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20th June 2025

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a very busy week this week at Torridon. We managed to survive the heat and continue with lots of lovely learning right across the school. We welcomed back Alice Moon who has returned from maternity leave this week. She will be supporting teaching and learning in different classes for the rest of the summer term.

We had our Rights Respecting School accreditation visit on Tuesday and I am delighted to tell you that we have been awarded Silver Status for all the work we have been doing to develop children's understanding of the UNICEF Rights of The Child Charter. Huge thanks to Suraiya and Shanae for all their hard work in leading on this really important development work at Torridon.

Thank you to those year 5 parents and carers who joined Richard for the meeting to discuss next year's residential visit. We will send the slides out for anyone who was unable to attend. If you have any questions or would like further information, please get in touch via email admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

I am sure that lots of you will have seen Torridon featured on BBC London News this week to highlight the work we have been doing to develop oracy across the school. If you missed the programme, you can find out more about the project in this online article: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y6l36q6pqq>

As you know, OPAL play is a large part of the work we are doing to develop oracy skills. We hope that lots of you will be able to join us for our **playdate on Wednesday after school** when you can come and spend some time with your children exploring all that OPAL Play has to offer.

I know many of you have taken the opportunity of the INSET Day to visit Legoland today. Thank you to Megan and the PTA for organising the tickets. I hope you had wonderful time.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes

Manda George

Headteacher



Rights Respecting School



This week during our Rights Respecting Assemblies, we have been learning all about World Refugee Day, which takes place on 20th June each year. We explored the importance of recognising the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home countries due to conflict. Our discussions focused on why everyone deserves safety, a place to call home, and how we can show kindness and support to those who have had to bravely leave everything behind.



Chartwells – Allergy Menus Meeting

We would like to invite you to a meeting at Torridon regarding our allergy-aware school menu. This meeting will take place on **Monday 23rd June at 9.00am.**

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss children's dietary needs, allergies or food intolerances. If you would like to understand more about our allergy menu, we strongly encourage you to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there and working together.

Chartwells Team



OPAL PLAY DATE

You are invited to come for the afternoon on **Wednesday 25th June 2025** to play with your children in the school grounds. During your visit, you'll have the chance to explore the exciting variety of play opportunities your children engage in every day, from building with loose parts to imaginative role play and creative problem-solving activities. You'll also get to try out some of the equipment yourself and see how OPAL transforms play into a powerful tool for learning and growth.

This is more than just play. It's about nurturing your child's independence, confidence, and ability to collaborate with others in a fun and supportive environment.

If possible, please bring a loose part donation to help with den making, for instance: a tyre (washed), clean wood (no nails), tarpaulin, plastic pipe (no sharp edges), plastic crates (no sharp broken bits). We are also always looking for ride-on toys, scooters, old suitcases, dressing up clothes and small world items.



Torridon Primary Community Litter Pick



TORRIDON PRIMARY COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

Bring your own
litter picker if
you have
one

Wed 2nd July 2025

3.30-4.30pm

Meet in the
Playground

For children of
all ages and
their grown
-ups

Love Our Neighbourhood

Help tidy up our
school and streets



Sports Day Timetable

We are excited to share the schedule for our upcoming sports day! This special event is a great opportunity for our students to showcase their energy, teamwork and enthusiasm through a range of fun and active challenges. Below, you will find the timetable outlining the location and date for each year group. We encourage you to join us in cheering on the children and making the day memorable for everyone involved.

Year Group	Date / Time	Location
EYFS	Monday 14 th July 9:30am – 11:30am	Torridon Primary School
Years 1 and 2	Tuesday 15 th July 9:30am – 12:30pm	Abbotshall
Years 3,4,5 and 6	Friday 18 th July 9:30am – 3:00pm	Whitefoot Lane Playing Fields

Cardboard City Needs Your Boxes!

The cardboard city needs your boxes!
We are now looking for boxes of ALL sizes for the children's creations!

Please no food packaging due to allergies.
Thank you.



Wraparound – spaces for 2025/26

Looking for safe, reliable, and engaging childcare outside of school hours? Our Wraparound Club is here to support busy families by providing a fun, nurturing, and structured environment for your child—before and after school.

Why Choose Us?

- Convenient Hours – Early drop-off and late pick-up
- Safe & Caring Staff – Experienced team dedicated to your child's wellbeing
- Fun Activities – Arts & crafts, games, outdoor play, quiet reading, and more
- Healthy Snacks – Nutritious food to keep your child energized and happy

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club opens bright and early at 7.45am, giving children a calm and cheerful start to their school day. It's open to children in Reception – Year 6 and perfect for busy families who need an earlier drop-off.

Children can enjoy a healthy breakfast with options including:

- Bagels with a choice of honey, jam, butter or cream cheese
- A selection of cereals like Shreddies, Rice Krispies, and Cornflakes.

The cost is £5 per day. At the end of Breakfast Club, EYFS children will be safely escorted to their classrooms by a member of staff.

After School Club @Torridon

Our After School Club @Torridon Club runs until 6:00pm every weekday for children from Reception to Year 6. It's the perfect solution for full-time working parents who need a safe, caring and fun environment for their children after school.

Our after school club has outdoor and inside options for all the children. Outdoor activities include multi-sports, relay races and free play. Our inside options always include creative arts activities and a range of table top games to choose from. The table top games include board games such as chess, jenga, table football, table tennis and ludo. Children can also enjoy activities such as construction, role play and small world imaginative play with dolls, dinosaurs, farm animals etc. All children are provided with a piece of fruit at the start of the session and then a healthy snack. The snack menu includes items such as; cheese/ tuna/ chicken rolls, tomato pasta, pesto pasta, baguette pizza, crumpets / muffins , cheese and crackers, served with a selection of cucumber, carrot and celery sticks and fruit.

Whether you're working early, running errands, or need peace of mind, our Wraparound Club offers flexibility and reassurance, all while your child enjoys a fun and supportive space with their peers. Are current costs are £17 per day/ £85 per week (Fulltime) and £12 for pupil premium/ £60 per week (Fulltime)

Open to all pupils reception to year 6 at Torridon Primary School

For bookings and enquiries, contact clubs@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

Torridon Primary School Summer Fair

Planning for the 2025 Summer Fair is in full swing. We can't wait to welcome you and your family on Sunday, 6th July, for a day full of fun, food, and friendship.

Join the planning committee

A few of our key areas still need coordinators. Responsibilities include recruiting a volunteer team to run the stall/activity, overseeing setup and breakdown, and working with event coordinators Megan Wybrew and Teresa Dybeck to plan and source supplies. In particular, we need coordinators to run Prize Central, Ticket sales, Inflatables, and Live Entertainment. Reach out to Megan at friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com or join our [Planning Committee WhatsApp group](#) if you'd like to get involved.



Want to run a new stall at the fair? We'd love to hear your ideas. Please note, all revenue from the fair will be retained by the PTA to benefit the school, but we will happily cover all reasonable expenses.

Volunteer

The Summer Fair is a large scale event that requires support from lots of volunteers on the day. To fully open all of our stalls, we need about 50 people helping out at any given time throughout the 4-hour event. Can you help make the fair happen? Fill in our [Volunteer Sign Up form](#).

Donate

Over the coming weeks we'll gratefully accept the following donations:

- **Games prizes:** Sweets, soft drinks, alcohol, condiments, toiletries, household products, toys, craft supplies, games, etc. - anything you or your children would be happy to win at the fair. Consumables must be unopened, non-perishable, and in date.
- **Raffle prizes:** High quality products, experiences, or vouchers. We can offer promotion to any business donors in gratitude for their support.
- **Plastic Tat Amnesty:** Leftover or gently used party bag fillers
- **Uniforms:** Any item of official Torridon uniform, branded or unbranded, in good condition, free of stains and holes, and freshly laundered
- **Books:** Any genre for children or adults in new or good used condition

On the day of the fair we'd welcome food donations to sell on our Bake Sale and World Food stalls. All contributions must be nut free and accompanied by a list of ingredients. Any non-disposable crockery should be labelled with your name and contact details for return.

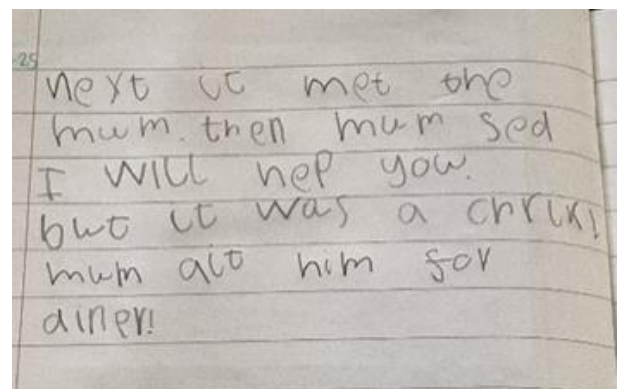
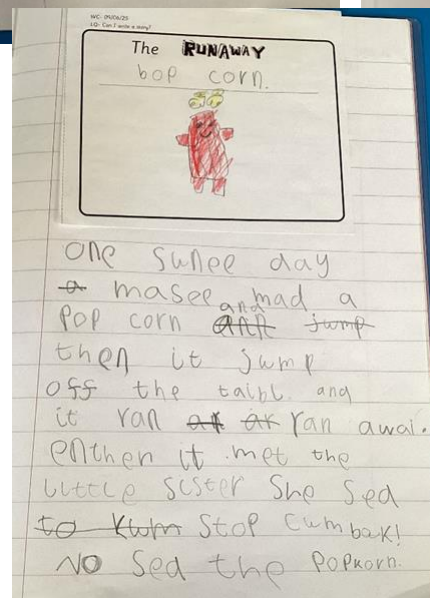
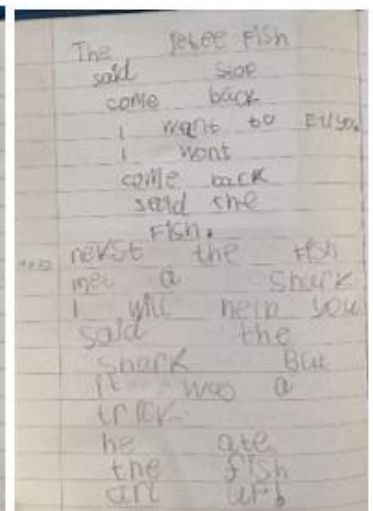
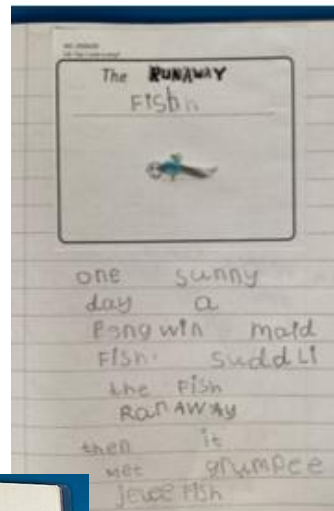
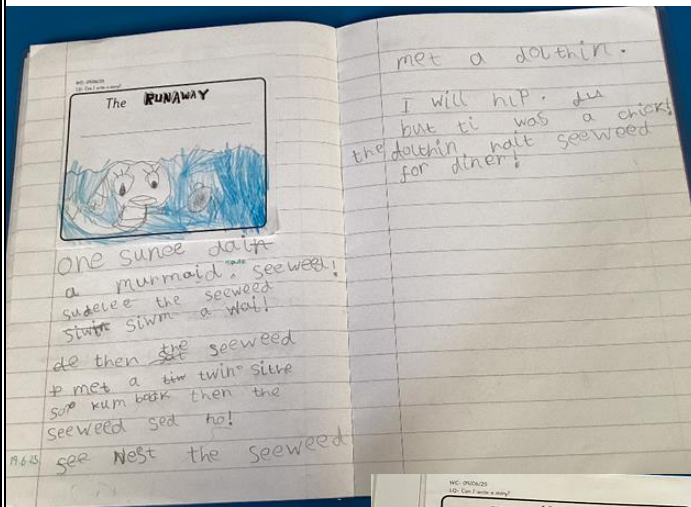
- **Baked goods** - Homemade or store bought sweet treats, ideally pre-portioned (e.g., cupcakes or pre-sliced cakes)
- **Savoury dishes** ready to eat

World Food Stall

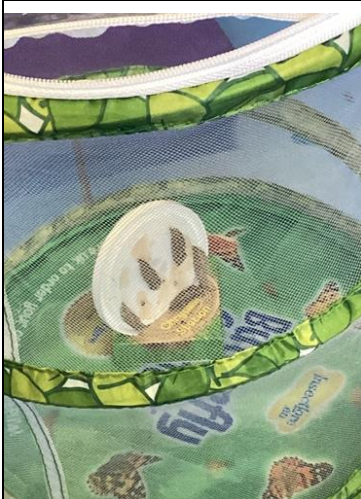


Reception – Stories

Reception have made their own fantastic stories based on 'The Runaway Chapatti.'



Resource Base – Caterpillars



Our caterpillars have reached an exciting milestone! They have now transformed into chrysalises and have been moved to their new habitat. We're early waiting for them to emerge as beautiful butterflies- watch this space for the next stage in the journey.



Year 1 – Rainforest Adventure

This week, we started thinking about the rainforest adventure stories we will be writing next week. We began by exploring the setting and main character for our rainforest adventure stories.

We used our imaginations to picture the vibrant sights and mysterious sounds of the rainforest. Inspired by this vivid scene, we used our amazing artistic talents to paint colourful rainforest landscapes.

Next, we chose a primate to be the hero of our story. Using observation and creativity, we created detailed line drawings of our chosen characters, ready to swing into action in our super-exciting stories.



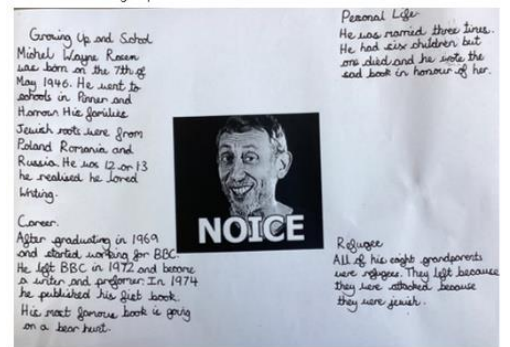
Year 2 – Geography

This week, Year 2 had lots of fun putting their map skills to the test! Using a map of India, we located the capital city, New Delhi, and used our atlases to help us answer questions about the country. We then completed our own blank maps, carefully marking key cities and surrounding countries.



Year 3 – Mindmaps

We have got started on our new writing unit, where are working towards writing a biography. For our hook lesson, we worked in groups to make mind maps all about the fascinating life of Michael Rosen.



Year 4 – Writing – Role Play

In our writing lesson, we worked in small groups to rehearse and perform key scenes from Chapters 6 and 7 of *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*. We focused on using our voices, facial expressions, and body movements to bring the characters and story to life. Our performances showed an understanding of the plot and the emotions behind each scene. To finish, each group created a powerful freeze frame of their favourite moment. We enjoyed capturing the drama and excitement of the story in a single snapshot, as we prepare to write our diary entries next week.



Year 5 – PSHE / RSE



This week in PSHE, our Year 5 children explored the important topic of puberty. Through thoughtful discussion and engaging activities, they learned about the physical and emotional changes that boys and girls experience during this stage of development.

The children were encouraged to ask questions to deepen their understanding of why these changes happen and how they are a natural part of growing up. We were impressed by their curiosity and maturity as they began to feel more comfortable talking about these changes in a respectful and supportive environment.

This lesson marks an important step in helping our pupils develop confidence and knowledge about their bodies and emotions, laying the foundation for healthy attitudes as they grow.



Year 6 – Bring Me Sunshine Project

This week 6A visited St Andrews Church exploring Torridon's core values through creative movement. Children and adults used guided choreographic tools to create shapes and transitional movement which reflected each value. Everyone shared their creations and ideas through performing, discussing and evaluating. We look forward to next week and a sharing at the end of term in our outside creative arts space.

Dance Specialist Teacher



Year 6 – Greenwich Park

Year 6 had a fantastic time soaking up the sunshine during their visit to Greenwich Park on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far. The glorious weather created the perfect backdrop for a day filled with fun, laughter, and relaxation. The children enthusiastically took part in friendly games of cricket and tennis, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship. Whether they were batting, bowling, or rallying across the tennis court, everyone joined in with energy and smiles. After the games, they enjoyed some well-earned downtime, relaxing on the grass, chatting with friends, and taking in the beautiful surroundings. It was another well-deserved trip, celebrating their hard work, resilience, and achievements throughout the year!



Eco Leaders Second-hand Toy Shop

Eco Leaders Second-hand Toy Shop at **Torridon Summer Fair:**

Sunday 6th July 2025



We will be running a Second-hand Toy Shop at the Torridon Fair.

Please donate good quality toys that you don't play with anymore, so that someone else can enjoy them.

By donating and buying second hand, you are saving the planet!
Reduce the plastic consumption and reduce waste.



Recycle the fun!

Deadline to donate: Wednesday 3rd July 2025

From the Eco Leaders Team

Supporting adult: Sarah in Year 4



Forest School Summer Camp



We are very excited to announce that Kelley, our qualified Forest School Leader plans to run a 2-week summer camp in our woodland this summer!

Places will be limited to 30 and can be booked daily or weekly. Places are available for children, Reception-Year 6.



Camp will run from Monday 4th August- Friday 15th August 2025 10am-3pm.

Children will spend their day outside in our woodland embracing nature. Each day there will be free play, den building, tree climbing, team games, stories and songs, craft activities, tool work, campfire snacks.

Booking is NOW available on your child's PARENT PAY account

Our daily rate will be £40 per child (£30 for children eligible for pupil premium funding). Childcare vouchers are accepted. Children should bring a packed lunch.

Forest School News



What a scorcher it has been in our woodland this week!
Please remind your child to apply sun cream before school, bring a sun hat and water bottle to school each day.

The Year 1 and Year 5 children have created a water irrigation system at Forest School this week to keep our plants and trees hydrated.



The Year 6 children embraced tool work by cutting tree cookies with the Bow saw. The children then decorated their wooden cookie as a memory of their Torridon journey.



Year 5 Bee Rescue Team

On a Wednesday afternoon, 5 brilliant Year 5's (Yasmine, Vega, Sophia, Sasha, Harrison, Canada and Kyzah) resued a bee after it was separated from it's hive with a damaged wing. These wonderful people took action into saving the bee. Firstly, we collected some sugar water and carefully fed it to the bee so it would have energy to fly. Next, we approached the bee with two leaves with hope that we could return it back to it's hive. Finally, it was reunited with it's family.



Well done for showing care and naturing to the injured bee. You've made Torridon proud!

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 23 rd June	Allergy Menu's Meeting – Chartwells 9.00am
Thursday 26 th June	Year 1 to Wild Cat Wilderness Centre
Friday 27 th June	Year 6 bake sale
Wednesday 25 th June	OPAL playdate 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 1 st July	Year 6 secondary transition day
Thursday 3 rd July	PTA – Litter Pick
	5pm Year 5 secondary transfer meeting
Sunday 6 th July	PTA - Summer Fair
Week beginning Monday 7 th July	Whole School Assessment Week
Tuesday 8 th July	Summer Music Concert
	Year 6 Royal Opera House Create Day
Friday 11 th July	Nursery Teddy bear's picnic
	Year 6 multigenerational project celebration
Monday 14 th July	Nursery and Reception Sports Day – 9:30-11:30
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day - 9:30-12:30
Wednesday 16 th July	5.00pm Year 6 performance
Thursday 17 th July	9.00am Year 6 performance
Friday 18 th July	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Sports Day – 9:30 – 15:00
Monday 21 st July	Year 6 leavers' party
Tuesday 22 nd July	9.00am Year 6 leavers' assembly
Tuesday 22 nd July	Last Day of Summer Term (2pm finish)
Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd September	INSET DAYS
Wednesday 3 rd September	First day of the autumn term



Corbett Estate Community Yard Sale

If you are interested in selling and to be on the map then contact us at:

Corbettsblesale@outlook.com

Corbett Estate Community Yard Sale



Saturday July 12th, 9am - 2pm

Trims By Alfie

TRIMS BY ALFIE

 @TRIMSBYALFIE

 ALFIE BANKS

MOBILE BARBER

TOTALBARBER ACADEMY

LEVEL 3 NVQ BARBERING

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURED



CUTS AT

ST LUKE'S DOWNHAM & ST MARK'S DOWNHAM

NORTHOVER
BROMLEY
BR1 5JR

BAUDWIN ROAD
DOWNHAM
SE6 1RN

Professional Barber Services in Catford and Downham

I am a local barber proudly serving the Catford and Downham community, offering high-quality haircuts at accessible prices.

Location-Based Haircuts




Available at St Mark's Church, Downham for just £5 per haircut. Perfect for adults, teens and children looking for a clean, professional cut at a great price.

For clients who are unable to attend in person, I offer home visit services, depending on your location and availability.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Ebenezer	For exploring different areas of the Nursery environment and eating independently. Well done, Ebenezer! 😊
Nursery AM	Rafael	For joining in during carpet time and sharing his ideas with the class. Well done, Rafael! 😊
Nursery PM	Tabitha	For being independent using the toilet and for being kind and playing nicely with her friends. Well done, Tabitha! 😊
Blue Class	Emmanuel	For trying his best in writing tasks and for listening to adult instructions. Keep it up, Emmanuel 😊
Red Class	Isra	For consistently demonstrating exceptional behaviour and fantastic creativity in her drawing and writing. Keep it up Isra! 😊
Yellow Class	Mariyam	For writing a fantastic story and for settling in so well. Well done!
1M	Alaia	For stepping out of her comfort zone and joining in with lots of Forest School activities! Well done Alaia!
1N	Samara	For always setting a good example to others by being kind. She also always does her best and has been working on her targets to improve her writing.
1W	Rizwan	For his improved attitude towards writing, coming up with his own original ideas and working more independently. Well done Rizwan! 😊
2E	Eliza	For trying her hardest with learning this week. Today in writing she was very focused and as a result produced excellent sentences with lovely expanded noun phrases! Well done – keep it up 😊
2S	Riley	For his amazing effort in all areas of his learning! You should be very proud of the amazing learning you have produced! Well done Riley 😊
2SW	Munasar	For trying very hard to complete all of his learning this week. Well done Munasar, keep it up! 😊
3A	Daisy	For always being such a considerate and helpful member of the class and a fantastic learning partner!
3G	Ebrima	For trying his best during maths lessons. Well done Ebrima, keep it up! 😊
3S	Isaac	For completing all of his learning and working collaboratively with his peers. Well done Isaac, keep it up 😊
4K	Nickiya	For showing fantastic focus in writing. She was able to independently use the appropriate vocabulary including time adverbials in her learning. Well done 😊
4L	Elsie	For always being an independent and dedicated learner, an amazing helper in the classroom and a consistently positive and kind role model – Keep it up Elsie! 😊
4S	Emmaline	For making our classroom and playground a lovely place to be by always being so kind and respectful to everyone. Thank you, Emmaline 😊
5C	Ariana	For always showing a positive attitude, working hard in lessons and having respectful behaviour
5L	Zayd	For showing fantastic responsibility in his role as digital leader. He always ensures our Year 5 laptops are organised, charged and ready to use. Thank you and well done!
5V	Maya	For her very informative writing on water conservation which included adventurous vocabulary, key words and features of an information text she was not told to use.
6A	Hirav	For being attentive and helpful on our journey to Greenwich Park. Well done Hirav 😊
6L	Thiksga	For her brilliant progress in writing. Thiksga has produced fantastic written learning and has confidently presented to the class.
6R	Radiatoulaye	For superb suspense writing using vocabulary to engage the reader and drawing upon her own reading. You also demonstrated secure use of a wide range of punctuation. Well done.
RB Blue	Hirav	For fantastic independent learning and building positive relations with friends. Keep up the good work!
RB Green	Jarelle	For amazing focus in maths all week! Well done Jarelle! 😊

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance_		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	94%		3A	96%		5C	89%	
1N	97%		3G	97%		5L	97.7%	
1W	92%		3S	95%		5V	98.2%	
2S	95%		4K	95%		6A	92%	
2SW	98%		4L	95%		6L	93%	
2E	96%		4S	92%		6R	89%	

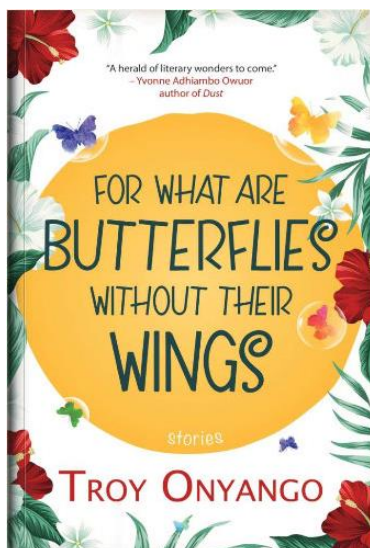
Well done 3A for winning the attendance cup a fourth week in a row and all the other winning classes! Lets keep on pushing for 100% next week!

Moon Lane Tales

‘Stars on Moon Lane’ is our new evening series, where we bring in fresh new authors each month to throw the spotlight on African literature. Led by Lizzy Attree, co-founder of the Safal Kiswahili Prize for African Literature, join us to learn, discuss, and explore.



Thank you so much for your ongoing support, you are keeping us going and we are so grateful to every single one of you. Though we are now open for browsing we are still offering a click and collect service. Please feel free to browse our [online shop](#) or visit our [Bookshop.org site](#) - the new ethical way to shop for books online.



Troy Onyango & John-Paul Kunrunmi - Thursday 19th June, 7pm - 9pm

Centred on the queer African experience, For What Are Butterflies Without Their Wings immerses readers in the heart of Troy Onyango's evocative storytelling, where characters navigate complex lives shaped by societal rules that often defy logic and compassion...

Culverley Summer Fete 22nd June 2025



**CULVERLEY GREEN
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

SUMMER FETE

MECHANICAL ANIMALS
THE REELING ICENIS CEILIDH BAND
LOCAL PLANTS STALL
HOME MADE REFRESHMENTS
CHILDREN'S GAMES
AND MORE

**SUNDAY
22ND JUNE**
2-5 pm ON THE GREEN

FREE OPEN TO ALL

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE RESTORATION
OF THE RAILINGS AROUND THE GREEN

Horniman Museum – Big Fish, Little Fish



**Sat 5th July
2 til 6pm**

**Mark XTC
HiFi Sean
Bill Brewster**

Big Fish Little Fish Family Rave at Horniman Museum Gardens

Tickets from Horniman.ac.uk



Online Safety – Parenting Gamers

PARENTING GAMERS



Moving from policing to parenting your gaming kids: how to engage and guide

With concerns about escalating screen-time, the impact of violence, unexpected costs and interloping strangers it can be tempting to lock down video games to limit their negative impact. While some sensible boundaries are helpful, they are only a short term solution for how we guide children towards gaming health. Like other areas of childhood, parents and carers can have a powerful steering presence by engaging and participating in the video games their children play. This not only reduces risks because they are aware of the kinds of activities, interactions and costs involved but makes video games a part of family life. Along with building dens, climbing trees, cooking and family walks, playing games with children enables parents to guide the quality of content being played. This may start with sharing the games children are currently playing, understanding why they love it and celebrating successes. But with a little research, this can grow into suggesting other games to play and higher ambitions for what kids get out of playing long-standing favourites.



National
Online
Safety®

A New Media For Everyone

Video games are a new kind of media. Because they are new we don't entirely understand their potential yet. They've become hugely popular and commercially successful as blockbuster entertainment for children and teenagers. However, like books, films and music, the real range of video games on offer is much broader than this.

There are games about every topic you could imagine, and aimed at a wide range of ages and perspectives. Whether it's sharing a family's heartbreaking story in *That Dragon, Cancer*, stepping into the shoes of a Syrian migrant in *Bury Me, My Love*, or taking the hand of your child and soaring over the clouds in *Sky: Children of Light*, games take us places in unique ways. It's no surprise, then, that Newzoo figures show that in 2018 40% of men and 32% of women play games. And Entertainment Software Association (ESA) data showed that the average age for US gamers is 34 for women and 32 for men.

If you want to turbocharge your care of a child who loves playing video games, the best thing to do is to find games you want to play yourself. This can sound like strange advice until we consider how hard it would be caring for a child who loves books without reading ourselves or guiding a child who loves music without sharing our favourite songs.

Video Game Diet

Gaining an understanding of what video games are, what they are like to play and the different experiences on offer, enables you to encourage a varied gaming diet. Similar to how we don't worry about plate-time but what's on the plate, we can differentiate between different types of screen experience.

Playing *Fortnite* offers exuberant excitement and connection to friends. Playing *Mario Kart* connects us to the players sitting next to us. *Roblox* can be a place for children to play at having a job or surviving a storm. *Minecraft* can be a tranquil escape from a busy day at school. *Angry Birds* can be a way to calm anxiety or jangling nerves.

Parents and carers can expand these experiences. *Kingdoms Two Crowns*, *Reigns* and *Life is Strange* teach players to trust their instincts in game-worlds built to encourage risk and hunch taking. *Florence*, *Abzu*, *Journey* and *Brothers Tale of Two Sons* are a gentle way for children to learn about their own emotional responses to challenging situations as well as appreciating how people experiencing them first hand may feel. *Eco* and *One Hour, One Life* encourage the altruism of building something that other players benefit from.

Creators Not Consumers

Ambition for their future means parents and carers support activities where children are excelling. While this is familiar territory when a child is brilliant at an instrument or learning a foreign language, it's easy to miss the need for our enthusiasm when it comes to video games. Along with the general connection and good feelings that come from a parent or carer celebrating success in an activity that a child enjoys comes the imperative that they could go further than they realise themselves. The rise in competitive video games can sound peculiar but requires great skill, draws large audiences and comes with high prize money for professional players. Beyond this, parents can guide children towards other careers in video games which need diverse creative, technical and social skills. A simple and effective way to do this is to encourage children to create as well as consume games. This can start as simple customisation of the games that allow you to design maps and characters. Then there are games like *Mario Maker* on Wii U, 3DS and Switch where you can design and share levels for other players. *Dreams* on the PlayStation 4 takes this further with an accessible game creator that's also really powerful.

Finding Games You Want Children To Play

Parenting rather than policing video games equips children to build good habits and a healthy relationship with digital media for when they leave home and parents aren't around to enforce the rules. One challenge can be finding the kinds of games you want your children to play. There are good resources to help you with this. Many of the examples here come from my upcoming *Taming Gaming* book: <https://unbound.com/books/taming-gaming/>. There are also websites that provide video game suggestions like *AskAboutGames* <https://www.askaboutgames.com>. Also, there are good Twitter accounts that help, like *Wholesome Games* (@_wholesomegames) and *Non-Violent Game Of The Day* (@NVGOTD).

You can also use the VSC Rating Board (<https://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/>) website and PEGI app to search for games of different ratings.



Meet our expert

Andy Robertson is a parent of three children and journalist who writes for national newspapers and broadcast television. His *Taming Gaming* book helps parents guide children to healthy play.