

## Friends of Torridon PTA – Spring Update

### March 2020

The PTA have been incredibly busy since the Christmas Fair. In this Spring PTA newsletter, you'll find updates about:

- Vitality Big Half Marathon
- Removing tree stumps on the ball court & planting new greenery
- The new reading room
- The Amazon Wishlist
- Upgrading the playground
- The sponsored bounce

*Please note, all dates for future work are subject to change due the Corona Virus situation.*

#### Vitality Big Half Marathon

Congratulations, thank you and well done to our amazing team of marathon runners who completed the Vitality Half Marathon on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Thanks to their dedication and hard work and the generous support from family, friends and colleagues of the runners as well as the school community, we have raised over £4,500! The money will go towards the major playground development. As a first step, up to £500 of this will be spent immediately on play equipment such as skipping ropes and balls for the children as the days get sunnier. Thank you to all who donated and to those who turned out to support our runners.



#### Ball Court Tree Stumps & Green Planting

Late last year, Torridon Primary was awarded a big grant from the Mayor's Greener City Fund to green up our ball court, continuing our 'wildlife corridor' around the school. Over Easter half-term, the tree stumps will be removed and garden beds put in around the outer perimeter to make the area ready for planting. The week after the Easter holidays, we are thrilled to be organising an all-school and community tree-planting day! On that day we'll work together to plant a variety of over



300 young 'whips' or trees – including hawthorn, hazel, beech, field maple and hornbeam – around the ball court.

Climbing ivy will also be planted, to create a more immediate green wall for the children. Stay tuned for more info about the planting day – we'd love parents and carers to join us!

### Torridon Primary Reading Room

Reading for pleasure is a big part of improving literacy for classroom learning. From May, the children will have a new reading room filled with new and donated books. Staffed by keen volunteers, it will be beautifully decorated with an amazing 'Reading Tree' created by art teachers Flora and Emily, together with the children, similar to the one pictured here.

Children will be able to enjoy the reading room during lunchtimes for browsing and quiet reading.

So far, we have raised £850 towards kitting out the room with shelving, chairs, rugs and cushions, as well filling the shelves with lovely new books. This includes two substantial donations from Martin & Carolyn Heaps (Bea and George Newman's grandparents) and Marguerite Crawford (Dora and Mila Vukcevic's granny). Thank you so much from the PTA and the school community!



If you are keen to see the children reading more and would like to help in the Reading Space during one lunchtime a week, please do get in contact at [friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com)

### Amazon Wishlist

Huge thanks to the amazing members of Torridon's school community for the fantastic donation so far of 150 items from our Amazon Book Wishlist. We'd like to make a special mention to the many grandparents who donated to the school – thank you so much from all of us at Torridon.

Publishers have also been generous, donating around 150 books which have been distributed amongst the classrooms.

These wonderful gifts mean our children have more books, newer books and teachers can create inviting 'reading corners' in each classroom.

Parents, carers, grandparents, friends and family can continue to donate to stock up the school's brilliant new reading room on the [Torridon Primary Amazon Wishlist](#) (or copy full link into your browser <https://tinyurl.com/t8vvutx>).

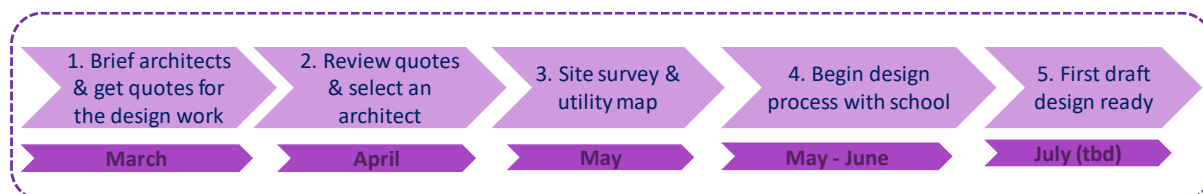
## Playground Upgrade

The PTA and the school are undertaking a major process to upgrade the playground. At the moment, the outdoor spaces don't offer our children good opportunities for creative, exciting play for older and younger ages, as well as pupils with SEN.

We wish we had Fairy Godmother to cast a spell and transform the playground overnight, but the upgrading will take time. It's not just about quickly installing new equipment. The PTA and school will work with a landscape architect to look at the whole school campus and design a creative playground for all the children, as well as make sure it is a practical space for activities, sports and the morning rush at drop off.

A project team including Manda George, Margaret Brightman (Chair of Governors), James Brown (parent governor & procurement lead), Jo York (parent & construction specialist) & Emily Crawford (Chair, PTA) is overseeing the process.

### What happens next?



**How can I help?** Fundraising please! Are you a fundraising expert? Could you help us write grant application bids? Does your employer offer a match funding scheme? Are you planning to climb a mountain, bungee jump from the Shard or any other amazing fundraising activities that could contribute to the school? Please let us know at [friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com)

## Sponsored Bounce

Unfortunately, the much-loved summer term Sponsored Bounce has had to be cancelled. In discussion with the Head, we will consider how and when this fun fundraising event can be rescheduled.