



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

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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,

The children have come back to school so happily and clearly had a really relaxing, enjoyable break. They are all ready to re-engage with learning and have had a fantastic week back in school. They have entered into their new topics with enormous enthusiasm and teachers had prepared enticing 'hooks' to excite them further, as you will read in the year-group sections below.

Next week is going to be another terrific week for the children as it is Money Week, led by Mrs Dalton and Mrs Simmons. This week combines interesting mathematical investigations involving money and also about the importance of saving and looking after your money – so there are links with the British Citizenship curriculum as well.

Please note that the Year 2 Leavers' assemblies will take place on:

- ***Thursday 20th July - 9.15am - Puffins***
 - ***Thursday 20th July - 10.15am - Pelicans***
 - ***Friday 21st July - 9.15am – Penguins***
- Parents/Caters are very welcome to attend.***

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

Keep hydrated

Wear sun lotion, 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/>

5 Star Hygiene Rating for our Kitchen: *We would like to congratulate our Herts Catering Team for another year of being granted a 5 star hygiene rating for our Kitchen. Thank you to Mrs Scott, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Parker and Mrs Morrison.*

Stevenage Day, Sunday 11th June: *Parents and families may come and watch the flag parade from 11:45am at the main arena.*

Transition from our Nursery to Reception September 2023 (Wednesday 21st 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 Wednesday 21st 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.

Open Evening and Book Fair (Thursday 22nd June): Please note this date for your diary: we will be holding a whole school Open Evening on Thursday 22nd June, 6.00pm – 7.30pm. The Book Fair will also be here. This is a wonderful opportunity to come along and visit the whole school including of course your child's current classroom as well as the classrooms in the year group they will be moving to in September.

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. More information will follow nearer the time.

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. Please 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: *The children have settled back in wonderfully this week and have enjoyed getting involved in our 'Sand and Water' topic. The children learnt that starfish live in the ocean and can be found in coral reefs, rock pools, tropical shores and even deep down on the ocean floor. They were fascinated to learn that starfish are not actually fish but are related to sea urchins and that starfish usually have five arms, but some can have as many as 40!*

In expressive art and design, the children have been busy making starfish and crabs. They looked carefully at photographs and decorated a starfish with pasta shells to create a spiny texture. Oscar W commented, "It has bumpy bits all along the edges of the arms." Bowie was excited to decorate her starfish and said, "My starfish is bright orange and has five arms." The children have shown tremendous perseverance when using scissors, and great control and skill cutting out the claws for their crabs.

In mathematics, the children enjoyed ordering shells by size. They relished the opportunity to impress the adults with their fantastic counting during the activity, using 1-1 counting confidently. The children described the size of the shells as 'small, medium and big'. They then used the words 'smallest, smaller, biggest, bigger' to compare the different shells.

In phonics, the children loved playing a game of 'Which One?' using their special soft toy puppet. They were focused and eager to find out which item from a tray of items the puppet would sound talk into the adult's ear. The children listened carefully to the segmented word 'b-u-s/bus, s-o-ck/sock' and pointed to which item the puppet had chosen to sound talk. Great segmenting and blending, Ladybirds!

This week with Mr Pullin, the children showed excellent sportsmanship when playing games of 'fish or sharks' and 'bananas'. They showed resilience when being caught and developed their understanding of fair play. The children had lots of fun whilst keeping healthy, developing their coordination and fitness skills.

Next week, the children will take part in Money Week. They will have the opportunity to explore a role play toy shop, look at different coins and think about the importance of saving money. In expressive art and design, the children will be making a surprise and learning a special song for Father's Day.

Reception: *Children in Reception took part in Money Week this week due to summer concerts being held during the week of 12th June. The children watched a video discussing items you need and items you want. They discovered they needed things such as food, water, clothing, shelter, and medicine to keep them safe, warm, and healthy and all other items were located in the 'want' section. Roman in Snowy Owl class said, "We need fresh water to be healthy and we need a house to be cool and safe," and Teddy in Tawny Owl class said, "I really want a private jet, but I don't need one!"*

The children sorted coins according to the criteria of their choice. Some children sorted coins according to colour, others sorted coins according to their shape and some children looked very carefully at the coins and sorted them according to their value. Zac in Barn Owl class said, "I've sorted the coins, so they are all the colour groups together."

In a third activity, the children talked about keeping money safe and counted out several coins to place into a piggy bank.

In mathematics linked to art and design, the children used a tube to create a 3D windmill. They discovered how a windmill operates and looked at different designs of windmills.

Next week in literacy, the children will be listening to the story Stone Soup by Tony Ross and writing sentences about which vegetables they would put into the soup pot for Mother Hen.

In mathematics, the children will be counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s and in understanding the world they will be 'science detectives' investigating floating and sinking.

Next week Reception assemblies will be taking place:

- *Barn Owl class on Tuesday 13th June at 9.15am*
- *Tawny Owl class on Wednesday 14th June at 9.15am*
- *Snowy Owl class on Thursday 15th June at 9.15am.*

If your child is in Barn Owl class and Snowy Owl class, they will need to bring in a named baseball cap for their assembly as a prop for one of the songs.

Year 1: *The children have settled back into a wonderful week of learning, having enjoyed the half term break.*

In English, they have begun their new topic on 'Seashores'. The children began the week by generating a range of questions they would like to find out about their new topic. The children learnt how to structure a question using question words, such as what, who, where, why and punctuating with a question mark. They explored the features of the non-fiction text, Seashore by Louise and Richard Spilsbury before starting their own fact book about seashores. The children have also written captions about rocky and sandy seashores.

In mathematics, the children had a wonderful time, exploring and investigating the concepts of capacity, length and mass. In capacity, they used the key vocabulary 'full, half full, empty, nearly full and nearly empty' to describe a variety of containers filling them with sand, cubes, beads, rice and water. In length, the children measured with Cuisenaire rods and rulers and learnt about centimetres. They measured the length of a variety of classroom objects. When learning about mass, the children weighed different objects, using cubes to find the heaviest or lightest object.

In history, the children looked carefully at a painting of a young Queen Victoria. They looked for clues to work out who the person could be. The children made predictions that the person could be wealthy, royal, and live in a castle. Next week, the children will discover who she is.

The children have begun their new Jigsaw unit called Changing Me. They have begun to learn about life cycles and discussed how we change and grow. They have sequenced the life cycle of a frog.

In PE, the children have begun learning about the key skills needed to be an effective runner during their athletics. They watched a video to see athletes competing in running races and practised running ready for sports day.

In music, the children relished exploring how they can use beanbags as a form of notation. They enjoyed assigning a different instrument to each colour of beanbag and then arranging the beanbags in an order from left to right to 'read' which instrument should be played and when. They considered how music can often tell a story and they began to think about how they could represent the story of 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson through music.

Next week is money week. The children will be exploring coins and notes and taking part in a variety of money related activities. In English, they will continue with their learning about the seashore. Next week is also the statutory phonics screening check. The children will complete this check with their class teacher on a 1:1 basis. Further

information can be found here: [Year 1 - Red Foxes, Walker Bears and Big Cats | The Giles Nursery and Infants' School](#)

In PSHE, the children will continue to look at life cycles. We would love the children to bring in a photograph of themselves as a baby to support them with this lesson. If you can, please send in a baby photograph at the start of next week.

Year 2: The children have returned to school relaxed, refreshed and ready to learn after a wonderful half term break. It has been lovely having the sunshine each day and allowing us more opportunities to work outside.

*This week in English, the children have been studying the nonsense poem *The Quangle Wangle's Hat* by Edward Lear. The children made predictions about what they thought the Quangle Wangle and other characters might look like, drawing them and using a variety of adjectives to describe the characters' looks and personality. The children then used their predictions to write character descriptions of the unknown characters from the poem.*

In mathematics, the children have been learning about symmetry. They learnt how to check if a shape or object has a vertical line of symmetry by folding it in half and holding a mirror against the fold to check if the reflection is correct. They sorted shapes and objects into two categories: 'has a vertical line of symmetry' and 'does not have a vertical line of symmetry'. They also learned that shapes and pictures might have more than one line of symmetry. They explored the lines of symmetry in shapes and discovered that the number of sides and the number of lines of symmetry are the same in regular shapes – apart from a circle, which has an infinite number of lines of symmetry. Next week, we will be celebrating Money Week at school and the children will immerse themselves in coins, calculating amount and finding change.

In design technology, the children recalled the food groups and designed a healthy pizza, which they will have the opportunity to make in the next few weeks. In computing, the children learned about Impressionist art and artists. They then created their own piece of digital Impressionist art using a programme on Purple Mash. In art and design, the children looked at the work of Claude Monet and used different mediums to create their own artwork in the same style.

*In PSHCE, the children started their topic called *Changing Me*. They began to look at the changes they will experience as they get older. They discussed what they were looking forward to and what they were worried about as they grow. Many of the children were looking forward to earning their own money and staying up late! In science, the children continued their learning about the lifecycle of butterflies and the process of metamorphosis, which they will observe in the classroom next week when our own caterpillars arrive.*

The Year 2 Team

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY

TROPHY-BEARING CLASS WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR THIS WEEK

RED FOX CLASS

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!!



STARS OF THE WEEK

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ladybird Nursery Classes | Ivy Reid | <i>for showing perseverance and skill when using scissors.</i> |
| | Carina | <i>for working hard to write the letters in his name.</i> |
| | Kikiyin | <i>for showing perseverance and skill when using scissors.</i> |
| | Hannah | <i>for being a very kind friend and for always helping others.</i> |
| Snowy Owls | Milla | <i>for fantastic counting and ordering in mathematics.</i> |
| | Clark | <i>for making a wonderful windmill.</i> |
| Tawny Owls | Reggie | <i>for sorting and recognising coins.</i> |
| | Mason | <i>for demonstrating a brilliant understanding of 'Wants and Needs' during Money Week.</i> |
| Barn Owls | Tigerlily | <i>for excellent coin sorting during Money Week.</i> |
| | Jamal | <i>for working independently to create a super 3D windmill.</i> |
| Red Fox Class | Matthew | <i>for demonstrating a super understanding of why money is needed.</i> |
| | Aaron | <i>for fantastic creative, homework.</i> |
| Big Cat Class | Elise | <i>for super reading.</i> |
| | Ayaansh | <i>for excellent work in capacity.</i> |
| Walker Bear Class | Lyra | <i>for generating excellent questions about the seashore in English.</i> |
| | Thea | <i>for always coming into school with a smile ready for learning.</i> |
| Penguin Class | Woody | <i>for demonstrating a good understanding of life cycles in PSHE.</i> |
| | Milly | <i>for writing a brilliant description of the Quangle Wangle.</i> |
| Pelican Class | Lucas | <i>for creating a beautiful print of a flower using ink.</i> |
| | Philip | <i>for his fantastic participation in class discussions this week.</i> |
| Puffin Class | Youssef | <i>for the amazing effort put into mathematics this week.</i> |
| | Evie-Beth | <i>for always trying his best with all his learning.</i> |

**kindest regards,
 Rouane Mendel, Headteacher**

SCHOOL DATES

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

| JUNE 2023 | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week beginning 12th June | MONEY WEEK |
| Tuesday 13 th | Reception Summer Concert, Barn Owl, 9.15am |
| Wednesday 14 th | Reception Summer Concert, Tawny Owl, 9.15am |
| Thursday 15 th | Reception Summer Concert, Snowy Owl, 9.15am |
| TBC Tuesday 20th | SEN/Inclusion team Drop-In, 8.50-9.30am . If you have something you would like to discuss with our specialist team, do drop by for coffee. |
| Thursday 22 nd | Class Photograph Day |
| 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 |
| Friday 21 st | Last day of term – finish at 2pm |

TERM DATES 2022-23

[Half Term: Monday 29th May 2023 – Friday 2nd June 2023]

Monday 5th June 2023 INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th June 2023

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