



**Torridon**  
Primary School

Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

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23rd July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We have come to the end of another fantastic year at Torridon. Yes, it has been challenging but it has also been wonderful to see how brilliantly we pull together as a community when times are difficult.

The children had a lovely time meeting their new teachers this week and we can't wait for them to meet properly in September. As I said last week, there will be a chance for you to meet the teaching teams early in the new term.

You should by now have received your child's end of year report. For children who have not been in school this week, we have sent them out to you by post. If you have not received your report by Wednesday, please contact the admin team.

Despite having a few countries missing, we did manage to hold a rather scaled down Olympic closing ceremony this week. The children represented their countries brilliantly with flags and headdresses during our parade. Look out for some photos and video clips on MS Teams.

As you know the government guidance regarding COVID 19 risk assessments changes very frequently. I will be in touch towards the end of the summer holiday regarding arrangements for the new term. It is likely that we will continue with current arrangements for drop off and pick up in the first week back but I will write to you to confirm this in August.

Wishing you a wonderful summer.

We look forward to seeing you back at school on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**.

Best wishes

Manda George  
Headteacher



## Farewell from Dot Hallam



I just wanted to say what a pleasure and privilege it has been to teach at Torridon for the past 25 years. After 36 years of teaching and many challenging times I certainly didn't expect my final two years to be so unusual. I definitely did not expect, or want, to be saying goodbye to children, parents and colleagues via Microsoft Teams. That's one app I will definitely be deleting from all my devices! Despite the many challenges over the years, I've truly enjoyed the various roles I've taken on, from DT and Music coordinator to Acting Deputy (and a lot in between). Most of all I will, of course, cherish my memories of the children whom I have taught. I know that Torridon Primary and the local community will continue to work together to support future generations of children and their families. Hopefully, I will be able to say goodbye to the children properly in September. I wish you all well. Have a wonderful summer and remember: You can't change the world, but you can change the world around you.

Best Wishes  
Dorothy Hallam

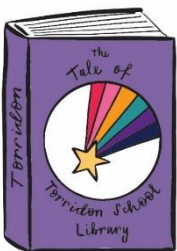
## PE Kit



Please note that from September, we will expect children to be in Torridon Uniform for PE lessons. PE kit consists of black shorts or jogging bottoms and white Torridon t-shirt (long or short sleeved). Uniform can be purchased at Bailwoods in Lewisham or via MAPAC online.



## Torridon Reading Space



Some members of our wonderful school community will be setting up our brand new reading space over the summer holiday. We are aiming to develop a beautiful library space where children can develop a life-long love of reading.

If you have some spare time over the holiday and would like to help, please get in touch with Laura Newman via the Friends of Torridon email address.

[friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com)

## Instrumental Lessons



There is still availability for children to learn to play recorder, clarinet or saxophone in September. More information, including application forms have been sent to you via email.

If you have any questions or would like to apply for your child to take part, please email us at: [music@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:music@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk)

## MS Teams Video Links

We have really missed having you at school to see some of our end of term events. Please check your child's MS Teams account and our website as we have uploaded some photos and video material to give you a flavour of some of the things we have been doing. Some of the highlights include; sports day events, dance workshops, Year 1 time travelling back to ancient Greece with Mr Benn, our talented musicians performing the theme from Chariots of Fire and snippets from our end of term Olympic closing ceremony.

<https://vimeo.com/578371477>



### [Chariots of Fire - Torridon Primary School](#)

Chariots of Fire played by Torridon Primary School Students

vimeo.com

# Message from the Governing Board

Dear Parents and Carers

What a year, and **what** an end to the year. But we have all got there! And we are all hopeful that the situation will have improved when we return in September.

This time last year the Governing Board told you that we wanted to find more opportunities to get to hear your views and listen to the things about school life which are important to you. We didn't have many opportunities to do that, but we have been busy working with our dedicated school leaders to support them through this strange year.

As a Governing Board we are immensely proud of and grateful for the amazing work that Manda, Claire, Richard, Kate and Lena have done to steer the school through such a challenging period. All the staff at Torridon have been tireless in their efforts to deliver the very best for children and the wider school community. As a governing board we consider ourselves privileged to work with such committed and imaginative professionals.

The Governing Board is grateful too for all that YOU have done this year. There have now been four terms where the pandemic has disrupted the normal day to day schooling we so often take for granted. There have been huge challenges, including multiple lockdowns, and the need to shift to online learning for children when year group bubbles have burst. You have worked with the school to make online learning happen and to let us know when you have needed equipment or for your children to be on site.

This has emphasised that we all have a shared priority – your children.

Keeping the school running smoothly and developing a strong online learning offer are only part of what has been going on this academic year. The Governing Board has also been working to ensure that the vision for the school is delivered - that all our children are able to achieve their best.

The Governing Board runs three different committees: (1) Teaching and Learning; (2) Children, Families and Community; and (3) Resources. Across these committees we have heard about a range of activities through the academic year:

In Teaching and Learning committee:

- Governors have heard about the exciting new whole school curriculum. Staff from both Key Stages have played a part in its development. The curriculum weaves in 'golden threads' so that children can make the link between different subjects.
- Governors have established a new "data group" working with senior leaders to embed consistent monitoring of pupil progress and attainment.
- Governors have been keen to ensure that children's wellbeing is the schools' top priority, and we have been pleased to see that the school has run daily personal, health and social education to support children in understanding and dealing with the impact of the pandemic.

In Children, Families and Community committee:

- Governors are delighted that the support for our local community, (organised through the school but made possible by **you**) has been recognised by the local authority
- Governors have been concerned to hear that even very young children are seeing things on social media that, really, they should not see. We would like to work with parents and carers so that young people can benefit from social media and not be harmed by it.
- We want the Governing Board to mirror our community. We are setting up a Parents & Carers Forum where Parent & Carer Champions can work with governors to discuss key issues affecting the school. If you would be interested in finding out more, then please contact us: [mbrightman@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:mbrightman@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk) and [lwheller@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:lwheller@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk)

Through the Resources committee:

- Governors have supported the transition to home schooling during lockdowns, including overhauling old IT systems, buying new laptops for pupils and staff, and working to ensure all families can get access to the lessons that staff have prepared
- We have reviewed the school's programme to refresh classrooms and improve the school site so that over the next year, and as restrictions lift, we can make our facilities available to the community to rent
- We have also done important work establishing a budget strategy to support the delivery of high quality education for our children

All governors are very aware of the impact of the loss of at least 60 days schooling since the pandemic began. We recognise it is vital that we take time to understand the different experience of each individual child and that we support the school in planning how best to tackle this challenge. This is something that each of our committees will scrutinise in the next school year.

Thank **you** for all **your** support for the school across the past year. It has been a challenging time for all of us, and we can but hope there are brighter and "normal" days ahead for the coming year.

We hope that (after a well-deserved rest over the summer) we come back in September with a clear focus on how to help children catch up on the learning and out of hours activities they have missed due to the pandemic.

We send best wishes to the staff who are moving on from Torricon. We are sure that their time here will have left them with some great memories. A particular mention goes to Dot Hallam, who must have educated around 750 children during her career at Torricon. Her legacy is the love of science and gardening – our green future will be safe in the hands of her pupils. We look forward to welcoming new team members in September.

A final word of thanks to the Friends of Torricon. They have done a brilliant job fundraising and, as a result, next week will see the start of the installation of exciting new playground equipment. The current committee are taking a break and we look forward to working with their successors.

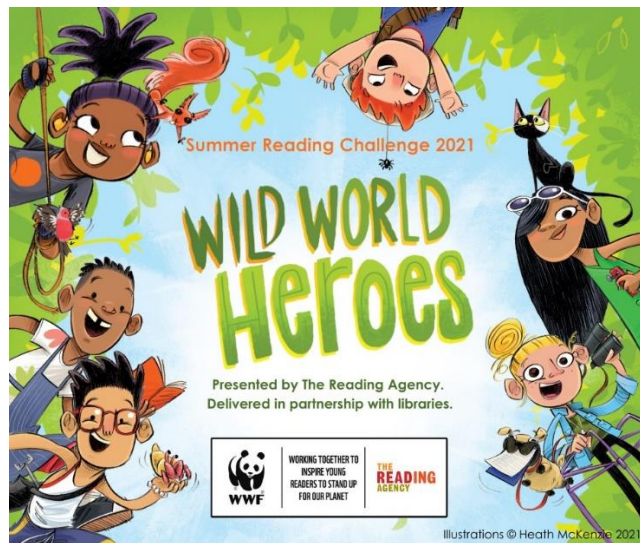
Wishing you and your families health and happiness

Margaret Brightman  
Chair of Governors

Levin Wheller  
Vice Chair of Governors

**School starts on THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER.  
We look forward to seeing you all then.**

# Summer Reading Challenge



This year's Summer Reading Challenge is focused on Wild World Heroes.

Wild World Heroes will feature amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for taking care of our environment.

See the website for instructions for signing up to the challenge online where you can set your own reading target, get your certificate and take part in fun games and activities.

Lewisham Libraries will provide the books: choose what you want to read from the free ebook catalogue, or through click and collect from your local library.

Reading Challenge sign-up: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

# Summer Holiday Activities

The poster for 'Writing Workshop: Under the Sea' is set against a dark blue background with colorful illustrations of fish, coral, and a starfish. At the top left, it says 'The Village' and 'WRITE SPARKS'. The main title 'Writing Workshop: Under the Sea' is in white. Below the title is a circular inset photo showing a group of children and adults sitting on the floor, engaged in an activity. To the right of the photo, the date and time are listed: '28th July 2021, 10am - 11.30am'. Below that is the location: 'Corbett Library and Community Centre, Torrison Road, SE6 1RQ'. The price is listed as '£3/£10/£12' with the note 'Choose what you pay according to what you can afford.' At the bottom, there is a description: 'A fun, interactive writing workshop for children ages 6+ and their adults. Collaborate to create an underwater world and use it to inspire your writing.' and the booking information: 'Book your place at www.thevillagelondon.co.uk/village-events'.

