

# GEARIES NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2

## Co-Head Message

As we reach the end of the shortest of our terms this year, the Spring Term, we have still managed to fit quite a lot in. We are welcoming the lighter days and hoping that the warmer weather stays with us.

All year groups are preparing to consolidate what they have learnt across this academic year in particular Year 6 have been busy preparing for their end of Key Stage 2 SATS in May, Year 1 are working towards mastering phonics and Year 4 are practicing their multiplication tables.

Although this has been a relatively short term, it has been rich in meaningful and memorable experiences for our pupils. Our girls' and boys' football teams have represented the school with great pride, performing exceptionally well in their respective tournaments.

Meanwhile, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a highly engaging and eventful Science Day, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. Reception have also begun their visits to Claybury Woods, embracing the opportunity to explore and learn in the natural environment—just a few highlights of what has been a busy and rewarding term.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Easter holiday and we look forward to you rested and ready for the Summer Term on Monday 13th April 2026.

Mr Lea and Mrs Dias

# SCHOOL DIARY

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

### Performance Assemblies

Date	Class	
Thursday 30th April	5B at 9:00am in the Junior Hall	
Friday 1st May	2D at 9:10am in the Infant Hall	3A at 9:00am in the Junior Hall
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

# SCHOOL DIARY

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

	Event	Date	Timings
Summer Term 2026	First day of Summer Term 1	Monday 13th April	Usual timings
	Swimming begins for classes 4B & 4C	Tuesday 14th April	Every Tuesday AM
	Spring Disco	Friday 24th April	TBC
	Class Photograph Day	Thursday 30th April	All morning
	Year 3 Movie Night	Thursday 30h April	TBC
	Year 2 Movie Night	Thursday 7th May	TBC
	Key Stage 2 SATS Week	Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May	Published in a separate PING
	SPORTS WEEK	Week beginning 15th June	
	Reception Sports Day	Friday 19th June	Details TBC
	Year 1 Movie Night	Thursday 25th June	TBC

# SCHOOL DIARY

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

	Event	Date	Timings
Summer Term 2026	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	

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, Nursery children enjoyed exploring a range of exciting celebrations from around the world through play and hands-on activities. They learned about Chinese New Year, during Ramadan the children talked about being kind and helping others. For World Book Day, they dressed up as their favourite characters and shared stories together.



They also explored Holi by creating bright, colourful artwork and enjoying sensory activities. To finish, the children learned about Eid, sharing in the joy of celebration through stories.

# EVENTS

## Reception

Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Claybury Woods, where they explored the natural world around them. They made observations and drew pictures of the animals and plants they encountered, using their senses to describe what they could see, hear and feel. The children also had great fun jumping in muddy puddles and climbing on logs, making the most of their outdoor adventure.



# EVENTS

## Year 1

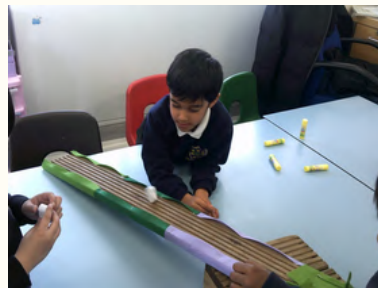
Year 1 had a fantastic time during Science Day, taking part in a range of exciting experiments. All classes had the opportunity to explore each activity, allowing every child to experience hands-on learning and discovery.



# EVENTS

## Year 1

The children showed great enthusiasm throughout the day, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their ideas with confidence. The children were able to talk about what they noticed and explain their thinking using simple scientific language. It was wonderful to see their curiosity spark as they explored, investigated and learned through practical experiences.

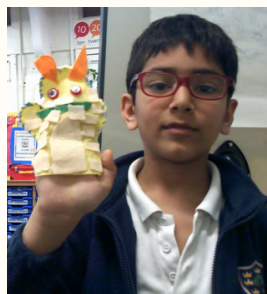


Year 1 had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day. The children came dressed as their favourite characters, shared their favourite books with classmates, and took part in a range of fun, book-themed activities. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm for reading, as they listened carefully to stories and expressed their ideas with excitement.

# EVENTS

## Year 2

In DT this term, Year 2 enjoyed making their own animal puppets using simple sewing techniques. The children carefully designed their puppets, selected suitable materials, and practised joining fabric. They showed great focus and creativity throughout the process, and were very proud of their finished puppets.



# EVENTS

## Year 3

Year 3 have been thoroughly enjoying their gymnastics unit this term, where they have been developing key skills such as balancing, rolling and jumping. The children have explored different ways to control their bodies, practising a range of movements with increasing confidence and precision. They have worked both individually and with partners, creating simple sequences that combine these skills.

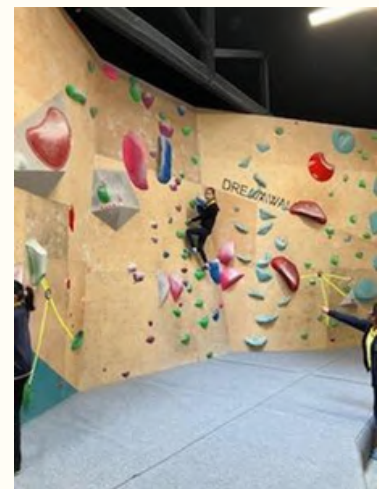
Throughout the unit, the children have shown great determination and focus, challenging themselves to improve their technique and try new movements. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they perform in front of others and refine their routines.



# EVENTS

## Year 4

Year 4 had a fantastic time developing their resilience and climbing skills at City Bouldering in Stratford. It was great to see so many of them get braver with every single step, they were so proud of themselves.



Year 4 had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day, coming to school dressed as a wide range of creative and imaginative characters. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite books, discussing different stories, and taking part in engaging reading activities throughout the day.



# EVENTS

## Year 5

Year 5 had an exciting and enriching visit to the British Museum, where they explored a range of fascinating historical artefacts. The children were particularly engaged as they made links to their current learning in class. They asked thoughtful questions, shared their ideas, and represented the school brilliantly throughout the trip.



The visit gave children the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom, experiencing history first-hand in a meaningful way. They demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout and made the most of this valuable learning experience.

# EVENTS

## Year 5



The children were particularly interested in comparing different civilisations, noticing similarities and differences in how people lived, worked, and expressed themselves. Many children were eager to share facts they already knew, while also building on this knowledge through new discoveries.

Throughout the visit, the children demonstrated excellent behaviour and represented the school to a very high standard. They listened carefully, followed instructions responsibly, and showed respect for the museum environment. Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and educational experience.

# EVENTS

## Year 6

Year 6 enjoyed a rewarding outdoor learning experience during their visit to the woods, where they explored the natural environment and took part in a range of practical activities.

The children demonstrated excellent teamwork and curiosity as they observed plants and wildlife, discussed their surroundings, and applied their learning in a real-life context.

They showed great independence and maturity throughout the trip, making it both an enjoyable and valuable experience.



Many children spoke enthusiastically about their experience, sharing what they had learned and enjoyed most. One child said, “I liked exploring the woods because it felt like a real adventure,” while another shared, “I didn’t know there were so many different plants—we even spotted things I’ve never seen before.” Others commented on the teamwork involved, with one pupil explaining, “We worked together to solve problems and help each other, which made it really fun.”

# EVENTS

## Sporting Events

On Thursday 5th March, Mr Nobeebaccus and Mr Mason took a group of Year 5/6 boys to Frenford for the second round of the 7-a-side football league. This time, Gearies played against Farnham Green, as well as Uphall and Aldersbrook once again.

Across four games, the team delivered an outstanding performance, winning all four matches and moving to the top of the league after the second round. This was a fantastic achievement, showcasing excellent teamwork and determination throughout.

We look forward to the final round of games in April.  
Keep it up and well done!



Group A				
DIVISION 1				
Schedule		Standings		
Group A		PLD	PTS	GD
1	Gearies Primary School	8	24	18
2	Aldersbrook Primary School	7	15	14
3	Uphall Primary School	7	9	-8
4	Winston Way Primary School	4	0	-9
5	Farnham Green Primary School	6	0	-15

Thursday 5 March		
Group A - DIVISION 1	Pitch 1 - Frenford Clubs	
Gearies Primary School		4
Farnham Green Primary School		0
Group A - DIVISION 1	Pitch 1 - Frenford Clubs	
Farnham Green Primary School		0
Gearies Primary School		3
Group A - DIVISION 1	Pitch 1 - Frenford Clubs	
Uphall Primary School		1
Gearies Primary School		4
Group A - DIVISION 1	Pitch 1 - Frenford Clubs	
Aldersbrook Primary School		0
Gearies Primary School		1

# EVENTS

## Sporting Events

### Girls Football Champions Cup

On Friday 6th March, the Year 5 and 6 girls' football team attended the Champions Cup at Frenford FC. Supporting the girls on the day was Maria Mayers, an ex-pupil of Aldersbrook Primary, who now plays for West Ham and has recently been selected to represent England at U15 level for the Young Lionesses.

This competition followed on from their successful start earlier in the year in the Girls' Football League. The team competed against schools from across Redbridge, finishing 3rd in their group and progressing to the semi-finals, where they secured a fantastic 2-1 win against Downshall.

They then advanced to the final against a strong Ray Lodge team. Gearies held their own and were unlucky not to win in normal time. The match went to extra time and then penalties, where the girls narrowly missed out by just one goal.

Finishing as runners-up is a brilliant achievement, especially in their first year of playing. Well done girls, and good luck for next year!



# EVENTS

## Sporting Events

### Local School Sports Network – Basketball Competition

On Tuesday 17th March, Gearies Primary School hosted a Year 5 and 6 basketball competition as part of the Local School Sports Network. This is a year-long competition, featuring half-termly events across a variety of sports for all age groups.

The Gearies basketball team played exceptionally well throughout the event, remaining unbeaten across all their matches. In their final game, they faced an equally strong Uphall team, who were also unbeaten at that stage. The match ended in a 6–6 draw, meaning the overall result was decided on points difference, with Uphall finishing as champions.

All of the children performed brilliantly, and it was fantastic to see the progress they made throughout the competition. The experience will also serve as excellent preparation for upcoming borough basketball events.



# NEWS

## **Exciting Playground Update: Bouldering Wall Installed**

We are delighted to share that the next stage of our playground improvement was completed over the February half term with the installation of our new bouldering wall. It has already proven to be incredibly popular across the school! For our Year 4 pupils—and those in Year 5 who experienced bouldering last year—it provides a fantastic opportunity to continue developing the skills they first discovered during their visit to Stratford. Even more wonderfully, children from Reception through to Year 6 have been thoroughly enjoying using the wall during break and lunchtime, making it a real highlight of our playtimes.

## **Voices of Our School Podcast**

We are pleased to remind families about our Voices of Our School podcast, which continues to showcase the wonderful experiences, achievements and voices across our school community. New episodes are uploaded every Friday, giving children and families something to look forward to each week. We encourage everyone to take some time to listen and enjoy hearing about life at Gearies from our pupils and staff.

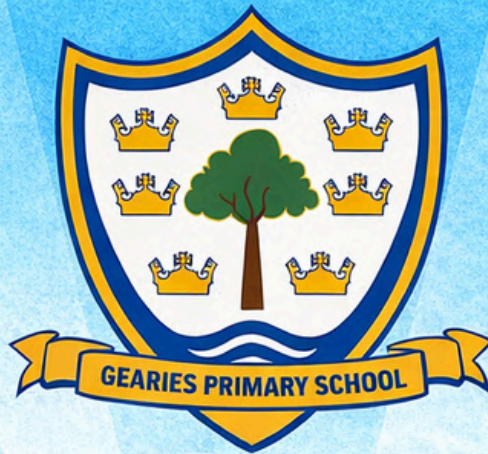
## **Spring Disco**

We are excited to announce our upcoming Spring Disco, taking place on Friday 24th April. The first disco will be for Years 1, 2 and 3 and will run from 3:45pm to 4:45pm. The second disco will be for Years 4, 5 and 6 and will take place from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. We look forward to seeing the children enjoy a fun-filled evening!

## **Easter Holiday Reminder**

A reminder that the Easter holidays have now begun. We would like to wish all of our children and families a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the new term.

# Voices of our School Podcast



# Voices of OUR SCHOOL

Tune in to hear the views and voices of pupils, staff and parents at Gearies Primary!



**PODCAST**

Hosted by Mr. Alam

**WEEK BEGINNING 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY**

Each episode goes live on the Gearies Primary School website every Friday

# Online Safety – A generative AI guide

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](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



With over 14 million daily users, Discord is one of the most popular communication tools for gamers. It allows you to create or join what are known as 'servers', where different users can talk in groups via text message or voice call. There is also the option to send direct messages and make video calls.



## What parents need to know about **DISCORD**

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Your child can access almost any chat server on Discord. This means they can easily be exposed to content and conversations that are inappropriate, upsetting or potentially harmful.



### SEXUAL IMAGERY

Despite there being guidelines in place to prevent it, users are able to circulate adult content. This can include sexualised images, pornographic videos and provocative discussions. It's important to stay alert and know the risks that your child could be exposed to.



### RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

Interactions on the platform are largely unregulated. This means other users can easily say and show things to your child that might be offensive and upsetting. The competitive nature of gaming can lead users to make abusive and harmful remarks about your child.



### HIDDEN CHARGES

Though the basic platform is free, your child will be encouraged to sign up to premium subscriptions, which give extra perks, such as animated emojis and free games. The two options are known as 'Nitro Classic' (which costs \$4.99 a month) and Nitro (which costs \$9.99 a month). Prices are only converted to pound sterling during the payment process.



### RISK OF CYBERCRIME

Cybercriminal groups have been linked to the platform due to reports of hackers sharing stolen data. It's also possible that your child may be encouraged to share the data of their friends, either through peer pressure, or 'for fun', without realising the consequences.



### STRANGER DANGER

To create an account, you only need to display a username and profile image. This makes it easy for someone to hide his or her real identity. Predators from anywhere in the world can join a chat server, message your child and quickly leave to avoid detection. Forbes reports groomers have been targeting children susceptible to online coercion on the platform.



## Top Tips to Protect Your Child



### 1 BEWARE OF WHAT'S SHARED

Whatever your child says or shares on the platform can be seen, heard and shared with a much larger audience. Be careful to make sure your child understands this and does not say or share anything that could be deemed offensive, harmful or put themselves or others at risk.

You can find Discord's own guide for parents here: <https://blog.discordapp.com/parents-guide-to-discord-c77d91793e9c>



### 2 IMPROVE SECURITY SETTINGS

To help protect your child, make sure they set strong passwords. You should consider using the 'two-factor authentication' function for extra protection. It's also important to remind your child to never to share their personal information, or the details of another user.



### 3 CHECK THEIR FRIEND LIST

You can restrict who is able to make 'friend requests' to your child in the 'Friends' tab. It's a good idea to deselect the default option that allows anyone to connect. Of course, you should also talk to your child about why it's a risk to allow strangers to connect with them through such platforms.



### 4 REPORT & BLOCK SUSPICIOUS USERS

Make sure your child knows how to report and block abusive or suspicious users. If you do find your child suffering repeated abuse, contact the platform directly using the email: [abuse@discordapp.com](mailto:abuse@discordapp.com). It's a good idea to teach your child how to screenshot any negative interactions too.



### 5 BEWARE OF NSFW CONTENT

Public forums on the platform are a potential venue for inappropriate content that you should be wary of. There is a Discord mascot known as 'Wumpus', which is supposed to represent anyone under 18. Anyone who posts content unsuitable for under-18s, should mark it NSFW (Not Suitable For Wumpus).



### 6 SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

It's important you actively teach your child to treat other users with respect and behave online the same way as they would offline.

Take the time to read through Discord's Community Guidelines with your child. Find them at: [www.discordapp.com/guidelines](http://www.discordapp.com/guidelines)



### 7 TURN ON SAFE MESSAGING

You should encourage your child to activate the 'Safe Direct Messaging' option. This will scan and delete any direct messages sent to your child containing explicit content.



### Meet our expert

Claire Woffenden has been a technology journalist since 1998 with a specialism in consumer technology (apps, websites, home computing and digital devices). As a Mum of two young children - aged 8 and 6 - Claire is passionate about helping to keep children safe online.

SOURCES: <https://support.discordapp.com/hc/en-us>, <https://www.gamemods.com.au/2017/03/discord-has-a-child-porn-problem/>, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetechn/Sci4-4319008/Huff-youngsters-experience-bullying-online-games.html>, <https://www.pcgamer.com/2018/03/29/discord-drops-partnership-status-from-servers-hosting-porn/>, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ThomasHawker/2019/01/29/discord-the-2-billion-gamers-paradise-coming-to-terms-with-data-theves-child-groomers-and-fbi-investigators/#40ba3d8737d1>

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