



Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

Headteacher: Manda George

Telephone: 0208 697 2762

Email: admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

14th January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

We have had another fantastic, fun-filled week at Torridon this week. The children have been exploring our core value of **Aspiration** and have been thinking about their hopes and dreams for the future. It has been inspirational to hear children talking about their academic ambitions and their plans to do great things to make a difference for their generation in years to come. Next week our core value focus will be **Community**.

The Friends of Torridon PTA have been very busy planning events for the rest of this term. Thank you for your understanding about the changes we have had to make to some of the scheduled events such as the school disco. We want to make sure that we can go ahead with whole school events but want to make sure that we do so as safely as possible in light of the uncertain COVID situation at the moment. I hope you will be taking up the offer of the pizza night event on Thursday 10th February. Look out for further details later in the newsletter.

It is good to see children wrapped up nice and warm as the weather has been particularly chilly this week. Please remember to make sure that outdoor clothing items are clearly labelled with children's names to prevent them getting lost.

Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions for ways to develop and improve school life. From the anti-idling messages you will see later in the newsletter and ideas about how to tackle the issues regarding parking outside school to suggestions about how to improve the smooth running of collection after school clubs, your contributions are very much welcomed and appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Manda George
Headteacher



Starting School in September 2022

REMINDER: You have until **Saturday 15th January** to apply for a Reception place starting in September 2022. Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like some support with your application.



admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

COVID Update

Thank you for keeping us informed about family members who are self isolating. We have had a number of positive COVID cases reported this week. In line with updated Local Authority and Public Health England guidance, I will write to inform you when we have 5 confirmed cases in a year group. Please remember to report results to NHS test and trace in addition to letting us know at school.

From Monday, there is new guidance about the self isolation period (see below).

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

As always, if you are unsure about what to do or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the dedicated COVID phone line (07376 358065) or email address covid@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

Breakfast Club Assistant Vacancy

We are currently advertising for a breakfast club assistant to join the Torridon team. If you, or someone you know is interested in the position, please get in touch.

Breakfast Club Assistant

Scale 2 (£4,060 per annum)

Torridon Primary School is looking to recruit a positive and enthusiastic

Breakfast Club Assistant to join the team.

1 year fixed term contract.

Term time only (38 weeks) 7.5 hours per week.

If you would like to know more about the position, please contact Jennie Stephenson (School Business Manager) admin@torridonprimary.sch.uk

Nursery Places



If you are interested in applying for a Nursery place for the coming academic year please contact the office either by telephone 0208 697 2762 or email admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk to request an application form.

If you would like to visit the school please call the school office to arrange an appointment.

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 18 th January	KS2 Girls' Football Tournament
Friday 28 th January	Lewisham Borough of Culture Launch
Tuesday 1 st February	Chinese New Year
w/b 7 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 8 th February	Internet Safety Day
Thursday 10 th February	PTA Pizza and Cookie Night
Friday 11 th February	INSET Day
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th February	HALF TERM
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day
Tuesday 8 th March	International Women's Day
w/b 14 th March	Science Week
Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day
Thursday 24 th March	PTA Disco PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
w/b 28 th March	Autism Awareness Week
Tuesday 29 th March	PTA Sponsored Bounce
Wednesday 30 th and Thursday 31 st March	Parent and Carer Open Evenings
Friday 1 st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Monday 4 th April – Monday 18 th April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Tuesday 19 th April	Back to School – First Day of Summer Term

Keeping 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

Tackling Race Inequality in Lewisham Schools



Lewisham Learning

Dear parents and carers

Tackling race inequality in Lewisham schools

January 2022 update

We wrote to you at the end of the summer term last year to let you know about the work happening in all Lewisham schools and colleges, as part of the Council-wide commitment to tackle race inequalities and ensure all of our young people get the best education they can. We wanted to update you on this work, and what has been happening in our schools over the last six months.

Our first piece of work was to ensure that every school and college in Lewisham was on board, and to do this we asked them to sign a pledge.

Read the pledge and learn more about what it means on the Lewisham Council website.

We are very proud to be able to tell you that every Lewisham school and college is on board, and 100 % of our schools and colleges have signed the pledge.

Turning our pledge into action

We have been working behind the scenes at the Council and within our schools and colleges to turn the pledge into action. We have been doing this through four main work streams:

Leadership

In July, over 100 school leaders and community members from across the borough attended an online conference on tackling race inequality in education.

We have delivered racial literacy training for our school governors across the borough, and are in the process of creating a governor toolkit for our schools and colleges to use. If you are a school governor and interested in getting involved, email n.maharasingam@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk



Curriculum

The conference in July saw leading academics share their thoughts on teaching diversity in the classroom and lessons, including Professor Heidi Mirza. We also invited teachers and education leaders from schools and colleges in Lewisham to share how teaching and learning in classrooms is changing to make sure it reflects our communities here in Lewisham and the modern world we live in.

Relationships

A ground breaking new partnership aimed at supporting Black Caribbean and dual heritage (Black Caribbean/White) pupils in Lewisham launched in September. [Read more about the Lewisham Young Leaders Academy.](#)

Community

Community leaders and parents were a central part of the July conference.

Sydenham School, Rathfern Primary, Haberdashers' Knights Academy and Grinling Gibbons are working with Citizens UK in January to launch Community Conversations About Race. We will be able to share more information about this in the next newsletter, but if you are a parent in one of these schools and interested in finding out more, please email the Headteacher directly.

We know that this is still just the beginning of this work, and it is not something that will improve all outcomes immediately. We want to assure you that we are committed to this in the long term.

It's important to remember that tackling race inequality in educational settings will help all pupils of all backgrounds, regardless of their heritage, to thrive.

We hope you have found this information useful and will continue to keep you updated. If you have any specific questions about this work, please contact raceequality@lewisham.gov.uk rather than your child's school.

Yours faithfully,

Brenda Dacres
Deputy Mayor,
Lewisham Council

Councillor Chris Barnham
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Lewisham Council

Pinaki Ghoshal
Executive Director for Children and Young People
Lewisham Council

Angela Scattergood
Director of Education,
Lewisham Council

Dance News from the Creative Corner

This week has been the launch of "Kickstart", our Key Stage 1 Dance company. Children from Year 1 and 2 have been selected to take part in weekly sessions working on technical training and performance experiences. We are eagerly awaiting our t-shirts with the kickstart logo!

Unity, our Key Stage 2 dance company, continues weekly and is hard at work creating a dance performance piece for Live Dance 2022 at The Blackheath Halls.



Keep up to date with Torridon Primary School Dance at our instagram page: [torridon_dance](https://www.instagram.com/torridon_dance)

Breakfast

We have all heard the expression '*breakfast is the most important meal of the day*'. For children, this is especially true. Research shows that eating breakfast before school will help children to:

- be more active
- be more creative
- have better hand-eye coordination
- have better problem-solving skills
- have longer attention spans, better concentration and improved memory skills

These are all fundamental for good learning.

Children who skip breakfast are more likely to feel tired or irritable, have difficulty focussing on tasks and have lower energy levels.

Please make sure your children have eaten a healthy breakfast before they come to school so they can perform at their best in the classroom. Here are some ideas to set your children up for a great day at school.

- Plain yoghurt with fresh fruit
- Wholegrain toast
- Porridge
- Cereal and milk (some are very high in sugar so check the packaging for healthier options)
- Boiled or scrambled eggs

We currently have spaces available in our breakfast club. Please contact the school office for more details or to apply for a place admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

Contact the Educational Psychology Team

Lewisham EP Connect

A TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Talk to one of the Lewisham **Educational Psychologists (EPs)** about issues related to your child. We can offer support to think about..

How to help your child with their learning/ homework

Managing routines at home

School issues, e.g. peer relationships / friendships, learning

Other services that might be helpful to you

A listening ear for you... How you are feeling?

Supporting your child's well-being

Fears and worries associated with return to school after lockdown

Understanding children's feelings and behaviour

Please let us know if you are calling about a looked after child



Stars of the week



Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Samantha	For working well on her independent play. Well done Samantha!
Nursery AM	Joshy	For following nursery rules and self-regulating when upset. Good job Joshy!
RF	Sheanna	She has been working with lots of determination in her phonics groups. Well done!
RL	Bobby	He always works hard when making his models and does not give up even when he finds things tricky. Well done, Bobby!
RP	Ruya	She always works hard to achieve what she sets out to do and makes some fantastic creations!
1BC	Dylan	For showing great determination to succeed and trying hard to make the right choices.
1G	Elsie	For her ongoing commitment to doing her very best, in all areas of her learning. Well done, Elsie!
1N	Mekai	For aspiring to be a great reader. He has made so much progress and has worked so hard. Keep up the great work! 😊
2G	Amelie	For taking responsibility for her learning and focusing on her handwriting goals. Keep it up!
2L	Amahlia	For answering lots of questions showing excellent engagement.
2S	Lenny	For taking his time with his learning this week and focusing on making sure that all learning is his best! Well done, Lenny.
3A	Jasmine	Showing aspiration by asking excellent questions, listening carefully to the answers and showing how much she learned in her history book. Well done!
3L	Stephen	He has shown great motivation and aspired to do his very best learning in reading lessons and when practising his handwriting.
3S	Simeon	Simeon for aspiring to improve his handwriting. Well done for choosing strategies to help you achieve your goal.
4CH	Lucy	She always has an outstanding attitude of aspiring for the best.
4CW	Eva	Always has high aspirations for herself and her learning.
4V	Jack	Jack - for being aspirational in his consistent positive attitude to learning.
5CR	Deren	A great effort to improve his writing and demonstrating resilience in maths lessons.
5CY	Joshua	He has shown great attitude to learning, always aspire for the best.
5W	Maile	Maile aspires to be a journalist and has made significant effort to use all the language and grammar strategies we learned this week to produce an excellent piece of letter writing.
6A	Uriri	For her impressive non-chronological report and choice of exciting vocabulary; linked to our topic.
6C	Vyshali	For your excellent, detailed aspiration illustration, which show your ambitions.
6P	Hau Suan	For her amazing commitment towards her learning. This week, I have been immensely impressed with her drive and attitude in bettering herself! Well done – I am so proud!
RB Blue	Joshua Kerr	Persevering with tasks and always trying his best
RB Green	Darekay	Listening well and following instructions, helping to tidy up and take care of our learning resources.

PTA update

Happy New Year! We have some exciting fundraising opportunities happening this term and some important dates that we would like to share with you.

DISCO



CHANGE of date: Due to the uncertain COVID situation we have decided to postpone the disco again. The disco was planned for the 10th February. We are changing the date to

Thursday 24th March (all same timings and details apply).

Tickets that have already been purchased will be valid (you will receive paper tickets nearer the time). There is still time to purchase tickets via ParentPay if you have not already done so.

We will be in touch with parent volunteers nearer the time – if you are able to help out please email friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com

SPONSORED BOUNCE for EYFS and KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Year 1&2):

Tuesday 29th March

Children are sponsored to bounce as many times as possible in 1 minute. Sponsorship money can then be added to Go Fund Me link or brought into school. Details will be shared nearer the time.

All the money raised in these events will go towards the purchase of:

- *audio visual equipment*
- *iPads to support learning in school*
- *sun shades for protection in the playground*
- *further development of the reading room*



Many thanks for your continued support,

Friends of Torridon PTA

Engine Idling

Thank you for being more thoughtful and considerate when dropping your children off at the start of the day. See below for some facts and myths about engine idling.



Facts and Myths on Idling

(Ctrl)

<p>Myth</p> <p>Idling doesn't cause that much harm.</p>	<p>Fact</p> <p>Idling vehicles emit higher levels of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and hydrocarbons. These pollutants contribute to global warming and worsen air quality.</p>
<p>Myth</p> <p>If it's cold outside I need to keep my engine running for it to stay warm.</p>	<p>Fact</p> <p>Your engine will stay warm for 30-60 minutes after switching the engine off.</p>
<p>Myth</p> <p>I need to keep my battery fully charged, so I have to keep the engine running.</p>	<p>Fact</p> <p>Modern car batteries need less engine running time to stay charged.</p>
<p>Myth</p> <p>If I am parked on a yellow line with the engine running, I can't get fined.</p>	<p>Fact</p> <p>Traffic wardens can fine you if you are parked somewhere you shouldn't be - whether your engine is running or not.</p>



One Tree Hill Choir

One Tree Hill Choir is a community choir based in Honor Oak Park. We have a loyal core of members and rehearse each week on Tuesday evenings. We do not audition and welcome singers from all musical backgrounds. We sing a wide range of music, from baroque classics to contemporary pop, always with a sense of fun and togetherness.

We rehearse on Tuesday evenings, 7.15pm-8.30pm at St Saviour's Church, SE23 1JN. Join us on Tuesday evenings for a taster session and find out for yourself! Email admin@onetreehillchoir.co.uk for more details.

Our Charity Partner is St Christopher's Hospice and we donate to them a % of our Concert Takings.

Spring term 2022 starts Tuesday 11th January - free taster session for new starters, all welcome!

Find out more by following the link below:

<https://www.onetreehillchoir.co.uk/>



London Borough of Culture Launch



Next week on Thursday 20th January, children and staff will be performing a dance which launches the schools events as part of Lewisham London Borough of Culture 2022. Not only will we all be performing but also be filmed by a videographer.

This term all the children have worked so hard to be part of this mass celebration, learning and refining the dance during lessons.

Friday 28th January is the next part of the schools launch. The film will be screened on the hour every hour through Irie Dance theatre social media platforms including facebook, twitter and Instagram. Further details will follow nearer the time.

PTA Pizza and Cookie Night



PIZZA & COOKIE NIGHT THURSDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

ORDER BY
SATURDAY
5TH FEBRUARY

Friends of Torricon PTA has teamed up with Doughies for a fun family night in. Order kits at <https://doughies.co.uk/products/torricon> by 5th February and you'll receive everything you need to make artisan pizzas and gooey cookies in your home oven.

Kits will be distributed to your eldest child at school on Thursday, 10th February. Pizzas will be ready to cook on the same day or will keep in the fridge for 48 hours. Cookies can be frozen for 6 weeks.

Questions? Get in touch at friendsoftorriconpta@gmail.com.

£4.50/
COOKIE KIT
(5 COOKIES)

£6.50/
12" PIZZA
KIT

The PTA receives £2
for each kit sold!

#TORRICONPIZZANIGHT



Kick off half term with a fun mealtime activity and support the PTA

BEAM workshops

Our Year 6 girls had a great time with the facilitators on the BEAM workshops this week. The workshops are designed to develop children's self-esteem and self-confidence as part of the preparation for transition to secondary school. The children were engaged and responded well to the workshop leaders. The girls were particularly brave when they had to say their names as loud as they could in the room, to help build confidence. They also learnt a lot about each other through the friendship bingo. The friendship bingo involved asking each other questions to help with communication skills. Best of all, they had huge fun and really enjoyed themselves as you can see!



Every Wednesday the girls of year 6 attend a workshop with BEAM (Beautiful Empowered And Me). During these intriguing workshops, we cover key aspects of a female's life, like body image, confidence and equality. BEAM work with 8-18 year-old girls and inspire and encourage them to be confident and have a positive mindset.

On 12th January, we took part in our first workshop. Our instructors, Chloe and Imahra, who were passionate and exhilarating women, taught us to own our name. The session was mostly about building confidence and who we are.

We are all looking forward to our next motivational workshop!

By

Evallia and Romy

