



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,

Children have been practising in preparation for Sports Day this week and Mr Pullin delivered assemblies based on the Olympic values and standards to all classes, so the children will be fully prepared to participate with great sportsmanship as well as with terrific sporting standards. Now we only have to hope for perfect weather on Tuesday!

We are thrilled to be able to share with you our phenomenal results in the phonics screening check and end of Key Stage 1 assessments (SATs). 82% of our children passed the phonics screening check in Year 1, compared to last year's national average of 76%. 94% of our Year 2 children will move to junior school having passed the check.

In the end of Key Stage 1 assessments, 67% of our children achieved expected or greater depth in reading, 59% achieved expected or greater depth in writing and 62% achieved expected or greater depth in mathematics. These results are closely matched to last year's national average and are evidence of how hard the Year 2 children and staff have worked this year.

Transition continues and our Nursery children visited their new Reception classes on Wednesday after school. For those who were unable to attend, your children will go to their classes on Thursday morning (transition morning across the county). Letters detailing your child's class and class teacher will go out on Monday.

Next week will be incredibly busy and exciting as in addition to Sports Day, Reception children have their Ark Farm experience on Monday; Year 2 have the Great Fire of London workshop on Wednesday and Year 1 children go to the seaside on Wednesday. Transition morning across county takes place on Thursday morning and on Thursday afternoon Orca class will hold its Sports Day event.

Stephanie from Puffin class in Year 2 was the winner of The Giles Olympic torch Design Competition, and her design will be used to make an Olympic torch for Sports Day. Well done Stephanie!

Book fair: Thank you to everyone who made a purchase from our book fair, you helped to earn £218 to spend on new books for the school.

Sports Day: Sports Day will be on the morning of Tuesday 11th July. Please be prepared for cancellation in the event of the school field being too wet. We will text/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 Tuesday 18th 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: 9.05am - 10.00am
- Year 1: 10.05am - 11.10am
- Year 2: 11.15am - 12.20pm

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/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. Children must stay with their classes and not go off with parents, for example, to the toilet, etc.

The event should be conducted in the same way as an assembly – you are there as spectators and should not approach your child, including at the end when they are walking back to class.

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.

Nursery Pirate Day on Friday 14th July: We will all be dressed in pirate costumes, and it would be wonderful if your child could dress up too. There will be lots of exciting pirate related activities for the children to enjoy. Nursery staff will be manning the different activities, so children do need to be accompanied by an adult. If you are able to attend, it would be wonderful if you could come and enjoy this adventure together with your child.

AM session 9.00 - 11.30am

PM session 12.30 - 3pm

If your child attends all day, you may come with your child to either session. As the activities are repeated, you may wish to keep your child at home with you for one of the sessions.

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 were excited to hear the special news that we are going to have a Pirate Day! They have been busy writing invitations to give to

their grown-ups for Pirate Day next Friday. Reid said, "I can't wait to write my invitation, I'm going to invite my Mummy." Cormac wrote his invitation and said, "Wow, I didn't know I could write like that!"

The children have loved learning a new pirate song and everyone joined in eagerly with the actions. Mya-Jae joined in with her friends and said, "I like jumping on the pirate ship." Charlie waited for his favourite part and swayed along to, 'this way, that way, forwards and backwards over the Irish Sea.'

The children have loved taking part in a Cosmic Yoga session. They thoroughly enjoyed an adventure with 'Popcorn the Dolphin'. Rectangle group loved the boat pose. They lifted and held their legs and arms into a boat shape. Triangle group loved the telephone pose, using their foot and pretending it was a telephone. They held their foot to their ear and pretended to call for help.

In phonics, the children have practised the letter sound 's'. They enjoyed warming up by singing the song 'The snake is in the grass. The snake is in the grass. /sss/! - /sss/! The snake is in the grass.' sung to the tune of 'The Farmer in the Dell'. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed playing a memory game. They listened very carefully to a list of items beginning with 's' and tried to remember the items in order. Georgia confidently remembered, "Sunglasses, sun cream, snorkel, swimsuit, sandwich, spade."

Next week, the children will listen to a range of pirate stories and sing lots of pirate songs. In physical development, they will jump the waves and learn a special 'walk the plank' move. In phonics, the children will be practising segmenting and blending. They will use their robot arms to segment a range of words including, s-u-n, d-o-g and c-a-t.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children used their phonic knowledge to write facts about windmills. They learnt how the sails of a windmill turn the cogs, then the cogs turn the millstones to grind the grains of wheat into flour and how the miller bags up the flour. The children found out the difference between a windmill and a wind turbine. They loved watching Milkshake Monkey, who visited a windmill and found out how a windmill operated - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDelzpZMYfk>. Miya in Barn Owl class wrote a super factual sentence saying, 'The millstone grinds the wheat into flour,' and Ariana from Barn Owl class remembered a line from the Poem of the Week, 'The windmill makes no sound,' and used this as her factual sentence about windmills.

In mathematics, the children used the mathematical resource Numicon to create number bonds totalling ten. The children enjoyed being maths detectives, finding out which pairs of numbers totalled ten and writing their calculations on a whiteboard.

The past few weeks, the children have been practising for Sports Day with Mr Pullin. They have been practising the following races: running, obstacle, and potato and spoon. Please note the Reception Sports Day will begin promptly at 9am on the Junior Sports field. The class teachers will be opening the door early at 8.45am. Please make sure your child arrives on time.

Next week in literacy, the children will be writing sentences about what they can do, using all their phonic and sentence structure knowledge.

In mathematics, the children will be sharing a number of objects equally and deciding whether the amount they shared was odd or even.

In expressive arts and design, the children will be manipulating clay to create a leaf coaster.

Thank you to all the wonderful feedback about Musician of the Month. All your comments have been passed onto Mrs Dalton, our music curriculum leader. All staff have thoroughly enjoyed reading your comments. This month's Musician of the Month is George Ezra, and he has been very well received by the children!

Next Friday 14th July will be the last Stay and Read for the Reception children and to celebrate the children achieving so much this year we will be having a few summer refreshments. On this final Stay and Read you will have an opportunity to look at your child's Big Write book and their summer piece of independent writing linked to the story of the tiny seed.

Year 1: This week in English, the children have continued their Barnaby Bear topic and furthered their knowledge about the RNLi. They have seen how a lifeboat is launched and written questions to find out more about the lifesaving work that the coastguards do. In order to do this well, they revised words to use when starting a question, such as why, how, when and what. They also practised punctuating questions with a question mark.

In preparation for the trip to the seaside, the children have begun to learn about recounts. They learnt that a recount is written in the first person and in the past tense as it has already happened. The children revisited their learning of adding the suffix – ed to a verb. They also practised sequencing events using time connectives such as: first, next, then, after that, and finally.

The children have been revising alternative pronunciations in phonics. 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 four ways to pronounce 'a' and 'y'.

In mathematics, the children have been using their knowledge of counting in twos, fives and tens to solve multiplication word problems. They have used repeated additions and arrays as multiplication strategies.

In music, the children worked in small groups to compose their own musical retelling of the story of The Gruffalo. They worked together to identify which instruments they would use to represent the different characters. They used a notation grid to decide and record when to play each instrument. Next week, they will rehearse their compositions by looking back at their notation grids. Each group will then perform their musical story for the rest of the class.

In computing, the children have continued to work on their animated story books. They have added text, pictures and animation. At the start and end of the lesson, they have shown that they can open and save their work.

The children have conducted further work on their fish mobiles in art. They have finished adding texture by sewing. They have glued sequins on to the fish to resemble the rainbow fish in the story of the same name by Marcus Pfister. Finally, they added threads and ribbons to represent seaweed.

In PSHE, the children have learnt about body part names. They have learnt which parts of the body are private.

Mr Pullin delivered an informative assembly, all about the Olympics. He invited the children to take part in a competition to design an Olympic torch. The winning design will be made into a model and carried on the day to start the Giles Sports Day.

Next week is a very exciting week in Year 1. The children shall be taking part in Sports Day and attending their eagerly awaited school trip! They will also have a further opportunity to visit their new classroom and teacher.

In English, the children will be writing a recount all about their day out at the seaside. In mathematics, the children will be learning how to read o'clock and half past times on an analogue clock.

Year 2: This week in Year 2, each class had a visit from their Year 3 teacher. They were excited to meet briefly with their teacher and introduce themselves. On Thursday afternoon, the Year 3 teachers joined us in class to lead a PSHCE lesson with the pupils called 'All about me'. This gave the children a chance to discuss their favourite things and their likes and dislikes and ask their new teachers questions. Next week, the children will have the opportunity to visit their classroom for next year at the junior school.

In English, the children have been looking at the tale 'The Papaya that spoke' and learning actions to support re-telling the story fluently. They started the week by looking at story maps to help understand the sequencing of the story and then focused on the characters in the story, studying their personalities and their physical features. The children then used adjectives and similes to describe the farmer and thought about what it might be like to replace the characters with different ones. The children have worked really hard to include good quality descriptions in their writing.

In mathematics the children have been learning about measuring the mass of an object using both non-standard and standard units. They began by using balancing scales to measure items with a specific number of cubes and compared the items using the descriptions heavier, lighter, and equal. They then moved onto using standard units of grams and kilograms and weighed objects to find out their mass.

In PSHCE, the children learnt to identify the parts of the body that make boys different to girls. They learnt the correct scientific names for these parts: penis, testicles, breasts, vagina, and anus. This is part of the safeguarding duty of the school as well as the PSHCE curriculum.

In art and design, the children re-created silhouette scenes from the Great Fire of London using paint, pastels and card. In history, they examined some historical sources that tell us about the Great Fire of London and learnt how to identify which sources are most useful and why. In computing, the children used Purple Mash to create surrealist collages.

Next week will be very busy in Year 2. Tuesday 11th July is Sports Day, with Year 2 taking part at 11.15am. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit, with suncream applied, a hat and a water bottle. On Wednesday 12th July, we have the Great Fire of London workshop, which we encourage the children to dress up for. Also, next Thursday 13th July is moving up day for pupils across county. We will take the children over to the junior school to spend the morning in their new classrooms with their new teachers.

We still need cereal boxes to make Tudor houses. If you have any that you can donate, please hand them to your child's class teacher. Thank you.

Have a great weekend, The Year 2 team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

PELICAN CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ladybird Nursery Classes	Ayla	<i>for writing a super invitation to Pirate Day.</i>
	Charlie	<i>for writing a super invitation to Pirate Day.</i>
	Ella	<i>for writing a super invitation to Pirate Day.</i>
	Hunter	<i>for excellent participation in yoga.</i>
	Georgia	<i>for fantastic listening and recall when playing the memory game.</i>
	Noah Q	<i>for participating in games with Mr Pullin.</i>
Snowy Owls	George	<i>for identifying initial sounds of words independently.</i>
	Clark	<i>for trying different fruit and vegetables at snack time.</i>
	Alana	<i>for trying really hard with her writing.</i>
Tawny Owls	Zenny	<i>for recalling lots of different ways to make ten.</i>
	Sara	<i>for excellent independent segmenting and blending to write a factual sentence.</i>
	Juliette	<i>for being kind and considerate and demonstrating maturity when decision making.</i>
Barn Owls	Yamihle	<i>for applying his phonic knowledge to write a super fact about windmills.</i>
	Millie	<i>for brilliant knowledge of number bonds totalling ten.</i>
	Reuben	<i>for always being a kind friend to others.</i>
Red Fox Class	Bobby	<i>for super phonics.</i>
	Elysia	<i>for working hard and showing great improvement with your reading.</i>
Big Cat Class	Adriana	<i>for a super diary extract.</i>
	Ashlee	<i>for working really hard on her reading.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Dollie-Rae	<i>for showing super resilience when sewing.</i>
	Harper	<i>for listening carefully in PE to learn new skills.</i>

Penguin Class	Zaynah, Boris, Isaac, Jacob W and Dariush	for excellent group work in mathematics.
Pelican Class	Teddy	for showing positive learning behaviours all week.
	Orla	for excellent descriptive writing using similes.
Puffin Class	Benjamin	for having a fantastic understanding of mass in mathematics.
	Rosie	for creating a wonderful silhouette picture of the Great Fire of London.

kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

0-8 years



Stevenage Summer Events

Wednesday 26th July 1.30pm-3.00pm	At The Beach	Friends Meeting House, 21 Cuttys Lane, Stevenage, SG1 1UP
Wednesday 2nd August 1.30pm-3.00pm	Family Picnic	Bridge Road Family Centre, Woolenwick Primary School Site, Bridge Road East, SG1 2NU
Wednesday 9th August 1.30pm-3.00pm	Princess & Pirates	Roebuck Primary School, St Margarets, SG2 8RG
Monday 14th August 1.30pm-3.00pm	A Bear Hunt	Hampson Park, Web Rise SG1 5EG
Thursday 24th August 1.30pm-3.00pm	Messy Play	Broadwater Family Centre, Longmeadow Primary School Site, Oaks Cross, SG2 8LT
Thursday 31st August 1.30pm-3.00pm	The Olympics	Ashtree Primary School, Chertsey Rise, Shephall, SG2 9JQ

FREE entry for families registered with the Family Centre Service. Please bring your registration card or proof of registration.
To sign up please follow link (www.hertsfamilycentres.org/sign-up.aspx)
For non-registered families or out of Hertfordshire there will be a charge of £1 per child.

SESSION DETAILS
 Come and join us for some family fun in the Summer holidays! These sessions are mainly aimed at children under 8, however there are some activities to engage your older children if they would like to attend.








SCHOOL DATES

JULY 2023	
Monday 10 th	Ark Farm Visit
Tuesday 11 th	Sports Day in morning
Wednesday 12 th	Year 2 – Great Fire of London workshop

Wednesday 12 th	Year 1 – Walton-on-the-Naze seaside trip
Thursday 13 th	Moving Up Day
TBC Friday 14 th	Sports for Schools Athlete visit
W/C 17 th July	ONE WORLD WEEK
Tuesday 18 th	Reserve Sports Day
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

Monday 3rd July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

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