



Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

Headteacher: Manda George

Telephone: 0208 697 2762

Email: admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

17th November 2023

Dear parents and carers,

It has certainly been a very busy week at Torridon this week. We kicked off on Monday with odd socks day to launch our anti-bullying week. Children spent time in their classes thinking about difference and diversity and celebrating that we are all so unique in our own ways.

There has been lots of learning about bullying and how we can make sure that Torridon is a bully free zone! I am extremely proud that the children feel so strongly about doing the right thing - standing up to bullies and reporting when they see wrongdoing.

We were honoured to have the wonderful illustrator Korky Paul visit us on Tuesday with a surprise for the competition winners who have had their illustrations published in the endpapers of his latest book *'Winnie and Wilbur, The Witches' Sports Day.'*

Our Unity dancers had a fantastic opportunity to attend a rehearsal at the Royal Opera House with the fabulous dancers from Ballet Black. Thank you to Deme for making it happen.

We finished the week with our Children in Need day. Lots of spots and Pudsey ears were seen in classrooms today and the children had a wonderful time making their own Pudsey and Blush characters and completing Pudsey 'Bearpees' with Joe Wickes whilst learning about some of the wonderful charities that are supported by the funds raised. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over £450.00. There is still time for you to donate if you would like to: <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

Next week is Road Safety Week. The children will be thinking about how we can make the roads around Torridon safer and what we can do to improve the air quality and lower the impact on the environment.

Whatever you are doing, I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

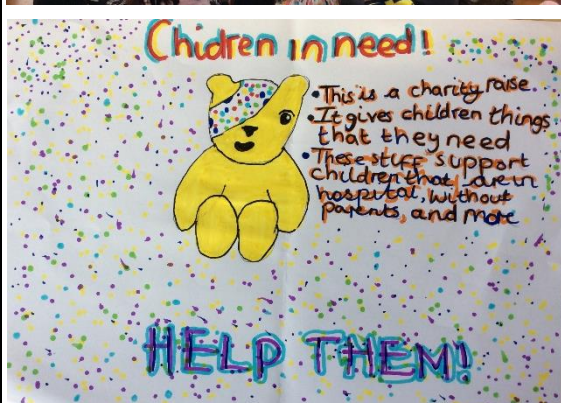
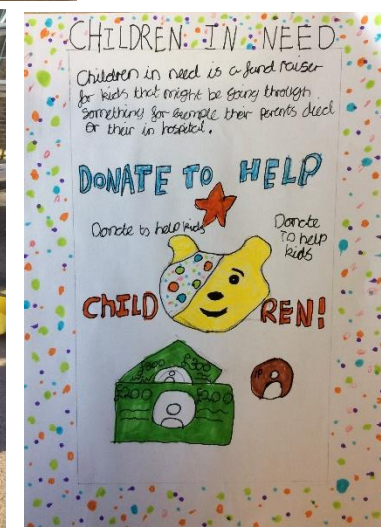
Manda George

Headteach



Together, we can
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Children In Need



We're supporting
BBC
Children
in Need



PTA Non Uniform Day – Thursday 23rd November

Suggested donation: £1

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

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



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	
5.00 on Thursday 23 rd November	Y1 Phonics Screening Check	9.00 on Tuesday 16 th January	Y1 and Y2 Reading
		9.00 on Tuesday 23 rd January	Y3 and Y4 Reading
		9.00 on Tuesday 30 th January	Y5 and Y6 Reading

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



Anti-Bullying Week

These 2 children received Headteacher's Awards for their strong sense of justice during anti-bullying week.

Always tell a trusted adult.

Never ignore bullying.

Tell a friend so they can help.

It's OK to be different.

Bullies should be punished.

Underneath some bullies are just lonely people.

Life is always full of ups and downs.

Laugh with bullies rather than shout.

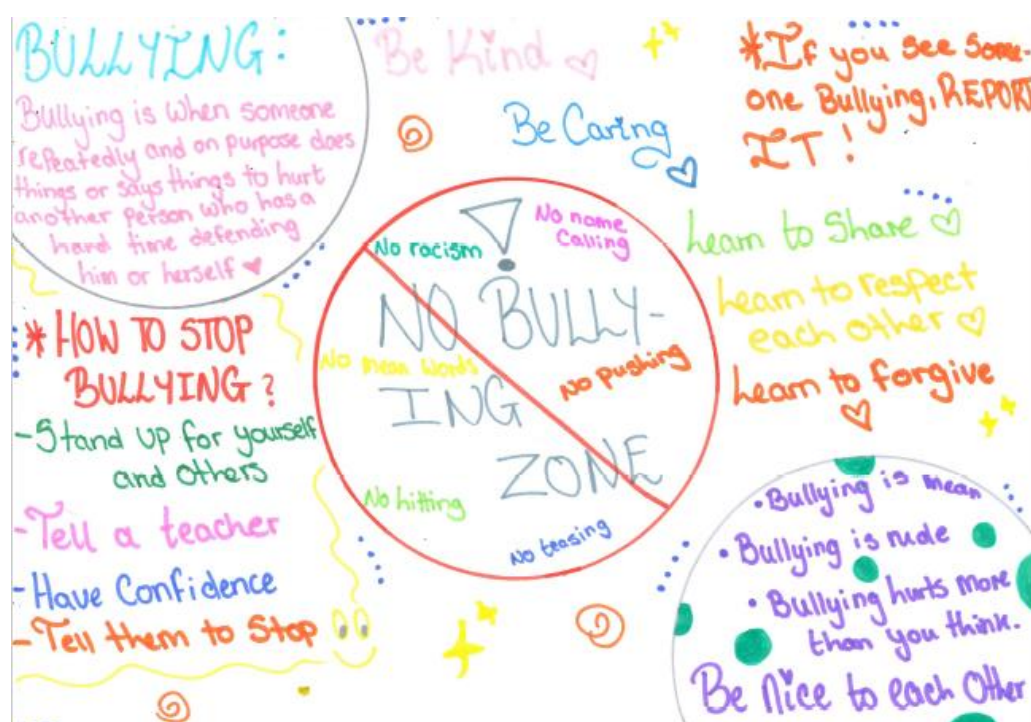
You might be able to connect.

If you make friends, they might stop.

Never rise to a bully.

Good people always get the last laugh.

Oshie (5S)



Mahalia (5L) – completed as extra homework.

Book illustration with Korky Paul

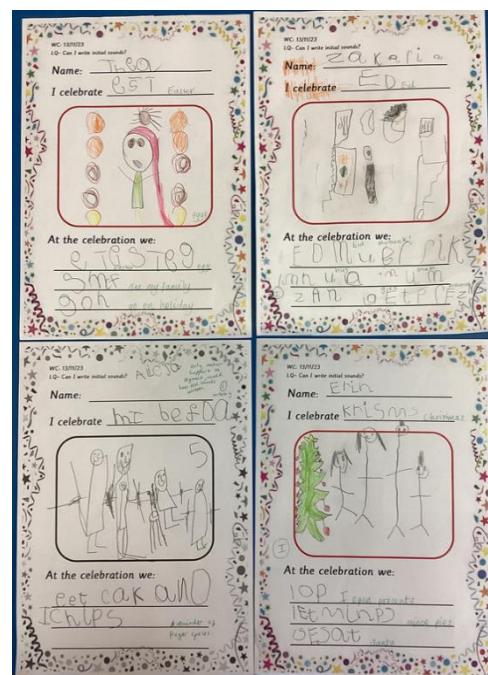
On Monday years 3 & 4 had the pleasure of having the most recent Winnie the Witch book read to them by the illustrator of the book Korky Paul! The children then helped Korky create a Winnie and Wilbur that we got to keep, it was such a fantastic experience yhat they children loved! Last year Korky got in touch with us and asked us to get the children to design a witch that celebrated our difference, the creative team sent Korky 60 drawings that the children created focusing on celebrating our diversity. From the 60 drawings Korky and his team selected 28 drawings to appear in the end papers of the book. The Creative team couldn't be prouder, and Korky couldn't stop raving about what a talent bunch of children we have at Torridon. Well done guys!!



Reception Learning

Reception started the week looking at our odd socks! We talked about how we are all unique, different and how that makes us special.

We continued learning about our topic 'Lets Celebrate!' and discussed all the different occasions we celebrate, like birthdays, Christmas, Eid, Diwali and many others!

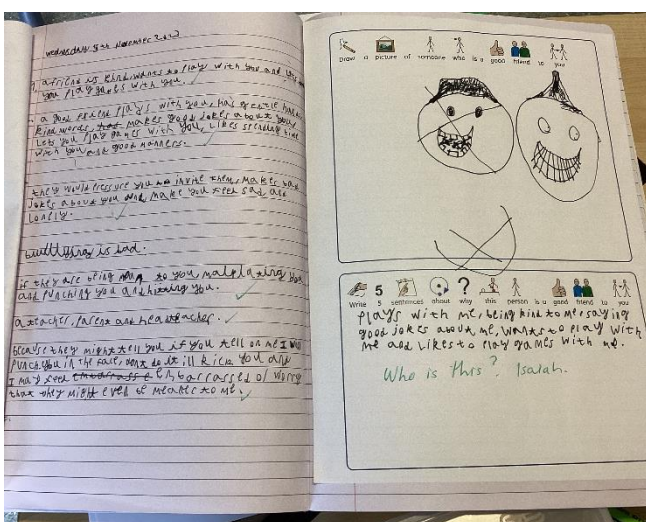


Resource Base – Social Skills

Resource Base enjoyed having their weekly library time. We have a focus in the resource base on developing children's enjoyment of books and developing a love of reading.



For anti-bullying week we have looked at friendship and explored social stories on how we know when someone is a good friend to us and how they would treat us. We have also looked at how we can recognise when someone is being unkind to us and putting pressure on us to do things, we do not want to do. With the year 6 SEND group we have been making comic strips about situations when bullying may occur and exploring what bullying may look like, sound like and feel like and who we can tell to stop it.



Year 1 – Computing

Be nies to your frens!

Just stop...

being unkind!

Nefer hit cids

Just stop

Nefer hurt cids!

Always...

Nefer poosh cids
Ceep your hands and feet to your self
Ollwais be nies

Written by Kyrie ~ Illustrated by Samantha

Don't be a bully!

Just stop...

being unkind!

Don't hit others

dont push people

Don't say bad words

Always...

always be kind others
Always very good lisner

By ~ Ola

Never bulea people

Just stop...

being unkind!

Be kind to uver people!

help!

Always...

Never bulea people so they ar happee

By ~ Darcey, Nia and Kasper

Year 1 has been talking about bullying this week. We have discussed what bullying is and what we should do if we see it happening. We also used our computing skills to make some anti-bullying posters. Have a look!

Year 2 - Geography

This week year 2 have enjoyed learning about the weather. We compared the climate in England and Kenya and discussed how England has 4 different seasons which can result in a variety of different weathers throughout the year. However, with Kenya being so close to the equator, it does not have weather that is as varied as England as it is always hot in Kenya. Take a look at our wonderful learning...

England

Monday 17th November 2023

Q: Can I discuss the climate in different countries?

A: England is a huge area of land with many countries.

A: England is land where a person lives.

The teacher tells us what it's like outside each day e.g. raining or sun shining.

A: I worked out by looking at weather patterns in one area over many years.

A desert climate is very dry and hot because it hardly ever rains.

Climate change

In England there are 4 seasons. In winter the ground is cold and snow. In spring it starts to get warmer. In summer it's hot and sunny. In autumn it's cooler and the leaves fall. The weather is always changing.

Kenya

In Kenya it is very hot. In Kenya it is hot all year round because it is close to the equator.

Compare England

Monday 17th November 2023

Q: Can I discuss the climate in different countries?

A: England is a huge area of land with many countries.

A: England is land where a person lives.

The teacher tells us what it's like outside each day e.g. raining or sun shining.

A: I worked out by looking at weather patterns in one area over many years.

A desert climate is very dry and hot because it hardly ever rains.

Climate change

In England there are 4 seasons. In winter it's cold and snowy. In spring it starts to get warmer. In summer it's hot and sunny. In autumn it's cooler and the leaves fall. The weather is always changing.

Kenya

In Kenya it is very hot. In Kenya it is hot all year round because it is close to the equator.

Year 3 - French

Salut tout le monde, ce trimestre à l'école dans la classe 3, nous avons appris différents noms d'animaux et à compter en français ! Au revoir!

Hi everyone, this term at school in year 3 we have been learning different animal names and counting in French! Bye!

un cochon



un lapin



un mouton



un singe



un lion



un oiseau



une vache

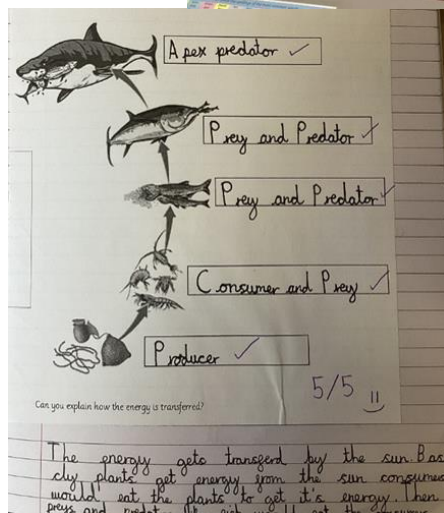


un canard

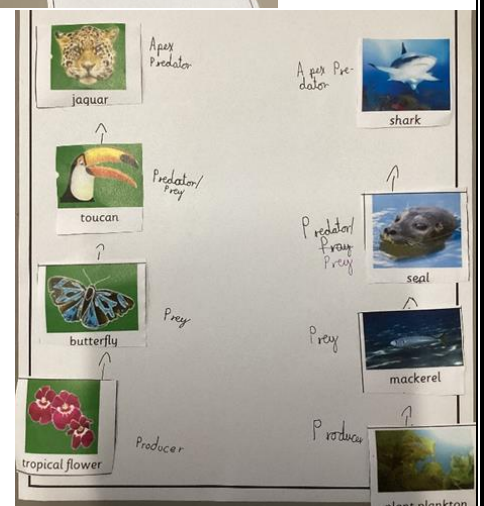


Year 4 – Science

Year 4 have been investigating how to construct and interpret food chains. We had fun sorting 24 different living things into the natural habitats of which they belong. After that, we sorted them a different way, into two groups: producers and consumers. We used the knowledge that we had learned in our previous lesson about what these two terms mean. Finally, our last task was to make food chains that would belong in each habitat, identify which living things were predators, prey and producers.

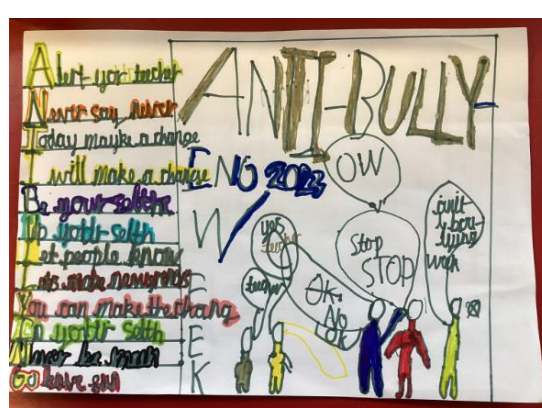
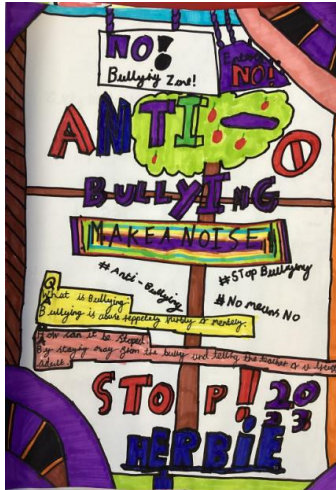


We stretched our learning further with a final task to consider how human behaviour can affect the living things in a food chain.



Year 5 - PSHE

In Year 5, in the light of Anti-Bullying week we have been discussing about what bullying is and how as a school and individuals we should be committed in creating a positive and inclusive environment. We created posters about Anti-Bullying week to raise awareness and take a stand against bullying through creative expression.



Year 5 – Trip to St Andrew's Church

Year 5 will be visiting St Andrews Church on Tuesday 21st November where they will receive a talk from a member of the ministry team. This trip is to support their current learning in R.E. The children will then watch the Torridon Primary string ensemble perform! They will have lunch at school and walk to the church therefore no payment or packed lunch is required.

Year 6 – Poster Campaign

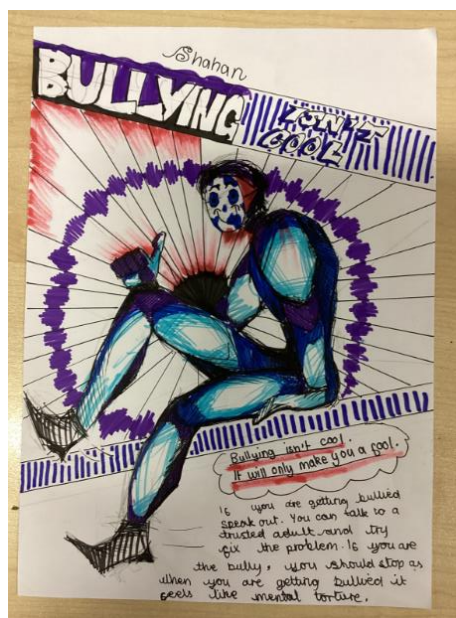
Year 6 have created an anti-bullying poster campaign 'Be a Hero not a Bully' in line with the national Anti-Bullying week campaign of 'Make a Noise about bullying'.

***If you or anyone has experienced bullying, to be a hero,
you must report it as soon as possible to a trusted adult.***

No one has the right to bully ANYONE. - Cayden 6L

If you are being subjected to bullying, try and SPEAK OUT.

***If you are the bully, you should stop, think and put
yourself in the other person's shoes. - Shahan 6L***



Year 6 also participated in the 1000 burpees challenge set by the organisers of Children In Need.



St Andrew's Church Tree Festival

Our art team have been very busy finalising the Torridon Christmas Tree to display at St Andrew's Church Tree Festival. It will be being displayed from 20th November - 26th November. The opening times are below, so if you are passing pop in and see the creation! Our string ensemble will be playing at the church on **Tuesday afternoon at 2:00pm.**

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival

20th - 26th November 2023



Torridon School community is warmly invited to St Andrew's first ever Christmas Tree festival. The church will be transformed into a sparkly grotto of 27 trees decorated by local organisations, businesses and local schools – including Torridon!

Open each day throughout the week, a variety of groups will be performing – Torridon's string ensemble is on Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. On the main festival day, Saturday 25th November, mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the church, along with festive activities and stalls in the church Hall and Corbett Library. Hopefully Santa will join us!

Pop by to kick off the holiday season and get in the festive spirit!

Opening hours:

Monday 20th	2-5pm	
Tuesday 21st	2-5pm	2pm – Torridon String Ensemble
Wednesday 22nd	10am-1pm 6-9pm	7:30-8:30pm – Music by candlelight
Thursday 23rd	10-11am	Singalong Sally
Friday 24th	2-5pm	2pm – Sandhurst School Choir
Saturday 25th	10am-6pm	Main Festival 12-12:30pm – Bring Me Sunshine 1-3pm – Bromley Concert Band
Sunday 26th	10am	Family service

Stars Of The Week

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Devarni	For settling so well into the Nursery routines after being away from Nursery and for playing so nicely with his friends. Well done, Devarni 😊
Nursery AM	Thivani	For being more confident when speaking during carpet and group sessions. Well done, Thivani 😊
Nursery PM	Aurora	For being kind to her friends and playing nicely with everyone. Well done, Aurora 😊
Blue Class	Alicja	For working so hard on her writing and always being a fantastic role model! 😊
Red Class	Brandon	For showing kindness to all the children in reception and trying his best in his learning. Well done and keep it up!
Yellow Class	Asia	For always being kind and helpful to others and always trying her best. Well done!
1M	Erin	For her fantastic storytelling this week. She has tried her best and has been able to retell the Little Turtle with expression. Well done, Erin! J
1N	Penny	For making us proud with her positive attitude to learning and growing confidence and independence. 😊
1W	Bernice	For always aiming for excellence in all lessons. This week in particular, she has helped others to achieve their best too. Well done Bernice! 😊
2S	Amir	For making a real effort in his writing this week! It has been so lovely to see you take such pride and care with your learning. Well done, Amir! 😊
2SW	Aamarah	For having such a positive attitude towards her learning! She always tries her best to improve her writing and make it even better! Well done, Aamarah! 😊
2V	Malinda	For writing an amazing recount of a known story. Well don and keep it up. 😊
3A	Vivian	Imaginative writing for her adaptation of Rhythm of the Rain.
3G	Denver	Wonderful writing. Well done Denver for producing some amazing work.
3S	Rakaiah-Renae	For always having a 'can do' attitude towards her learning. Thank you for your wonderful role play in our science learning. You are a star!
4A	Max	For massive improvement in his swimming good attitude to learning
4L	Nanshika	for always helping others without being asked, excellent manners and attitude to learning.
4S	Serhjo	For an amazing improvement in attitude to his learning in reading, handwriting, maths and more. Well done Serhjo!
5C	Alyssia	For her lovely contributions in class this week whilst learning about figurative language. Well done!
5L	Tyler-Rae	For always having an excellent attitude towards your learning. You always produce learning of a high standard – well done!
5S	Acacia	For consistently showing positive attitude towards her learning, which is truly commendable, reflecting her commitment to her growth. Her dedication is evident in the consistently high- quality learning she produces. Well done!
6A	Mihir	For his intelligent contributions towards our learning about 'The Partitioning of India and Pakistan in 1947' and sharing his diverse knowledge with others.
6C	Lakshan	For being an excellent role model to others. You always listen carefully and work hard in all lessons. You should be proud of your efforts – well done!
6L	Paris	For showing a positive attitude towards her learning. She goes above and beyond in her learning daily - at home and in class. Well done!
RB Blue	Lotanna	Well done for improving the presentation of your learning this week.
RB Green	Joshua	Well done for eating all of your lunch and for fantastic writing in Year 1.

Torridon Boys' Football Team

The Torridon boys' football team started their season on Saturday and experienced everything football has to offer within their two matches! After just one training session, their first match against Childeric proved that it will take more than their individual skills alone to compete against the best teams in Lewisham. A nervous start to the match resulted in conceding three goals in the first half against an extremely talented team. Emotions were high, but our boys did not give in. Although they didn't manage to score, they did begin to work together to create better chances. Whilst keeping more possession of the ball, along with some clinical defending, their opponents failed to score in the second half. Final score: Childeric 3-0 Torridon.

Our boys continued to improve in their second match against Stillness and their free-flowing passing along with sheer determination led to their first goal of the year! Leading 1-0 at half time, the boys were elated but knew they had to dig deep to secure a win. Their confidence continued to grow in the second half and whilst keeping possession and communicating better, they produced two more outstanding goals! Stillness nearly had the final say towards the end but a great save from Tavarie meant they earned their first clean sheet of the season. Final score Torridon 3-0 Stillness.

A first half loss, a second half draw, three goals, their first clean sheet and a win - all in one day! Well done to the boys who persevered through a tough start and for all their efforts on the day. Thank you to the families and friends for your support, and to Anthony for meeting us there and supporting the team through their training, preparation, and matches.

Please note that the next training session for the boys was planned for Friday 24th November but this will not take place as it is an INSET day. Their next matches will still be on Saturday 25th November.

Good luck to our girls' team who are up next! They have their first matches this Saturday 18th November.

Forest School Donations



We need Welly boots!!

If your child has grown out of their welly boots we will happily make use of them at Forest school.

**We are looking for sizes
8,9,10,11,12,13,1,2,3,4!**



If you have any to donate please drop them off at the school gates or office in a bag marked

FAO:KELLEY



Enviromental Team of Lewisham Council

Download the Love Clean Streets app today

You can use the Love Clean Streets app to report street cleaning issues in your area, such as:

- Fly-tipping
- Graffiti
- Abandoned vehicles
- Road or pavement problems
- Dog fouling

Search
'Love Clean Streets'
in your app store
or visit
lovecleanstreets.com



We are very keen to work with Tenants, Residents and Local Schools to improve their Area.





The easy way to report issue to the Council is via the Love Clean Streets smartphone app or the Cleaner Lewisham Web site These are fully integrated with Lewisham back-office systems.

The Big Ambition

The Big Ambition is a survey to hear from all children and young people in England aged between 6 and 18 years old. Adults can answer on behalf of a child or young person aged up to 18. The meaning of this survey is to take children and young people's views to the Government. If you would like to take part, please click on the link: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the_big_ambition/



Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	95%		3A	96%		5C	92%	
1N	95%		3G	86%		5L	94%	
1W	96%		3S	91%		5S	98%	
2S	98%		4A	100%		6A	92%	
2SW	93%		4L	93%		6C	96%	
2V	98%		4S	97%		6L	99%	

Well done to all the classes who won for the highest attendance!
A big congratulations to 4A who achieved 100% 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	50
Tuesday	43
Wednesday	40
Thursday	42
Friday	31

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

Challenge Greenhouse



Thank you to all who have donated their empty 2 litre plastic bottles this week-so far, we have collected 226!

Only 1274 to go!!



Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 18 th November	9.00 Girls Football Match
Week beginning 20 th November	Road Safety Week
Monday 20 th November	Year 4 trip to the Barbican – London Symphony Orchestra
Tuesday 21 st November	Year 2 trip to London Zoo
	Year 5 trip to St Andrews Church
	2.00 String Ensemble performance at St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival
Thursday 23 rd November	PTA Non Uniform Day
	5.00 meeting for Y1 parents and carers – Phonics Screening Check
Friday 24 th November	INSET DAY
Saturday 25 th November	9.00 Boys Football Match
Week beginning 27 th November	Disability awareness week
Saturday 2 nd December	9.00 Girls Football Match
Week beginning 4 th December	Whole school assessment week
Tuesday 5 th December	Resource Base trip – Bowling Festival
	Whole school art exhibition (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)
Wednesday 6 th 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 th December	School Disco (PTA event)
Saturday 9 th December	9.00 Boys Football Match
Monday 11 th December	Y3/4 Athletics Tournament
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 4 to National Maritime Museum
Wednesday 13 th December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Performance
	Y5/6 Athletics Tournament
Thursday 14 th December	9.00 Year 1 Christmas assembly
	2.45 Year 2 Christmas assembly
Friday 15 th December	9.00 Year 3 Christmas assembly
	2.45 Year 4 Christmas assembly
Monday 18 th December	9.00 Year 5 Christmas assembly
	2.45 Year 6 Christmas assembly
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas jumper day
	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 20 th December	Last day of term – 2pm finish
Thursday 21 st December to Friday 5 th January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 8 th January	First day of spring term



Girls' Soccer School



GIRLS EVERY SATURDAY
SOCCER SCHOOL
12:15PM - 1:15PM
STARTING NOVEMBER 25TH!

LOCATION: BALLERS 3G PITCH, KANGLEY BRIDGE ROAD, LOWER SYDENHAM, LONDON SE26 5AQ

ALL OF OUR COACHES ARE:
✓ FA QUALIFIED
✓ DBS CHECKED
✓ CHILD SAFEGUARDING TRAINED

£7 PER SESSION
AGES: 6-14 **ALL ABILITIES**
2 WEEK FREE TRIAL
0207 1013 652
@BALLERSSPORTSCOACHING
admin@ballerssportscoaching.com



Lewisham Foodbank Calendar

Our Reverse Advent Calendar is a great opportunity to encourage young people to think about giving as well as receiving. We are feeding around 600 people per week so every tin really does help.

Here's a link to download the calendar:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:eu:04035e65-eac9-47af-a01e-ed55992d810c>



LEWISHAM FOODBANK
HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Christmas Events

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival
20-26 November

Mon	Tue	Fri
2-5pm	2-5pm	2-5pm

Wed 10-1pm & 6-9pm
Thu 10-1pm & 2-5pm
Sat 25th - 10am-6pm

Activities:
Tuesday Terriden School Ensemble
Wednesday Music by candlelight
Thursday Singalong Sally
Friday Sandhurst School Choir
Saturday 23rd - Bring the Sunshine & Brumley Concert Band & Santa
Sunday 10am family service

SEE SOCIALS FOR TIMES | 27+ TREES | ADMISSION FREE
CHRISTMAS FAVER SAT 25th - CAFE | CRAFT | STALLS
HOT CHOCOLATE | MULLET WINE | MINCE PIES | TONGOLA and more!

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
info@bankofthings.org

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?

Drop into Unit 19, Monday to Friday 10-5pm
To donate £10, text ZCNW02 to 7019

Winter Water Safety

Winter water safety

In winter, children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water, and adults can find themselves at risk in attempting to save them.

Taking a nice walk in cold weather with your family, friends or dogs in tow can be really refreshing, just make sure you know some simple tips on how to stay safe in winter.

Here are some useful tips to keep safe this winter:



KEEP BACK FROM THE EDGE

Keep back from slippery banks.

Stick to well-lit areas and plan your walks in daylight or along well-lit paths.

Never go onto the ice.



KEEP CHILDREN AND DOGS WITHIN REACH

Teach children not to go onto ice.

Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.

If out enjoying a winter walk, walk with friends.



Enjoy Water **Safely**



IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE FLOAT AND CALL FOR HELP.

Stay calm, float on your back and call for help.

Wait for help and keep as still as possible.

Preserve heat by pressing your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.

Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



CALL 999

Do not enter cold water or ice to rescue.

Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

Online Safety

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself, from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech website theinquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday