papaya That Spoke'. The children listened to the story several times and carefully watched the actions that accompany it. They rehearsed telling the story themselves and they are doing a wonderful job of learning it by heart. The children also practised writing descriptive sentences, including similes.

In mathematics, the children learnt about statistics. They learnt how to record data using a tally chart and thought about when it would be easier to use a table. They learnt how to interpret data in a block graph and created their own graphs using given data.

In English next week, the children will choose characters and settings to write their own version of 'The Papaya That Spoke'. In mathematics, they will continue to learn about statistics. In design and technology, the children will learn how to sew using running stitch.

The PSHCE lesson that was planned for this week will take place next week instead, to ensure all children take part. The children will learn to recognise the physical differences between boys and girls and use the correct names for parts of the body, including the vocabulary 'penis', 'testicles', 'vagina', 'breasts' and 'anus'. This forms part of our science and PSHCE curriculum and supports safeguarding of our children. If you have concerns or would like to discuss this in more detail, please speak to your child's class teacher.

On Tuesday, the children will be visited in their classrooms by their new Year 3 teachers from the Junior School. On Thursday, the teachers will visit again and teach the classes. On Wednesday, the Year 2 children will visit Woburn Safari Park. A checklist of information will be sent home with your child next week. School is closed on Friday for an Inset Day.

Stars of the Week

Pelican Class

Samuel for fantastic knowledge of time in mathematics.
Parker for fantastic listening and learning of time in mathematics.

Penguin Class

Albie for fantastic talking this week whilst making sculptures.
Muna for excellent retelling of 'The Papaya that Spoke'.

Puffin Class

Shaineha for trying hard in phonics.
Amelia for always working hard in Puffin class.
Oscar W for demonstrating fantastic knowledge about fractions.


FREE ENTRY
GILES NURSERY AND INFANTS
School fair
AFTER SCHOOL
THURSDAY 9TH JULY
TOMBOLA
BOUNCY CASTLE
ICE CREAM VAN
CRAFTS & GAMES
REFRESHMENTS
SPECIAL GUESTS
IN THE PLAYGROUND
PLEASE BRING CASH

SUMMER TERM EVENTS

Event	Date	Time
Woburn Safari Park – Year 2	Wednesday 01/07/26	
Stay-and-play session for children joining our Reception in September 2026	Wednesday 01/07/26	3.45pm-4.30pm
Welcome to Reception talk for parents/carers	Wednesday 01/07/26	4.30pm-5.15pm
Ark Farm Animals – Reception	Thursday 02/07/26	
INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED	Friday 03/07/26	
KS1 performance at Todd in the Hole Festival	Sunday 05/07/26	
Glow Dance Workshop	Monday 06/07/26	
INCo/Attendance Coffee Morning	Wednesday 08/07/26	8.50am-9.30am
Welcome to Nursery talk for parents/carers	Wednesday 08/07/26	5:00pm-5:30pm
Moving Up Day	Thursday 09/07/26	
FROG Summer Fete	Thursday 09/07/26	3.30pm
Nursery Pirate Day	Friday 10/07/26	
ONE WORLD WEEK	W/C 13/07/26	
Orca Sports Afternoon	Monday 13/07/26	
Sports Day	Tuesday 14/07/26	
Rocksteady Concert – by invitation	Wednesday 15/07/26	9.30am
Chinese Dragon Dance Workshop	Thursday 16/07/26	
Seaside workshop – Year 1	Friday 17/07/26	
Reserve Sports Day	Monday 20/07/26	
Year 2 Leavers' Assembly – Penguin class	Tuesday 21/07/26	9.15am
Year 2 Leavers' Assembly – Pelican class	Tuesday 21/07/26	10.30am
Year 2 Leavers' Assembly – Puffin class	Tuesday 21/07/26	2.30pm
Year 2 Leavers' Assembly – Orca class	Wednesday 22/07/26	
Class parties	Wednesday 22/07/26	
LAST DAY OF TERM	Thursday 23/07/26	School closes 1.00pm

TERM DATES 2025-26

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

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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May '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
Wednesday 2nd September 2026 INSET day SCHOOL CLOSED

Autumn Term: Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Friday 18th December 2026

Children return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2026

[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						
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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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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