



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



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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 quite simply an extraordinary week in school! Starting on Monday with the Ark Farm visiting for the day for our Reception children, Sports Day Tuesday morning, a Music Inspection Tuesday afternoon, Year 1 trip to the seaside Wednesday – as well as Year 2's Great Fire of London workshop and Thursday Transition Day and Orca class's Sports Day. The Grand Finale is today with the beyond fabulous Nursery Pirate Day! What a week!

The year-group events were simply fantastic, and you can read about them in more detail in the year-group section of the newsletter, so I will focus on the whole-school events.

Next week is One World Week, and we have some terrific workshops lined up. Children will spend the week learning about different countries and cultures. We are so lucky in having families from all over the world in our school – 38 different languages are spoken. Some parents have offered to come in and read a story in another language, or to share information about the culture, music, food etc from a country they have a connection with. If you would like to do this, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We sadly say goodbye to our current Year 2 children, with our wonderful leavers assemblies. Families are of course very welcome to attend.

- ***Thursday 20th July at 9.15am – Puffin class with Mrs Brown***
- ***Thursday 20th July 10.15am- Pelican class with Mrs Trott and Mrs Henry***
- ***Friday 21st July at 9.15am – Penguin class with Miss Hill***

Class parties will take place in the afternoon of Thursday 20th July. Please see you class teacher for details on the arrangements for food. Children may wear party clothes on Thursday (but we kindly ask that children do not come in dressing up outfits).

Please note that it's back to school uniform for Friday, the last day of this school year.

School finishes for the term on Friday 21st July at 2pm. Please note, there will be no after school club.

I hope you all have a wonderful Summer and look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 5th September for the new school year.

You are all aware that we have waited a long time for our Ofsted report because I had submitted a complaint. The report was finally released this week and I attach it here. We have been graded as Good in all areas.

The inspection as you know came at a hard time for the school in that it was five working school weeks after our Deputy Head and SENCo had left. You will nevertheless see from the report that there is a great deal to celebrate. The school's curriculum is highlighted as being strong and teaching is interesting and engaging. Children enjoy their learning - which is something our school sees as being deeply important – and teachers have strong subject knowledge.

I want to thank you again from the bottom of my heart for the enormous support you showed the school in your responses to the questionnaire and also in your direct emails to the lead inspector. The inspector who looked into the complaint confirmed to me that he also had never before encountered such an outpouring of positive responses. Thank you all so much.

Reading is seen as very strong and so much gratitude is due to you as parents for reading with your children so often to support this learning – it is a real partnership!

We've made some absolutely wonderful new appointments; we've been graded across the board in all areas as Outstanding by County inspections for the past 11 years – the previous Ofsted had said we were on track for Outstanding – so next inspection we aim to make the grade! In the meantime, we will work on the areas identified and continue to work with you as parents to provide a fantastic educational experience for your children.

Sports Day was a simply incredible day! The most profound thanks should be extended to Mr Pullin who organised the day, preparing everything with meticulous care from setting up the field, to preparing the children, delivering Olympic assemblies to teach the children those values and crucially the importance of being a good sport – to creating the lovely certificates and ordering all the badges. Thank you Mr Pullin and your fantastic team, including Mr Fenwick, as well as Mr Pullin's brother who kindly came in to help. The children all performed with fantastic skill as well as tremendous sportsmanship – we are so proud of them all! A truly splendid Sports Day!

In the afternoon we had our third annual inspection by County and here the focus was on Music and our Music lead – Mrs Dalton.

Mrs Dalton's leadership in music has immeasurably enriched the school. Music is so profoundly important in so many ways - it is at the very foundation of our ability to understand language which is why it's so central in Nursery and Reception - and it's also at the centre of community and identity. Everyone listens to music - and in our school this has been harnessed in a deeply meaningful way to ensure we cover such a huge range of musical genres, and we represent our community!

How fantastic and amazing that our own Caretaker, Mr Bramble, is in our hall of fame and is a Musician of the Month for our school! Mrs Hinstridge, our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP), was deeply impressed by how the school builds meaningful connections for the pupils.

And huge thanks and praise to everyone whose lessons were observed during the inspection. Musician of the Month was breathtakingly demonstrated in Barn Owl class - the children's knowledge, absorption and passion took our breath away! What a performance!

It was fantastic to see then a full music lesson also in Reception - in Tawny Owl class and here you could see clearly the strands of the curriculum being developed, knowledge of different musical instruments and vocabulary growing and again demonstrated a true joy in singing.

Progression in the curriculum and the massive strength in the school's clarity of curriculum building was then demonstrated so clearly in the lesson delivered in Walker Bears by Mrs Furr. Here, the children had built on previous learning - all that familiarisation with musical instruments from Nursery onwards, as an example of just one element - and were now creating, conducting, notating and performing their own musical compositions based on 'The Gruffalo' - the text they're working on in class.

Learning doesn't get more beautiful than that, it really doesn't. Thank you, Mrs Furr - you made us so proud.

Yet there was more to come - a superlative assembly in which the children's really extraordinary understanding of a wide range of important musical elements (rhythm, tempo, call-and-response, for example) was shown.

The assembly was so rich - and touched on so many elements, including a focus on feeling music and imagining the relationship to music of a deaf person. It was fabulous and the children engaged with utmost attentiveness throughout. Mrs Hintridge was bowled over by everything she saw.

The school looked fantastic, and it was all quite simply a glorious celebration of the leadership of music in the school, the joyous teaching by everyone of music throughout the school, the progressive highly successful development of the curriculum and teaching of musical skills, the diversity and inclusivity of the curriculum and the sense of community and belonging.

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.qilesnurseryandinfants.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 been excitedly counting down the number of sleeps until Pirate Fun Day. They have listened to lots of pirate stories and loved singing pirate songs with their friends. The children have made bunting to decorate the Nursery, a sign to welcome all pirates, and pirate flags.*

The children went to visit their Reception classes on Thursday and did incredibly well adjusting to the changes. They came back happy, excited children and everyone had a big smile on their face!

In physical development, the children had lots of fun pretending to walk the plank in the garden with their friends. With Mr Pullin, they enjoyed taking part in a circuit of activities in the hall. The children showed fantastic listening skills and followed the circuit with great concentration. Well done, Ladybirds!

In phonics, the children have practised segmenting and blending. They are becoming much more confident using their robot arms to segment a range of words including, p-i-g, d-u-ck and f-o-x.

On Friday, we had a fantastic time at Pirate Fun Day! The children were eager to get involved with the pirate themed activities and looked amazing in their pirate costumes. They all went home with a wonderful collection of art and craft activities, including treasure maps, medallions, parrots, pirate hats and telescopes. The children sailed the seven seas in the pirate ship and bravely walked the plank! They decorated and ate a biscuit and even had some popcorn too! It was a wonderful day enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to all the parents for your support.

Next week, the children will have lots of fun preparing for their summer break and enjoying their last week in Nursery.

Please can we ask for all library books to be returned. If you are having a summer clear out, we would be grateful for any donations of school uniform and girls' underwear.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children independently wrote about the different activities they are able to do such as jumping, swimming or riding a bicycle. They began each sentence with a capital letter and finished with a full stop. They accompanied their writing with a lovely illustration of them doing one of the activities they wrote about.

In expressive arts and design, the children used clay and summer leaves to make a coaster. They enjoyed rolling out the clay and pressing a leaf into the clay to make a print. The children are now waiting for the clay to harden.

On Monday, 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, as well as handling a variety of smaller farm animals. When Nikola in Barn Owl class found out the dog was four years old, she exclaimed, "It's just like me!" and Teddy in Tawny Owl class said, "The pig was a girl. Pigs roll in mud to stay cool." After the visit, Isaac in Snowy Owl class said, "I like the pig best because he has the same colour hair as me!"

On Tuesday, the children participated in Sports Day. They were so excited as they have been practising for this event the past few weeks. Zac in Barn Owl class was chosen to carry the Olympic torch onto the field and held it aloft very proudly. The children loved cheering on their friends during the different races. On the way back to her class, Millie in Barn Owl class said, "I loved doing Sports Day. It was great doing the races with my friends."

Next week, the children will be participating in One World Week. They will be focusing on a version of the story 'Noah's Ark'. The children will be counting in twos by making a pair of animals of their choice and acting out the song, 'The animals went in two by two'. They will be using the app Sketchbook on the iPad to draw a rainbow and making a rainbow using collage materials. The children will be choosing pairs of animals to go into their ark.

Please return any library books your child has borrowed from their class library.

The Reception staff would like to say a huge thank you to the parents, friends, and relatives for coming to read to children during Stay and Read each week. We hope you have enjoyed listening to the Poem of the Week and learning a different Makaton sign.

Year 1: This week began with the excitement of Sports Day. The Year 1 children exemplified the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship as they put every effort into their own performance, cheered each other on and celebrated each other's success. Well done Year 1!

In the middle of the week, the children enjoyed a fantastic trip to Walton-on-the-Naze. They arrived at the seaside with cheers of delight! All the children were in awe of the beautiful coastline. "Wow, look at the sea," commented Maryam. They began their seaside adventure with a play in the park. The children had lots of fun in the sand pit and on the slide, trampoline, swings and climbing frame. They then walked to the beach huts, where they enjoyed collecting shells and completing their seashore spotter activity. After lunch, the children played on the sand and had the most magical time paddling in the sea with their friends. The children were absolutely delighted to play and splash in the sea. It was a pleasure to share their experience! Adrian in Big Cats said, "I loved jumping in the waves and making sandcastles". Thea in Walker Bears said, "I really enjoyed my first ever trip to the seaside. I enjoyed going in the sea".

The Year 1 team would like to say a huge thank you to all our parent helpers who made this trip possible. The children have made memories that will last a lifetime.

Please see the photographs and pupil voice on our school website:
[Year One Trip to the Seaside | The Giles Nursery and Infants' School](#)

In geography, the children have explored maps and learnt the four main points on a compass. They learnt that a map is normally an aerial view or plan. The children imagined being birds flying and looking down at what they could see. They discussed why an aerial view is helpful, by looking at some aerial photos of different types of location. Then the children drew an aerial map of their classroom.

To end the week, the Year 1 children had a marvellous visit to their new classrooms, learning more about Year 2. Well done Year 1, what a fabulous week!

Next week we have the wonderful One World Week. The children will be experiencing, learning about, and appreciating the diversity and beauty of our world through a range of workshops, art and other activities.

Year 2: It has been a very busy but exciting week in Year 2, with Sports Day, a visit to the junior school, the Great Fire of London workshop and Move Up day!

On Tuesday afternoon, the children visited the junior school to spend time in their new classrooms. These transition sessions support the children to feel confident moving to their new school and share any worries they may have. The children thought of questions about the junior school and the current Year 3 children gave their answers. The children also had time to explore their new playground with a Year 3 buddy.

Sports Day was a fantastic event, organised brilliantly by Mr Pullin. The children took part in a running race, hoop race, potato and spoon race, a skipping race and an exciting relay event. The children behaved well and showed wonderful sportsmanship, cheering their classmates and congratulating each other. They were so pleased with the stickers they earned and spoke positively about the morning.

On Wednesday, children from all of the Year 2 classes came together for the Great Fire of London workshop. In the morning, they spent time in a street typical of London in 1666 and had the opportunity to make a candle, use a pestle and mortar to make a scent bag, pretend to treat patients at the barber surgeon, write using a quill and ink, complete some embroidery, learn to weave and many more activities. Emma in Pelican

class said she, “enjoyed making ink and learning to use a quill”, while Orla shared that it helped her to remember, “if you can’t smell it, you can’t catch it,” when talking about the plague.

In the afternoon, the children had a go at excavating artefacts before trying to work out who might have lived on that plot of land and their occupation from the objects they found. The day finished with a demonstration of smelting, using pewter to make a button. Isla-May in Puffins class made one of the chosen designs out of clay and the children watched in awe as it was turned into a button. It was a brilliant end to a fantastic day. Kinga from Penguins summed up the day brilliantly by saying, “I loved it all, it was amazing!”

In design technology, the children have made Tudor houses and put them together to create their own Pudding Lane, the site of the start of the Great Fire of London. The children showed brilliant knowledge, remembering the houses were made from wood, they were really close together and their rooves were made from straw.

The children visited the junior school for Move Up day on Thursday. They spent the morning in their new classrooms with their new teachers and came back full of excitement.

The final week of this term is One World Week. Children will take part in dance and drumming workshops and learn about other countries and cultures.

Important reminders:

We will send home children’s workbooks next week. On Monday, please send in a sturdy plastic bag to help your children carry their books in.

End of year parties will take place on Thursday 20th July. Children should bring their own party food in a labelled bag, separate to their packed lunch if they have one. They can wear party clothes for this day.

Leavers’ Assemblies will take place as follows:

- *Thursday 20th July at 9.15am – Puffin class with Mrs Brown*
- *Thursday 20th July 10.15am- Pelican class with Mrs Trott and Mrs Henry*
- *Friday 21st July at 9.15am – Penguin class with Miss Hill*

Have a great weekend,

The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

WALKER BEAR CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Misha	<i>for super turn taking and sharing on the bikes.</i>
	Aadam	<i>for good sitting and fantastic listening at carpet time.</i>
	Remi	<i>for always being a kind friend.</i>
	Afna	<i>for taking turns and being kind to others.</i>
Snowy Owls	Samuel	<i>for making a wonderful coaster using clay.</i>
	Mila	<i>for fantastic sharing and identifying odd and even numbers.</i>
Tawny Owls	Charles	<i>for demonstrating an excellent knowledge of sharing an amount.</i>
	Lena	<i>for working very hard to form lowercase letters correctly.</i>
	Teddy	<i>for remembering lots of facts about the animals that he learned when visiting Ark Farm.</i>
	Charlie	<i>for demonstrating an excellent knowledge of animals when visiting Ark Farm.</i>
Barn Owls	Evie	<i>for recalling the instrument 'sitar' when listening to different versions of 'Incy Wincy Spider'.</i>
	Olivia	<i>for being so enthusiastic when participating in the races at Sports Day.</i>
	Veronika	<i>being so kind and gentle when stroking the animals from Ark Farm.</i>
Red Fox Class	Kairi	<i>for a super understanding of sharing an amount and identifying odd and even numbers.</i>
	Alfie	<i>for being a kind friend and helping someone when they were upset.</i>
	Isabella	<i>for a fantastic commitment to learning and always working hard.</i>
Big Cat Class	Lavinia	<i>for going the extra mile all year with the most fabulous homework.</i>
	Kaden	<i>for going above and beyond with his maths learning.</i>

Walker Bear Class	Hussein	<i>for excellent listening in order to follow instructions.</i>
	Zahraa	<i>for super progress in reading in Year 1.</i>
Penguin Class	Ayana	<i>for always showing exemplary behaviour.</i>
	Immy	<i>for making an amazing model of a house from the Great Fire of London.</i>
Pelican Class	Elizabeth	<i>for always being kind and helpful in her classroom.</i>
	Georgina	<i>for designing and making an excellent house model in design and technology.</i>
Puffin Class	Harry	<i>for fantastic enthusiasm during the Great fire of London workshop.</i>
	Eliza	<i>for being a kind and considerate friend.</i>

kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

SCHOOL DATES

JULY 2023	
W/C 17 th July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Thursday 20 th	Puffins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Thursday 20 th	Pelicans Leavers Assembly – 10.15am
Friday 21 st	Penguins Leavers Assembly – 9.15am
Friday 21 st	Last day of term – finish at 2pm

TERM DATES 2022-23

School finishes on Friday 21st July at 2.00pm

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