



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 an amazing week in school. Yesterday an all-day Circus Workshop took place for key stage one, which the children loved and learnt so much from. They watched a visiting circus entertainer perform a variety of skills and tricks, including juggling with balls, bags and colour-changing hoops. During their class workshops, the children had fun exploring a range of circus equipment and practising a wide range of motor, balancing and other skills. Amongst these was resilience as children were motivated to keep trying because the equipment was so exciting and novel.

Earlier in the week, there was tremendous excitement for all our current Nursery children and new families joining in September, who were able to visit their Reception and Nursery classes for a 'Stay and Play' session. Wednesday afternoon a mini transition took place for Reception and Year 1 children as well and they all spent an hour in their next year's class. Year 2 has been engaged in a wide range of activities and events relating to transition. All the events have been very successful and children are very ready for their new classes.

Thank you very much to all family members who were able to join us for Year 1's Stay-and-Play session and we hope you enjoyed this additional opportunity to meet your child's next year's teacher.

Thursday was very busy as it was class photographs in the morning and the week culminated in the most marvellous Open Evening. All the staff worked so hard to make the school look beautiful.

It was absolutely lovely to see so many parents and children and the evening gave everyone a terrific opportunity to see the fantastic work the children have done, and for children with their parents to visit next year's class and also previous classrooms and teachers. All the staff thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we hope you did, too. Mrs Moran took charge of Parent and Pupil Voice and Feedback on the night and we are all thrilled by the lovely comments you have made. The children's comments were especially precious. Thank you so very much to all those who attended and thank you to our dedicated staff.

Thank you everyone for giving fantastic feedback! Here are some samples:

- The last tiny detail in this school has so much thought put into it. My children love it here!*
- Lovely meeting all teachers and staff. Great to see our son's new class. Waiting for our daughter to start school. Thank you for all the sofas!*
- The Giles is such a beautiful school with amazing teachers and headteacher.*
- I visited another school and thought I loved it – until we came to visit here. We knew this had to be our first choice!*
- We had a wonderful time walking around the beautiful school seeing all the lovely classrooms. Thank you for having us!*
- 'I love my teacher!'*
- I had a lovely time. Staff are so kind and my daughter had great fun.*
- The Nursery is fantastic! I won't be able to get him away.*
- The learning is so exciting here from the moment they arrive until they leave After School Club. My son is so happy here.*
- Thanks for inviting us to look around. I feel so much better about my daughter starting reception. The school is amazing and very welcoming.*
- We really enjoyed looking around the school. My daughter enjoyed visiting her old classroom. Everybody is so welcoming.*
- It was lovely – the children enjoyed seeing their old and new classes and showing me everything.*
- We had a lovely evening talking to staff.*
- Every detail is thought of, including in Breakfast Club. Wonderful staff.*

Class Photographs: *Kittle Photography will be sending us information next week on how you can view and order class photographs which were taken in school on Thursday 22nd June.*

Year 1 Summer Concerts: *These will take place next week and we look so much forward to seeing you then! Please enter via the front office.*

Tuesday 27th June 2.30: Big Cats

Thursday 29th June 1.30: Walker Bears

Thursday 29th June 2.30: Red Foxes

Warm Weather: *If you are going out in the heat remember to:
Keep hydrated*

Wear sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat

Stay in the shade as much as you can

and remember take care of your furry friends in the heat

For more information on how to cope in a heatwave visit <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/heatwave-how-to-cope-in-hot-weather/>

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- 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 have enjoyed a range of seaside stories. They looked carefully at the covers and thought about what each story might be about. After listening to a story, they shared what they liked about the story and if they had a favourite character. The children have created fantastic summer sun pictures with strips of bright yellow tissue paper, repeated patterns with pictures of crabs and starfish and carefully painted turtles.*

In expressive art and design, the children had the opportunity to make a starfish from air dry clay. Firstly, they rolled the clay flat and used a star cutter. Then they pinched the points to create the arms of the starfish before using mark making tools to add detail and pattern.

The children have loved our new seaside song 'I Enjoy Myself at the Seaside' and the new seaside role play area. They have particularly enjoyed wearing swimming costumes, armbands and goggles. The children have used their imaginations brilliantly, sitting in deck chairs reading stories and playing beach ball with their friends. Darcie put on a swimsuit and commented, "I have my armbands on ready to play at the beach!" Tiger said, "I'm going to put my sunglasses on because it's really sunny at the beach."

This week with Mr Pullin, the children were introduced to a range of gymnastic apparatus in the hall. They used gym tables to climb on to balancing benches and then jumped down on to mats. The children have shown significant improvements in their balance and strength as well as following instructions carefully. Well done Ladybirds for using the equipment so sensibly.

Next week, the children will take part in an investigation to find out which items float and sink. They will make predictions, carry out the investigation, and discuss their findings. The children will use coloured sand and mark making tools to create vibrant sand pictures.

Reception: This week in literacy, the children were food detectives working out what ingredients are needed in making a loaf of bread. Xavi in Barn Owl class thought one of the ingredients would be bicarbonate of soda 'to help the bread rise'. Once the children had identified the ingredients, they used them to support the writing of their sentences.

In understanding the world, the children investigated the school grounds for signs of summer and used the iPads to take photographs. During their investigation, the children found miniature sunflowers, pea plants, tomato plants, hollyhocks, dandelions, and an enormously tall thistle! For the final drawing of a specific tree in the school grounds, the children used paints and this drawing will be added to their 'Seasonal changes of a tree' book.

In understanding the world, the children found out how the harvesting of wheat has changed over the years and created a pictorial timeline. They watched a man using a scythe, a film clip from 1938 of a combine harvester being drawn by at least a dozen horses and a film of a modern combine harvester cutting the crops and dispensing the wheat into a tractor trailer. The children loved making scythes made from rolled tubes of card and pieces of curved card and acted out cutting the crops using their scythes.

Next week in literacy, the children will be using their phonic knowledge to write sentences about what different fillings they would like in their sandwiches.

In understanding the world, the children will be looking at a world map and discovering breads from around the world. They will be using their senses to feel the texture of the bread. They will use 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! The children will discover how bread is made in a bread machine and they will be using their muscles to knead their ball of dough when making a bread roll. They will be making sandwiches and choosing a filling. The children will be making a graph to discover which filling was the class favourite.

Year 1: In English, the children have continued to learn all about the seashore and explored the features of a non-fiction text. They enjoyed recognising themselves as authors and made front and back covers for their seashore book. They looked at how you use a contents page to look up information and added their own contents page to complete their book.

In phonics, the children have been revising alternative pronunciations. This is when a letter or combination of letters (graphemes) can be pronounced in two or more ways. For example, 'ow' in cow or 'ow' in snow or the 'o' in frost compared to the 'o' in go.

In maths, the children have participated in a range of practical activities, learning how to share an even number into two equal groups. They have revised the term 'odd' and 'even' and learnt that an odd number will have a remainder.

In Forest School, the children enjoyed identifying different trees by their leaf shape and in science the children learnt all about the parts of a tree. They drew diagrams and labelled the parts accordingly.

In PE, the children have been practising key skills for sports day. They have been using hoops, potatoes and spoons and skipping ropes, as well as practising sprinting. They have also been learning how to cheer each other on to motivate and inspire everyone taking part. In dance, the children have completed their pirate dance sequence, choreographing a series of pirate themed moves to the count of 8 beats per move. They have enjoyed performing their dances for their peers.

In history, the children used their observational skills to look closely at a range of Victorian seaside postcards. They looked for clues in the pictures to identify differences between modern day seaside traditions and seaside traditions from the past. The children spotted the bathing machines, donkey rides and the long clothing that the Victorians wore.

In PSHCE, the children have been developing their understanding about change. They have learnt that growing up is natural and everybody grows at different rates. The children enjoyed sharing photographs of themselves as a baby and discussing how they have changed from then until now.

Also, this week the children thoroughly enjoyed our circus workshop. The children learnt new circus skills including plate spinning, cup stacking, ribbon dancing and balancing using the dinosaur stilts.

The children have been busy practising for their summer concerts and look forward to celebrating their work with you all next week.

Big Cat Concert: Tuesday 27th June 2.30pm

Walker Bear Concert: Thursday 29th June 1.30pm

Red Fox Concert: Thursday 29th June 2.30pm

In English next week, the children will begin their unit on 'Barnaby Bear at the Seaside'. They will be learning how to keep safe at the beach and generating questions that they would like to ask the RNLI. In maths, the children will begin to learn about multiplication, focussing on 2s, 5s and 10s. They will solve one step problems using repeated addition and arrays.

Next week in PSHE/ Jigsaw, the children will be learning 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 PSHE curriculum.

Year 2: The week got off to an exciting start in Year 2, as the children were treated to a circus workshop. They watched a visiting circus entertainer perform a variety of skills and tricks, including juggling with balls, bags and colour-changing hoops. During their class workshop, the children had fun exploring a range of circus equipment. They had a go at juggling, throwing flower sticks and spinning plates, and many more exciting activities. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Orla in Pelican class exclaimed 'I learnt to spin plates, I even spun four at a time!' During Penguins' workshop, Lucas excitedly shouted 'This is the best day ever!' while Milly said 'I liked the spinny one as it helped improve my balancing skills'.

This week in English, the children have continued with their topic 'Slugs and Snails' and begun to write their non-chronological reports. They have been discussing the features needed for a non-chronological report and started their reports with a heading, introduction, sub-heading, and included factual information. The children have really enjoyed learning about slugs and snails, and we cannot wait to see their finished reports.

In mathematics, the children have been learning about position, giving directions and how to identify right angles. They have revised their understanding of clockwise and anticlockwise turns and learnt the directions on a compass using the mnemonic 'Naughty Elephants Squirt Water' (north, east, south, west). The children have written and followed directions using grid maps.

In PSHCE, the children discussed how humans change over time and looked at different items and placed them on a timeline e.g. a rattle is for a baby, a ball for a toddler and car keys for an adult. The children then reflected on what they could do as a baby, toddler and child and created their own personal timeline, including predictions about what they could do as a teenager and as an adult in the future. In art and design, the children learnt about the work of William Morris and created a repeating pattern wallpaper design on a computer.

In history, the children explored the similarities and differences between London now and in 1666, when the Great Fire of London occurred. They looked at how jobs, travel and food were different and discussed how much more difficult some things were to do in the 17th century.

In science, the children investigated food chains and learnt about prey and predators, producers and consumers, as well as herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. They then created their own food chains, thinking about what items are producers, and which are consumers. Our live caterpillars have entered their chrysalis this week and begun the process of metamorphosis, we are so excited and hoping to see the butterflies emerge soon.

*Have a great weekend,
The Year 2 Team*

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	Joey	<i>for carefully following Mr Pullin's instructions on the gymnastic apparatus.</i>
	Ibrahim	<i>for fantastic identification of rhyming words.</i>
	Ahmed	<i>for carefully adding detail to his starfish.</i>
	Mauro	<i>for carefully following Mr Pullin's instructions on the gymnastic apparatus.</i>
Snowy Owls	Fatima	<i>for applying her phonic knowledge to write sentences independently.</i>
	Blue	<i>for drawing a wonderful tree showing signs of summer.</i>
Tawny Owls	Ava	<i>for remembering the ingredients needed to make bread when writing a list.</i>
	Lennox	<i>for demonstrating a brilliant understanding of combine harvesters and how they have changed.</i>
Barn Owls	Ariana	<i>for fabulous independent writing of ingredients for making bread.</i>
	Ellie	<i>for showing super observational skills when investigating the school grounds for signs of summer.</i>
Red Fox Class	Nirvana	<i>for a beautiful seaside picture.</i>
	Maria	<i>for super phonics this week.</i>
Big Cat Class	Aleksander	<i>for working really hard on his coin work in maths.</i>
	Ela	<i>for making a wonderful seashore book in English.</i>
Walker Bear Class	Zayana	<i>for great work sharing numbers into two equal groups and finding a remainder when the total is odd.</i>
	Maya	<i>for super listening in phonics to identify alternative pronunciations.</i>

Penguin Class	Logan	<i>for super progress with his writing.</i>
	Lucas	<i>for an excellent picture in the style of Piet Mondrian.</i>
Pelican Class	Meadow	<i>for using excellent expression during reading fluency sessions</i>
	Cleo	<i>for always making thoughtful contributions to class discussions</i>
Puffin Class	Ronni	<i>for having a fantastic understanding of food chains.</i>
	Daniel	<i>for writing a wonderful report about slugs and snails.</i>

kindest regards,

Rouane Mendel
Headteacher

SCHOOL DATES

HALF TERM: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

JUNE 2023	
Tuesday 27 th	Big Cats Summer Concert, 2.30pm
Thursday 29 th	Walker Bears Summer Concert, 1.30pm Red Foxes Summer Concert, 2.30pm

JULY 2023	
Monday 3 rd	INSET DAY – school closed
Tuesday 4 th	Inco Coffee morning
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 14th	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

INSET DAYS 2022-23

Thursday 1st September 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 31st October 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 9th December 2022 OCCASIONAL Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 21st December 2022 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 5th June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 3rd July 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

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 2nd 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