



Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

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3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back - I hope you had a lovely half term! It was wonderful to come back to school and see the new trees planted in the playground and woodland area. Thank you to Chloe Good and the Street Trees for Living team for all their hard work.

The weather has definitely taken an autumnal turn this week. Please make sure children's outdoor clothing coats, hats, scarves etc are labelled clearly with their names.

Thank you to those who were able to join Becki for our Early Reading workshop this week. I hope you found it helpful. If you were not able to attend, you can find the slides on your child's MS Teams account. Do get in touch with Becki if you have any questions about our E-library system.

We were very lucky to have a visit today from Kai Whyte – BMX Champion and Olympic Medal Winner. The children in the Resource Base have been learning all about him during Black History Month. They were so excited to meet him in real life. He even let them wear his medal!

I am looking forward to meeting with you on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November** to hear your ideas and suggestions for how we tackle the issues around parking, idling and unsafe driving around the school. Thank you to those who have already emailed your thoughts. This is a serious issue for us all and I hope to see as many of you as possible next week.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Manda George

Headteacher



## Pre-winter Gardening Session - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November

A reminder that the Green Team is holding a **Gardening Session this Saturday from 1-4pm**. Any time you can offer is much appreciated. There are over a hundred bulbs to plant, lots of garden beds to tidy up ahead of winter and a mud kitchen to turn - so plenty to get on with! **Please bring any gardening tools you have and a bucket - and be prepared for rain!** The more the merrier, so do spread the word. Children welcome. Hot drinks and biscuits provided.

For planning purposes, please RSVP to [friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com). Many thanks for your support!



## Dogs On The Playground

We respectfully ask that you do not bring your dog onto the playground. Pick up is a very busy time of day. We have a number of children with allergies and we do not want to run the risk of dog poo on the playground. Some children are afraid of dogs and if a nervous child runs or screams, a dog may think it is a game and get overexcited. This can add to the child's and the dog's anxiety.

Only assistance dogs and dogs being used for education purposes are allowed onto school premises.

Thank you for your co-operation.



## Challenge Greenhouse



We are going to build our own Greenhouse!

We just need 1500 2l plastic bottles to make it happen!!

We are teaching the children of the importance of recycling and protecting our planet while creating an area to grow our own produce at school so please bring any empty 2l plastic bottles into school for us to use.

Bottles can be handed in at school gates or handed into the school office from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you for your support!

## Unsafe Parking



Thank you all parents and carers that are making sure they park safely during pick-ups and drop-offs. We encourage everyone to avoid parking across driveways or on yellow lines to avoid accidents.

**WALK, SCOOT OR CYCLE TO SCHOOL IF YOU CAN!**

## Christmas Card Orders

Many thanks to everyone that has ordered Christmas Cards and other items through the APFS Christmas Card design scheme. We are delighted to tell you that we had just over 200 orders and have raised £455 in fundraising for Friends of Torridon PTA towards the Outdoor Learning Space. Your items will be delivered to school and handed to your child to bring home in 2 weeks.

Many thanks

Friends of Torridon PTA.



## Tea Towel Fundraiser



# 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!





# EYFS Forest School



We have had our first Forest School visit this week. We had so much fun exploring!



## Reception Phonics and Early Reading Workshop

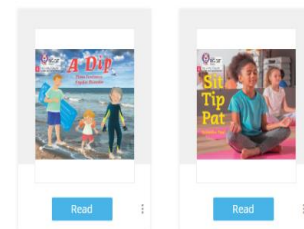
Thank you to all that were able to come to the phonics and early reading workshop, I hope it was helpful. If you were unable to attend, please find the PowerPoint uploaded on Teams. The children in reception have engaged so well with their phonics learning and we are really impressed with their progress.

Once children in reception are secure in blending, they will read a book at their instructional level in a small group three times a week. The book that your child has read during the week will then be set as home learning on our e-reader. To access the book, you will need to use the following website and information:

**Web link:** <https://ebooks.collinsopenpage.com/>

**Username:** uktorri + first name + surname\*, e.g.  
uktorribeckipalermo

**Password:** Reading1



\*Please note that special characters such as apostrophes or hyphens are not included in usernames. If your child's name contains these characters, you will not need to enter them.

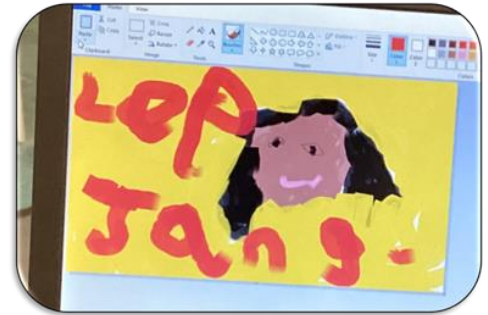
Once you have logged in, you will be able to view all reading books which have been set for your child: see right. Please listen to your child practise reading this book and ask them questions to check their understanding. This is an essential part of children's home learning in reception.



## Year 1 – Computing



In computing this week, Year 1 have been developing their mouse skills. We carefully drew self-portraits on Paint. Have a look!



## Year 2 - Maths



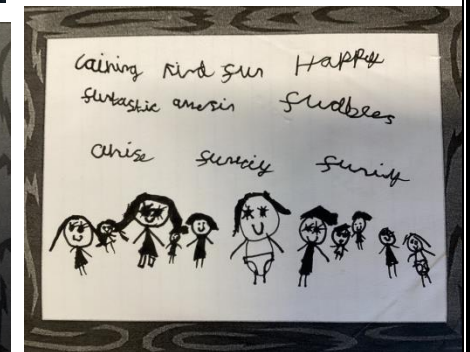
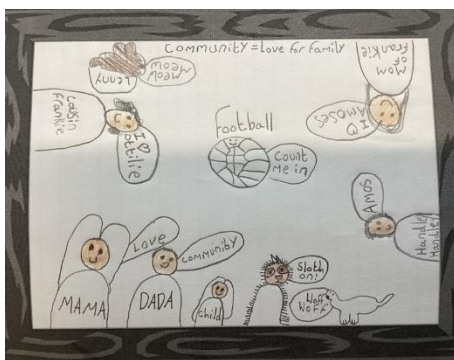
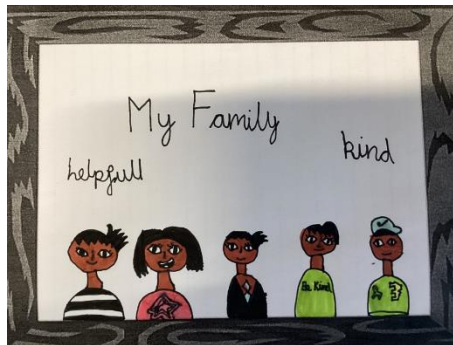
This week in Year 2, we have had lots of fun learning how to read and show the time on an analogue clock. We made different times on a clock to see how accurately we could show the time. We worked carefully to make sure that the minute hand and the hour hand were in the right position on the clocks. After that, we practiced using time vocabulary that we learned in our maths sessions to show o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. Some of us even began to explore five minute intervals.





## Year 3 – PSHE

In PSHE this half term we are going to be celebrating differences. We have been thinking about people who are special to us and how our families are all different.

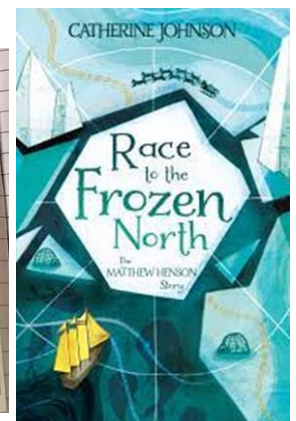


## Year 4 – Geography

In year 4, we started our 'Discovering the Ice Caps' theme by using our geographical skills to learn about lines of latitude. To do this, we looked at globes and gathered knowledge from different sources to prove whether a set of statements about lines of latitude were true or false. We also, furthered our learning about the North and South Poles and the similarities and differences between them. We will use this information to improve our writing this term, which is inspired by Race to the Frozen North, which is a remarkable true story about Matthew Henson's expedition to the North Pole.



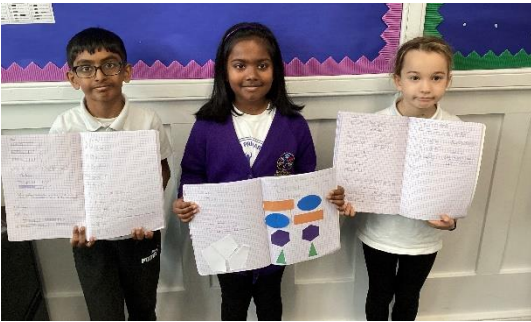
Please use your knowledge and notes made from other sources to tick whether a statement is true or false. Use the evidence box to prove your answer.			
Statement	True	False	Evidence (proof)
Lines of latitude are parallel		✓	Because the shape of the earth is round so the lines of latitude are smaller as they go to the poles. Because the shape of the earth is round so some are small some are big. Because the Equator is in the middle.
Lines of latitude are always the same length	✓	✓	The lines of latitude go around the earth.
The equator is neither north nor south	✓		The tropic of cancer is above so it's North.
Lines of latitude run vertically up and down the earth		✓	Europe is in the North and the UK is in Europe.
The tropic of cancer is south of the equator		✓	
The United Kingdom is in the northern hemisphere	✓		





# Year 5 Learning

Year 5 had fun starting a new maths topic of 'fractions' this week. They have already looked at parts and wholes as well as exploring equivalent fractions!

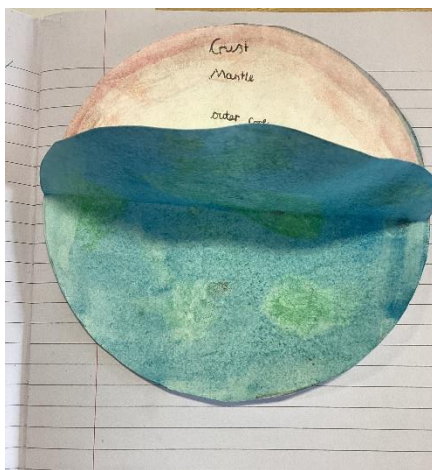
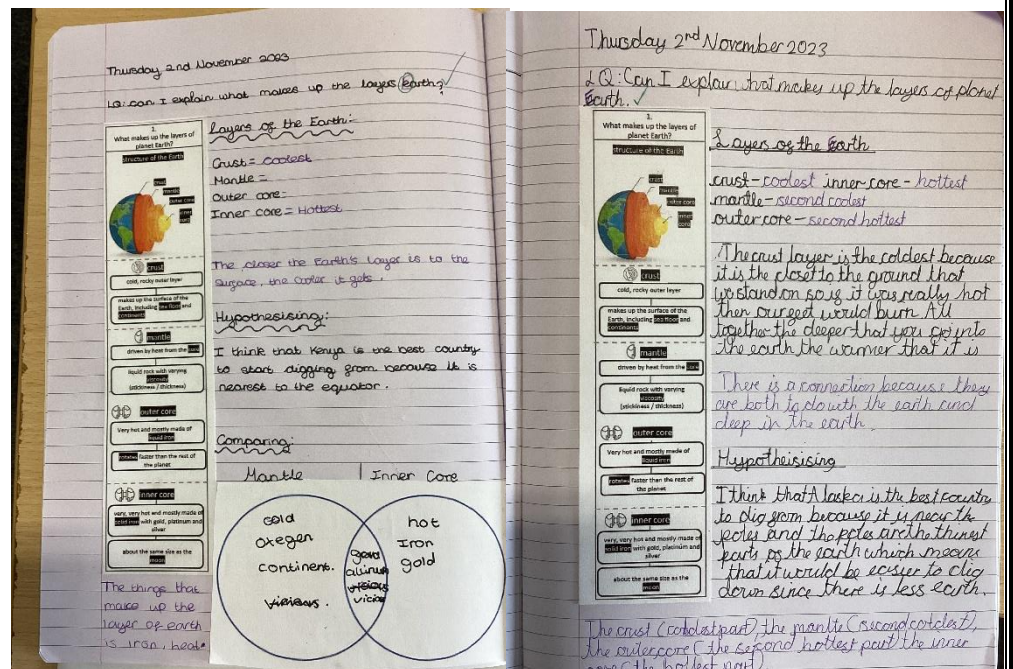


In Geography, children compared lines of longitude and latitude. Additionally, they used atlases to locate countries and explained how their proximity to the equator might affect their climate.



# Year 6 – Geography

Year 6 have been learning about the layers of the Earth in Geography, and have used the skills of hypothesising and comparison.



"The closer the layer is to the surface the cooler each layer becomes. The farthest away from the surface the hotter the layer becomes." - Trayvon 6L

## Resource Base



Children in the Resource Base were excited to meet with Kye Whyte who visited us as we were learning about him for black history month. He spoke about his BMX riding and training for the Olympics. The children then had a question-and-answer session with him and all had their pictures taken with him.



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

PTA Non Uniform Day – Thursday, 23 November

Suggested donation: £1

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

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

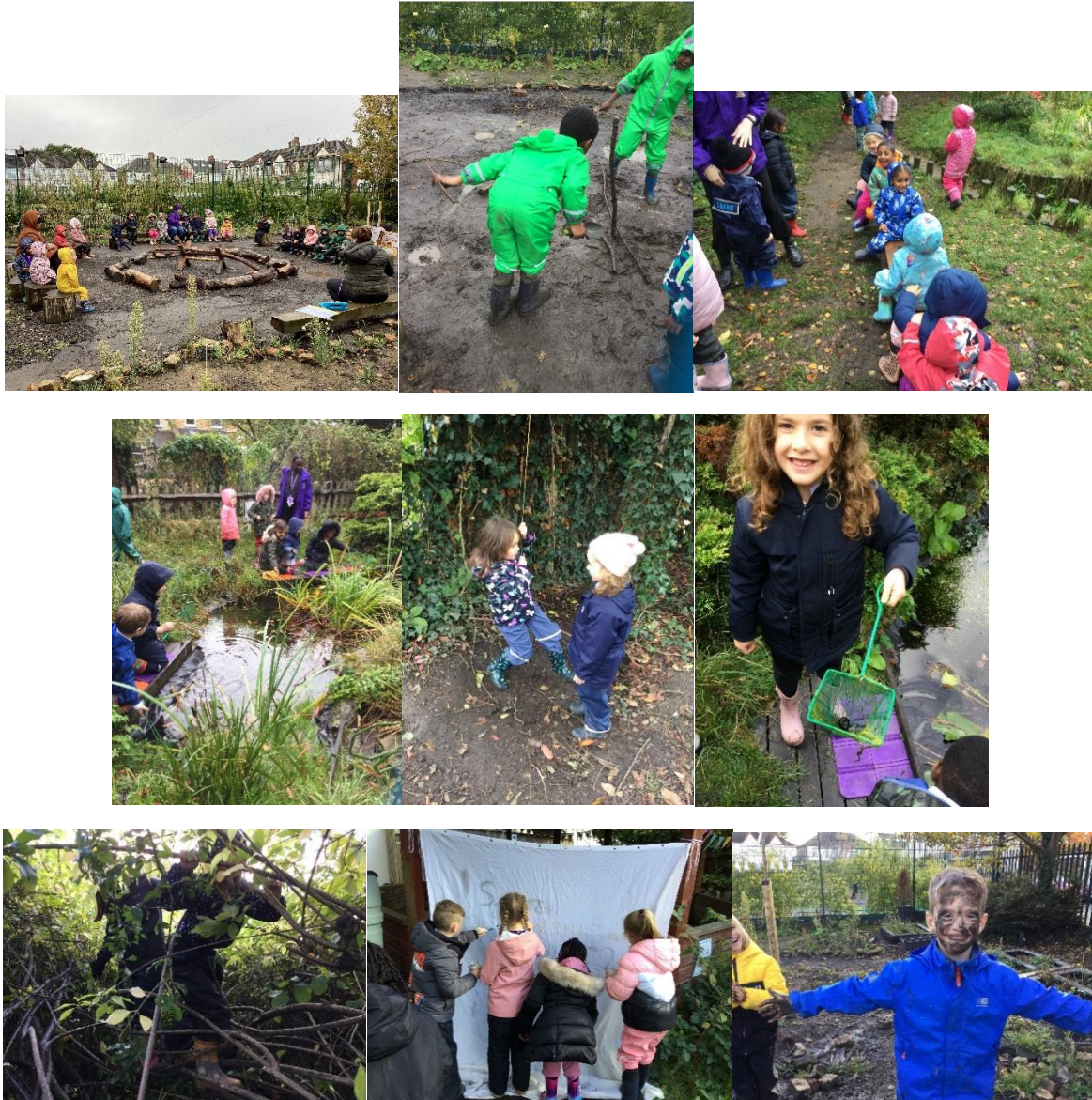




# Forest School

What a fantastic week it has been starting our full timetable in the woodland.

The children from Nursery, Reception , Green Pathway and Year 2 all braved the extreme weather and had an amazing time exploring our ever growing woodland.



It is clear to see how much fun we have had this week, and how muddy we have got!!



# Saturday League and Training Dates

For all the match days listed below, children will meet at Blackheath at 9:15am, play 2 matches and will finish at 12:00pm. All matches are weather dependent and we will update you via text message if matches have to be cancelled.

## Match Days:

Saturday 4th November: girls' matches

Saturday 11th November: boys' matches

Saturday 18th November: girls' matches

Saturday 25th November: boys' matches

Saturday 2nd December: girls' matches

Saturday 9th December: boys' matches



Training sessions will all take place in school on Fridays from 3:30-4:30.

Training dates in school are as follows:

Friday 3rd November: girls' training

Friday 10th November: boys' training

Friday 17th November: girls' training

Friday 24th November: boys' training

Friday 1st December: girls' training

Friday 8th December: boys' training

# Christmas Tree Festival







# Stars of The Week






Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Joshua	For amazing name writing this week, Well done, Joshua 😊
Nursery AM	Stephanie	For joining in with the carpet sessions. Well done, Stephanie 😊
Nursery PM	Mariam	For being kind and playing nicely with her friends. Well done, Mariam 😊
Blue Class	Adil	For growing in confidence so much this term, sharing his ideas with the whole class! Well done Adil!
Red Class	Ellie	For her new positive attitude and managing her emotions. Well done Ellie 😊
Yellow Class	Praniga	She has grown in confidence and is joining in with class discussions. She is kind to others. Well done!
1M	Leonardo	For his excellent effort and his growing confidence in his writing. Leo is using his phonics to decode words and is making lovely progress! 😊
1N	Dumitrita	For always greeting us with a friendly smile, for always being kind and considerate to others and for working on her writing.
1W	Kylan	For always being the first to check if others are okay. He enjoys helping adults and peers across the school. Continue to be such a caring and considerate role model.
2S	Evie	For her wonderful effort in all of her learning this week! Your contributions during our carpet discussions have been fantastic too! Keep it up Evie 😊
2SW	Emmanuel	He has fantastic listening skills! Emmanuel is always doing the right thing, he is a great role model! Well done Emmanuel! 😊
2V	Daisy	For using adventurous vocabulary when writing a postcard about her safari adventure! 😊
3A	Keliah	For writing fantastic sentences using a range of exciting verbs and adverbs, based around our text 'Rhythm of the Rain'. Amazing work, Keliah!
3G	Christian	For settling into 3G so well. Keep up the positive attitude towards learning.
3S	Ramata	For having a fantastic start at Torridon. Well done, keep it up.
4A	Amy	For showing aspiration in all of her learning. Well done and keep it up Amy!
4L	Ayaan M	For his perseverance in swimming and trying his best to progress!
4S	Otis	For always aspiring to do his very best in every lesson and for using his initiative to present and organise his learning in a beautiful way.
5C	Muhammed J	For showing fantastic focus and participation in group sessions. Well done!
5L	William	For an improvement in your engagement this term. You are answering questions and participating in discussions. Well done!
5S	Malik	For being a fantastic role model in 5S by always doing the right thing and being kind and respectful. Well done!
6A	Nik	For settling well into the school community and and working hard to learn English language by completing his learning; displaying our core value of aspiration.
6C	Yasmine	For always aspiring to do your best. You always try hard in all lessons, and you are a kind and considerate member of 6C – well done.
6L	Grace	For being a fantastic role model for the class. You consistently maintain a positive and conscientious attitude to your learning. Well done!
RB Blue	Isaiah	Well done for being more independent and producing fantastic work this week.
RB Green	Haroon	Well done for giving us such big smiles and engagement this week!

# Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Gardening afternoon – 1pm – 4pm (PTA event)
	9.00 Girls Football Match
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Y5/6 Basketball Tournament
	Black History Month Workshops
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	9.00 Meeting for parents and carers re: road safety and traffic pollution
	5.00 Meeting for Y4 parents and carers – Multiplication Tables Check
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 – illustrator visit
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Resource Base to Panathlon Sports Festival
	Unity trip to Royal Opera House to see Ballet Black rehearsal
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – non uniform day. Wear something spotty!
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 by Class

Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	98%		3A	96%		5C	96%	
1N	88%		3G	91%		5L	94%	
1W	98%		3S	97%		5S	95%	
2S	96%		4A	99%		6A	98%	
2SW	99%		4L	93%		6C	93%	
2V	97%		4S	96%		6L	96%	

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

For our children to achieve their potential, it is essential that they are in school on time every day. If your child arrives after gates close at 8.55am, he/she is late for school. Registers close at 9.05am, so if your child arrives to school after 8.55am, our staff will ask the reason for lateness.

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

## Creative Writing

The BBC are holding a creative writing competition and we would love for you to take part.

We are encouraging you to use your creativity and imagination to write a story that you would love to read without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation or grammar. We want you to be as creative as you can and make us laugh, cry or just be blown away by what we are reading.

There are a very few rules on 500 words but a few points to remember:

All the stories **must**:

- Be 500 words or less (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be prose, not rap or poem

All stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

*If you would like to take part, please give your creative writing entries to Claudia by Tuesday 7th November. These will then be sent from Torridon. Alternatively, you can send your entries directly to the BBC by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. The address and more information are available on the BBC website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/about-500-words/zctk7v4>*

# A Big Thank You From Lewisham FoodBank!



## *Certificate of thanks*

Lewisham Foodbank  
would like to thank

Torridon Primary School



for the kind donation of  
49.8 kg  
of food and donations



for Harvest 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley".

Signed:

Project Manager

Date:

3 November 2023



# Lewisham Support



## LEWISHAM AUTISM SUPPORT

Support for families of children with a diagnosis of autism living in Lewisham

### What we offer:

- 1-hour clinic appointment with experienced Family Support Coordinators who provide support for parents/carers in:
  - Understanding more about autism.
  - Information about accessing local services and benefits.
- For families resident in Lewisham, access to ongoing support (Comeback Service).
- A drop-in service at Kaleidoscope on the first Monday of each month (term-time only) 10.00 – 12.00.

### How to access our service:

- Paediatricians and other Kaleidoscope diagnosing teams can automatically refer families after diagnosis. This includes families diagnosed at Kaleidoscope but living in other boroughs. These families will receive an initial 1-hour clinic only.
- We accept referrals from other professionals working with diagnosed children living in the borough.
- Families of diagnosed children can also self-refer.

### Contact details:

- Tel: 020 8699 3066
- Email: [lewisham.familysupport@nas.org.uk](mailto:lewisham.familysupport@nas.org.uk)



## Sharing REAL with Parents (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy)

A fun, 4-week course with crèche available  
Booking is essential!



### Would you like to

- Meet other parents and share ideas to support your child's early learning.
- Learn new ways to support your child's interest in books, early writing songs & rhymes.
- Find out how to make use of the print that is all around us.
- Take home free resources

### Come and join our free fun workshops!

FREE Crèche is available for under 5s only but needs to be booked in advance, places are limited.

### Where – 4 Weekly sessions

Ladywell Children's Centre Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov – 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 9.30-11.30

Eliot Bank Children's Centre Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov – 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 1.00-3.00

Downsview Children's Centre Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30-11.30

To book a place or for more information  
please contact

Angela Russell on

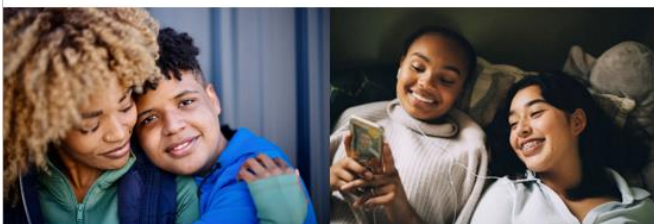
07432 739032 or 07342 023965

or email [arussell@ncb.org.uk](mailto:arussell@ncb.org.uk)



UNITED FOR A BETTER CHILDHOOD

## TALKING TEENS



Family Thrive Early Help Co-ordinators are running a free course for parents or carers of teenagers and pre-teens who are looking to better understand and communicate with them – It offers an opportunity to understand what's going on in the adolescent brain and how to understand their feelings and behaviours using an authoritative parenting style. Sessions will focus on relationships within the family, communication, negotiation, decision-making and strategies to reduce conflict.

### The group aims to develop:

- relationships between teenagers and parents/carers
- a calmer home life
- confidence when talking about difficult issues
- an understanding of teenage needs and development

### Who would be eligible to attend this course?

- Parents and carers of pre-teens and teenagers who are currently in years 5 & 7 but there may be availability for years 5 & 8
- There is no physical or extremely challenging behaviour present in or outside of the family home. This course focuses on the importance of empathy and positive discipline
- Family must reside in Lewisham borough or child must attend a Lewisham school

### How long is the course?

- Each group is 4 sessions over the course of 4 weeks
- 2 hours per session (10.00am-12.00pm on Thursdays)

For more information or to register your interest, please email our duty box:  
[EHCFamilyThrive@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:EHCFamilyThrive@lewisham.gov.uk)





# Clubs

**CHANGING LIVES DAILY**  
PRESENTS  
**FREE THAI BOXING SESSIONS**  
...we are here to support you.

**TBCC**  
Thai Boxing Community Centre

**FREE**  
**STARTS 1ST NOVEMBER 2023**  
**KIDS 6 - 12YRS**  
**MONDAY 5PM - 6PM**  
**TUESDAY 5PM - 6PM**  
**WEDNESDAY 5PM - 6PM**

Proud to be funded by  
**GO! LONDON**  
CHANGING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

FUNDED BY  
MAYOR OF LONDON  
LTF  
SPORT ENGLAND  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
LME LONDON MARATHON EVENTS 2023

**CATFORD BRANCH**  
@TBCC\_CATFORD  
LEVEL 1 FIRST FLOOR,  
UNIT 20 BELLINGHAM TRADING ESTATE,  
FRANTHORNE WAY, LONDON SE6 3BX

REGISTER ONLINE  
PRE BOOK  
24HRS  
IN ADVANCE

\*For further details contact Siggy 07419 774818 or Head Coach Sam 07552162638

[www.thaiboxingcommunitycentre.org](http://www.thaiboxingcommunitycentre.org)

**TRINITY LABAN**  
London's creative conservatoire

**Dance Ability**  
Book now for Autumn Block 2!

Come and experience the joy of dance in Dance Ability! A fun and creative weekly dance class, specifically designed for young dancers between learning ages 5 – 12 years with cognitive and/or physical disabilities, or who identify as neurodivergent.

Led by experienced inclusive dance artist, Vicki Busfield, Dance Ability uses props, music and movement to boost confidence, physicality and social interaction skills.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity for your child to explore their creativity and express themselves in a safe and supportive environment!

Day Saturdays  
Times  
13:15-14:00h for 5-6 years  
13:30-14:15h for 7-12 years  
All participants dance together from 13:30-14:00h  
Autumn Term Block 2 Dates 4 Nov-9 Dec  
Teacher Vicki Busfield  
Learning Ages 5-12  
Cost per session £9 / £3.50 (concession)  
Venue Laban Building, Creekeide, SE8 3DZ

Scan the QR code to find out more  
or email [childrensprogramme@trinitylaban.ac.uk](mailto:childrensprogramme@trinitylaban.ac.uk)

[trinitylaban.ac.uk/take-part](http://trinitylaban.ac.uk/take-part)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylaban) [i](https://www.instagram.com/trinitylaban) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/trinitylaban) [YouT](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqW0H0K0K0K0K0K0K0K0K0K) @trinitylaban

**YOUNG BALLERZ**  
LONDON SE

**PRESENTS**  
**BALLERZ SCHOOL**

**VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
BR2 0DA  
MONDAYS  
5.45PM-6.45PM

**SEDGEHILL ACADEMY**  
SE6 3QN  
TUESDAYS  
6PM-7PM

**1 WEEK FREE TRIAL**

MORE INFO AVAILABLE AT:  
**YOUNGBALLERZ.COM**



# Online Safety

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# X

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

### A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who 'promote denial and hatred'.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

### LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

### VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification, certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

## BLUE TICK SALE

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PROTECT PRIVACY

Unscrupulous characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

### DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

### STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

### ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account. If, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

### BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

### Meet Our Expert

David Cooper is a father in chief of gaming and esports who has been featured in the gaming media for around four years. David is eager to lend out his expert opinion, games and online trends, to help parents who are unsure about the reputation of online safety. Writing a story about tech and for real, his articles have been published in various online spaces including our own.



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