THE GILES NURSERY AND INFANTS' SCHOOL

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Deputy / Acting Headteacher: Miss Lisa Hill
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03.07.2026

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

Reception	*Key stage one*
Barn Owl Class	***Big Cat Class***
97%	***99.2%***

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a four-day week for our children but has nonetheless been absolutely action-packed. Year 2 pupils had a terrific trip to Woburn Safari Park. The weather was perfection itself and because it was a little cooler, many of the animals were more active and visible, to the delight of the children. Please see the Year 2 section below for more details and photographs will be going on the website this weekend. We were very proud of their beautiful behaviour.

Yesterday, all our Reception children accessed their own farm experience brought on site especially for them. In this way, all the children were able to enter in small groups and spend very intimate time with the animals, stroking them and learning about them very directly. A wide range of animals were present including pygmy goats, pigs, sheep, a donkey, dog, rabbit, ducks, hens and guinea pigs! The children had a wonderful time.

Those of our Nursery children who are joining Reception in September attended a final stay-and-play and were told which class they would be in. Everyone was very excited and all the children seemed happy with the result. Thank you to all those who stayed for the Talk for Parents session held by Mrs Dacombe, Early Years Leader and Miss Busby who is stepping up to the role of Reception Leader. Congratulations to Miss Busby and thank you both for a highly informative session.

Children have been practising for Todd in the Hole and sound absolutely fabulous! It will be a tremendous event and I can't wait to see you all there on Sunday morning.

Important dates for next week:

- ***Monday 6th July – Glow Dance Workshop for KS1***
- ***Wednesday 8th July, 8.50-9.30am – INCo / Attendance Coffee Morning***
- ***Wednesday 8th July, 5.00-5.30pm – Welcome to Nursery talk for parents/carers***

- ***Thursday 9th July – Moving Up Day, all children move to their new class for the morning***
- ***Thursday 9th July, 3.30-4.30pm – FROG Summer Fete***
- ***Friday 10th July – Nursery Pirate Day (morning or afternoon sessions)***

<u>Attendance on Monday:</u> With recent comments from the England manager encouraging pupils to take Monday off school following the late football match, all headteachers across Stevenage decided to conduct a poll so that there would be a town-wide agreement as to the course of action, thereby ensuring consistency of approach across all Stevenage schools.

I am sorry to have to inform you that the decision has gone against the approval of absence or lates on Monday morning. This includes the Junior School.

I am sorry and I'm sure that many, many families will be watching this match, but we must all remember that every school day is important for your child's learning and progress.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support in maintaining strong attendance.

<u>Sports Day:</u> 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.

- ***<u>Dress:</u> 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.***

- ***<u>Times of events:</u>***
  - ***Reception: 9.05am - 10.00am***
  - ***Year 1: 10.05am - 11.10am***
  - ***Year 2: 11.15am - 12.20pm***

- ***<u>Access to school field:</u> 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.***

- ***<u>Spectator rules:</u> 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.

<u>Nursery school places for September 2026:</u> ***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 been identifying how many 'sleeps' there are until our wonderful Pirate Day! They have shared several pirate stories, including 'Don't Mention Pirates!' by Sarah McConnell.***



The children have explored floating and sinking, becoming scientists to make predictions whether an object would float or sink in the water.



In expressive arts and design, the children have been creating pirate ships and 2D parrots using a variety of shapes. Daniel said, "That look like Humpty Dumpty." Raphael shared, "Yes, it's an oval." Don't the pictures look wonderful?

In phonics, the children have continued practising segmenting and blending a variety of consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words. They are developing confidence using their robot arms to segment a range of words including, 'c-a-t', 'b-a-t' and 'l-o-g'. Please encourage your child to listen carefully to the sounds they can hear as they use their robot arms to segment short words. The children then challenged themselves to identify the missing initial sound whilst playing Balloon Phonics on the Top Marks website.

Important dates coming up in Ladybird Class:

- ***Thursday 9th July – Moving Up Day***
- ***Friday 10th July – Pirate Day (morning and afternoon sessions available) Please come and enjoy this special celebration with your child. Please let your child's key worker know if you have not received a letter.***

Next week, the children will be continuing the build-up to Pirate Day!

Stars of the week:

Ladybird Class

Charlotte D for her developed confidence, sharing her lovely song with Rectangle Group.
Daniel for his super touch counting of pirate coins.
Emily for fantastic participation during a floating and sinking activity.
Zadie for her brilliant number formation paintings this week.
Nuria for her amazing development with her communication.
Cody for wonderful number recognition during our pirate coin treasure game.

***<u>Reception:</u>** Yesterday, the children had a fantastic visit from Ark Farm. They brought in a range of animals and after a wonderful introduction of questions and answers the children had the opportunity to get into the large enclosure and handle the animals, including a variety of smaller animals. After his visit to see the animals, Frankie in Tawny Owl class said, "The lady said that you mustn't stand behind the donkey or he might kick you!" Reggie in Snowy Owl class said, "I liked all the animals and brushing the donkey and sheep."*





This week in literacy, the children wrote sentences about the fillings they particularly enjoy in a sandwich. They used the common exception word 'like' in their sentences. The most popular fillings were jam, ham and cheese.

This week in phonics, the children were introduced to three adjacent consonants, known as a 'consonant cluster'. This is a group of three consonants appearing together in a word without vowels in between, such as 'str' in 'street' and 'strong', 'spr' in 'sprinkle' and 'spring' and 'thr' in 'throne' and 'thrive'.

In mathematics, the children used coloured cubes to create and continue a repeating pattern. Some of the children created patterns using three colours, whilst other children challenged themselves to create a repeating pattern using up to six colours! The children loved the activity where they created a line of action patterns; for example, one child did two jumps, the next child clapped their hands twice, the next child did two hops and the next child ran on the spot. It was great to see the children choosing what action they would like to do in the pattern.

In understanding the world, the children used a world map to find out where four types of bread came from. It was lovely to hear the children recall personal experiences linked to the bread. Best of all, the children had the opportunity to sample each type of bread and decide whether they liked it or not. When the children tasted dark rye bread from central and northern Europe, the majority of them were not particularly keen on the taste!

Next week, the children will make a sandwich and choosing a filling such as jam, honey, or cheese spread, or they may just choose to have butter as their filling. In mathematics, the children will listen to the story 'The Secret Path' by Nick Butterworth and use wooden blocks to create mazes for their partner to solve. In understanding the world, they will finish off their 'Seasons' book by painting a tree in summer bloom.

<u>Stars of the Week:</u>

<u>Snowy Owl Class</u>
Billy for making fantastic progress with reading.
Ottilie for making fantastic progress with reading.
Muriha for using kind words.

Tawny Owl Class

Emily for creating amazing repeating patterns independently.
Lola for amazing independent writing in phonics.

Barn Owl Class

Jiyan for writing fantastic sentences about what he would eat in a sandwich.
Harper for always being a kind friend to the children in Barn Owl class.
Bear for persevering when creating and continuing a repeating pattern.

Value of the month: humour

Snowy Owl Class – Gracious, Reuben and Roman
Tawny Owl Class – Haadi and George
Barn Owl Class – Teddy, Rylie and Freya

Year 1: ***This week, the children were excited to learn about seaside safety with the help of Barnaby Bear. They enjoyed hearing about the work of lifeguards and the RNLI and generated questions they would like to ask a lifeguard. In phonics, the children continued to learn about alternative spellings.***

In mathematics, the children started their final topic of the year, learning about time. They thought about the order in which things happen, using the words 'before' and 'after'. They learnt the order of the days of the week and months of the year and looked at calendars and timetables to work out what happens on different dates. They discussed their own weekly timetables and which days they have different clubs to go to. The next step is to begin to understand hours and minutes as a way of measuring time and to look at o'clock and half-past times.

In PSHCE, the children learnt to identify the parts of the body that make boys different to girls. In history, the children compared items that people would take on seaside holidays in the past and today. Inspired by Barnaby Bear drawing a map of his caravan, the children drew maps of their classrooms in geography. They learnt about an aerial view and thought about what they would be able to see if they could look down from the ceiling. In PE, the children have been practising their athletic skills in readiness for Sports Day.

Next week, the children will finish researching seaside safety in English. They will research the RNLI and write fact files about types of lifeboats. In mathematics, they will finish learning about time and start to recognise 'o'clock' and 'half-past' times. They will have their last Forest School sessions of the year. In phonics, they will learn more alternative spellings. On Thursday morning, the children will visit their new Year 2 classrooms for a short time.

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.

Stars of the week:

Big Cat Class

Alex for having a super understanding of telling the time to 'o'clock' and 'half past the hour'.
Calliope for creating a wonderful poster about how to stay safe on the beach.

Red Fox Class

Daisy for fantastic independent writing.
Adalyne for a super beach safety poster.

Walker Bear Class

Elijah for a wonderful map of the classroom.
Louis for a beautiful map of the classroom.
Aden for an excellent map of the classroom.

Value of the month: humour

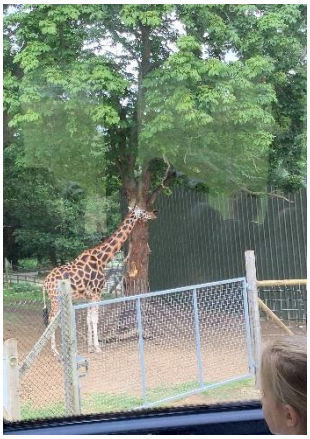
Big Cat Class – Harrison, Alfie J and Calliope
Red Fox Class – Joshua, Alex, George K and Hashir
Walker Bear Class – Amari, Oliver and Marissa

Year 2: ***It's been a wonderful week in Year 2! The children enjoyed the most fantastic trip to Woburn Safari Park. The day started with the road safari, with the children having the most amazing view of the animals from the coach. They saw black bears in trees and swings, lions lounging in the grass and zebras grazing. The rhinos, giraffes, ostriches and elephants all put in an appearance, but sadly the tiger was feeling a little shy and didn't come out to say 'hello'! Once the coach had parked, the children walked to a shady spot to enjoy their lunch, before the classes split up to explore the foot safari. Along the way, they saw otters, penguins, sealions, meerkats, lemurs, wallabies and giant tortoises.***





The children also took part in a 'poo in the zoo' themed workshop, led by the Woburn Rangers. The children learnt how to spot whether a poo has been produced by a carnivore or an herbivore, and they had the opportunity to touch realistic models of different animals' poo. The children were so engaged, asking lots of questions and showing what they have learnt in key stage one about different animals. We were very impressed!



The children behaved impeccably throughout the day. We are very proud of you, Year 2. Thank you to the Year 2 staff for organising and for all the volunteers who helped to make the trip a resounding success.

In English this week, the children continued to learn the African folktale of 'The Papaya That Spoke'. They chose the characters they will include when they write their own version of the story and made a story plan that will help them with their writing. In mathematics, the children continued to learn about statistics. They learnt how to draw and interpret pictograms with a 1:1 key, and to draw and interpret statistics with 1:2, 1:5 and 1:10 keys.

Transition to Junior School began this week, with the children receiving two visits from their new Year 3 teachers. Thursday next week is Moving Up day and the children will spend the morning at their next school.

In English next week, the children will use their story plans to write their own version of 'The Papaya That Spoke'. In mathematics, they will start a new unit of work, learning about position and direction. In geography, the children will learn how to use an atlas to locate places in the United Kingdom. In design and technology, they will continue to design and make their cushions.

Stars of the Week:

Pelican Class

All of Pelican class for excellent behaviour and listening on the school trip to Woburn Safari Park.
Emilee for always being a fantastic role model.
Lola for always being a fantastic role model.

Penguin Class

The whole class for being absolutely fabulous on the school trip to Woburn Safari Park.

Puffin Class

All of Puffin class for representing the school beautifully on the trip to Woburn Safari Park.

Value of the month: humour

Pelican Class – Ayla-Kaye and Mya-Jae

Penguin Class – Luka and Ibrahim

Puffin Class – Mila and Kobi

SUMMER TERM EVENTS

Event	Date	Time
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
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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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= 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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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