

GEARIES NEWSLETTER

Summer 1

Co-Head Message

As we reach the end of a fantastic Summer 1 half term, I would like to congratulate all of our children who have represented the school so brilliantly in sport. Both our girls' and boys' football teams have shown tremendous commitment, teamwork and determination, making us all incredibly proud with their achievements and sporting attitude. It has also been wonderful for the children to enjoy inspirational visits to watch professional football, with our girls attending a Tottenham Hotspur Women's match and our boys visiting Leyton Orient.

I would also like to offer a huge congratulations to our Year 6 pupils for completing their SATs assessments this week. The children approached the week with resilience and positivity, and we are extremely proud of the effort they have shown throughout the year. Thank you to our dedicated staff for their hard work and support in preparing the children so carefully, and to parents and carers for the encouragement they have provided at home.

There have been many other wonderful moments across the school this half term too. Our Year 3 and 4 Science Day was filled with excitement and curiosity, with the children thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to take part in a range of engaging scientific investigations.

We are also delighted that our Reception children have successfully completed their woods trips, where they showed great enthusiasm and confidence exploring the outdoors, and have now begun their exciting fishing trips, which are already creating many special memories.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support throughout the term. We wish all of our families a restful, happy and enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for what promises to be another busy and exciting Summer 2 half term.

Mr. Lea & Mrs Dias

SCHOOL DIARY

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER 2

Performance Assemblies

Date	Class	
Thursday 25th June	5D at 9:00am in the Junior Hall	
Friday 26th June	2B at 9:10am in the Infant Hall	4D at 9:00am in the Junior Hall

Please note for the most recent dates, please check the calendar on the school website. This can be found on the 'About Us' section of the drop-down menus. Please click on the link below to take you straight there:

[Calendar | Gearies Primary School](#)

SCHOOL DIARY

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER 2

Other Key Dates for this half-term

	Event	Date	Timings
Summer Term 2026	First day of Summer Term 2	Monday 1st June	Usual timings
	SPORTS WEEK	Week beginning 15th June	
	Reception Sports Day	Friday 19th June	Details TBC
	Year 1 Movie Night	Thursday 25th June	TBC
	Year 5/6 Open Classrooms	Tuesday 30th June	8:40am - 9:10am
	Year R/2 Open Classrooms	Wednesday 1st July	8:40am - 9:10am
	Year 1/3/4 Open Classrooms	Wednesday 2nd July	8:40am - 9:10am
	Summer Fayre	Friday 3rd July	TBC
	Move up Morning (with parents)	Monday 6th July	TBC
	Last day of term for children	Friday 17th July	Usual timings
	WHOLE SCHOOL INSET DAY	Monday 20th July	School closed for children

Please note for the most recent dates, please check the calendar on the school website. This can be found on the 'About Us' section of the drop-down menus. Please click on the link below to take you straight there:

[Calendar | Gearies Primary School](#)

EVENTS

Nursery

This half term, Nursery have been learning about growth and change. The children enjoyed looking at photos of themselves as babies and discussing how they have changed over time. They also planted beans and explored what plants need in order to grow.

One of the highlights of the term has been observing the journey of our tiny caterpillars. The children have loved watching them grow and change each day, and are eagerly waiting for them to emerge as beautiful butterflies.



EVENTS

Reception

Reception have begun their visits to Redbridge Lakes. During the visits, the children get to fish, pond dip, and explore the nature around them.

They have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in these outdoor activities and learning more about the wildlife and environment in a hands-on way.



In Reception, we have been reading the story *Errol's Garden*, where Errol creates a community garden with his friends and neighbours. Inspired by the story, Reception parents kindly donated plants which the children have been planting in the Reception garden and the new wildflower garden at the front of the school. The children have enjoyed helping to create their own community garden together.



EVENTS

Reception

In Reception, the children in RC have been enjoying spending time in the garden while learning about growing and caring for plants and wildlife. They have been planting, exploring, and taking part in activities within both their class garden and the school community garden.



Tulips and Marigolds



A beautiful blossom



Watering and caring for our community garden



Planting some primroses

EVENTS

Reception



Everyone is busy helping out



Our community garden is starting to take shape



Learning through play in our outdoor area!



Exploring and caring for plants in our outdoor garden area

The children have enjoyed working together outdoors, using their imagination and curiosity during their learning and play. They have taken part in a variety of practical activities while exploring the garden areas around the school.

It has been lovely to see the children becoming more confident and independent as they explore the outdoor environment and discover new things each day.

EVENTS

Year 1

For DT this term, Year 1 children have been learning about the importance of healthy eating and maintaining a balanced diet. They discussed the difference between healthy and unhealthy foods and shared their favourite fruits and vegetables.

As part of their DT project, the children made a healthy fruit salad. In preparation, they had the opportunity to taste a variety of fruits, including mango, strawberries, blueberries, apples, kiwi and grapes.



In Year 1, the children have been learning about healthy snacks and the different food groups on the Eatwell Plate. They enjoyed tasting a variety of fruits before making their own healthy fruit salads.



EVENTS

Year 1

The children thoroughly enjoyed trying both familiar and new fruits, describing the different tastes and textures. They then selected four fruits to include in their own fruit salad.



In Science this half term, we have been learning about plants and trees. The children used magnifying glasses to closely observe different plants before carefully drawing them with as much detail and accuracy as possible.

EVENTS

Year 2

Year 2 have been exploring Land Art – a creative art form where artists use natural materials such as leaves, sticks, stones, petals and bark to create temporary artworks outdoors.

Inspired by artists like *Andy Goldsworthy*, the children have been learning how to work creatively with nature, noticing the different patterns, textures, shapes and colours in the environment around them.



Throughout the lessons, the children showed great creativity and concentration while sharing ideas and working collaboratively with one another.

It was wonderful to see how engaged they were while using nature as inspiration for their artwork.

EVENTS

Year 2

Through this project, the children have been developing their imagination, teamwork and observation skills, while also building a greater appreciation for the natural world.

They thoroughly enjoyed designing and creating their own outdoor artworks using collected natural materials, discovering that art can be created anywhere – not just on paper.



It was fantastic to see the children using the outdoors as inspiration for their artwork while developing confidence in expressing their own creative ideas.

EVENTS

Year 3

In DT, the children have been learning how to make their own cushions using a range of sewing skills. They practised threading needles, stitching fabric together carefully, and stuffing their cushions to create the finished product.

The children showed great patience and determination throughout the project and were very proud of their final creations.



EVENTS

Year 3

During Science Day, the children enjoyed creating their own jumping beans using paper and marbles. They explored how movement and forces work by experimenting with different designs and observing how the marbles made the beans jump and move.



The children showed great enthusiasm throughout the activity and enjoyed testing and improving their creations.

EVENTS

Year 3

Year 3 had a fantastic time during their woods trip, taking part in a variety of outdoor learning activities. The children carefully observed and sketched different leaves found in the woodland, focusing on the shapes, patterns and details they could see.

They also worked collaboratively to build shelters using logs, sticks and other natural materials, demonstrating excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills throughout the day.



EVENTS

Year 4

Year 4 had a fantastic time during Science Day, taking part in a range of exciting and hands-on activities. The children explored different scientific ideas through practical investigations, made predictions, and worked collaboratively to test their ideas.

It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity throughout the day.



The children were amazed as teachers carried out a big "WOW" science experiment in the playground, sparking excitement, curiosity and lots of enthusiastic reactions from everyone watching!

EVENTS

Year 4

Year 4 recently took part in a Pedestrian Safety course, where they learned important skills to help keep themselves safe near roads. The children were taught how to cross roads safely, the importance of stopping, looking and listening carefully, and how to follow key road safety rules when travelling around their local area.

Throughout the course, the children showed excellent focus and maturity while practising these important life skills. It was wonderful to see them developing a greater understanding of how to stay safe and responsible as pedestrians.



EVENTS

Year 5

Students from Year 5 took part in an exciting three-week cooking course hosted by Caterham High School. The programme introduced the children to essential cooking skills in a fun, safe and supportive environment. Across the sessions, the children learned about basic cooking techniques, kitchen hygiene and safety, while preparing a variety of dishes including Thai curry, fruit kebabs, cheesecake and Caesar salad.

The children benefited from using specialist Food Technology facilities while developing practical cooking skills, confidence and teamwork. The course also gave them a valuable introduction to the secondary school environment ahead of future transition.



We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, confidence and maturity the children showed throughout the course. They represented the school brilliantly and embraced every activity with a positive attitude.

EVENTS

Year 6

Preparing for SATs Success

This term, Year 6 have shown incredible determination and resilience as they prepared for their SATs. The children worked extremely hard across all subjects, taking part in focused revision sessions, practising test techniques, and developing their confidence in reading, maths, grammar and spelling.

Throughout the revision period, the children demonstrated a mature and positive attitude towards their learning. They supported one another, listened carefully to feedback, and challenged themselves to improve each day. Staff were incredibly proud of the effort, commitment and perseverance shown by all pupils during this important time.

Alongside their hard work in lessons, the children also took part in booster sessions, revision activities and collaborative learning tasks designed to strengthen their understanding and build confidence ahead of the tests. Their dedication and attitude throughout the process has been fantastic to see.

We are extremely proud of all the Year 6 children for the way they approached their SATs journey, showing resilience, focus and a determination to do their very best.

EVENTS

Sporting Events (Boys' Football Team)

After two successful visits to Frenford, where the Gearies football team remained unbeaten in their league matches, a third visit in late April saw the team crowned league champions and lift the trophy. Across 12 matches, the team won 9 games, drew 2 and lost just 1; a fantastic achievement. All players were awarded medals to celebrate their success.

We are incredibly proud of the players for their effort, teamwork and determination throughout the competition. We are also looking forward to the next tournament day, which will include a mixed boys' and girls' team following the excitement and success surrounding Miss Iqbal's girls' football team.



The success of the team has inspired great enthusiasm for football across the school, with many children showing increased confidence and excitement during PE lessons and training sessions.

The players were also celebrated during school assemblies, further building excitement and encouraging younger pupils to take part in sporting opportunities across the school.

EVENTS

Sporting Events (Leyton Orient Visit)

The Gearies football team recently enjoyed an exciting visit to Leyton Orient for their final match of the season against Burton Albion. The children were given a special tour around the stadium, including the opportunity to walk pitch-side, explore the changing rooms.

It was a wonderful day and they even got to be flag bearers and waved the players onto the pitch as a guard of honour! It was very exciting! The game ended 2-2 and Leyton Orient stayed up!

One of the highlights of the visit was meeting the mascots and taking photos together around the stadium. The children were full of excitement throughout the experience and represented the school brilliantly with their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm.



The players were also celebrated during school assemblies, further building excitement and encouraging younger pupils to take part in sporting opportunities across the school.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Leyton Orient for hosting our school and providing such a warm and welcoming experience, and we are very grateful for the time and effort that went into making the visit so special.

EVENTS

Sporting Events (Mini Marathon)

The children in our school recently took part in a Mini Marathon, showing fantastic determination, teamwork and resilience throughout the event. The Mini Marathon encouraged children to stay active, challenge themselves and experience the excitement of taking part in a large sporting event inspired by long-distance running competitions across the country.

Throughout the day, the children supported and encouraged one another, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and a positive attitude from start to finish. We are incredibly proud of all the children for their effort and enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see everyone working together and enjoying such a memorable experience.



EVENTS

Sporting Events (Redbridge Hockey Skills Festival)

On 28th April, 16 children from Years 4-6, who have been working extremely hard during their invasion games PE lessons this term, visited Redbridge Sports Centre to take part in a Hockey Skills Festival. The event was hosted by the Redbridge School Sports Collective and led by the hockey team from Bancroft's High School.

Throughout the day, the children were taught a range of field hockey skills and techniques. They also had the exciting opportunity to use specialist hockey equipment and practise on the official hockey pitches at the sports centre. All of the children had a fantastic time, developing their skills while practising and competing alongside other schools from across the borough.



EVENTS

Sporting Events (Redbridge Spring Run)

On 22nd April, we took 28 children from Years 4-6 to Fairlop Waters to take part in the annual Redbridge Spring Run. The event featured a one-mile race around the lake, with four races taking place across the day for boys and girls in Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6. With over 100 children competing in each race, it was a fantastic and highly competitive event.

The children represented the school brilliantly, showing excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. They challenged themselves to complete a difficult physical event and should be extremely proud of their efforts. Overall, Gearies finished 9th out of 21 schools across Redbridge; a fantastic achievement.



EVENTS

Summer Craft Event

Our Summer Craft Event was a fantastic success, bringing together children and families for an afternoon filled with creativity and community spirit. There was a wonderful range of craft activities for all ages to enjoy, with children taking part in painting, decorating, designing and creating a variety of colourful pieces to take home.



Alongside the crafting activities, there was also a great selection of food and refreshments available, helping to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout the event.

It was lovely to see so many families enjoying the activities together. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event such an enjoyable experience for all.

EVENTS

School Council

SCHOOL LUNCHES

GOOD FOOD. GREAT FUEL. HAPPY MINDS.

YOUR VOICE. OUR PRIORITY.

We were delighted to welcome Steve (our Catering Manager) to meet with our Student Council to talk about school lunches. The children asked lots of thoughtful questions and shared brilliant ideas to help make lunchtime even better! We're listening, making improvements and working hard to provide healthy, balanced meals that everyone can enjoy.



KEY TOPICS DISCUSSED

- ✓ **Menu favourites** – Requests to bring back lasagne and meat burgers. Changes to the menu are being planned after the summer break.
- ✓ **Pizza** – From 5th June, pizza will be served every Tuesday with a choice of toppings: Margherita, Spicy Beef, Sweet Chili Chicken, Roasted Vegetable, Pepperoni, BBQ Chicken, Ham & Cheese and Vegetable Fajita.
- ✓ **Fish & Chips** – We're looking at adding fish portions on alternate Fridays to give more choice and improve quality.
- ✓ **Ice cream** – We're exploring more flavours and better ways to keep it cool!
- ✓ **Portion sizes & quality** – We've reminded our team about consistent portion sizes and following the School Food Standards.
- ✓ **Choices & options** – You can choose either halal or non-halal meals.
- ✓ **Drinks** – We only serve water and milk to follow School Food Standards and support healthy choices.
- ✓ **Milk** – You're welcome to ask for a top up if you'd like more.
- ✓ **Vegetables** – The team will now ask what you want and encourage everyone to try something new every day.
- ✓ **Fruit** – You can have two pieces of fruit at lunch. Please enjoy the free fruit provided at breaktime too!
- ✓ **Tables & queues** – We're looking at ways to keep tables cleaner and make sure everyone gets served quickly and fairly.
- ✓ **Vegetarian options** – We always offer a vegetarian choice and will continue to improve variety.

WHAT WE'RE DOING



LISTENING TO YOUR FEEDBACK

We value your ideas and suggestions and are already making changes. We'll continue to keep you updated!



HEALTHY & BALANCED MEALS

We follow School Food Standards to make sure every meal is nutritious and well-balanced, helping to fuel your bodies and minds.



WATER & MILK ONLY

To support healthy choices, we provide water and milk to drink every day – keeping you hydrated and refreshed.



LOOKING AHEAD

We're planning new menu ideas, more variety and exciting themed days – with your help!

MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOOL LUNCHES

- ✓ **Ingredients:** We source our ingredients as locally as possible. Our main supplier is Bidfood, who recycle waste cooking oil to fuel their trucks – helping to reduce our carbon footprint.
- ✓ **Free fruit:** The school provides FREE fruit for everyone every day.
- ✓ **High standards:** We follow the School Food Standards to make sure every meal is healthy, balanced and full of the goodness you need.
- ✓ **Built-in nutrition:** Our chefs add lovely vegetables to dishes like mac and cheese to make sure meals are tasty, nutritious and well-balanced.
- ✓ **Hygiene:** Please use the cutlery provided carefully and report any concerns to our lunchtime staff so we can keep lunch safe and enjoyable for all.
- ✓ **Your choice:** You can choose halal or non-halal meals – just let our staff know.



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE LUNCHTIME BETTER!

Thank you to our Student Council for speaking so confidently and representing the voices of pupils across the school.



BE KIND



BE RESPECTFUL



BE YOUR BEST

Online Safety

All The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

ONLINE FAIR PLAY The Dos and Don'ts of Online Conduct

Alongside individual skill, impressive teamwork and some truly epic matches, one of the most enjoyable things about this summer's European football championships has been the sense of sportsmanship and fair play. Players have competed fiercely, but they've (mostly) remembered that they're representing their country – and that bad behaviour, dangerous play or outright cheating tends to last in people's memories for a long time after tournaments are over. The same is true of how we act online – one error of judgement or loss of control might only take a second, but can have results that are difficult to forget. Instead, just like the heroes of the Euros, we should aim for people to see us and feel proud and inspired. So, in a five-a-side line-up (with five "dos" and five "don'ts"), here are our top tips for playing fair online.



FAIR PLAY



1 ORGANISE YOUR DEFENCE

Use strong passwords to protect your personal information, accounts and data. A trusted adult, like a teacher or a relative, can help you choose one that's easy for you to remember but hard for anyone else to guess.



2 KEEP POSSESSION

Only share personal information online with people you know well, like friends and family. A trusted adult will be able to help you change your online privacy settings so strangers can't find things out about you.



3 USE TEAMWORK

Before you use a device for the first time or download a new app, always check with a trusted adult. They'll be able to check if it's safe for you to use and make sure the privacy settings are right for you.



4 BE RESPECTFUL

Treat people online like you would treat them in real life. Remember your manners and be polite and kind in your posts, comments and messages.



5 CATCH ATTACKERS OFFSIDE

If someone is trying to bully you online, a trusted adult can help you to gather evidence and report that person to the authorities. You should also tell a trusted adult if you see anything online that makes you feel worried, upset, frightened or sad.



FOUL PLAY



1 DON'T IGNORE POSSIBLE DANGER

Never accept a friend request from a stranger. If somebody you don't know tries to contact you online, tell a trusted adult straight away.



2 DON'T LOSE CONTROL & RETALIATE

Although it can be tempting, it's best not to respond if someone attempts to bully you online or sends you hurtful messages. Tell a trusted adult what happened, and then block the person from contacting you again in future.



3 DON'T HURT PEOPLE DELIBERATELY

It's important to behave online just like you would in real life. Don't post anything that can make you look like a bad person, because the things we put online can stay there for a long time.



4 DON'T CHEAT YOUR WAY TO VICTORY

Don't copy another person's work that you found online or pretend that it's yours. This is called plagiarism and can get you into a lot of trouble.



5 DON'T PLAY FOR EXTRA TIME

It can be easy to spend too much time online. Instead, take a break to go outside for some fresh air and exercise. Not using your device just before bed will also help you get a good night's sleep so you can be fresh and focused the next day.



[@wake_up_weds](https://twitter.com/wake_up_weds)

www.thenationalcollege.com

[@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday)

[@wake.up.weds](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 07.07.2021 Last reviewed: 16.04.2024

Free School Meals Eligibility

Free School Meals Eligibility – Could You Help Secure Extra Funding for Our School



Did you know that even though all primary school children in London currently receive free school meals through the Mayor of London's initiative, it is still very important to register for the government's Free School Meals scheme if you are eligible?

When families apply and qualify, the school receives additional funding which helps us provide further support and opportunities for pupils across the school.

This funding can be used for:

- Additional teaching support and interventions
- Educational resources and classroom equipment
- Subsidised school trips and enrichment activities
- Extra-curricular clubs and experiences
- Support for children's wellbeing and learning
- Improving outcomes for all pupils



You may be eligible to apply if you receive one of the following:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Registering is quick and confidential, and it can make a significant difference to the support we are able to provide.

Even if your child already receives free meals at school, please check whether you are eligible and apply if you can.

For more information or help with applying, please contact the school office.