



Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

Headteacher: Manda George

Telephone: 0208 697 2762

E mail: admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

12th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Re: Headteacher Update

This week has been the first week of our wider opening for children across the school. We have doubled the number of children who are attending and the staff team have worked incredibly hard to ensure that the transition back to school has been as smooth as possible for the children who joined us this week.

I would like to say a very big thank you to parents and carers who have made sure that pick up and drop off times have been as safe as possible, with staggered times and social distancing at the gates.

I must also thank those of you who are continuing to do such an amazing job managing your children's home learning. I know for many of you this is a huge challenge as you are having to juggle working from home at the same time. I recognise that it isn't easy and we are doing our very best to try and support the children who are not in school alongside those who are. We are currently upgrading our ICT platform to help us with being able to provide a more interactive approach to the home learning experience. This is currently in progress and I hope to be able to provide you with some more detail in the very near future. In the meantime, please continue to share your children's learning with us via class blogs, Instagram and email. We love to see how they are getting on and staff are ready to offer feedback, support and guidance.

As we have increased the number of children attending this week, we also have a larger number of teachers and support staff in school. We have a separate team who are focussing on class blogs and home learning activities. Members of the home learning team will also be making regular phone calls to speak to children. Many of you have reported that these phone calls have been very helpful and supportive.

Next week we will be evaluating our capacity to be able to offer more children the opportunity to return to school and updating our risk assessment accordingly. Decisions will continue to be driven by the most up to date guidance from Public Health England, the Department for Education and the government. If there are no changes to the current safety guidelines for schools, it is unlikely that we will be able to increase the number of year group bubbles as we are very limited by the size of our classrooms and the number of staff available. I appreciate

this is a very frustrating situation but the safety of children and staff has to be our highest priority and we will therefore continue to prioritise our most vulnerable children and those children who have parents and carers who are essential workers unable to work from home in the first instance. I will, of course, keep you updated of any developments as soon as I am able.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to speak to a member of the team. It is always good to hear your comments and suggestions and to be able to answer any questions you may have. It is also wonderful to be able to share your words of thanks and support with the staff team.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G'.

Manda George
Headteacher