



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
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School Aims: our school is a place where we aim to develop:

- ▶ Positive attitudes to learning
- ▶ Creativity and a sense of self-confidence and self-esteem
- ▶ Equality of opportunity, independence, individuality, tolerance, sensitivity and cooperation
- ▶ Good relations, respect for others and the environment
- ▶ A broad and balanced creative curriculum
- ▶ Pupil achievement by providing quality experiences

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been the loveliest final week of term. One World Week started with a tremendous Indian dance followed by African drumming workshops and ended with all the class parties. The children had a fabulous time and it made for a very happy end to the school year.

The Year 2 School Leavers' Assemblies were so moving. We are so proud of our wonderful children and will miss you all so much!

The staff and I would like to thank everyone for the generous and thoughtful presents you have given us. We all recognise how lucky we are to have such supportive and appreciative parents. Your kindness, your beautiful letters and cards and great generosity makes all of us feel so deeply valued. It means so very much. Thank you.

Nursery children start date letters were sent out last week. Please do let us know if you haven't received yours.

Reception children have had letters regarding their school times and start dates. Then from Tuesday 11th September when school becomes full time the times will be 8.50am – 3.10pm.

Autumn Term starts Tuesday 5th of September. We look forward to seeing you all again on that day and hope you have the most wonderful summer holiday with lots of relaxation and happy time spent with your children.

Year 2 – Parent View: We would be so very grateful if you would have the time to go to the OFSTED Parent View website. This would be your last gift to our school. We will miss you all terribly. There is a link to this on the landing page of our website, or you can click on the following link <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. Parents of children in other year groups are also invited to complete this. Many thanks.

End of Universal Free School Meals for children moving to the Junior School in September: As you are probably aware, this benefit is only available to children of Infant School age. If you are in receipt of benefits, you will need to apply online at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals for Free School Meal status.

David Lloyds Fundraiser for the school: A massive thank you to our parents and staff who signed up for the free 7 day pass, you have raised £200 for the school.

Nursery School Places for September 2023: We still have a few places available – if you are a prospective parent, please contact the school office to arrange a visit.

Application forms can be downloaded from

<https://www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk/prospective-parent-tours/>. Alternatively, you can request one by contacting the school office.

Please kindly share this message with parents, friends and family where they have a child due to start Nursery in September 2023. Applications opened on 1st November 2022, and places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Nursery: This week in Nursery, the children have enjoyed thinking back on the year and singing their favourite songs. Teddie chose ‘Chick, Chick, Chick, Chicken’, and everyone eagerly joined in with the actions. Hannah remembered ‘The Rainbow Fish’ song and beamed with joy when we sang it together. The children will have these songs and memories to cherish forever. We hope they look back at their rhyme rings with great joy.

The children celebrated One World Week and attended a drumming lesson in the hall. It was lovely to see everyone so engaged and using their musical talents. Kikiiyin commented, “It was fantastic!”

The children had so much fun at their class party, they enjoyed playing musical statues and the game ‘Isn’t it funny how a bear likes honey?’. It was wonderful to watch them enjoy their party treats with their friends and see how they have developed socially and emotionally. They have made some close friendships over the year and developed good relationships.

We hope you enjoy looking through their learning journals and sharing all their special memories and precious moments in Nursery.

The Nursery team would like to thank you for all of your support this academic year and we wish you all a fabulous summer break.

Reception: This week the children celebrated One World Week and focused on the Christian story of Noah’s Ark. They enjoyed watching a version of this story by Lucy Cousins on YouTube ([youtube.com/watch?v=gGAcaFfWmiQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGAcaFfWmiQ)). After watching the story a few times, the children were set the challenge of naming the animals who were on board Noah’s Ark. This challenge helped the children when it came to drawing animals of their choice for their Noah’s Ark.

The children coloured in and cut out two of an animal and stuck these animals onto lolly sticks. They enjoyed parading around the classroom, the corridor and around the garden to the song ‘The animals went in two by two’.

The children found out how a rainbow is formed and used the app Sketchbook on the iPads to create a rainbow. They used the colour wheel to carefully select the seven colours. The children also made paper plate rainbows and added gold coins or a pot of gold to each end of their rainbows.

The children found out why the dove was so important in the story of ‘Noah’s Ark’. They cut out a dove shape and folded a piece of paper into a fan to create the wings.

During the week, Snowy Owls and Tawny Owls loved taking part in the Indian dancing, creating a series of movements to perform a dance to music. Barn Owls

thoroughly enjoyed taking part in African drumming and enjoyed maintaining a beat when singing a selection of songs.

On Thursday, all the children enjoyed the party afternoon. Each class decided which party games they wanted to play, and the children carried on playing party games the following day because they could not fit them all in in one afternoon!

The staff in Reception have enjoyed the company of their children for the very last time. Together the children and staff have played games and read books to each other, and the children have chatted about what they have enjoyed whilst being in Reception and what they are looking forward to in Year 1. The children are so excited about moving up!

The children's reading books have been collected in and new books have been allocated in readiness for Year 1. Please remember the children can also access Bug Club and Numbots during the summer and this will help them to continue to make progress with their reading and their mathematical knowledge.

All the Reception staff hope the children and their families have a wonderful summer holiday and wish the children all the best for their year ahead in Year 1.

Year 1: This week in school has been One World Week and the children have had a wonderful time exploring countries and continents around the world. They began the week travelling to Australia and learning about Aboriginal art. The children decorated turtles, using a series of small dots to create patterns. Later in the day they flew to India, where they were treated to a wonderful Indian dance workshop, learning a sequence of moves to create a Bollywood dance.

Throughout the week, the children have enjoyed listening to the Ghanaian traditional stories about Anansi the Spider and sequenced the events. They also had the opportunity to take part in an African drumming session, learning all about keeping a beat and playing altogether as a class. They learnt that the drums were from Ghana and other countries within West Africa and that a beautiful design on the side of one of the drums was called a Kente design.

In mathematics, the children have continued learning to tell the time and have practised setting their clocks to o'clock and half past positions. They have looked carefully at the difference between the length of clock hands and practised drawing these on an empty clock face to match a time.

In phonics, the children have completed revision of the alternative pronunciations. This is when a letter or combination of letters (graphemes) can be pronounced in two or more ways. This week they have learnt about the ways to pronounce 'e' and 'ey'.

In PSHE, the children have completed their learning in the unit Changing Me. They discussed what change means and how this can make us feel. The children gave examples of things they are looking forward to in the summer and many shared their excitement for moving to Year 2.

To finish off a fun-filled week, the children had a great time at their class parties on Thursday! They enjoyed eating their party food, dancing and playing party games.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Year 1 families for their support this year and we wish you all a fantastic summer break. We are very proud of all the Year 1 children and the progress they have made this year. We wish them all the very best for Year 2!

Year 2: The children have had a wonderful last week, not only in Year 2, but also their last week at our school. As part of One World Week, the children have been exploring 'My Granny Went to Market', a vibrant counting book by Stella Blackstone. The story sees Granny buying a magic carpet and travelling all around the world to buy lots of different items from different countries, including cats from Thailand, boomerangs from Australia, cowbells from Switzerland and nesting dolls from Russia.

The children enjoyed a range of activities based on the book. First, they designed their own magic carpet and explained where they would like to travel. Next, they located the different countries Granny visited on a map and labelled them with the items that she bought while she was there. They have made origami cats, Mexican tocuaro masks, Chinese paper lanterns and Australian boomerangs.

The children also enjoyed two exciting workshops this week: Indian dance and African drumming. In the Indian dance session, the children learnt how to move their body in different ways and created a Bollywood dance routine. Penguin class agreed that the Indian dance was exhilarating, but hard work!

In the African drumming session, the children learnt how to play a range of African drums including djembes and dunduns. They learnt a range of rhythms and played as a whole class, creating a truly incredible sound that could be heard around the room. Pelican class said afterwards that they thought the instruments, "were really cool".

On Thursday afternoon, the children were delighted with their class parties and end of year celebrations. They enjoyed party food, games and music in their classrooms. It was a splendid way to end a fantastic year and we hope the children enjoyed it as much as we did.

Each of the classes have enjoyed their own special Leavers' Assembly, featuring lots of photographs of their time in Year 2 and their first day at school. The children shared some wonderful memories and looked back at their time in Nursery, Reception and Year 1. They performed some of their favourite songs before Mrs Mendel presented each child with a graduation certificate and keepsake gift.

On behalf of all the teachers and support staff in Year 2, thank you all so much for your support and kindness during the year. It has been our pleasure to work with you all and watch your children progress. Thank you also to those who have given gifts and cards. Your warmth and generosity are thoroughly appreciated.

We wish you all a brilliant summer and to our wonderful leavers, good luck at junior school!

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PENGUIN CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	All the children in Ladybird Class	for being fantastic in nursery – well done everyone!
Snowy Owls	Snowy Owl class	for being such super learners throughout the school year.
Tawny Owls	Tawny Owl class	for being brilliant learners throughout the school year.
Barn Owls	Barn Owl class	for being fantastic learners throughout the school year.
Value of the month	Snowy Owls: George, Eliot and Isaac Tawny Owls: Raphael, Rosemary and Charlie Barn Owls: Isabelle, Rauri and Connor	
Red Fox Class	Ali	for being more independent and having the confidence to try without an adult.
	Jose	for good listening and confidently joining in with the drum workshop.
Big Cat Class	Ivan	for fantastic work on time in mathematics.
	Albert	for being a great class helper.
Walker Bear Class	Neithan	for using your phonics to help you spell words when writing your seaside trip recount.
	Holly	for being a really kind and caring friend.
Value of the month	Red Foxes: Leia and Isabella Big Cats: Ivan, Adrian and Enzo Walker Bears: Finn, Hanna and Zahraa	
Penguin Class	Kinga	for being a caring and kind friend.
	Chloe	for always being enthusiastic and eager to learn.
Pelican Class	Ollie	for excellent teamwork during PE games.
	Emily	for making confident contributions to discussions in One World Week.
Puffin Class	Scarlet	for fantastic enthusiasm during the Indian dance workshop.
	Mia	for making a wonderful boomerang.
Value of the month	Penguins: Immy, Harry and Freddie Pelicans: Mali, Lenny and Eden-Martin Puffins: Daniel, Isla-May and Billy-Joe	

*Have an absolutely wonderful summer!
Kindest regards,*

*Rouane Mendel
Headteacher*

TERM DATES 2023-24

Autumn Term: Friday 1st September 2023 – 20th December 2023

*Friday 1st September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 4th September 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED*

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th September 2023

[Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2023 – Friday 27th October 2023]

Monday 30th October 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 31st October 2023

Friday 24th November 2023 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

School finishes on Wednesday 20th December at 2pm

[Christmas Holidays: Thursday 21st December – Wednesday 3rd January 2024]

Children return to school on Thursday 4th January 2024

Spring Term: Thursday 4th January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024

[Half term: Monday 19th February 2024 – Friday 23rd February 2024]

Children return to school on Monday 26th February 2024

School finishes on Thursday 28th March at 2pm

[Easter Holidays: Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April 2024]

Children return to school on Monday 15th April 2024

Summer Term: Monday 15th April 2024 – Tuesday 23rd July 2024

*Monday 6th May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 27th May 2024 Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED*

[Half term: Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024]

*Monday 3rd June 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Children return to school on Tuesday 4th June 2024*

*Monday 1st July 2024 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED
School finishes on Tuesday 23rd July at 2.00pm*