



**Torridon**  
Primary School

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6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the second half of the autumn term. I hope you had a good break and were able to make the most of your time ahead of the new lockdown measures which have been implemented this week.

Please remember to take very good care of yourselves and your families and do not hesitate to get in touch with us if there is anything we can do to help you during this challenging time.

Best wishes

Manda George  
Headteacher



## Welcome Back!

We are continuing with the full range of safety measures in school to make sure that we are all keeping each other as safe as possible.

Safety measures include:

- Drop off and pick up times are staggered and additional gates are in use at the beginning and end of the day
- Children continue to be organised in year group bubbles
- Each bubble has an allocated playtime and playground space
- Children eat lunch within their bubble and the use of the dining hall is limited
- Children wash their hands frequently throughout the day and hand sanitiser is in regular use
- Additional cleaners have been employed to clean classrooms, toilets and office spaces during the school day in addition to our usual evening cleaning regime
- If a child displays COVID symptoms during the day, he or she is isolated from the other children in the bubble and parents or carers are contacted immediately to come and collect

Please continue to keep in touch with us via the COVID email address if you have any questions or concerns and to let us know if you or a member of your family becomes unwell or is advised to get a COVID test.

[covid@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:covid@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk)

## Children in Need



# BBC Children in Need

Next week we will be supporting the Children in Need Appeal. This year's theme is focussing on mental health and wellbeing and is inspired by the Five Ways to Wellbeing developed by the New Economics Foundation.

The 'Five to Thrive' activities will have a different focus each day and we will be using our Personal Health and Social Education (PSHE) lessons to explore ways in which we can keep our minds and bodies fit and healthy.

Monday	Be active		We will be joining Joe Wicks for a virtual workout and exploring the benefits of exercise on our mood and mind.
Tuesday	Connect		We will be talking about friendship and the importance of connecting with our own thoughts and feelings and will the people around us.
Wednesday	Take notice		We will be talking about the importance of taking notice of our thoughts and feelings, encouraging reflection and mindfulness.
Thursday	Be curious		We will be taking inspiration from the Blue Peter Team to help us try something new.
Friday	Give		Feel Good Friday Celebration. Helping others is great for our own wellbeing.

**On Friday, children can wear their own clothes to school and donate £1 or £2 to BBC Children in Need.**

## Parent Skills Survey

At Torridon School we have a great PTA (Parent Teacher Association) who are working hard to organise a wide programme of school events and fundraising activities.

We also have a wonderful parent & carers community with a wide spectrum of skills and talents, so we are keen to capture this information and provide parents with opportunities to participate.

We are asking all parents & carers if they could complete this quick survey so we can update our database of parents & carers skills.

[Click here for the survey](#)

## New Drop Off and Pick Up Times

Thank you to all of you who have made drop off and pick up times run so smoothly. From **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November**, we will continue to use all available gates but will be shortening the drop off time slightly so we can ensure children get a prompt start to their learning. Gates will be open for drop off between **8.45am and 9.00am**.

At the end of the day, pick up time will be between **3.00pm and 3.30pm**.

End of the day	GATE A	GATE B	GATE C	GATE D	GATE E
<b>3.00pm</b>	Year 1 and Saplings ASC	Year 3 and Resource Base	Year 5	Reception Entry	Reception Exit
<b>3.15pm</b>	Year 2	Year 4	Year 6	Nursery Entry	Nursery Exit

Please come to your allocated gate (observing 2m distancing rules if you have to wait) where senior staff will greet you. Children will wait on the playground or in their learning space with the adults from their bubble until parents or carers arrive to collect them. We ask that you stick to the pick up and drop off times and do not wait any longer than necessary outside the school gates. We also ask that you are also that you are considerate and respectful to our neighbours with regard to parking.

As the beginning and end of the day are very busy times, you may want to consider wearing a mask or face covering for pick up and drop off. We respectfully ask that you do not try to engage staff in lengthy conversations at the gate. Please email if you have any questions or concerns and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.

## Tree Planting on the Ball Court



Friends of Torridon PTA is delighted to be completing the second part of our Wildlife Corridor Project, part-funded by The London Mayor's Greener City Fund.

Together with the children and staff - in year group bubbles - we will be planting 355 trees in the new garden beds around the ball court. Creating a diverse woodland hedge-like border around the court, there will be:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>175 hawthorns</li> <li>25 dog roses</li> <li>25 field maples</li> <li>25 hornbeams</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 beeches</li> <li>25 blackthorns</li> <li>25 hazels</li> <li>30 laurels</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

We are looking forward to getting the children involved in the planting! And will be taking time to talk about why we're greening up the ball court: to clean the air; provide shade and a nicer, healthier environment for the children to play in; screen them from the road; as well as to increase biodiversity through the range of trees; and at the same time, create a welcoming environment for wildlife.

These are just some of the benefits we're hoping the new trees will bring!

A recent study in Finland showed that children's immune systems were significantly boosted after playing in woodland areas versus outdoor areas devoid of greenery and dirt - so we plan to get our hands sufficiently dirty next Thursday! Due to COVID restrictions, we sadly can't include our Green Team but we hope to get the team involved in the upkeep of the school's green areas at some point in the future.

SUPPORTED BY  
**MAYOR OF LONDON**

## Spare Gardening Tools Wanted!

Calling all old or unused trowels, forks and watering cans! We'd be very grateful for any gardening tools or watering cans to use in the planting day and beyond. To donate please drop off at the school office on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday next week. Many thanks in advance!



## Home learning devices

We are very keen to find out which devices your children use at home to support them with their learning. We would be grateful if you could fill out this short survey and return to us by **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.



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Click on the link to take the survey

[Technology Parent and Carer Survey](#)

## Dates for your diary

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	CHILDREN IN NEED WEEK – FIVE TO THRIVE
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	TREES UK – Tree planting in the ball court
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Non Uniform Day for Children in Need
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Diwali
Week beginning 16 <sup>th</sup> November	ROAD SAFETY WEEK
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Assessment week
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Hannukah
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Virtual End of Term Performances
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

## Virtual Workshops

<u>Nursery and Reception parents and carers</u>	<u>Date + Time</u>
<p><b>Have Fun with Phonics</b> Focus: How phonics is taught at school and how to make it fun.</p>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 4:00pm – 4:45pm
<p><b>Let's Be Readers</b> Focus: Developing early reading and what this looks like for young children.</p>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020 4:00pm – 4:45pm
<p><b>Maths, Maths Everywhere</b> Focus: How children learn maths in the early stages of their life and what this looks like in practice.</p>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 4:00pm – 4:45pm
<p><b>Explore Outdoor</b> Focus: Discussion around the importance of outdoor learning and how to engage children.</p>	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 4:00pm – 4:45pm
<p><b>It's Good to Talk</b> Focus: Delving into the prime area of communication &amp; language and why it's so important for our children's development.</p>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 4:00pm – 4:45pm
<p><b>Don't Give Up</b> Focus: Centred around the prime area of personal, social &amp; emotional development and how we can support our children in becoming resilient + independent learners.</p>	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 4:00pm – 4:45pm
<p><b>It's Time to Move On:</b> Focus: Discussion on the transition from Reception to Year 1 and what we can do to help our children.</p>	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 4:00pm – 4:45pm

<u>Year 1 and Year 2 parents and carers</u>	<u>Date + Time</u>
<p><b>Fun with Phonics</b> Focus: How phonics and GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling) is taught at school and how to make it fun</p> <p><i>Information about phonics screening will also be shared.</i></p>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 5:00pm – 5:45pm

<p><b>We Love Maths</b> Focus: The transition from EYFS to KS1 in Maths and examples of strategies we teach in school to support your child at home.</p>	<p>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 9:30am – 10:15am</p>
<p><b>Let's Be Readers</b> Focus: Developing early reading throughout Years 1 and 2 and what this looks like for young children.</p>	<p>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 9:30am – 10:15am</p>
<p><b>Year 2 Assessment Q&amp;A:</b> Focus: How we assess children at the end of Year 2.</p>	<p>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 4:00pm – 4:30pm</p>