



Torridon
Primary School

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Happy Half Term

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you to all of you who have helped to make this half term such a happy and successful one. It has certainly not been without challenges but together we have ensured that our children have been able to return to their learning, spend time with their friends and have fun in their classrooms. Thank you for your ongoing support which has been invaluable this term.

I hope you have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to seeing you back at school on **Monday 2nd November**.

Best wishes

Manda George

Headteacher

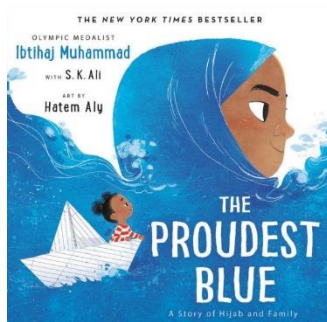
Black History Celebration Events

We have had a fantastic week of activities and events to celebrate Black History Month. Children really enjoyed finding out about key historical figures and have produced some wonderful learning as a result. Please see below for a taster of some of the activities and events we were able to enjoy.

Early Years Foundation Stage



The children in Nursery and Reception read the story 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. They learnt about Floella's childhood journey from Trinidad and Tobago to England, her adventures on the 15-day boat journey and her first impressions of the United Kingdom. The children made masks, head dresses and shakers and celebrated the end of the week with a Trinidadian Carnival.

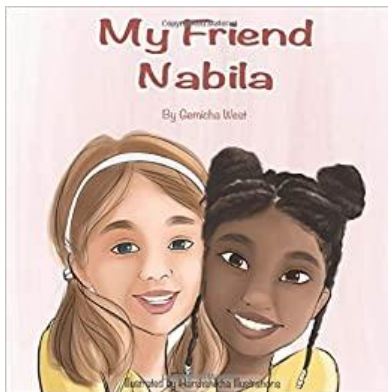


Year 1

Children in year 1 explored the book 'The Proudest Blue' written by the pioneering Olympic athlete Ibtihaj Muhammad. They also explored Tingatinga art and created their own creative works in the style of the Tanzanian artist Edward Said Tingatinga.



Year 2



The Year 2 children were lucky enough to have a virtual reading and question session with Genicha West, an ex pupil who is now a published author. *My Friend Nabila* is a powerful story about friendship which explores the issue of racism and racist bullying within a school context. The session gave children the opportunity to reflect on and explore ways in which we can stand together to challenge racism and racist behaviours.



Year 3



Year 3 loved exploring the artistic works of Chris Ofili, British artist and Turner Prize Winner. They used his work as inspiration for their own creations based on their favourite singers and musicians.

They were also inspired by the work of the British space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE, has passion for science and how it helped her to overcome her dyslexia.



Year 4



The children in year 4 explored the life and work of Olive Morris. They had a virtual workshop with the actress and singer Lorna Gayle who helped them to explore the concept of activism and standing up for your beliefs.

This afternoon, I enjoyed the workshop with Lorna Gayle. I liked it because she told us how Olive Morris' life was and the amazing changes that she made during her lifetime. She also called us activists. I thought she was really nice. She was an artist, singer and an actress. Lorna was very inspiring.

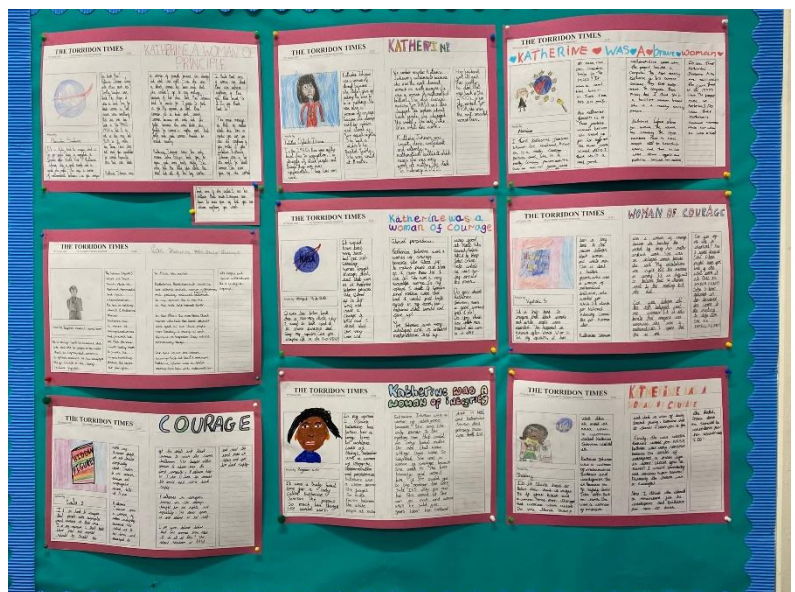
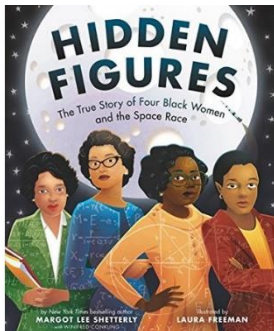
Bea 4C

Lorna posted on the internet about our children:

"Teaching Year 4 students all about Olive Morris for Black History Month. On completion, I asked them to imagine if they were activists now, what would they be fighting for. Their answers blew my mind. These are our next leaders. Thank you #torridonprimaryschool for inviting me to do such an uplifting workshop."

Year 5

Year 5 explored the themes of racial and gender inequality exploring the story of Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan and their extraordinary contribution to the work of NASA in the 1960s. They used the book *Hidden Figures* to support their research and created their own newspaper articles to celebrate the incredible achievements of these women.

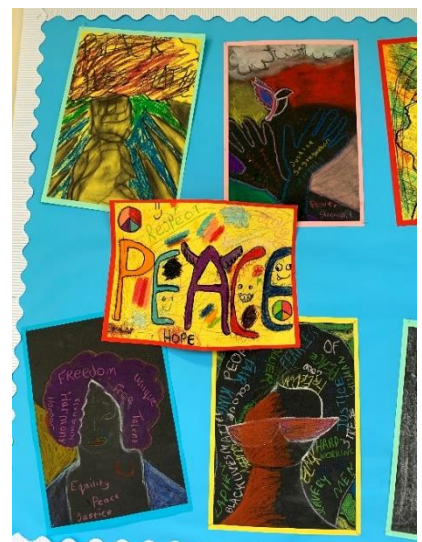


Year 6

Y6 were very excited to have a virtual meeting with the actress and star of Tina Turner the Musical, Aisha Jawando.

"Aisha spent an hour talking to the year group about her life and career and shared how she overcame her struggles as an actress. We learned a lot about her and she answered all our questions. It was a really wonderful experience to hear from a famous actress. We were all inspired and were happy when she shared her talent of singing with us and sang Simply the Best - one of Tina Turner's hit songs. She has such an amazing voice."

Adlan and Laura (6C)



Resource Base

In the green pathway, the children learnt about Martin Luther King. They watched a video of his famous 'I have a dream' speech and children children to write their own speeches and art work inspired by famous black icons from the worlds of sports and politics.

Children in the blue pathway chose their own black icons and



researched interesting facts about their significant figures. They created art decorations using their hands to represent diversity and equality.

Dance

Children in Key Stage Two worked with Deme to produce their own creative responses to the choreographic work of Ashley Banjo and his piece representing the Black Lives Matter movement. They also learned about pioneers in the dance world, viewing works by Alvin Ailet and Ballet Black and the opening set from Glastonbury performed by Stormzy.



Music



We have great fun in our music lessons this week, learning and performing the Bob Marley song *'One Love/ People Get Ready'*. Despite the fact they have only been learning for a few weeks, the children in year 5 have done a fantastic job learning the musical accompaniment on the steel pans. Lizzie will be working hard to edit all the videos together and we would love to have some of your contributions from home. There is still time for you to upload your family videos. You can find the details here:

<https://www.torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk/one-love-people-get-ready-recordings/>

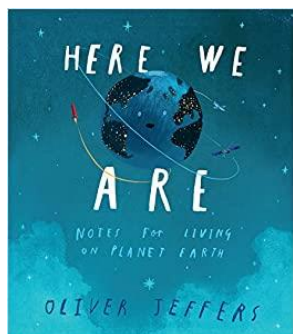
The video will be shared on the school Twitter, Creative Arts Blog and on our Vimeo account which are public so please let us know if you would prefer that your child was not included. Please email your family recordings to music@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk by Monday 2nd November. The video will then be made and posted after half term.

Sports Tournaments

Our KS2 children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in their year group bubble tournaments this week! 95 children from years 3-6 competed in the sports they have been learning this half term. Congratulations to all the children who took part, and to **3C, 4AS, 5C and 6N** for winning their events. We also praised 24 children for

showing sporting values such as honesty, determination, passion, teamwork and respect. We will be teaching a different sport to each year group after half term and we hope the children look forward to the next round of events!

Words for the World



As you know, we used Oliver Jeffers's inspirational book *Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth* to support our recovery curriculum this half term. Many other schools across the country took the same approach and children at the Kings Cross Academy have been lucky enough to have been chosen to have their work celebrated at an exhibition at the Lewis Cubitt Square in central London. The exhibition runs from **Thursday 8th October to Thursday 31st December 2020**. For more details, visit the website: www.kingscross.co.uk/event/words-to-the-world

UNITY Dance Performance

Our newly formed Year 5 Unity Dance Company had their debut performance to their peers in the playground this week. They portrayed the scariest of zombies and it was a brilliant way to end the half term.

We are incredibly proud of their achievement and continue to be wowed by the creative talents of our children at Torridon.



Royal Horticultural Society



The Royal Horticultural Society have asked us to contribute to a piece they are writing for their website, exploring the positive impacts of gardening on our mental health and wellbeing

They are seeking responses to the following questions:

- What is it about gardening that has helped families/children mentally and physically?
- Examples of tasks that have particularly helped. Eg working together sowing seeds has helped children support each other. Physical tasks like digging and raking have helped them to let out their frustrations etc

They would also like some quotes from the children about how they feel when they are in the school garden or when they have gardened at home?

If you or your child would like to comment on any of these please email your response to the school office by

Monday 2nd November.

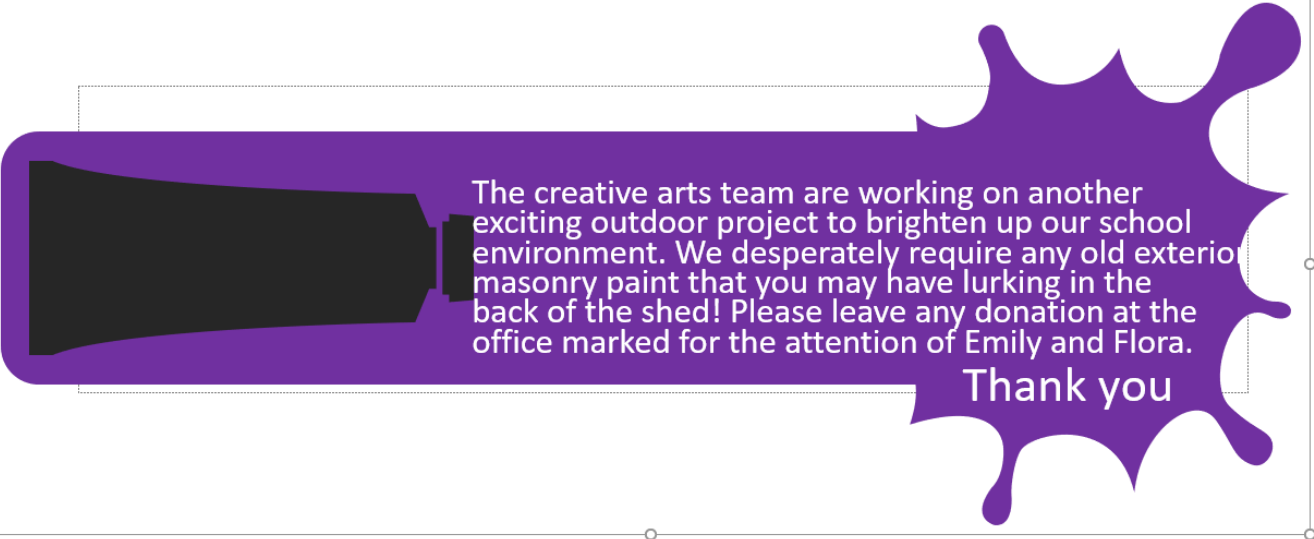
Virtual Parent and Carer Meetings

We are so pleased that so many of you were able to attend the virtual meetings this week to speak to your child's class teacher and to find out how they have been getting on at school. Thank you (as always) for your patience with the technology. If you were not able to attend and would like to speak to your child's class teacher directly, please get in touch via email: admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Tuesday 3 rd November 2020	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 12 th November 2020	TREES UK – Tree planting in the ball court
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need
Week beginning 16 th November	Road Safety Week
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term

Arts Team Request



The creative arts team are working on another exciting outdoor project to brighten up our school environment. We desperately require any old exterior masonry paint that you may have lurking in the back of the shed! Please leave any donation at the office marked for the attention of Emily and Flora.

Thank you