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10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you to those of you who were able to make it to the meeting on Thursday to discuss parking, dangerous driving and idling around the school. It was a very productive meeting and there were some fantastic ideas shared which I will collate and send out to you next week. Particular thanks to Councillor James Royston who attended the meeting and was able to update us on the council's consideration for a school street at Torridon. Further details about the council plans will be made available in the coming weeks.

We were lucky enough to have Maroon Town visit us this week with some fantastic workshops to celebrate the end of Black History Month. The children (and adults) had great fun joining in with the singing and dancing whilst also learning about Jamaican history and culture. I was particularly proud to receive the following email from them:

***'Over the past month we have been into many primary schools, in different parts of London ..... and while they are all fantastic places - committed teachers and support staff and delightful young people, Torridon really does have something very special. Not easy to describe, but if I have to, there is simply a beautiful atmosphere emanating from the children and the staff. Not just very well behaved children but still with a freedom to express themselves.'***

Thank you to Ada (History lead) for organising the events.

Next week, we start our Anti-Bullying week with Odd Socks Day on Monday to celebrate diversity and difference. There will be lots of activities to support children with understanding how to keep themselves safe and to take a stand against any type of unkind behaviour, including online bullying. On Friday, we will be raising money for Children in Need. Children will be invited to wear something spotty or their own clothes for a small donation.

Thank you to Emily and our wonderful Green Team who braved the elements last weekend to help with planting, weeding, trimming and tidying. Your help is very much appreciated!

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Manda George

Headteacher



# Happy Diwali



*For everyone who is celebrating Diwali this weekend, we hope you have a wonderful time with friends and family!*

## Odd Socks Day – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Next week, we will be celebrating Anti-bullying week. We're going to kick start the week on Monday with Odd Socks Day. We'll be doing lots of activities in school to develop the children's understanding of anti-bullying.



## Children in Need – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November



We'll be doing lots of activities in school to develop the children's understanding of anti-bullying. We'll end the week with Children in Need on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Remember to get spotacular for our non-uniform day.

## Challenge Greenhouse



Thank you to all who have donated their empty 2 litre plastic bottles this week-so far, we have collected 56!

Only 1444 to go!!



## Parent and Carer Meetings + Workshops

We are pleased to share the dates of further upcoming parent and carer meetings and workshops. This half term, there will be sessions on statutory assessments: Y1 phonics, Y4 multiplication tables check and Y6 SATs. Next half term, you are invited to attend reading workshops to learn more about how we teach reading at Torridon.

Autumn 2		Spring 1	
		9.00 on Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Y1 and Y2 Reading
5.00 on Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6 SATs	9.00 on Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Y3 and Y4 Reading
5.00 on Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Y1 Phonics Screening Check	9.00 on Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Y5 and Y6 Reading



## Pass it on Torridon! – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November



Friends of Torridon PTA will be running a uniform & book sale in the playground at pick-up on Friday 17th November.

**\*\* PTA are making a call for donations of any used school clothes and books which can be passed on to other families\*\***

If your little one is not so little anymore and last year's uniform no longer fits, please pass it on! Likewise, if you have a couple of books in good condition that you would like someone else to enjoy, pass them on!

Donations can be left with the office team. On the day we will also have a drop off point for local food bank donations. **Please only bring food ON THE DAY.**



## Gardening Day

Huge thanks to the 10 parents who came out for the Gardening Day last Saturday. Over 150 bulbs were planted - keep an eye out for all the lovely flowers come spring! - the nursery mud kitchen was greatly expanded, trees were trimmed, garden beds weeded - and three new trees and a variety of other plants were put in. Brilliant effort all round. And the children had great fun in the playground, mud kitchen and woodland areas, whilst lending a hand with the gardening.

There will be another session in the new year, so please stay tuned. The Green Team is always looking for new helpers - no experience necessary!



## Passwords

If you are sending a new or different adult to collect your child, please let us know by email and provide us with a password which can be shared with the class teacher. The teacher will ask for the password from the adult who is collecting. This is to make sure we are keeping children safe and only allowing them to go home with friends, relatives and other known adults.

Thank you



## Tea Towel Fundraiser – Parent Pay



# Roll up, Roll up

## Fundraiser for development of Creative Corner 2024

Torridon children from Reception to Year 6 have drawn their self portraits as part of their Art learning and we have collated them into 3 natural cotton T-Towels (Y1/2, Y3/4, Y5/6) and one sturdy cotton shopper (Reception Red, Yellow and Blue class).

We very much hope you will buy some.....Christmas presents, celebration of children's art work, Torridon memorabilia, hack to get the drying up done faster!

T-towels £6 each

Bag £10 each

Order on Parent Pay before Friday 10<sup>th</sup>  
November for delivery first week of December!



## Nursery – Library Visit

This week we went on our first trip to the library. We joined in with the songs and we listened to a Diwali story. Finally, we looked at library books with our friends and the adults.





## Maroon Town Workshops



Nursery and Reception had such fun, singing and dancing and learning all about Jamaica. Thank you Maroon Town – we had a lovely time!

## Resource Base – Green Pathway

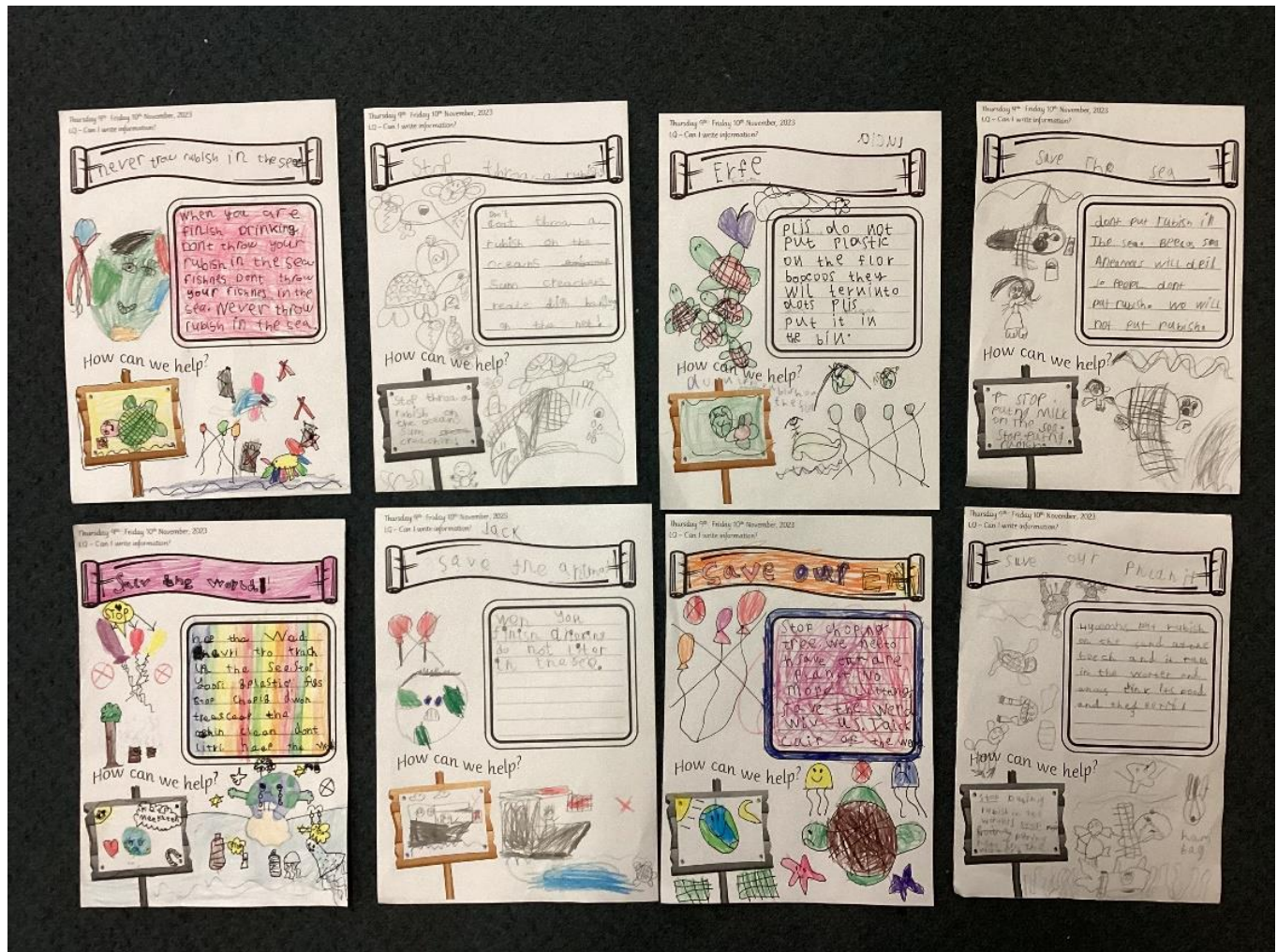
Green Pathway this week have made fantastic space rockets, they have also been working hard to write their own instructions so that everyone can join in with the fun!





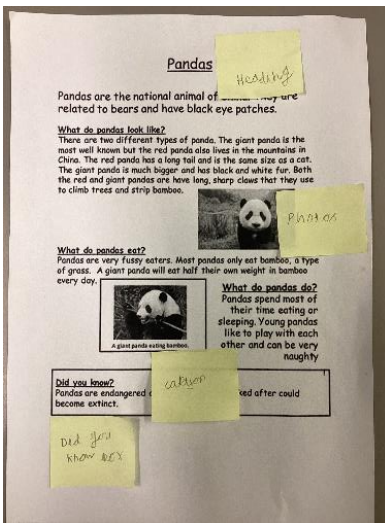
# Year 1 – Environmental Posters

This week, Year 1 learned about the true problem of climate change. We read that plastic rubbish and discarded balloons harm real creatures like polar bears, puffin birds and whales. We created posters to inform others about the terrible effects of environmental damage and what actions we can take to save our planet.





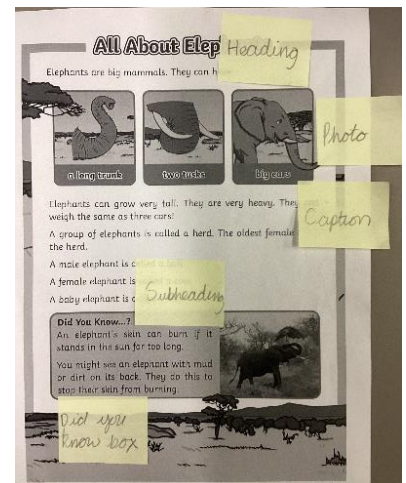
# Year 2 – Report Writing



This week, Year 2 had lots of fun exploring the features of non-fiction reports. We discussed how the information is laid out for the reader to access easily and how the presentation is crucial to draw the reader in! After our discussion we worked in groups to identify the:

- Title
- Heading
- Subheading
- Caption
- Picture
- Did you know box

Now we have a good idea of what makes a good non-fiction report and were very excited to write our own!



# Year 3 - Geography



After Year 3's trip to the River Ravensbourne, we were inspired to make our very own rivers out of playdough! Can you spot these features in our rivers: the source, tributary, meander and mouth?



# Year 4 - Diary Writing

## Significant Person

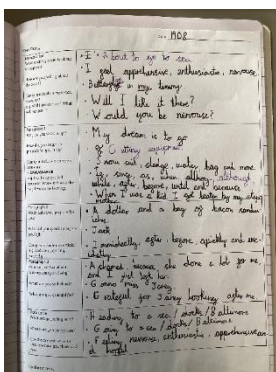


Matthew Henson was an African American explorer. Born on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1866, he is best known as the co-discoverer of the North Pole with Robert Edwin Peary on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1909.

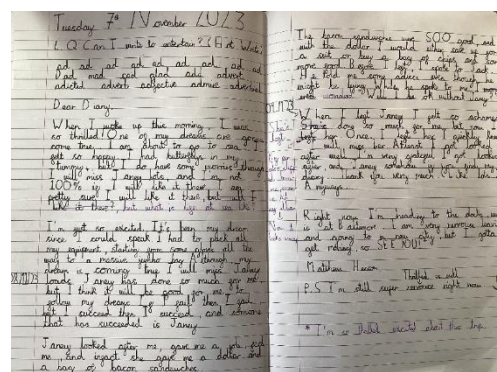
Matthew Henson's Story told by Year 4.

This week, year 4 have produced some outstanding writing. They have been through the whole process of planning, drafting and improving and then publishing a final copy. They have produced wonderful diary entries based on the exciting life of explorer, Matthew Henson, who discovered the North Pole, alongside Robert Peary. The children have been inspired by his story which is told by Catherine Johnson in this term's text, 'Race to the Frozen North.'

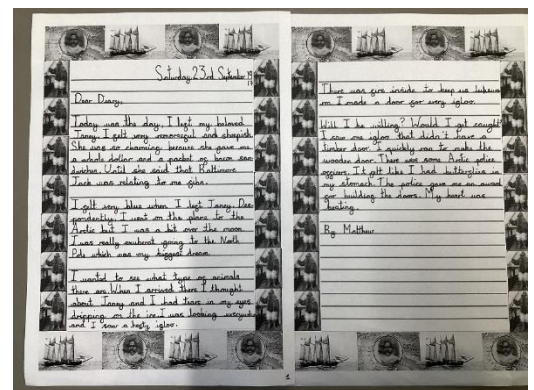
We have been so impressed by their ambitious vocabulary choices, improved handwriting and eagerness to try out the new sentence structures that they have heard in their reading lessons.



Planning

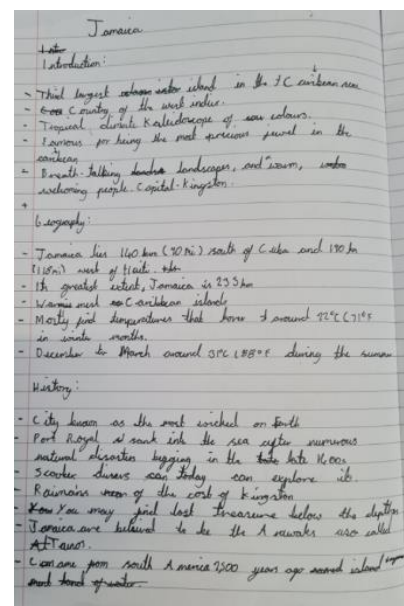
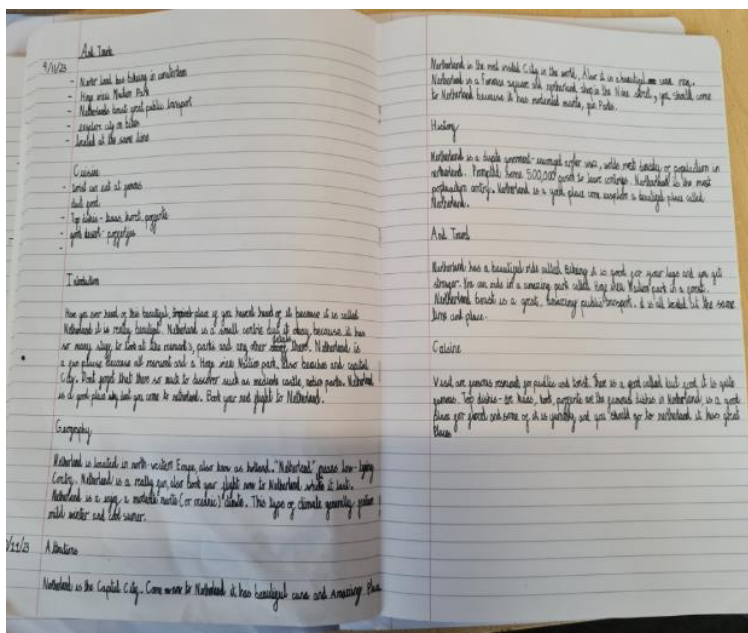


Drafting



Publishing

# Year 5 – Persuasive Writing



In English, we have been planning a persuasive text. We have researched different holiday destinations and have used the information to write a persuasive leaflet.



## Year 6 Poetry

In Year 6, we have been creating our poems for Remembrance Day. We read 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae. Then, we thought of our own ideas for our poems. We described the blood-shed on the battle grounds and how we remember people who have fought in the war. We referred to the red poppy which symbolises the blood that is shed during battle. We also enjoyed presenting our poems during assembly.



twinkl.co.uk

## SEND NEWS



For parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

See the latest news bulletin here:

<https://mailchi.mp/lewishamparentcarer/november-send-and-health-news-bulletin>

# Forest School News

This week has been all about planting our Spring Bulbs!

The children have planted at least one bulb each to add amazing colour to our woodland area next Spring!



The children also created natural Rangoli patterns to celebrate Diwali.



After School Club collected leaves and made their own leaf lanterns.





## Stars Of The Week




Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Lakeivia	For always trying her best and being kind to her friends. Well done, Lakeivia! 😊
Nursery AM	Kimora	For being very helpful at tidy up time and playing nicely with her friends. Well done, Kimora! 😊
Nursery PM	Ezra	For being more confident when speaking to his friends and the adults in Nursery. Well done, Ezra! 😊
Blue Class	Saint	For making a great effort to practise writing his name every morning, getting better and better at his pencil control. Well done Saint!
Red Class	Taliya	For always trying her best with a cheerful and positive attitude! Taliya is a role model to her peers, well done! 😊
Yellow Class	Kylah	For always being kind and helpful to others. Well done!
1M	Maeve	For trying her best in all lessons and being a role model to others. She is always ready to learn and shares her ideas with her peers. Well done! 😊
1N	Daisy	For being so enthusiastic about school and her learning. It's lovely to hear that she's enjoying it so much and we're proud of her for doing her best. 😊
1W	Lucia	For creating a fantastic poster encouraging the world to protect our planet. She is always trying to do her best learning in the classroom. Keep up the excellent effort!
2S	Jos	For his fantastic effort when writing his non-fiction report all about meerkats. Keep up the fantastic learning Jos 😊
2SW	Flo	For her enthusiasm in lessons and fantastic independent learning! Well done Flo! 😊
2V	Logan	For completing his writing task on the laptop. Well done Logan 😊
3A	Sara	For amazing learning about rivers. Well done for producing your very own playdough river!
3G	Baybee	For using adventurous adjectives in her learning. Keep it up! 😊
3S	Fred	For developing the style and presentation of his handwriting.
4A	Miracle	For your amazing independent learning in reading this week. Well done!
4L	Tracy	For having a great attitude to learning and making good progress in swimming
4S	Gursewakpal	For being a fantastic role model to his peers by his hard-working attitude, punctuality, polite nature and his commitment to improvement.
5C	Naoki	For identifying some of the features of a persuasive text and has included some of them in his leaflet! Well done.
5L	Meyshia	For trying hard in your maths group and participating! Well done!
5S	Oshie	For his expectational leaflet in writing which was a showcase of persuasive writing and informative content. His meticulous attention to detail in his presentation set a great example to the class. Well done!
6A	Zainab	For being an excellent role model for the school community, who takes a lot of pride in her presentation. This week, she has put a lot of thought into her diary entry. Really Proud!
6C	Eliza	For being an excellent role model to our class community. You always listen carefully and try your best in all lessons – well done!
6L	Pedro	For hard work and determination in his learning. Pedro has specifically made improvements within his reading comprehension and how he approaches inference questions. Well done!
RB Blue	Dalrekay	Dalrekay for improved participation and focus during reading and writing.
RB Green	Gabriel	Gabriel for improved listening and participation in carpet sessions and good problem-solving skills with maths puzzles.

## Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	9.00 Boys Football Match
Week Beginning 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day to launch anti-bullying week
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Korky Paul – author visit
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Unity trip to Royal Opera House to see Ballet Black rehearsal
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	5.00 Meeting for Year 6 parents and carers – KS2 SATs
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – non uniform day. Wear something spotty! 3.15 Pass It On Torridon! – Uniform and Book Sale
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	9.00 Girls Football Match
Week beginning 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Road Safety Week
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 trip to the Barbican – London Symphony Orchestra
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 2 trip to London Zoo 2.00 String Ensemble performance at St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	PTA Non Uniform Day 5.00 meeting for Y1 parents and carers – Phonics Screening Check
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	9.00 Boys Football Match
Week beginning 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Disability awareness week
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.00 Girls Football Match
Week beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school assessment week
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Resource Base trip – Bowling Festival Whole school art exhibition (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Create and Dance Digital Celebration – Royal Opera House live streaming event. Whole school art exhibition (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	School Disco (PTA event)
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00 Boys Football Match
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3/4 Athletics Tournament
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4 to National Maritime Museum
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Performance Y5/6 Athletics Tournament
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00 Year 1 Christmas assembly 2.45 Year 2 Christmas assembly
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00 Year 3 Christmas assembly 2.45 Year 4 Christmas assembly
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00 Year 5 Christmas assembly 2.45 Year 6 Christmas assembly
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper day Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term – 2pm finish
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>First day of spring term</b>



## Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	95%		3A	97%		5C	93%	
1N	89%		3G	91%		5L	94%	
1W	95%		3S	99%		5S	94%	
2S	100%		4A	97%		6A	94%	
2SW	97%		4L	95%		6C	95%	
2V	96%		4S	96%		6L	96%	

Well done to all the classes who won for the highest attendance!

## Punctuality Matters

Unfortunately, there were multiple occasions this week when children arrived late to school. Being on time for school helps children to have a positive start to the day and ensures they do not miss any learning. Please remember that gates close at 8.55am. For our children to achieve their potential, it is essential that they are in school on time every day.

	Number of Late Children
Monday	14
Tuesday	18
Wednesday	25
Thursday	30
Friday	29

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is on time every day.

## PTA Non Uniform Day – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

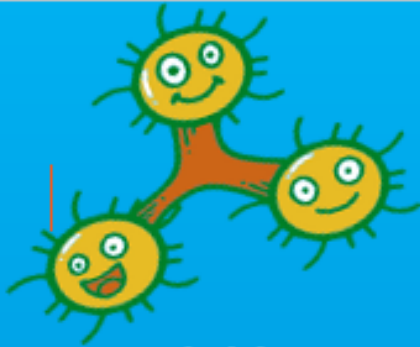
Suggested donation: £1

Bring cash to school or [donate online](#)

10% of all funds raised go to the local food bank.



# NHS Flu Vaccination



**NHS**

**Lewisham and Greenwich**

NHS Trust

## Get your child vaccinated against FLU

We are running Saturday clinics for children attending Lewisham schools:

- Rec -Year 11 who did not get the flu vaccination at school



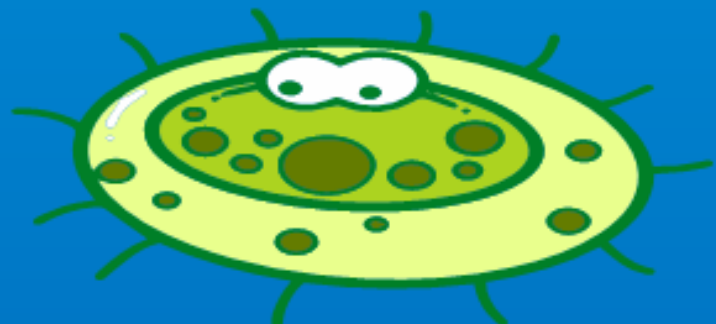
## Saturday 11th NOV- 2023

9am – 4.30pm

- Downham Health Centre BR1 53P 1st Floor
- Kaleidoscope, 32 Rushey Green SE6 4JF
- Waldron Health Centre New cross SE14 6LD  
1st Floor -Clifton rise Suite 4

You can book an appointment or just walk in

For more information call  
02030492600/07341888526





# Christmas Events



**Inaugural**

**St Andrew's Catford**

## Christmas Tree Festival

**20th - 26th November**  
See board for opening times

**Mulled wine, mince pies, festive activities and stalls in the Church Hall and Corbett Library on Saturday 25th.**

**Carols and concerts throughout the week**

PARISH OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE, CATFORD



## BANK OF THINGS CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

**THIS CHRISTMAS WE ARE SUPPORTING LEWISHAM'S YOUNG PEOPLE FACING HARDSHIP BY PROVIDING THEM WITH A BUMPER CHRISTMAS GIFT BAG**

[linktr.ee/bankofthingslewisham](https://linktr.ee/bankofthingslewisham)  
[info@bankofthings.org](mailto:info@bankofthings.org)

**BANK OF THINGS LEWISHAM**

We are appealing for donations of toiletries, prepaid gift vouchers, socks (sizes 3-6, 6-12), book tokens, chocolate and sweets, note books and stationery, hats, scarves, and fun stocking fillers for ages 11 to 25.

### HOW DO I DONATE?

**Donate online with the link above\***

**Drop into Unit 19, Monday to Friday 10-5pm**

**To donate £10, text ZCNW02 to 7019**

Lewisham Local: Charity number 1121818 | Company Number 6811884  
\*Fundraising, promotional and donations will be processed and administered by the National Fundraising Network (NFF) Ltd, 11-12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

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## PETER PAN

By J.M. Barrie

Adapted by JONATHAN KAUFMAN and JANE WALKER  
Original songs and music by ANDREW MALLEN and ALESSIA MARCOVICHIO

**SAT 2, SUN 3 & SAT 9, SUN 10 DECEMBER 2023**  
Eight performances only  
Sat & Sun at 2pm & 3.30pm  
Shows last approx 1 hour

**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**  
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**You'll believe a boy can fly!**

**BOOK ONLINE** [spontaneousproductions.co.uk/peter-pan](https://spontaneousproductions.co.uk/peter-pan)

Peter Pan is presented by arrangement with Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)



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# Foster for Lewisham

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# Online Safety

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as 'MTX') are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

#### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

#### PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

### EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

#### DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geo-location information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

#### AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

#### SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

#### CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

#### (GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

#### STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

#### WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour: irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

#### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of over 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech-focused The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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