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28th February 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back. I hope you had a lovely break. We have had a great start to the new half term with the launch of our new learning themes.

I am sure your children have told you all about the launch of OPAL Play this week. It has been wonderful to see the children playing together and having so much fun in the new mud kitchen, sandpit and dressing up areas. There have been tyres and suitcases, dinosaurs and scooters, chalkboards and building blocks, water play and climbing. It has transformed the playtime experience for our children and we think it's fantastic! Thank you to Kelley, Tom and Darryl for all their hard work over the holiday to get the playground ready and thank you to all our fabulous parent volunteers who came in to lend a hand.

This week we have welcomed some visitors to Torridon. Sulai and Beth from the Mental Health Schools Team led the first of a series of workshops for Year 6 designed to support the children with developing positive and respectful relationships. This will be really useful as they start the next stage of their education when they transfer to secondary school.

We also welcomed Charlie and Pete from Drumbeat who met with school councillors and children from the Resource Base to talk about and celebrate neurodiversity. You can see some of their learning later in the newsletter.

This weekend marks the start of the holy month of Ramadan. The holy month will then end with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr or the 'Festival of Breaking the Fast'.

We hope to see some of you at our SEN workshop on Wednesday, where Ciara will be talking about how to support children at mealtimes.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Manda George

Headteacher



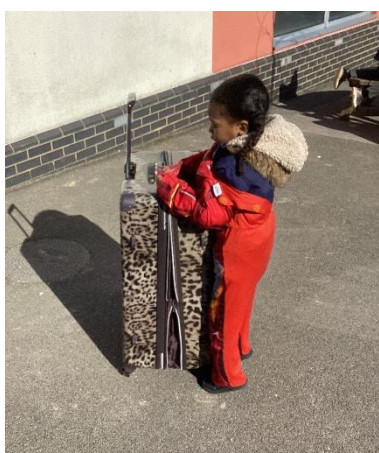
## Rights Respecting School

This week, we have been learning about LGBT+ History Month, which takes place every February. The focus of the month is on promoting fairness, equality, and celebrating the wonderful diversity of people and cultures within the LGBT+ community, both today and throughout history. In our discussions, we explored the theme of love and how families can look different, yet they all share one thing in common—love. We even referred to our classroom posters, which remind us that no matter how a family is made up, it's the love that truly matters. Different families, same love.





# OPAL Play



WE LOVE OUR NEW PLAYGROUND!

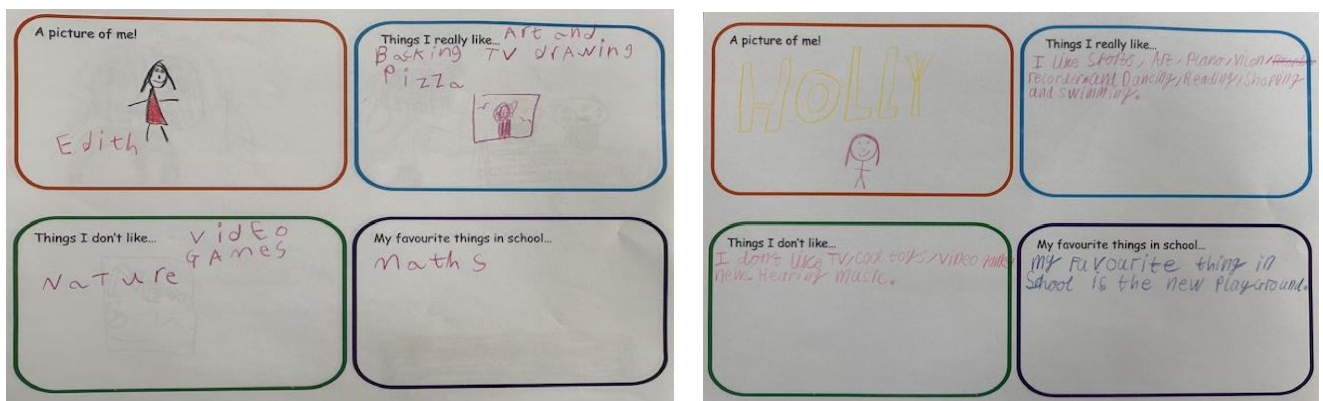


# PINS Workshop

## Supporting children's understanding of neurodiversity

This afternoon, staff from Drumbeat worked with school council and children from the Resource Base to support their understanding of neurodiversity.

Children in KS1 completed activities which highlighted how each person has different thoughts and feelings and how this makes us diverse.



Children in KS2, delved a little deeper to think about how we can be empathic towards those with neurodiversity and discussed what would make someone neurodivergent.



'I think diversity is about different people and different struggles. We have different thoughts and abilities.'

Lotanna

'There can be diversity in anything even something abstract like your emotions. Diversity is important to the world – it would be boring without it.'

Kenny



# SEND Workshop – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

SEND Workshop: Supporting SEN children during mealtimes

Date: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 9:00am

Location: Resource Base



The session will focus on common challenges that children with SEN can face during mealtimes and why they can be resistant to trying new foods. We will discuss how you can support your child during mealtimes to reduce eating challenges and increase their exposure to new food groups.

## Book Fair on Monday 3rd – Wednesday 5th March

Thank you to all those parents and carers who attended our Scholastic book fair today. We are really pleased to share that we sold £637 of books on our first day! Remember that the school earns commission for every book we sell which we will use to buy new books for classrooms. The book fair is here next week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, so please do visit!

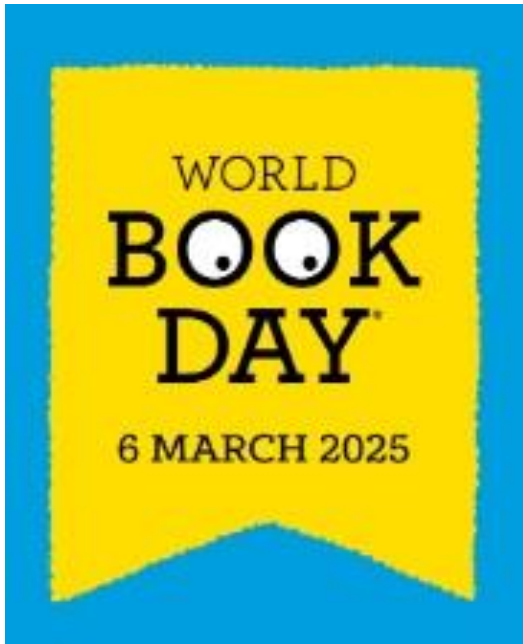


When: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 3.10

Where: Y3/4 Hall

We look forward to seeing you there.

# WORLD BOOK DAY – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025



World Book Day is nearly here!

For this day, you can come to school dressed as a character from a book, or you could come dressed as your favourite word!

We will be practising our oracy skills during the day and playing lots of word games and taking part in lots of thrilling events.

What will you dress as? We are very excited to find out!



fragile

glutton





# SIGN-UP NOW FOR THE 2025 CORBETT CHASE - SUNDAY 23rd MARCH!

Calling all runners, walkers and supporters: [Sign-up](#) has begun for this year's [5th Annual Corbett Chase](#), in collaboration with Sandhurst School. Starting at Torridon and finishing at Sandhurst, this 10k and half-marathon weaves round the streets and parks of Lewisham, ending with a community Play Street and cake sale outside Sandhurst. We encourage all to get involved and help make this 5th year the best one yet!

Please indicate your interest in participating - either running, walking, cake-baking or volunteering - here: [SIGN-UP FORM](#).

Any questions? [Check out our info website](#) or email: [friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com).



## Spring Bulb Competiton Update



We are beginning to notice some of our bulbs around school are starting to flower. If you purchased a Spring bulb from us in the Autumn term remember to bring your pot into school once it has fully flowered.

Show your pot to Kelley and we will take a photo of you and your flower before displaying the flower around school. Later in the Spring term Manda will judge the flowers and choose one winner from each year group.



We can not wait to see your beautiful flowers and brighten up our outdoor spaces.

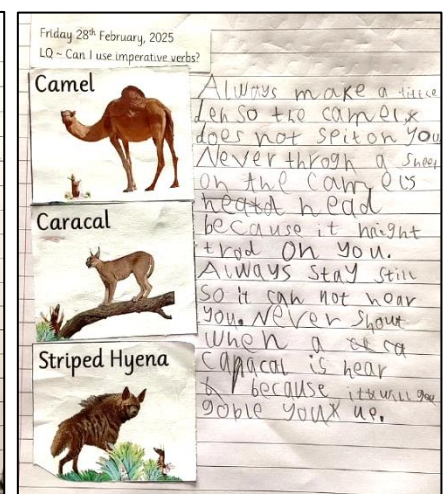
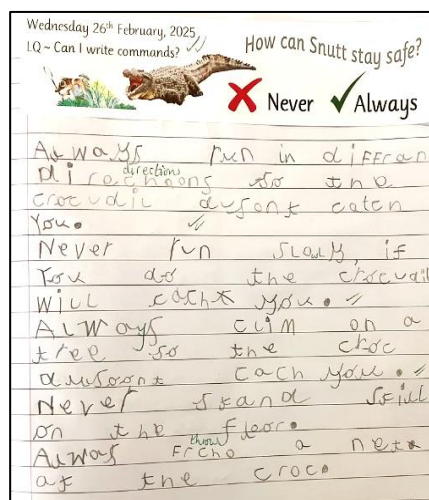
## Nursery – Hatching Eggs

In Nursery we had a special delivery. We have enjoyed watching the chicks hatch from the eggs. It has been amazing to see the fluffy chicks come to life.



## Year 1 – Wonderful Week

This week, we began our journey to a mysterious and beautiful planet with Snutt. Our week began with some pictures hidden under murky water. We used glasses to displace the cloudy water and reveal clues about Snutt and his surroundings. We spent the rest of the week writing commands to help Snutt avoid the hidden hazards on the new planet.





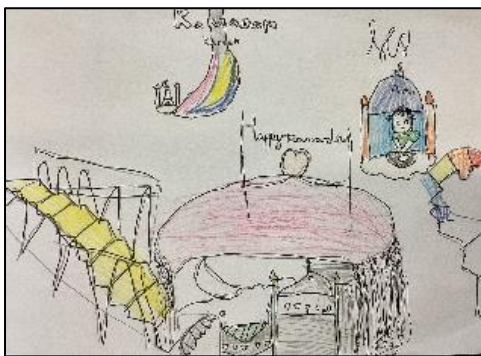
## Resource Base – Learning About Food



This week we started a new intervention called Learning About Food. We explored two very similar foods, plain and cheese crackers, using all of our senses and described what we experienced. The children were challenged not to use words like 'yucky' or 'yummy' but to really think about the taste, smell etc. and whether they were big/ small tastes or strong/ small smells. If they wanted to, they could choose to eat the crackers at the end, but were free to explore it in any way they wished. They are very excited to try new and adventurous foods every Tuesday.

## Year 2 – Ramadan Posters

This week, Year 2 has been busy creating posters to welcome the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a special month for Muslims when they fast from sunrise to sunset, focusing on prayer, helping others, and being thankful. On our posters, we added pictures of the moon, stars, and lanterns and thought about what Ramadan means ~kindness ~sharing ~gratitude. Creating these posters helps us learn more about Ramadan and appreciate the different cultures in the world.





## Year 3 – Drama



This week, we have really enjoyed exploring the story 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry. We acted out all the different animals that live in the Great Kapok Tree. We thought about how the animals move, what they might say, and how they might interact with the mysterious man with the axe!



## Year 4 – Science – What is Sound?

This week in Year 4 we have been thinking about Sound. We looked at some musical instruments and then learnt that sounds is made by vibrations and travels in sound waves. We then explored how tuning forks vibrate and can spray water. Finally we went on a sound walk around the school collecting the sounds that we could hear and thinking about how they were being made.

Make observations of the sounds you can hear in different locations around school.		
Where are you?	What sounds can you hear?	What is vibrating to make that sound?
Eg. Near road	Cars driving	Car exhaust pipe
Children's play ground	Kids shouting	Voice cord
E-din- Lunch hall	a person talking	Voice
Lunch hall	the running	Waste hitting the sink
Lunch hall	Lizzie talking	voice



Year 4 are doing a DT project next week to learn about different types of fasteners - if you have any of these at home please bring in and leave in the office/ art room/ Year 4 classrooms

Zips on or off clothing, clips, clasps, Velcro bits, hook and eye, buttons on old clothing with holes to show attachments, curtain hooks on old bit of curtain, poppers on clothes.



## Year 5 – Cricket

This week, Year 5 kicked off their very first cricket lesson in P.E., and it was a fantastic start to their sporting journey! The class was buzzing with excitement as they were introduced to the fundamentals of cricket.

The focus for this lesson was on developing their bowling skills. Students learned the proper technique for a basic fast bowl, working on their grip, stance, and follow-through. It was inspiring to see everyone give it a go, from the first-timers to the more seasoned athletes!



## Year 6 – People Places and Progress

Year 6 has begun their new topic by learning about the history of Stonewall. They started by exploring themes and the importance of treating everyone respectfully and equally, irrespective of our differences. In writing, they explored the key features of a diary entry as they prepare to write one from the perspective of a police officer or a member of the LGBTQ+ community during the uprising and revolution that took place in New York City when the Stonewall Inn was raided.





## Dance – Message in a Bottle

Year 6 have started the term with some fantastic work in Dance. This term we are exploring a narrative dance based on Displacement and Immigration entitled "Message in a Bottle" by Kate Prince as our stimulus.



Each week the children will learn repertoire and be set choreography tasks consolidating and building upon their learning to create a full length work.

This week they created a journey by a family who are confronted with impossible choices. In order to survive, they must leave their homeland and take a perilous journey to safer shores.

## Giant African Snails



As some of you may be aware the children in Reception have been caring for African snails for the past year.

We have raised the snails from tiny eggs and have been amazed by their growth over the past 12 months.

Our 6 snails have now laid their own tiny eggs and we are looking to rehome the eggs.

The snails are very easy to care for with a diet of fruit and salad!

If you would be interested in homing some snails please express your interest to [admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk)

FAO: Kelley and Vicky

# A Huge Thanks to our Parent Helpers!



A huge thank you to all the families who helped with setting up our OPAL play throughout the half term break.



## OPAL PLAY

As you are all fully aware we have had an amazing launch to OPAL PLAY this week and the children have embraced the new opportunities and experiences within our outdoor space with such enthusiasm.

**Part of our new approach is that children will play outside in  
ALL WEATHERS.**

Please make sure your child has a warm, waterproof coat.








## Dates for Your Diary

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair (Y3/4 Hall) 3.15 – 4.00pm daily
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Live Dance at Catford Broadway Theatre
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	9am parent and carer workshop – supporting SEND mealtimes
	UNITY Live Dance at Catford Broadway Theatre
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	WORLD BOOK DAY
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 and 6 girls' football tournament
w/b Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	National Science Week
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30pm Family Science Show
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 to the Cutty Sark Museum
	Year 5 to the Science Museum
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 theatre workshop
	Year 5/6 swimming gala
w/b Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole school assessment week
	Year 4 to the Natural History Museum
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Yellow class to Mudchute Farm (please note change of date)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Red Nose Day
	Red and Blue class to Mudchute Farm (please note change of date)
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Corbett Chase
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent and Carer open evenings
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	EYFS Parent and Carer workshop
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 5 and 6 tag rugby festival
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Woodland Dress Up Day Last day of the spring term (2pm finish)
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b>
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Family Fun Run (Forster Park)

## Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance_		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	99.3%		3A	93%		5V	92%	
1N	97%		3G	88%		5L	96.3%	
1W	91%		3S	95%		5C	95.7%	
2S	98.6%		4K	94%		6R	87%	
2SW	98%		4L	97%		6A	94%	
2E	97%		4S	93%		6L	89%	

Well done to all the classes who won the cup this week!  
I wonder which class will be next?

## Science Week Help! Do you work in STEM?

We are looking for parents or carers who work in the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics) and who would be interested in coming to talk to the children in their child's year group about their career. Ideally, this would take place in Science Week (7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March) but we can be flexible. Please contact admin if you are interested [admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk) with details about which year group would be involved.





### STARS OF THE WEEK

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Dilara	For being brave when climbing onto the big climbing frame and she is always very helpful during tidy up time. Well done, Dilara! 😊
Nursery AM	Raphael	For joining in during carpet time and remembering the key parts of The Little Red Hen. Well done, Raphael! 😊
Nursery PM	Ira	For sharing his knowledge and experience of making bread at home during our bread making activity this week. Well done, Ira! 😊
Blue Class	Kamaiyah-rose	For consistently approaching writing tasks with confidence, creativity and independence. Well done, Kamaiyah-Rose!
Red Class	Joshua	For his independent writing, that is presented beautifully! Joshua always has a positive attitude towards his learning. Well done! 😊
Yellow Class	Maya	For approaching her learning with growing confidence! Keep it up! 😊
1M	Alicja	For her positive attitude towards her learning. Alicja tries her best in all lessons and has made good progress. Well done, Alicja! 😊
1N	Mikolaj	For the great progress he has made, especially in reading. He has also been working on his presentation and he is always kind to his classmates. 😊
1W	Peter	For his amazing progress in writing. Peter, now, thinks about his spellings and comes up with ideas independently. It is lovely to see how much he enjoys being independent too! Well done!
2E	Baran	For trying super hard with all of his work. He takes on feedback and continues to improve his work constantly. He has taken great pride in his learning. Well done 😊
2S	Nikol	For her amazing effort in all areas of her learning and for always being such a kind and encouraging friend to her peers! Well done Nikol 😊
2SW	Joshua	For his determination during lessons. Josh has been trying his very best and has produced some fantastic pieces of independent learning. Well done Josh! Keep it up! 😊
3A	Joy	For your hard work and effort during writing this week. A big well done for writing sentences that included words with suffixes!
3G	Evie	For her fantastic contributions to class discussions and for using sentence stems in her writing. Well done Evie! 😊
3S	Hussein	For great reading. Well done for developing a positive attitude towards reading. 😊
4K	Austin	For showing a positive attitude towards his learning and making good progress. Austin also showed the value of empathy when he noticed another child was upset and informed an adult. Well done Austin! 😊
4L	Nova	For trying hard and gaining more confidence in sharing ideas and speaking in front of the class. Well done Nova!
4S	Baybee	For showing amazing determination, enthusiasm and resilience at swimming lessons. Tremendous progress already, keep it up!
5C	Beatrice	For her great attitude to learning, confidently participated in lessons and completed work that she can be proud of. Well done!
5L	Canada	For her excellent attitude during cricket. You really made progress with your bowling skills. Well done!
5V	Tommy	For his dedication to his learning. He fully engages with lessons, takes part in class discussions and takes feedback well. Well done, Tommy! 😊
6A	Amelia	For her consistent positive approach towards her learning, which has enabled her to make good progress. Keep it up!
6L	Zoya	For maintaining a great focus in her learning. She is very reflective and always aims to do her best in all areas. Well done!
6R	Alaya	For consistently demonstrating integrity and focus in all areas of her learning. This has ensured she has made excellent progress, particularly when reasoning in maths.
RB Blue	Kenny	Well done for taking a leadership role in group discussions.
RB Green	Jarelle	Well done for trying really hard with your phonics and reading.

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **MARVEL RIVALS**

AGE RESTRICTION  
**PEGI 12**

ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

### IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a D10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

### VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

### FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Halo, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

### MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



### DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Dolly Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



The National College