



SPRING 1

Newsletter

Our Vision

We act in the best ways we can; to support each child become the best version of themselves



Co-Heads Message



Key messages from our head teachers

Well done for surviving the cold and wet weather that Spring 1 has brought us. Although shorter the, Spring Term is just as busy and eventful as Autumn. Movie nights have begun, Year 6, sporting events such as Dodgeball and Judo, alongside the choir taking part in the very exciting Young Voices concert at the O2. We have also had some really interesting visits from the NSPCC telling our children about the Speak Out Stay Safe campaign, Road Safety Magic talking to Years 1 & 2 and marking Safer Internet Day on February 11th. As ever, please enjoy reading and catching up with all that has been taking place.

We hope that you have a very enjoyable February Half Term and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 24th February at the usual times.

Mr Lea and Mrs Dias

Diary



Important dates

Performance Assemblies scheduled for this term:

Date	Class	
Thursday 6th March	6D at 9:00am in the Junior Hall	
Friday 7th March	1D at 9:10am in the Infant Hall	4C at 9:00am in the Junior Hall
Thursday 27th March	6B at 9:00am in the Junior Hall	
Friday 28th March	2D at 9:10am in the Infant Hall	3D at 9:00am in the Junior Hall
Thursday 1st May	5C at 9:00am in the Junior Hall	
Friday 2nd May	2A at 9:10am in the Infant Hall	4A at 9:00am in the Junior Hall
Thursday 26th June	5D at 9:00am in the Junior Hall	
Friday 27th June	1B at 9:10am in the Infant Hall	3A at 9:00am in the Junior Hall

Other key dates for this term:

Spring Term 2024	Event	Date	Timings
	First day of Spring Term 2	Monday 24th February	Usual timings
	Year 5 Movie Night	Thursday 6th March	TBC
	WORLD BOOK DAY	Thursday 6th March	ALL DAY
	Whole school INSET day	Monday 10th March	ALL DAY
	Book Fair after school	Tuesday 11th March – Monday 17th March	Year group timetable TBC
	Parent Consultations	Thursday 20th March	3.45 to 5.45 pm
	Parent Consultations	Thursday 27th March	3.45 to 5.45 pm
	Spring Disco	Friday 4th April	TBC

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:

<https://www.geariesprimaryschool.co.uk/diary/grid/2024/10>

Events



These are some of the exciting events that have happened in our school

Road Safety Magic Show

We were very lucky to have a road safety magic show to come into school, which was enjoyed by the year 1s, 2s, 3s and 4s. The children were taught in a fun and exciting way how to keep safe while travelling near and across roads. There was unicycling, juggling, magic and singing and the children were taught to stop, look, listen and think



Sporting Events

Dodgeball Event

Some of our children attended a dodgeball tournament. As you can see it was a high octane event, where our children did excellently coming second out of all the teams.



Judo

The **Judo** was amazing! The children learnt actual **Judo** holds, throws, and pins. Learning the names for each part. Nekoda Smythe-Davis from British **Judo**, the Commonwealth games gold medallist, world

silver medallist, and Olympian met and trained the children. She was so impressed with one of our children, that out of all the children there that day (over 2 sessions), she gave her a special signed poster. The children also learnt self-control and discipline.



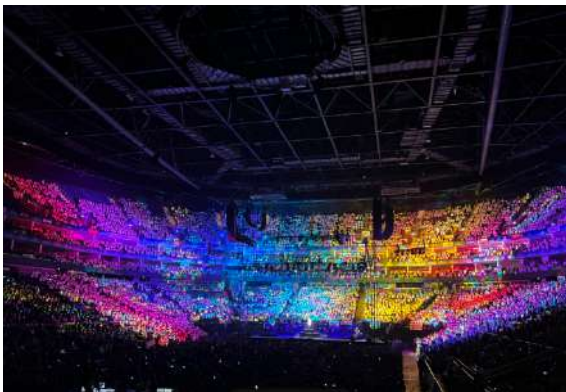
School Council visit City Hall

Members of our school council visited City Hall home of the London Greater Authority (GLA) on Monday 10th February. They took part in a very informative workshop to find out more about London's fascinating history and place on the national and global stage. The children learnt about the role of the Mayor of London and London Assembly and even got a chance to sit in their main assembly room where all the big decisions about how London is run! They discussed decisions made by the GLA and debated if they agreed or disagreed with those choices.

Pupils even got a chance to view images of the new air conditioned Piccadilly line trains which will be in service later this year! It was a wonderful visit and helped our school council to think about the ways they can contribute to our school.



Young Voices at the O2



The school choir attended the young voices concert at the O2. The children had a fantastic time. They spent the day practicing and then sang into the night participating in a huge music concert.

Konflux Road Safety Workshop

The year 6s attended a creative learning workshop. They met a host of characters and discussed important travel issues facing pupils today including eco issues & sustainable travel options, cycling to school, pedestrian and public transport etiquette and roadside distractions including mobile phones.

The workshop was an interactive way to get the thinking more about awareness of travel options and also their roadside behaviour.

NSPCC – Speak Out/Stay Safe workshops in Y2, Y5 & Y6

The NSPCC came in to speak to our children about keeping themselves safe. The key message to the children was that if there was something that they felt uncomfortable about then they should speak to a trusted adult about how they were feeling. That it was important to speak out and share their worries and problems.

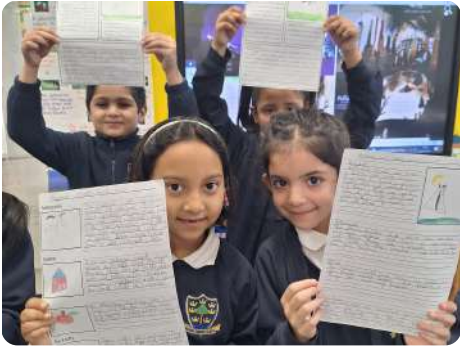
Year 4 Meeting – Parent Launch – promote Mersea visit with Year 4 parents

Each year the school visits Mersea with the year 5 children. This term year 4 parents were invited into school to hear what was involved and ask any questions that they might have about the trip.

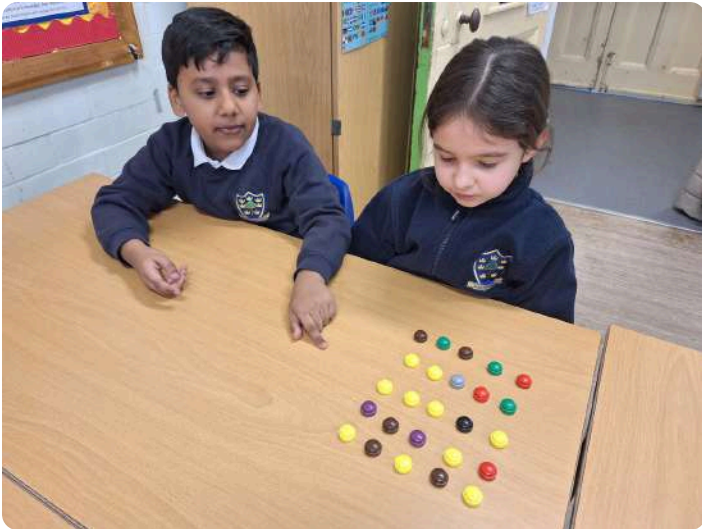
Children's Work

Year 2

Year 2 have been studying 'Moth' by Isabel Thomas. They created art work depicting the peppered moth and wrote fact files about them.



In Maths, Year 2 have been using counters to make equal groups. This is our introductory lesson to multiplication.



Year 5

The year 5 team have been busy being creative this half term they have not only made savoury muffins as part of their DT learning but have also constructed volcanoes.





Online Safety



Each newsletter will have an online safety focus:

Please click on the link below to be able to read the guidance in more detail

Safer Internet Day on the 11th February hi-lighted the dangers of online scams and how you and your children can avoid them. Please see the information below. Please note that if you are finding the poster difficult to read, click on the link below and it will take you to an online version

[How to protect children from scams | Internet Matters](#)

Protecting 6-10-year-olds from online scams

internet
matters.org

How to keep scammers from targeting your child

Learn to **recognise** risk, **react** in appropriate ways and **resolve** issues caused by scams online.

Recognise



- Talk to children about **common 'red flags'** such as messages that promise free gifts, other users asking for passwords or personal information or pop-ups that tell them to 'click here'. If these come up, encourage them to **tell you right away**.
- Teach them to **think critically** by using realistic examples like, "What would you do if a stranger came up to you in the park and asked you for your home address? Or if they offered free sweets?" Encourage them to **block online users** who ask for personal information or offer free things.
- Explain that pop-up ads in their games might seem trustworthy but can hide scams behind them, so they should **avoid clicking/tapping** on them. If they accidentally click on them, they should tell you so you can check the device.

Additionally, some ads or users might offer cheat codes, free **in-game currency** or other free items. These are often scams, so remind children to not click on these or tell you if they do.

React



- Encourage them to **tell you** if something seems odd or they see a suspicious message.
- Show them how to use **report features in games or apps** to flag content or users that might promote scams.
- **Create a secret word** together and with others in your child's life. If someone contacts your child and says they are family member or family friend, your child should ask for the secret word. If the person can't give the secret word, your child should tell you.
- You should **regularly review** the games your child plays and the videos they watch, including their watch history or screen time reports. This can help you identify potential risks.

Remember to run regular security checks as well. You can do this by ensuring their device has **cyber security software** installed.



Resolve



- If they do click on something suspicious like a pop-up ad, get them into the habit of **telling you so you can check the device** for threats.
- If they find themselves somewhere that makes them feel uncomfortable in anyway, encourage them to **leave the space and tell you**. If a user is making them uncomfortable, they should block and report them.
- Depending on what the stranger says to them, consider making a report to [Action Fraud](#) or the [IWF](#).
- If they share personal information, help them **change their passwords** or make their profiles private.
- Reassure them they **won't get in trouble for coming to you** – it's always better to share what happened so you can help.
- Talk to your child about the situation **calmly and openly**. Discuss what they might do differently next time, and take time to address any worries or concerns they have.

You might also want to review the **parental controls** you use to see how you can minimise an incident in the future.



◀ Scan or visit [internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org) for more advice

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