



Torridon
Primary School

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Dear parents and carers,

I need to start this week's newsletter with a huge thank you to all of you. I am so impressed with the way in which you are supporting your children's home learning. I know it isn't easy: many of you are juggling home learning with children of different ages alongside working from home and making sure that dinner is ready on time! You are doing such an incredible job – so thank you.

This week we have launched our live, interactive teaching sessions via MS Teams. I have had lots of really positive feedback from you about what a difference it has made and how much the children are enjoying having live lessons with their teachers and support staff. There were some inevitable teething problems at the beginning of the week but the senior team have worked very hard to try and resolve any issues as quickly as possible.

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the meeting this afternoon. It was lovely to have some 'face to face' time with you (albeit virtually). Your feedback about the remote learning offer was really useful and I hope we were able to help with some of your queries. If you were unable to attend the meeting, it has been recorded and you can access it via your child's MS Teams account.

We are continuing to develop and refine the home learning offer. From Monday, our wonderful support staff team will be offering additional interactive sessions for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. A member of the team will have been in touch with you if your child is invited to attend these sessions.

We are currently developing a MS Teams handbook and some instructional videos to help you with accessing videos, uploading assignments and attending virtual meetings. I am hoping we will be able to share these with you early next week. In the meantime, please get in touch if you are having any difficulty accessing the learning and we will do our best to help. As always, please direct any communication via the admin inbox admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk and one of the team will get back to you as soon as we are able.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm wishes

Manda George

Headteacher



Kobi's Art Competition

You may remember before the Christmas holiday that Kobi (6B) launched a competition for children to design a Fantasy Creature. The competition inspired huge amounts of incredible entries from across the school! Kobi, Emily and Flora couldn't choose just one winner so we have four to announce:

Congratulations to George, Nusaibah, Heather and Ramla for their fabulous designs. They will each receive a T-shirt with their design printed on it.

Thank you Kobi for showing such brilliant initiative in setting up the competition.

George



Ramla



Nusaibah



Heather

Stay in Touch



Please remember to let us know if you or a member of your household receives a positive test result for COVID-19. We have a dedicated phone number for you to call if you need to inform us of a confirmed case within your household– **07376 358065**.

We also have a dedicated email address for any communication related to COVID-19. You can contact us at the following email address:

covid@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

Free School Meal Vouchers



I am sure you will have heard about some of the discussion in the media this week about providing food for children during this period of National Lockdown. This week, Chartwells have provided food hampers for families who requested them.

Following much debate and thanks largely to the work of campaigners such as Marcus Rashford, the Government have agreed to issue vouchers to families eligible for benefits related Free School Meals. We will be accessing vouchers via the Government Edenred portal which will allow you to select from a range of supermarkets, including; Morrisons, Asda, Tesco, Sainsburys, Iceland, Aldi and Tesco.






You can make an application for Free School Meals here:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-meals>

If you would like some support to complete your application, please contact the admin team who will be happy to help.

Devices for Remote Learning

There are a number of ways in which you can access MS Teams, including;

-  Mobile Phone
-  I-Pad or tablet
-  Playstation
-  X-box
-  SMART TV

Whilst these options allow you to attend meetings and access assignments, the easiest and most effective way of accessing the full range of MS Teams functions is via a laptop or computer.

We were issued with 48 laptops from the Department for Education which have been issued and we have loaned a further 65 school laptops to families with no access to a device. Thank you to those of you who have donated equipment to the school. Your thoughtfulness and generosity has made such a difference.

We want to be able to provide every child with equal access to remote learning and will therefore be setting up a funding page for those of you who may wish to make a donation towards the purchase of additional laptops for those in most need.



Meerkat Madness!

The children in the year 2 bubble have been on an imaginary safari this week as part of their African Adventure. Just take a look at these wonderful drawings of meerkats!.



Donation Station

We continue to work in partnership with the wonderful team at Lewisham Food Bank to supply welfare parcels for our most vulnerable families. You are able to drop off any donations outside the main office. We are particularly grateful for any of the following items:

- ❖ Tinned foods (tomatoes, beans, fruit, fish, vegetables)
- ❖ Cereal
- ❖ Rice
- ❖ Pasta
- ❖ Tea Bags
- ❖ Shampoo
- ❖ Cooking oil
- ❖ Fruit Juice



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



Message from the Director for Children and Young People

Across the country and particularly in London and the South East, Coronavirus continues to spread rapidly and Lewisham's infection rate is at its highest ever level. We must all stay at home as much as possible. This is why schools have been asked to remain open only for critical worker and vulnerable children.

Our schools are working hard to deliver teaching and learning both to pupils at home and those attending on site and to keep children and adults who are on site as safe as possible.

Keeping the number of people in schools as low as possible

We need to ensure that the number of children in schools is kept as low as possible, whilst making sure that children who need to be in school can be.

The government says that this is not because schools have become less safe for children and young people. Having fewer people in schools is about reducing the overall number of contacts everyone has in the community, which is important to help reduce the pressure on the NHS.

During this lockdown, children should stay at home where possible.

We recognise the challenges everyone is facing at the moment, particularly families with children and young people. The DfE has information about [supporting your children's education during coronavirus](#). If you need more help and support with home learning, please contact your school directly in the first place.

There is information on Lewisham Council website about [help and support available at this time](#).

**Pinaki Ghoshal Executive
Director for Children and
Young People**

**Angela Scattergood
Director of Education**