



Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

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28th March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I can't believe we have reached the end of the spring term already. Time has really flown by this term. We have finished with a wonderful science week. I am sure your children will have told you all about the fantastic workshops they had on Monday and all the investigations that have been taking place all week. It has been great fun, and there has been some amazing science learning taking place.

Thank you to all who came to support the Corbett Chase on Sunday. It was a really wonderful community event. Thank you to Emily and our wonderful PTA team for all the organisation and joint planning with Sandhurst.

The clocks go forward this weekend! Let's hope for some good weather for the Bank Holiday weekend and the coming weeks. To those celebrating Easter, I wish you a Happy Easter. To all those observing Ramadan, I wish you a peaceful and successful end to Ramadan and Eid Mubarak when it arrives.

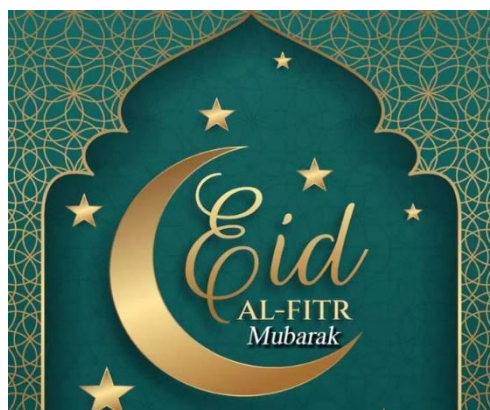
Whatever you are doing over the two week break, I hope you have fun. We look forward to seeing you back at school on **Monday 15th April**.

Best wishes

Warm wishes

Manda George

Headteacher



Corbett Chase Results

Community spirit was alive this weekend! A massive thanks and congratulations to you all for coming out early on Sunday morning, braving chilly temps, to make the 4th Corbett Chase another great success - even the sun appeared! It was great to do this event jointly again, starting at Torrington and finishing at Sandhurst.

Huge congratulations and thanks to Team Torrington for their fantastic efforts in our 4th Annual Corbett Chase last Sunday, from our 22 brilliant runners and walkers, both parents and staff, to our champion volunteers, who we couldn't have done this without. Special mention to the super speedy Joshua in Year 5 who came in 5th overall in the 10k, to our reigning 10k winner Tom Boswell, followed closely in 2nd place by Tom Steadman, and to staff member Amy Bonar, our top female 10k finisher. Finally, to our top half-marathon finisher James Webb, who narrowly missed out on 1st this year - watch this space!

Please do support their fantastic efforts, in aid of Torrington's iPad appeal: <https://gofund.me/c4218690>



Science Week - Workshops

Children from Reception up to year 6 had fantastic fun taking part in this week's science workshops from Einstein's Entertainers. The children were thrilled by all his amazing demonstrations, and it was a great way to start the week!



HAF Programme – SKIPZ Production

SKIPZ PRODUCTION CIC PRESENTS
EASTER
holiday and food programme
Tuesday 2nd April to Friday 5th April 2024
10am to 2 pm
Torridon Primary School,
Hazelbank Road, SE6 1TG
4 to 11 years old
FREE FOR FREE SCHOOL
MEALS CHILDREN
Lunch provided | Siblings welcome
Paying children welcome
In partnership with
Lewisham Council
For more information and to register,
please visit
<https://www.skipzproductions.org/skipzhflewisham>

Nursery – Easter Eggs

This week we have been celebrating Easter. The children have decorated Easter eggs, created their own Easter bunnies, and they made Rice Krispies Easter cakes.



Year 1 – Science Week

Year 1 have had lots of fun this week doing everything science! We made our own pendulum timers, explored adaptations in nature and made biodegradable plastic!



We learned about the scientist, Big Manny, and drew some portraits.



We also created our very own egg-shaped clocks using split pins.



Year 2 – Science Experiments

As part of science week, year 2 have been having lots of fun trying out some science experiments. We have been making rainbow volcanoes, rainbow water using skittles and changing the speed of a pendulum by adding different weights. It has been so much fun!



Year 3 - National Gallery

To finish off the term, we had a wonderful day out visiting the National Gallery and Trafalgar Square. First, we saw the painting 'Messengers' by Bridget Riley, who was our artist for International Women's Day. Then, we explored the gallery, which inspired us to do some of our own sketches. To finish off the trip, we climbed up the steps of Trafalgar Square to get up close to the famous, bronze lion statues. They reminded us of the book 'Katie in London' ... Did any of the lions come to life on our trip? We're keeping that a secret!



Year 4 – Science Week Volcanoes

Year 4 had lots of fun this week, making their own volcanoes using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. We worked in teams to think about all the variables that we could change and what we could measure and observe during the eruptions.

We decided that we wanted to investigate how the ratio of vinegar and bicarbonate of soda could affect the height of eruption and the size of the area covered by the 'lava.'



Year 5 – Earth's Rotation

In science, we have been learning how the Earth's rotation results in day and night. We've learnt that, when Britain faces the sun, it is daytime in Britain. The other side of the world is in darkness because it is not facing the sun. The rotation of the Earth on its axis is therefore what causes us to experience day and night within 24 hours.



Year 6 – Science Workshop

Year 6 had a wonderful experience watching the science workshop. He showed us science experiments such as: dry ice turning into smoke, how we can turn bubbles into fire and how his friend Bob (the ping pong ball) can defy gravity!



Yasmine and Amira- 6C



Resource Base Learning – Egg Hunt / Science Week

The resource base children had an Easter egg hunt around school this week. They worked in groups to find lots of eggs hidden in the playground and worked really hard on their teamwork and resilience skills!



Green Pathway have thoroughly enjoyed science week. We have been doing different experiments everyday including: fireworks in a jar, magic milk, colourful volcanoes and gigantic bubbles.



Forest School News

What a fantastic term we have had at forest school! It has been lovely for the children to see lots of spring flowers growing and the continuous changes to our developing woodland.

The children have experienced new life skills by using bow saws and lighting their own mini fires.



The Nursery children ate porridge that we cooked on the campfire.



Lots of children relaxed in our woodland and took part in our observational drawing sessions.



Congratulations to Amy and Ella!

Congratulations to Amy who passed her grade 1 violin with merit.



Also, congratulations to Ella who took her grade 1 piano and also passed with merit.



Thanks to Samantha and Alethea for being such excellent tutors and to Amy's grandmother for accompanying Amy on the piano for her exam.

Work Of The Week WoW– Creative Team

Top WoWs for week beginning Monday 25th March 2024



Reception



Instrumental Lessons



Baseline brush control/ colour knowledge and attitude



Baseline brush control/ colour knowledge and attitude

Year 1



Sculpture Spring 2 Katharina Fritsch



Sculpture Spring 2 Katharina Fritsch



All Around the World



All Around the World



All Around the World

Year 2



Spring 2 Instrumental Lessons



Recorders B, A & G



Recorders B, A & G



Sculpture Spring 2 Katharina Fritsch

Year 3



Sculpture Spring 2 Katharina Fritsch



Sculpture Spring 2 Katharina Fritsch



Sculpture Spring 2 Katharina Fritsch



Sculpture Spring 2 Katharina Fritsch



Sculpture Spring 2 Katharina Fritsch

Year 4



Dimensions of Music



Dimensions of Music



Dimensions of Music



Spring 2 Instrumental Lessons



Dimensions of Music

Year 5



Reggae and Ska



Reggae and Ska



Reggae and Ska



Reggae and Ska



Reggae and Ska

Year 6



Samba Drumming



Samba Drumming



Spring 2 Instrumental Lessons



Samba Drumming



Samba Drumming

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Monday 8 th – Thursday 11 th April	Year 6 Easter school
Monday 15 th April	First day of the summer term
Thursday 18 th April	Year 5 and 6 tag rugby tournament
Friday 19 th April	PTA Coffee Morning
Monday 22 nd April	Key stage 2 athletics tournament
Tuesday 23 rd April	Year 3 to the British Museum
Thursday 25 th April	Green pathway to Bellingham Playzone
Friday 26 th April	Year 5 and 6 Tri-Golf tournament
Wednesday 1 st May	1M to The Ragged School Museum
Friday 3 rd May	Year 5 and 6 frisbee tournament
	1W to The Ragged School Museum
Monday 6 th May	BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 9 th May	1M to The Ragged School Museum
	Blue Pathway – Tate Modern Workshop
Friday 10 th May	Year 5 hockey tournament
Week beginning 13 th May	YEAR 6 SATS WEEK
Wednesday 15 th May	Year 4 to London Symphony Orchestra concert
Monday 20 th May	9am – Piano performance for parents and carers
Tuesday 21 st May	9am - Guitar performance for parents and carers
Wednesday 22 nd May	Year 3 and 4 tennis tournament
Wednesday 22 nd – Friday 24 th May	Year 6 School Journey
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Wednesday 5 th June	Year 5 and 6 tennis tournament
Sunday 9 th June	FAMILY FUN RUN – Forster Park



Levin Wheller – Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe we're now two thirds through the school year! It seems to have flown by. I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful Easter break, and to tell you a bit about what the governors have been up to this year so far.

Since I last wrote, there has been a lot going on across the governing board. The whole board meets once a term, and between that there are various committees and working groups looking at different aspects of how the school is run, and considering how we can best tackle future challenges.

In the quality of education committee we have focussed on two areas so far this year: early years reading, and looking at the integration of tailored learning for our children with SEND into the wider curriculum offer. Governors visited the school to look at each of these areas, meeting with staff, observing lessons, and speaking to children about their experiences. One of the best parts of being a governor is getting feedback from children across the school about their learning. And I'm pleased to report they always have very positive things to say!

In the finance committee we have been looking at (surprise!) school budgets and exploring potential new income streams for the school with the aim of investing any money we can generate back into front line provision for children. We hope to be able to share more about this work next term.

And in our children, families and communities committee we have focussed on Lewisham's tackling race inequality pledge, strongly supported by the work of our data group where we look closely at both the outcomes for children from all backgrounds and their progress through the curriculum.

Across the governing board we'll be aiming to write out to parents and carers more regularly in the school newsletter in the future, so I look forward to being in touch again soon.

Happy Easter!

Levin Wheller, Chair of Governors

PTA Coffee Morning – Friday 19th April



Please join us for an informal PTA meeting at school at 9am - all are welcome! Enjoy a home baked treat and hot drink free of charge, get to know other parents/carers, and learn about how you can get involved with upcoming PTA events. Plans are already underway for a Kids' Fun Run on 9 June in Forster Memorial Park. We'll also discuss options for an end of year event, provided we have enough volunteer support to organise one; ideas welcome! We hope to see you there!

Questions? Suggestions for the PTA? Email us at friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com






STARS OF THE WEEK



Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Bodhi	For always doing the right thing and being kind to his friends. Well done, Bodhi! 😊
Nursery AM	Lakhveer	For being very helpful during tidy up time. Well done, Lakhveer! 😊
Nursery PM	Asma	For trying her best whilst exploring all the different activities within Nursery. Well done, Asma! 😊
Blue Class	Samara	For growing so much in confidence over this term and for always showing kindness to members of her class. Well done, Samara!
Red Class	Arya	For being a fabulous member of red class. We will miss you!
Yellow Class	Theo	For always being a kind and caring friend.
1M	Khai	For his brilliant partner work during our phonics lessons. Khai has tried really hard to work with lots of different children and has been able to take turns and talk kindly. Keep it up Khai! 😊
1N	Carlos	For his positivity and kindness towards his classmates. He always knows when someone needs cheering up and does his best to help. 😊
1W	Theja	For his effort and progress at school. Since joining us, Theja has learned so much, and we are extremely proud!
2S	Patryk	For his continuous effort in all areas of his learning. You continuously strive to achieve your best and your contributions during carpet session are excellent! Well done Patryk 😊
2SW	Kruz	For his positive attitude towards learning and always trying his very best! Well done Kruz! 😊
2V	Cassia	For working very hard on being more confident and engaging in class discussions. Well done, Cassia.
3A	Owais	For demonstrating a great attitude to your learning, particularly in your writing. Well done 😊
3G	Gabriel	For fantastic writing and for working hard to develop the presentation of his learning.
3S	Oniefa	Well done for representing the school in a positive manner during our trip to the National Gallery.
4A	May	For being an all-round superstar. Keep it up!
4L	Izza	For quietly getting on with her learning, listening carefully to instructions and developing in confidence.
4S	Canada	For being a super star in many ways including demonstrating a dance to the class, reading aloud and being a good role model for behaviour and work ethic to her peers.
5C	Orlando	For trying really hard this week in all areas of his learning as well as improving his behaviour. Well done!
5L	Akshika	For being such a kind member of our class. Thank you for always being so polite and respectful. Well done!
5S	Anna-Lydia	For persevering in maths lessons and motivating yourself to keep trying. Well done!
6A	Whole Class	For working exceptionally hard during their mock SATs this week. Keep up the resilience and determination!
6C	6C	For aiming for excellence during their mock SATs this week. Well done.
6L	Whole class	6L, you have shown fantastic effort and determination throughout assessment week. You should be very proud. – Well done!
RB Blue	Isaiah	Well done for being determined and resilient during assessment week.
RB Green	Munasar	Well done for another fantastic week of learning! We are so proud of your great attitude in the resource base and year 1.

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	90%		3A	96%		5C	92%	
1N	92%		3G	94%		5L	87%	
1W	96%		3S	96%		5S	87%	
2S	95%		4A	94%		6A	90%	
2SW	97%		4L	100%		6C	91%	
2V	95%		4S	95%		6L	97%	

Well done to all the classes who have won the attendance cup this week. Keep up the good work!

Autism Acceptance Week

The National Autistic Society will be kicking things off on Tuesday 2 April 2024 – **World #AutismAcceptanceWeek** - right through to Monday 8 April. Their colour theme returns for 2024 and there are lots of different and creative ways to get involved.



In 2024, The National Autistic Society are asking everyone to get as colourful as possible with their amazing fundraising. Join them and thousands of other brilliant people in schools, workplaces and local communities to raise vital funds and help create a society that works for autistic people.

Celebrate **World Autism Acceptance Week** by doing your own 5k Spectrum Colour Walk in a place and at a time that suits you. If walking is not for you, you can find lots of ideas on their resources page, [Click Here](#) to help you fundraise your own way!

Easter Fun

St Andrew's Church

EASTER EGG TRAIL



Story and
Hot cross
buns

Puzzles
and
Challenges

Easter
Garden

FRIDAY 29th MARCH
10am - 12pm
Entrance via St Andrew's Hall



Free Activities, Fun and Food over the school Easter holidays

For eligible children and young people*



- Special trips
- Arts and crafts
- Sports
- ...and much more

*Activities and lunches are free for school-aged children and young people (aged 4-16) who receive Free School Meals or are experiencing hardship.



To see what's on and how to book visit:
lewisham.gov.uk/holiday-activities

Department
for Education



**Inclusive play sessions for
autistic, ADHD & SEND children**

Phone: 07948 407343 Email: info@allboardclub.com
www.allboardclub.com

<https://www.allboardclub.com/>

Townley Grammar School – Open Evening



TOWNLEY
ESTD 1937
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Open Evening

Wednesday 26th June 2024

5.00 pm – 8.30 pm

Ticketed Event, further details and how to book your
place will be advertised nearer the event.

Save the Date!

📍 Address: Townley Grammar School, Townley Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 7AB

🌐 Website: www.townleygrammar.org.uk

Football Sessions



CALLING ALL YEAR 1 BALLERS

Join us for FREE football sessions every Monday starting April 15th. Limited spaces available!

Our sessions are designed for those ready to take their skills to new heights. Train with UEFA licensed coaches. Let's unlock your potential together!

Time : 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Location : The Bridge Leisure Centre
Kangley Bridge Road
London
SE26 5AQ

Scan the barcode to register or visit
www.afclewisham.com/u6training



BALLERS SE

WHEN: 15/04/24 - 04/05/24

TRIALS

KANGLEY BRIDGE ROAD
LOWER SYDENHAM
LONDON
SE26 5AQ



AGES: U7s ,U8s, U9s, U11s, U12s U13s



COME AND BE A BALLER!

BALLERS SE



WHEN: 15/04/24 - 04/05/24
YEAR GROUPS FROM SEPTEMBER 2024

MONDAY:
U12S (YR 6/7) & U13'S (YR 7/8)
@ 7:00PM - 8:00PM

THURSDAY:
U7'S (YR 1/2) U8'S (YR 2/3) U9'S (YR 3/4),
@ 5:30PM - 6:30PM

THURSDAY:
U11'S (YR 5/6)
@ 6:00PM - 7:00PM

All of our coaches are:

- ✓ FA Qualified
- ✓ DBS Checked
- ✓ Child Safeguarding Trained

AGES: U7s ,U8s, U9s,
U11s, U12s, U13s

SEND US AN EMAIL OR GIVE US A CALL
admin@ballerssportscoaching.com

0207 1013 652

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Online Safety

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE



Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS



Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS



Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY



When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or "teenage angst" – or to assume that they'll simply "get over" whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS



Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries; this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS



Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here; you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a cafe, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES



It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as *Kooth* or *YoungMinds*.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION



It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College

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