



THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS'
SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
Acting Assistant Head: Miss Lisa Hill

Durham Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 4JQ
Telephone: 01438 359747
Email: admin@gilesinfants.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.gilesnurseryandinfants.co.uk

16.06.2023

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,

Everyone in school has thoroughly enjoyed the perfect weather this week which has been so lovely but also cool enough to enable the children to engage fully in their usual activities, including the Daily Mile and preparation for Sports Day (about which more detail below).

It has been Money Week and all classes from Nursery through to Year 2 have engaged in rich and diverse activities throughout the week. Please see your child's class section below.

Thank you to all the families who came to watch the inspirational Reception Summer Concerts. Our children have done such a terrific range of work, and recited and acted out the story of The Little Red Hen so beautifully! Well done to all our teachers and our dear children.

Open Evening next Thursday June 22nd 6.00pm - 7.30pm: Please come in with your families and children to look round the whole school. The Book Fair will also be here. This is a marvellous opportunity to visit your children's classes – and also to visit their next year's class with them. Visiting next year's class together with your child is a very important part of the transition process.

Year 1's Stay-and-Play is on Tuesday 20th June at 2.50-3.10 Their next year's teacher will also be present so this will be an opportunity to meet them.

INCo Coffee morning: This will take place Tuesday 20th June from 8.50am - 9.50am and is an opportunity for you to come and meet other parents, as well as engage in discussion with our SENDCo, Mrs Ballard, and our School Family Worker, Miss Stanton.

***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/>

Transition from our Nursery to Reception September 2023 (Tuesday 20th June): For children who currently attend our Nursery and will be joining our Reception in September 2023, we will be holding a stay-and-play session after school on Tuesday 20th June 2023 3.45-4.30pm and we ask that you please attend.

Class Photo Day – Thursday 22nd June: Kittle Photographers will be in to take class photographs, please ensure children come to school in their uniform and bring their biggest smiles.

Nursery Closed on Friday 23rd June: The Nursery will be closed to current pupils on Friday 23rd June 2023. This is to allow the children who will be joining us in September 2023 an opportunity to visit with their parents. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

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 on 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.

Next year's classes:

- *Barn Owls will go to Red Fox class (teacher Mrs Collinson, TA Mrs Long)*
- *Tawny Owls will go to Big Cats class (teachers Mrs Edwards and Miss O'Regan, TA Mrs Fulton)*
- *Snowy Owls will go to Walker Bear class (teacher Mrs Dalton, TA Mrs Furr)*
- *Red Fox class will go to Puffin class (teacher Mrs Brown, TA Mrs Wilkinson)*
- *Big Cat class will go to Penguin class (teacher Miss Hill, TA Miss Lee)*
- *Walker Bear class will go to Pelican class (teachers Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Trott, TA Mrs Zanelli)*

Reception classes will be announced after we have met the new children who are joining us from other Nurseries.

Nursery School Places for September 2023: *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 the children have participated in Money Week and have thoroughly enjoyed all the activities in Nursery. They discussed the importance of spending money wisely and understood that treats are a special gift that we sometimes receive. The children thought about who in their family earns money and talked about how hard their parents work. Oscar M shared, "My daddy has a job." Jason said, "My daddy has a job, and he works really hard for our family."*

The children have been busy creating a surprise and learning a song for Father's Day. Please ask them to sing their special Father's Day song on Sunday. It was very special to hear them share the reasons why they love their daddies and grandads, and how much they cherish the special hugs and kisses that you give them.

The children have loved hearing many different stories linked to Father's Day including 'I Love You Daddy' by Jillian Harker. Jeremiah listened to the story beautifully and commented, "My daddy helps me." Jessica said, "Little bear fall down, daddy help."

In expressive art and design, the children enjoyed painting a purse, using sequins to decorate a sparkly piggy bank, and painting a 1p coin. They were eager to take a turn in the 'Giles Toy Shop' and had a fantastic time with their friends. The children took on the role of a customer or shopkeeper and used money, a till and gave receipts. Joey took a turn to be the shopkeeper and said, "The boat, 16 pounds please." Samuel J was a customer and said, "I'm going to buy the helicopter, how much?" Esther was a shopkeeper and politely said, "Hello, what would you like to buy? That is 5p."

In phonics, the children have consolidated their learning on alliteration. They remembered alliteration is when words start with the same sound. For example,

'sausages and sun' both start with the 's' sound. The children also enjoyed playing a matching game, they listened to the sound of an instrument and then identified if it was a drum, castanets, an agogo, bells or triangle. Everyone showed fantastic listening!

Father's Day I Love You (Sung to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'.)

*Daddy, Daddy, you're the best!
You are greater than the rest!
And I love you, that is true,
Daddy, Daddy, I love you.
Daddy, Daddy, you're the best!
You are greater than the rest!*

We hope you have a lovely weekend and a happy Father's Day.

***Reception:** This week in literacy the children listened to the story 'Stone Soup' by Tony Ross. They compared this story to the traditional tale of the Little Red Hen by saying the Mother Hen got the wolf to do all the jobs. In their writing activity the children wrote sentences about the different vegetables they thought the Mother Hen would like in her pot of stone soup.*

This term as part of maths fluency, the children have been focusing on counting in ones up to a hundred, in twos to twenty, in fives to either fifty or a hundred and in tens to one hundred using a one hundred square number grid. They loved the opportunity to show their friends how good they were at counting in twos, fives, and tens. The children will continue to practise daily until the end of term.

In understanding the world, the children investigated floating and sinking. They had to predict before investigating whether an item would float or sink. Nikola in Barn Owl class said, "This plastic shape will float because it has air in it, and it is very light in my hand." Some children were quite surprised about some of the items which they thought would sink to the bottom of the bowl and then discovered they floated!

All the Reception staff were so proud of the children when performing their class assemblies. The children hope you all enjoyed looking at their amazing pieces of artwork and listening to the songs.

Next week in literacy the children will be writing sentences about what ingredients are needed to make a loaf of bread. In understanding the world, the children will be looking at how the machinery for farming has developed over time and creating a pictorial timeline.

The children will be investigating the school grounds looking for signs of summer and using an iPad to take photographs of nature in summer. They will be completing their seasons of a tree book by using a form of media to draw a particular tree in the Reception garden.

***Year 1:** This week has been money week. The children have been learning the names of the coins and comparing and ordering them. They have used a range of manipulatives such as Numicon, Cuisenaire rods and bead strings to match and compare the values of coins.*

In English, the children have continued to explore the features of the non-fiction text, 'Seashore' by Louise and Richard Spilsbury. They have researched two different beaches in England, Flamborough Head and Walton-On-The-Naze, found out many facts about rockpools and designed posters to promote keeping the beaches safe and tidy.

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 PSHE, the children have been developing their understanding about change. They have been learning that growing up is natural and everybody grows at different rates.

In art, the children have enjoyed using mixed media to create a seascape picture. They used a blue wash to paint the sea and sky, added real sand for a textured element and used card to make boats for their seaside scene.

In science and forest school, the children had a wonderful time investigating the structure of a plant. They used magnifying glasses to help them look carefully at the roots, stem, leaves and petals and made detailed observational drawings.

Next week, the children will finish their non-fiction books, by making front covers and looking at the features of a contents page. In maths, the children will begin multiplication and division, sharing into equal and unequal groups. In PSHE/ Jigsaw, the children will be sharing photographs of themselves as a baby and discussing how they have changed from then until now.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and a happy Father's Day.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2: This week in English, the Year 2 children have started their new topic called 'Slugs and Snails'. The children have spent this week suggesting questions they want to answer to learn more about these creatures. They have completed research using information texts and online research to answer their questions and will spend the next few weeks creating non-chronological reports on slugs and snails.

In mathematics, the children have been learning about patterns and sequencing. They have completed patterns and created their own with up to four repeating parts. They have also answered questions about sequences; for example, "What would be the 15th shape in the sequence?" Next week the children will be learning about turns and direction, focusing on quarter, half and full turns and clockwise and anti-clockwise directions.

In science this week the children have been learning all about bees and how pollination occurs, with bees carrying pollen from one flower to another. They have discussed how bees help us by helping plants grow and by producing honey which humans eat. Our live caterpillars have arrived at our classes this week and the children are very excited to watch them form their chrysalis, getting ready for metamorphosis to take place.

In PSHCE, the children discussed the natural process of growing from young to old and looking at the changes that take place. They reflected on what they can do now, that they couldn't do last year and identified older adults in their life that they respect and explained why.

In art and design, the children looked at the work of Claude Monet, with a focus on his painting of waterlilies. The children used different mediums of wax crayons and watercolour paints to create their own artwork in the same style. In design technology, the children recalled the food groups and discussed what it means to have a balanced diet. They had great fun making their personal pizzas and we hope you enjoyed cooking and sampling these at home with your child.

It has been Money Week in school and the children have been enjoying activities suggested from the NatWest Money Sense website. They learnt the difference between needs and wants, explored the costs that adults have each month and thought about the expense of having a pet.

There are a few events taking place next week that we would like to remind you of. On Thursday morning, the children will have their class photographs taken, while Thursday afternoon, the children will take part in a special circus workshop. On Thursday evening, our Book Fair will start and it is our school Open Evening. We look forward to seeing you at this lovely event.

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	Olaf	<i>for using super language and sharing his experiences.</i>
	Jason	<i>for fantastic behaviour when exploring the sand and water.</i>
	Cormac	<i>for excellent counting using 1p coins.</i>
	Muna	<i>for being a kind friend and always showing excellent behaviour.</i>
	Freddie	<i>for excellent counting using 1p coins.</i>
Snowy Owls	Aoife	<i>for fantastic counting in 2s and 5s.</i>
	Kristof	<i>for amazing counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.</i>
Tawny Owls	Hollie	<i>for being a fantastic dog in our class assembly.</i>
	Parth	<i>for amazing sentence writing in literacy.</i>
	Nadia	<i>for brilliant counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.</i>
Barn Owls	Seth	<i>for super counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.</i>
	Xavi	<i>for brilliant counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s.</i>
	Kalanne	<i>for being a brilliant little red hen in the class assembly.</i>

	<i>Nikola</i>	<i>for demonstrating a super understanding of floating and sinking.</i>
<i>Red Fox Class</i>	<i>Chiara</i>	<i>for fantastic seashore animal facts.</i>
	<i>Madison</i>	<i>for super phonics in recognising alternatives for g and c.</i>
<i>Big Cat Class</i>	<i>Archie</i>	<i>for working really hard on his card.</i>
	<i>Aria</i>	<i>for super drawing and labelling the parts of a plant.</i>
<i>Walker Bear Class</i>	<i>Nkazi</i>	<i>for an informative rock pool diagram.</i>
	<i>Eleanora</i>	<i>for making a wonderful fact file about Flamborough.</i>
<i>Penguin Class</i>	<i>Boris</i>	<i>for conducting detailed research about slugs and snails.</i>
	<i>Aaron</i>	<i>for growing confidence in his own abilities.</i>
<i>Pelican Class</i>	<i>Alfie</i>	<i>for excellent progress with reading.</i>
	<i>Chloe-Bonnie</i>	<i>for excellent progress with reading.</i>
	<i>Ivie</i>	<i>for excellent shape sequencing in maths.</i>
<i>Puffin Class</i>	<i>Harper</i>	<i>for creating a wonderful picture of Monet's 'Water Lilies' using crayons and water colours.</i>
	<i>Tyler</i>	<i>for trying his best with his phonics.</i>

*kindest regards,
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher*

SCHOOL DATES

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

JUNE 2023	
Thursday 22 nd	Class Photograph Day
Thursday 22 nd	Year 1 and Year 2 Circus Skills Workshop
Thursday 22 nd	Whole School Open Evening and Book Fair, 6.00-7.30pm
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 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