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29th November 2024

Dear parents and carers,

It has been another great week at Torridon with lots of exciting learning taking place. The children in key stage one and two thoroughly enjoyed their visits to St Andrew's church this week for the Christmas tree festival. Year 6 particularly enjoyed the treat of being part of the audience when our wonderful string ensemble performed in the church this morning. Thank you to Chris and Samantha for all their hard work rehearsing with the children to get them performance ready.

Thank you to those who contributed and bought sweet treats in support of our nursery bake sale this week. Funds raised will contribute to some of the enrichment activities we have planned for the nursery children later in the year.

Some of our eco-council got the chance to visit another local school today as part of the Schools Climate Network. They enjoyed meeting other children who are just as passionate about looking after the planet as we are!

Next week is our whole school assessment week. We are looking forward to seeing how well the children are doing and how much progress they have made this term.

Thank you for supporting your children to complete their application forms for leadership responsibilities. We will be reviewing all the applications early next week and will be letting children know which roles they have been given by next Friday.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes
Manda George
Headteacher



Rights Respecting School

This week in our rights respecting assemblies, we have been exploring Article 14~Freedom of Thought and Religion. Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. We had lots of fun discussing how our thoughts and beliefs have shaped us into the people that we are today and how must always celebrate how brilliantly diverse our school community is.



Club Torridon Disco – Thursday 12th December

We are glad to announce the school disco on Thursday 12th December! Entry is £2.50 per child via ParentPay. Please see the timetable below:



4:00 – 5:00	Nursery Reception Year 3 Year 4
5:30 – 6:30	Year 1 Year 2 Year 5 Year 6

[For More Information, please Click Here](#)

[Sign up to volunteer here](#)

Inclusion Coffee Morning – Social Stories

Thursday 5th December, 9.00am-10.00am

Social stories can help children develop greater social understanding and help them stay safe. They are short descriptions of a particular situation, event or activity, which include specific information about what to expect in that situation and why.

These stories help children feel less anxious, or help them understand what to expect or how to act in a given situation.

Within this workshop, we will learn how to make a suitable social story under the guidance of our Speech and Language therapists.



String Ensemble Performance at St'Andrews Church

String ensemble played to our year 6 children, parents and members of the public. They played really well and the audience were appreciative.



If you missed this performance, or want to see us play again, we will be at Lewisham Shopping Centre on 13th December at 10:50am.



Exam Success!

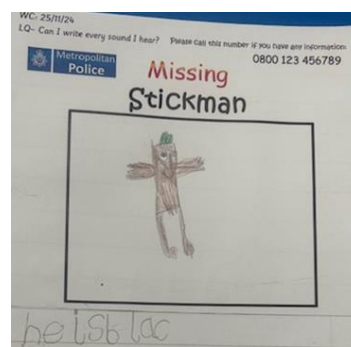


A great big congratulations to Josiah who passed his grade 1 violin exam with distinction.

Well done Josiah, we are all very proud of you.

Reception - Stickman

We have been enjoying the book Stickman. Unfortunately, Stickman went missing but thanks to reception's missing posters, he was found! The children were great at describing Stickman and have enjoyed making their own Stick people.



Reception – Toy and Book Sale Fundraiser

Get Ready to Declutter for the Holidays!

We've got exciting news for you! 🎉
Join us for a **Toy and Book Sale Fundraiser**
hosted by Reception on **Wednesday, December
18th, 2024!** It's the perfect opportunity to
donate toys that are in excellent condition.

How to Get Involved:

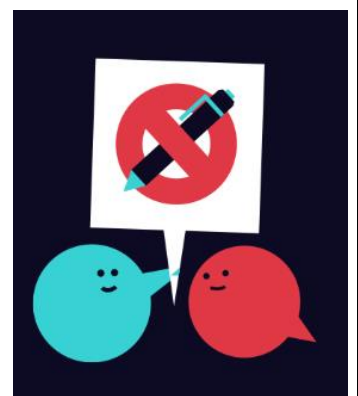
Please bring your donations to any of the
Reception class teachers by **Monday,
December 16th, 2024.**

Your support will help us to raise funds for
experiences that will enrich the children's
learning—and remember, the more donations,
the merrier! 😊

Let's work together to make this event a
success!

No Pens Day

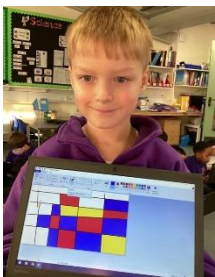
On Friday 6th November, Torridon will mark No Pens Day. This national initiative is run by Speech and Language UK, aiming to support the development of communication skills in all children. On the day, the rules are simple: no pens (or pencils either!). Instead, our lessons for the day will focus on developing speaking and listening skills, linked to our whole school focus on oracy. We can't wait!



Year 1 – Computing



Year 1 have been putting their excellent digital painting skills to the test, this week. As part of our computing unit on famous works of art, we took inspiration from the Dutch artist, Mondrian to create our own amazing masterpieces on the laptops.



Year 2 – The Story of Diwali - Rama & Sita

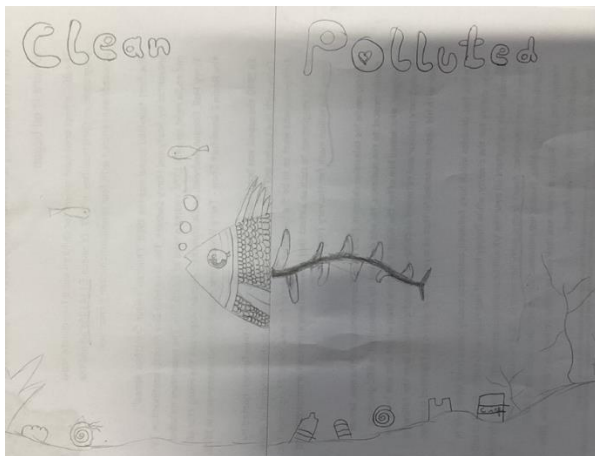
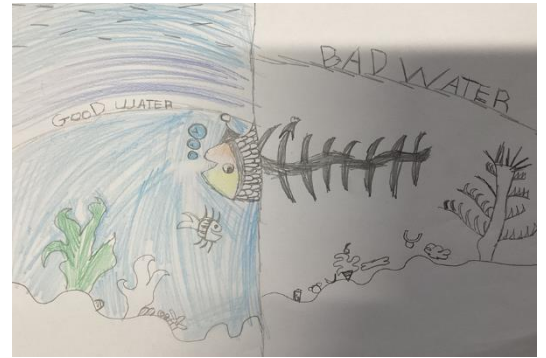
This week in RE, year 2 have had lots of fun acting out the story of Rama and Sita and the story of Diwali.

A long time ago, Prince Rama and Princess Sita were married and in love. One day, the evil Ravana, a ten-headed king, kidnapped Sita and took her far away to his kingdom. With the help of the brave monkey king Hanuman and his army, Rama and Lakshmana rescued Sita and defeated Ravana. When they returned home, the people lit lamps to celebrate their victory and welcome them back—this is why we celebrate Diwali, the festival of light!



Year 3 – Rivers

In year three, we have continued to think about the importance of our rivers and the need to protect them. As part of our Raging Rivers theme, we have been focussing on pollution and the effects it has on animal and plant life. Our posters show what might happen if we don't take care of our wonderful waterways.



Year 4 – Christingles

In our RE lesson this week, we made Christingles. We learned how the Christingle is a symbolic object used in Christian services during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. We enjoyed using oranges, red ribbon, candles, dried fruits and sweets to make them.



Year 5 – Science and RE

This week has been a very busy week for year 5. On Monday, as part of our science learning, we had a visit from some wildlife creatures. We talked about their life cycle and learnt some rather interesting facts. For example, did you know that to defend themselves, tarantulas can shoot their hair, and if it touches you, it can make you itch... **FOR 2 WEEKS!**

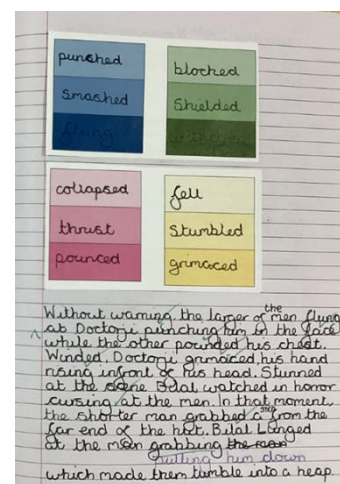
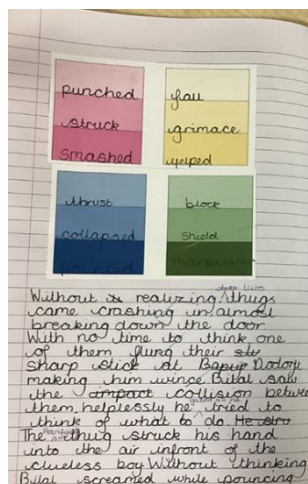
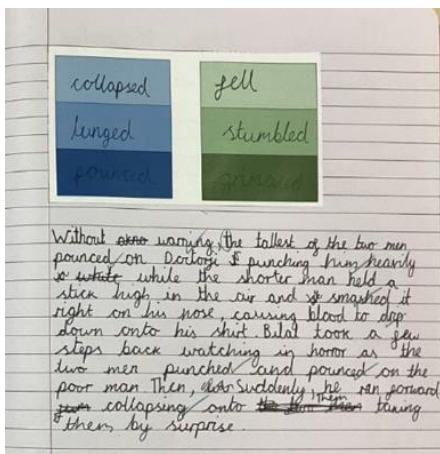


This week, we also had our RE lesson in the church and also looked at the beautiful Christmas trees. We found the one decorated with the paperchains containing anti-bullying statements, written by all the children at Torridon.



Year 6 - Narrative Writing

Year 6 are preparing to write an action narrative. We have been learning about the importance of precise verb choices when describing an action sequence. We completed a shades of meaning where we ranked verbs and then carefully selected verbs to ensure we would be impacting the reader.



Resource Base – Caring For Our Environment



It has been very windy this week! This year, we have been focusing on developing the children's independence and encouraging them to care for their learning environment. On Monday, we noticed that our outside area had been covered in leaves over the weekend. Before the children did any outdoor learning, we worked together as a team to tidy up by sweeping all of the leaves. The children did a fantastic job and even continued their efforts throughout the week when they noticed more leaves.



Forest School News

The Year 3 children have been supporting their learning about rivers by carrying out experiments at Forest School to understand the effects of erosion.



Rock erosion-the children used chunky chalk, water and a glass jar to discover changes when rock is disturbed by water. The children worked together to shake the rock in the jar once the water was added.



Wind Erosion-The children discovered that wind can change the effects of the soil. Using different consistencies of soil, they made mud castles. They used their own breath to attempt to blow the mud castles down!



Water Erosion- The children looked at how vast amounts of water can affect the surfaces it runs along e.g. rocks and mud. The children even created their own waterslide!



Dance – The Little Match Girl



This term in dance, Year 4 are taking part in Sadler's Wells Digital Stage Education Project of The Little Match Girl. This week they have been exploring and creating choreography around the classic story with a twist!

This production by Ballo Arthur Pita was created for the stage and has been made into a film. Set in Italy, the production uses language, actions and unusual instruments to communicate the fable about family, friendship and hope.



This week Year 4 used the key themes in the story; cruelty, kindness and greed to create dance motifs, freeze frames, sounds and facial expressions.



Christmas Menu - Festive Feast



We will be having our festive feast on Wednesday 18th December 2024. If your child usually has a packed lunch but would like a school lunch on the 18th, please email the school office admin@torriondprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

Week beginning 2nd December	Whole school assessment week
Friday 6 th December	Whole School No Pens Day
Thursday 12 th December	Friends of Torridon PTA School Disco
Friday 13 th December	9.00 Year 5 assembly performance 2.45 Year 6 assembly performance
	String ensemble performance Lewisham Shopping Centre
Monday 16 th December	9.00 Year 1 assembly performance 2.00 Resource Base assembly performance 2.45 Year 2 assembly performance
Tuesday 17 th December	Early Years Nativity performance 9.00am OR 2.45pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19 th December	9.00 Year 3 performance assembly 2.45 Year 4 performance assembly
Friday 20 th December	Last day of the autumn term
Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 6th January 2025	First day of the spring tem
Friday 17 th January	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Thursday 30 th January	PTA Sponsored Bounce
Wednesday 5 th February	9am – parent and carer coffee morning with the Mental Health Schools Team
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 13 th and Friday 14 th February	Whole school art exhibition PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATES
Friday 14 th February	PTA fundraiser Non-uniform day
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY



Trumpet and Brass Lessons

We are planning to start brass lessons on the trumpet in this academic year for years 4-6 children. If your child would be interested, please go to the school website's music page and apply for a lesson, choosing "Trumpet".



Applying for a lesson will not guarantee that a lesson will be provided, but will allow us to find out if there is enough interest to get a tutor in.

Instrument rental through the school will be available at competitive rates.

Spaces may be available for other instruments soon, so please apply for any of these if you would like your child to go on a waiting list.

<https://www.torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk/curriculum/creative-curriculum/music/>

Donations For Inclusion



We are gathering exciting resources to support our attention and listening interventions in the Early Years and KS1. We would therefore be very grateful if you have any of the below items that you could donate:



bubbles	animal noise maker	party blowers
bubble wands	children's musical instruments	noisy putty
bubble machines	light up toys	bouncy putty
touchable bubbles	yo-yos	slime
standard balloons	fidget spinners	magnetic putty
flying rocket balloons	spinning tops	kinetic sand
chattering teeth	mouldable foam soap	squishy or stretchy things
wind-up toys	whistles	small objects that fly
an ocean drum	hand bells	jumping frog
bouncy balls		mini pull and release cars



STARS OF THE WEEK



Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Josiah	For being active and joining in during the afternoon sessions. Well done, Josiah! 😊
Nursery AM	Klesti	For joining in during story time and for being very helpful during tidy up time. Well done, Klesti! 😊
Nursery PM	Ira	For settling in well into Nursery and for joining in whilst we were learning the Nativity songs. Well done, Ira! 😊
Blue Class	Shyla-Jayde	For always being engaged in her learning and trying her best. Well done!
Red Class	Hani	For always having a positive and enthusiastic attitude to her learning. Well done! 😊
Yellow Class	Zander	For working hard in phonics and producing fantastic writing. Well done!
1M	Praniga	For her growth in confidence and the progress she has made. She is participating more on the carpet and sharing her ideas with enthusiasm. Keep up the fantastic work, Praniga! 😊
1N	Rowan	For her positive attitude to learning. It is wonderful to see her so engaged and confident in her writing and making fantastic progress. Keep up the great work! 😊
1W	Albert	For showing such enthusiasm during writing lessons. Keep up the wonderful effort Albert!
2E	Idris	For having such an amazing attitude towards his learning. He has been trying his hardest with his writing, using beautiful leading joins. His focus has been amazing – keep it up!
2S	Rowan	For her amazing effort in all areas of her learning! Your imagination in your writing is wonderful! Well done Rowan 😊
2SW	Gerlad	For trying his best during our writing sessions. I have been so impressed to see him consistently using his sounds to spell out words. Well done Gerald! 😊
3A	Daisy	For making a fantastic anti-pollution poster. Well done!
3G	Ebrima	For his beautiful presentation and for trying his best in all of his learning. Well done Ebrima! 😊
3S	Amira	Well done for using a big voice to explain why we should be mindful of our paper usage. Keep it up 😊
4K	Amaya	For being respectful at all times to adults and her peers. Thank you Amaya 😊
4L	Malachi V	for being new to our class but showing excellent behaviour for learning and settling in so well.
4S	Ramata	For being very helpful and using her initiative to independently tidy up and make our classroom a lovely place. Thank you for showing such respect to our learning environment, Ramata.
5C	Abisan	For working collaboratively, sharing his ideas and supporting his classmates in their learning! Well done!
5L	Miracle	For your participation during our trip to St Andrews Church, you asked and answered many questions. Well done!
5V	5V	For being courageous when they had their wildlife workshop on Monday and respectful when they had their RE lesson at St Andrews Church on Thursday. Well done. 😊
6A	Moliesa	For working really hard in maths this week. You showed your determination when multiplying fractions as well as explaining your reasoning. Really proud!
6L	Orlando	For showing exceptional reasoning and problem solving in fractions this week. Well done!
6R	Isla	For consistently demonstrating excellence in all areas of the curriculum and always making thoughtful contributions during class discussions.
RB Blue	Isaac	For good focus and being on task with class learning. Well done!
RB Green	Gabriel	Well done for a calmer and more focused week. We are so proud of you!

Weekly Attendance

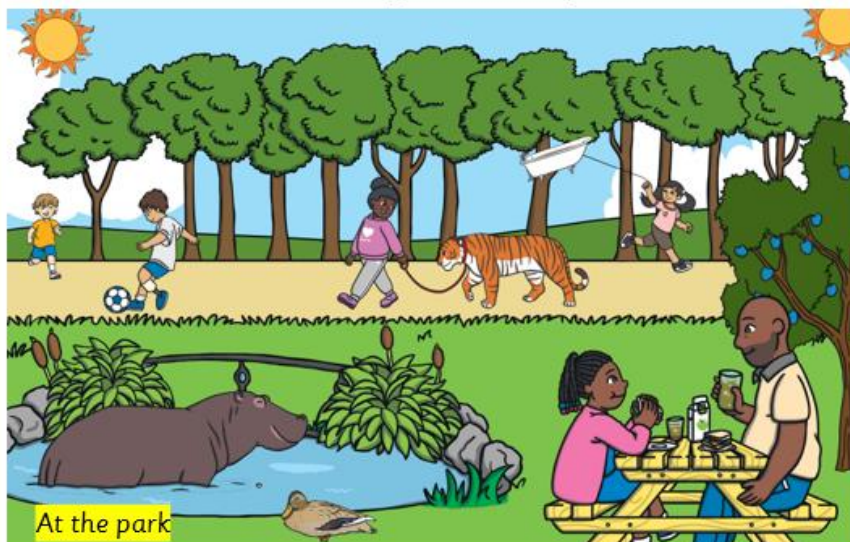
Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	95.0%		3A	94.2%		5C	94.2%	
1N	90%		3G	94.8%		5L	95.7%	
1W	95.06%	🏆	3S	94.6%		5V	89%	
2S	94%		4K	95%		6A	96%	🏆
2SW	91%		4L	95.1%		6R	94%	
2E	92%		4S	95.5%	🏆	6L	93%	

Close call between the classes this week! Congratulations to the classes who won the attendance cup. Keep up the good work!

Oracy Project

Oracy

What is wrong with this picture?



At the park

I noticed that...

There should not be... because ...

Corbett Christmas Fair



Corbett Christmas Fair

Save £5 on your Christmas tree
by ordering online!

www.abbotshallhc.org.uk/christmas-trees

25-30 November

Christmas Tree Festival
St Andrews Church
30th November, 11am-5pm

Christmas Fair
Corbett Community Library &
St Andrews Church Hall
1st December, 1:30-5pm

**Christmas Tree Sale
and Christmas Fair**
Abbotshall Healthy Lifestyle Centre



sponsored by

Lewisham Flu Vaccine


South London Children and
Young People's Community
Immunisation Service

Missed your flu vaccine?

Live or go to school in the borough of
Lewisham? Aged 4-16?
Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and
protect yourself this winter!

Saturday 30 November
10:00 - 14:00
Evelyn Family Hub, SE8 3PZ

Saturday 7 December
10:00 - 14:00
Bellingham Family Hub, SE6 3HB

No appointment necessary.
Call 020 3903 3635 for more
information

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Users can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and others in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>



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