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Dear parents and carers,

Re: Updates

I hope you are all safe and well and have had the chance to enjoy some of our Easter activities and drawing challenges. It has been so wonderful to see how children have been getting on at home. I am really impressed with some of the creative ways in which you are keeping your children's hands and minds busy and active during this difficult time.

Science Week

Next week is the launch of our whole school science week. We will be emailing a new scientific challenge every day and will be updating the website with new science learning on Monday morning. Please let us know if you would like us to send a hard copy of the science learning pack.

If you have not already done so, please take a look at your child's class blog. Teachers have uploaded storytime videos for their classes and will be continuing to set new learning challenges each week. Children will be able to upload photographs and videos of their home learning and communicate directly with their class teacher.

<https://www.torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk/learning/blogs/>

School Opening

As you are aware, following the government announcement yesterday, we will be continuing with the current lockdown measures for at least another three weeks. School will continue to stay open during this time for families of critical workers and for our vulnerable children. If you are a critical worker or a parent or carer of a vulnerable child and would like to send your child to school, please email to let us know via the admin inbox:

admin@torridopprimary.lewisham.sch.uk.

Free School Meal Vouchers

We are continuing to send Free School Meal Vouchers to eligible families every Friday. Thank you for your patience as I know there were some issues with the system this week. This week we will be using the new **Edenred** system as provided by the Department for Education. If you are having any difficulty accessing your vouchers, please contact a member of the admin team who will be very happy to help.

Currently the government are only providing vouchers for families who have been approved for benefits related Free School Meals following an online application. If your child is in Reception or Key Stage One and was in receipt of Universal Free School Meals, vouchers will only be made available to you if you complete an application and meet the criteria set by the Department for Education. If you are unsure if you are eligible or are in need of vouchers, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will support wherever we can.

Welfare Bundles

Thanks to some very generous donations, we have managed to get welfare bundles and food parcels to members of the Torridon community who are most in need. We are most grateful to the following organisations who have donated food items, toys, games and toiletries:

- **Barrie Knight (BK40 Productions radio)**
- **Bloxhams Chiselhurst**
- **CIC Studio Projects**
- **Marco Alimentari Ltd**
- **Morrisons Sidcup High Street**
- **Roots & Shoots Bromley**
- **Sainsbury Grove Park**
- **Tesco Catford**
- **Torridon Stores**
- **Waitrose Biggin Hill**

I am sure you will also want to join me in thanking all members of the staff team who have been involved in organising and delivering packages.

Donation Station

We will continue to organise and deliver packages to our vulnerable families throughout the school closure period. If you would like to contribute, we will be setting up a **Donation Station** outside the school office where you can leave items if you are passing school when you are out for your daily exercise. We are particularly keen to receive any of the following items:

- ❖ Tinned goods (e.g. beans, tomatoes, fruit, vegetables)
- ❖ Packets (e.g. cereal, pasta, rice, lentils)
- ❖ Art and craft materials (e.g. paper, pencils, crayons, glue)
- ❖ Toys, games and books

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch to share your children's learning, let us know how you are getting on at home and especially if there is anything we can do to help.

Very best wishes



Manda George
Headteacher