



GEARIES NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1

Co-Head Message

We're delighted to share the first edition of this academic year's newsletter and to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families, especially those whose children have joined us in Reception and Nursery.

It's been a busy and exciting start to the year! We returned to school to find a brand-new roof and newly refurbished toilets for our Year 2 pupils—with Year 3's facilities due for completion by the end of this week.

We're also hopeful that improvements to our playground will take place over the half-term holidays, which will make playtimes even more enjoyable for everyone.

Highlights from this half term include the ever-popular Year 5 residential trip to Mersea Island, adventurous Year 4 visits to Hainault county park, and fantastic sporting achievements from our Year 5/6 girls' football team and our cross-country runners at Fairlop Country Park. We wish all our pupils and families a restful and enjoyable half term break!

We look forward to seeing you following the break at the usual times on Monday 3rd November.

Mr Lea and Mrs Dias



SCHOOL DIARY

IMPORTANT DATES FOR AUTUMN 2

Performance Assemblies

Date	Class	
Thursday 13th November	5C at 9:00am in the Junior Hall	
Friday 14th November	2C at 9:10am in the Infant Hall	4A at 9:00am in the Junior Hall
Thursday 11th December	6C at 9:00am in the Junior Hall	
Friday 12th December	2A at 9:10am in the Infant Hall	3D at 9:00am in the Junior Hall



SCHOOL DIARY

IMPORTANT DATES FOR AUTUMN 2

Other Key Dates for this Half-term

Autumn Term 2025	Event	Date	Timings
	First day of Autumn Term 2	Monday 3rd November	Usual timings
	4D Visit to the Barbican	Wednesday 5th November	TBC
	Primary Parent Consultations part two	Thursday 6th November	3:45pm–5pm
	Great Athletes visiting KS2	Monday 10th November	ALL DAY
	Great Athletes visiting KS1	Friday 14th November	ALL DAY
	Year 6 Movie Night	Thursday 20th November	TBC
	Winter Fare	Friday 5th December	TBC
	RA & RB Nativity	Wednesday 10th December	9:30am
	RC & RD Nativity	Wednesday 10th December	2:30pm
	Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day	Friday 12th December	
	Last day of Autumn Term	Friday 19th December	Usual timings

Please note for the most recent dates, including specific year group educational visits 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:

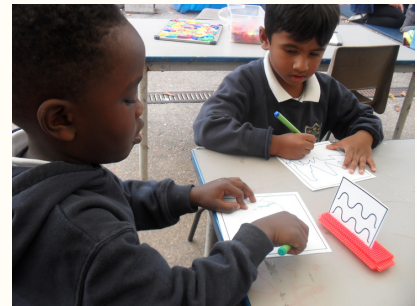
[Calendar | Gearies Primary School](#)



EVENTS

Nursery

This half-term, our nursery children have been busy learning through play in their outdoor and indoor spaces. From building towers and exploring the playground to painting colourful creations and discovering the world around them, every moment has been filled with curiosity and joy.



The children have been developing important early skills—working together, sharing ideas, using their imaginations, and learning through hands-on experiences.



EVENTS

Reception

Our Reception children had a wonderful time exploring the world around them this half-term! They got stuck in with digging up weeds in the garden, helping to keep it tidy while discovering what's hiding in the soil.

Inspired by the autumn weather, they collected and painted colourful leaves, noticing the changes in the season.

The children have also been busy painting beautiful autumn leaves. Out in the garden, little green thumbs have been hard at work planting and tending to our outdoor spaces.



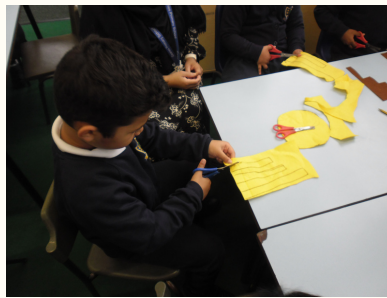
To celebrate the season and the festival of Diwali, pupils also created stunning rangoli patterns.



EVENTS

Year 1

In Year 1, we have been learning about the seasons. As part of our Design and Technology work, the children designed and created seasonal looms using a variety of fabrics and materials. This project allowed them to develop key skills such as drawing, cutting, and sticking. Can you guess which season 1B represented in their work?





EVENTS

Year 4 Trip to Hainault Forest

To support our learning in English and bring the curriculum to life, Year 4 have enjoyed visiting Hainault Forest Country Park this term. We had lots of fun going on a leaf hunt and identifying different trees, going on an autumnal rainbow scavenger hunt, making art in nature, building dens and making friends on the farm.





EVENTS

Year 4 Trip to Hainault Forest



The children enjoyed building dens using sticks and working together to create imaginative shelters.



EVENTS

Year 5 Residential to Mersea Island

This half-term, our Year 5 students embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Mersea Island! They spent their days learning a variety of exciting new skills—from building shelters and go-karts to team-building challenges and archery.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to grow in confidence, work together, and, most importantly, have loads of fun. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and hear the buzz of excitement as they returned full of stories and memories that will last a lifetime.





EVENTS

Year 5 Residential to Mersea Island



Adventure and teamwork were in full swing as the kids took on a day packed with excitement and challenges! From aiming with focus during archery, soaring through the air on the zipline, and scaling the climbing wall with determination, to working together to solve group activities.





EVENTS

More to Explore!

A group of children from Gearies Primary School took part in the Fairlop Autumn Run. Despite the chilly weather, they gave it their all. Well done to all the runners for their great effort and positive attitude!



The girls in the football league showed great dedication, practicing hard each week. Their skills, teamwork, and confidence improved noticeably, reflecting their commitment and love for the game.



The children had an exciting day by going to watch a live cricket match.

Unfortunately, the game was cancelled, however they got the chance to practice with professional instructors who showed them how to bat and bowl.

It was a fun and motivating experience that gave them a real taste of what it's like to train at a professional level.





Online Safety

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Conversation starters for parents and carers: ONLINE CONTENT

Trying to start a conversation about online safety with children can be a daunting task. There are many reasons why children may not want to talk to adults about it. One might be that they don't think you'll understand or that you won't know how to help if they came to you with an online problem. It can also be hard to start a conversation about something that you might have limited knowledge about. However, with screen time increasing during the lockdown, it's important now more than ever, to be talking to children about what they are accessing online.

- 1 ASK THEIR MOTIVATION**
Sometimes it's easy to assume we know why children choose certain games or apps. It can seem obvious, like the child interested in football will be enthusiastic about the new FIFA game. But sometimes it can be more subtle than that. It could be that it's an outlet for their creativity or it might be that they like the look of the main character. Learning their motivation and knowing why they like it can help advising them on how to use it safely and help you discuss the pros and cons.
- 2 CULTIVATE A BLAME FREE CULTURE**
Children can often blame themselves if they come across something that scares them or makes them feel uncomfortable. There will be times when your child has gone against something that you have forbidden, however, most children do not intend to put themselves at risk. Therefore, it's important that your child is able to come to you with a problem and won't be blamed for it. Try to understand what happened and why and warn them of the dangers once more. Engaging in a 'hold you so' dialogue or suggesting they are in trouble for not listening may deter them from reporting any future concerns.
- 3 SHARE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE**
Starting a conversation by sharing something that you've seen or that has made you feel uncomfortable can be a great opener. Talking about your own feelings can help children realise that it isn't just them – adults can be affected too. You can then go into how you coped with it therefore indirectly giving children advice on how they can also cope in uncomfortable situations. You can also explain that the reason that you've chosen to talk to them about it is because talking helps. Children will hopefully be able to see the parallels in the experiences and mimic your behaviour in future.
- 4 TALK ABOUT THE NEWS**
Asking children what their response is to news stories around online safety can be revealing. For example, there has been a recent survey conducted by the BBFC who are currently campaigning for the application of age ratings and content warnings on video sharing platforms. What do they think about that? Can they think of a time when this would have helped themselves or someone they know? Are they against the idea? If so, why? Could they be accessing something they shouldn't be?
- 5 ASK FOR ADVICE**
It could be that you really do have a friend at work who is debating whether or not to let their child do something online, or it could be that you're bending the truth slightly, but hopefully the outcome would be the same. Don't be afraid to ask others for advice. Not only why they should let the child use it, but also what would they tell the child to be aware of. What are the risks? This will help you understand the risks yourself and what to look out for in future.
- 6 MAKE TIME TO LISTEN**
When your child can't wait to tell you about their new game, always try and listen to what they say. We always have a lot on our minds, so it's easy for us to drift off onto other things which may be more important. However, try to stay involved and ask them more details about aspects of the game/app. Children will appreciate your interest and the more questions you ask, the more you can find out. If you act uninterested, then they are less likely to tell you about it again in the future.
- 7 ASK THEM TO BE THE TEACHER**
Showing an interest in what children are accessing online is a great opportunity for you to learn something new as well. Children on the whole love sharing their experiences so by asking them to teach you how to use an app or play a game is not only a great way to bond, but you will also feel more empowered to talk about it. It is easy to shy away from conversations when the child perhaps knows more about the subject content than you do. This can help to turn this around.
- 8 USE SCHOOL MESSAGING**
It might be that your child's school has sent out a message about the Childline number or to remind children to use the CEOP button to report content. Ask the children what they learned about these at school. When would they use the Childline number? When would they need to use the CEOP button? What does it look like? Asking the children why the school thought that the information was so important that they sent out a message about it reinforces what they learnt whilst at school.
- 9 ASK ABOUT THE RISKS**
Many children may know what online risks are and will happily explain the potential dangers. Listen and try not to be overly shocked if they tell you something that disturbs you. This can then lead nicely into you asking the question about what steps they are taking to look after themselves or what help they could seek if something goes wrong. Sometimes it's just nice to know that your children know the dangers and have taken steps to help reduce the risk for themselves – this is the ultimate goal.
- 10 ASK ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES**
Try asking open ended questions about roles and responsibilities online. Who is in control of the internet? Who is looking after you whilst you are online? Who decides what is appropriate for children to see? This can reveal a lot about a child's perception about who is responsible for their online safety. If they believe that it is up to everyone else to keep them safe, then you know you need to have a conversation about how they can reduce their own risk.
- 11 ASK ABOUT SCHOOL ADVICE**
Sometimes it's hard to know what to warn children about. If there is a new app or game that your child has come across recently, ask them what they think their teacher would say about it. What advice would school give them? What have they been told about trusting people online or about fake news? Finding this out would be a good way to hear what advice they were given at school and help you reiterate the same message. Quick reminders about what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable or who their trusted adults are can make all the difference.

Meet our expert
Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding children online and educating them around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.

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Online Content Conversation Starters for Parents | Free Guide

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