



Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

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7th November 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful break. We have started the new half term with some fantastic learning which we can't wait to share with you.

Huge thanks to those wonderful volunteers who gave up their Saturday to come and help Kelley to move some of the large logs on the playground. We now have a new climbing area and assault course for the children to explore.

Next week is anti-bullying week. We kick the week off with odd socks day on Monday – an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! We will be asking the children to help us update our anti-bullying policy and think about how we can use kind words about each other, both face to face and when we are online.

Friday is BBC Children in Need and we will be inviting children to wear spots or bright colours for a small donation to charity. We will have buckets on the gates or you can [click here to donate](#)

I know that lots of you have already bought your bulbs for the spring flower competition. Kelley has a few left so if you have not got yours yet, Kelley will be selling the last few bulbs at the Reception gate on Monday.

Today is the very last day to order your holiday cards & gifts. Visit apfsorders.co.uk and enter the artwork code on the back of your child's artwork by midnight tonight.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Manda George
Headteacher



Football Stars



Mekai is in year 5 and plays football for Tottenham Hotspur's under 10s team.

He had an amazing opportunity to travel with the team to Athens where he played in an international tournament

We are super proud of Mekai and his achievements and we can't wait to see him playing in the Premier League one day!



Kruz, a valued member of the Chelsea Football Academy team, continues to make us proud. As his teacher, I was invited to the club to learn more about the educational support provided to him while balancing football with academics. During my visit, I toured the impressive facilities and had the opportunity to watch one of his training sessions. It was inspiring to see the dedication and professionalism in action.

Keep up the great work, Kruz!



Rights Respecting Assemblies



This week in our Rights Respecting assemblies, we learned about Article 38 and Remembrance Day. We talked about how Remembrance Day brings people together to honour those who have helped protect our freedom. We also learned about

Armistice Day and how the First World War ended at 11.00am on the 11th of November 1918. Most importantly, we discussed how war affects children and why it's so important to keep them safe.



Urgent Appeal: Support for Hurricane Melissa Relief Effort in Jamaica

As you may be aware, Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica last week with catastrophic impact. With winds reaching 145 mph and widespread flooding, over 95% of the western region has suffered severe damage. Hospitals, infrastructure, and communication systems have been devastated, leaving many without shelter or access to basic necessities.

Many of our staff and students have family members directly affected by this disaster. In response, our school is joining the wider relief effort to support those in need.

We are collecting **essential items** to be sent through official channels, including the Jamaica National (JN) Group and other recognized partners. These items will be delivered to Jamaica to assist with recovery and rebuilding.

Most needed items include:

- Non-perishable food items
- Tarpaulins
- Solar or battery-powered lights
- Personal hygiene products (including adult & baby diapers, menstrual products)
- Children Clothing

Drop-off Location:

Please bring donations to the school office/ donation station

Deadline: Friday 14th November

Items will be handed over to authorized organizations for shipment to Jamaica.

Please beware of donation fraud. All contributions will be processed through verified channels to ensure they reach those in need.

Let's come together as a community to support our extended family in Jamaica during this critical time.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Spring Bulb Lucky Dip Competition



We are inviting children to buy a £1 Spring bulb from school this Autumn to plant at home in a pot.

Bulbs will be on sale from Kelley on the Reception gate

When your flower blooms, take a picture and send it to

forestschooll@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk.

All of the beautiful pictures will be displayed so Manda can pick a winning bloom!

All funds raised from the sale of Spring bulbs will go directly towards the continuous development of our Forest School and Allotment areas.



Allotment and Forest School Clubs




It has been another busy week for our clubs. The children from Allotment club worked so hard on Tuesday to start our annual leaf collecting.



We created Remembrance poppies at Forest School this week. The children were very proud of their creations.



Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	92%		3A	97%		5A	96%	
1N	94%		3G	99%		5C	92%	
1W	87%		3S	94%		5V	98%	
2E	96%		4C	91%		6L	97%	
2S	96%		4K	99.6%		6LG	97%	
2SW	98%		4S	95%		6R	96%	

Well done to all the classes with over 97% attendance this week

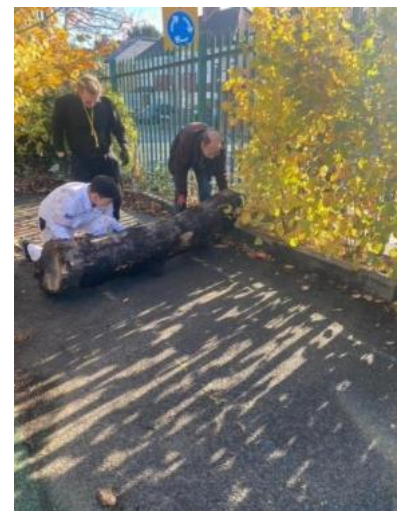
Log Volunteers



On Saturday we had a group of parents who kindly worked together to re-position our donated logs around the playground to create an assault course as part of our OPAL PLAY provision.



We are so grateful to our parent community for their continued support to our school as we continue to enhance the environment for our children.



Reception – Forest School



We had so much fun at Forest School this week!



Resource Base Playground

The Resource Base children are absolutely loving the new playground equipment! It's wonderful to see them exploring, laughing, and playing together each day. The new setup encourages teamwork, problem-solving, and lots of active fun. We're proud of how everyone is learning to share, take turns, and support each other while enjoying the space.



Year 2 African Adventure



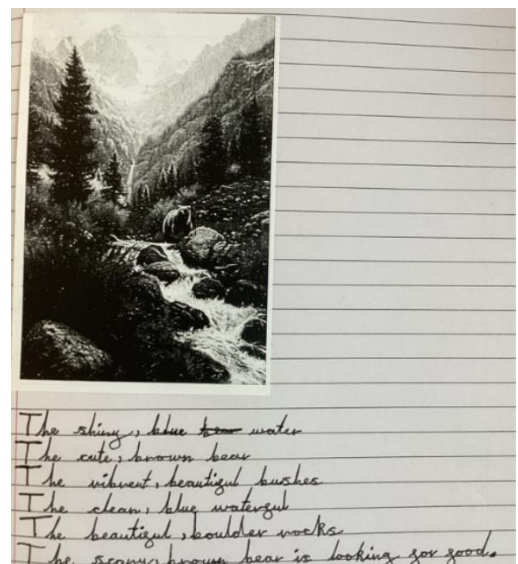
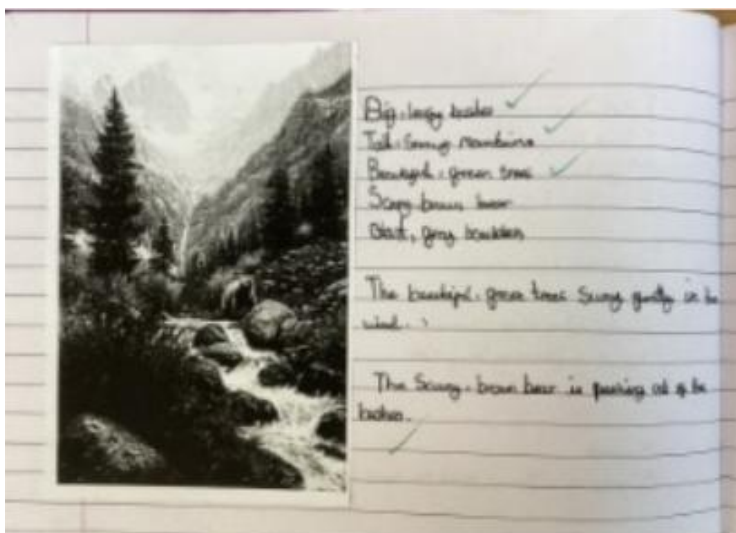
Let's begin our exciting African Adventure!

This week, year 2 were excited to discover a surprise new book...Meerkat Mail! The story follows Sunny the meerkat as he travels to new places, sending postcards to his family to share updates from each stop on his journey.

Sunny's latest destination? Torridon Primary School! Since he's joined us here, it's only fitting that we send a postcard to his family from his newest adventure with us.

Year 3 - Writing

Year 3 have been learning how to make their writing more descriptive and engaging by using expanded noun phrases. The children have been thinking about how to paint a picture in the reader's mind to make their writing come to life.



Year 4 Drama

In writing this week, we stepped into the shoes of brave explorers preparing for a perilous journey to the Arctic Circle. With imagination and drama, we crafted and performed a speech as if we were about to embark on this icy expedition, unaware of the dangers that lay ahead.

Throughout the lesson, we focused on key presentation skills including:

- Using a clear and confident voice
- Employing appropriate body language
- Maintaining a steady and engaging pace
- Making eye contact and expressing emotion.



The children really enjoyed performing!

Year 5 Inventors



Year 5 students had the unique opportunity to meet renowned British inventor Pauline Straker-Rodgers, whose innovative work in doll making has inspired many. During Black History Month, the children studied her contributions through the book *Black Scientists and Inventors* by Michael Williams and Ava Henry and were thrilled to meet her in person.

During her visit, Pauline led a creative workshop where students made their own paper dolls using pipe cleaners and paper—an engaging activity that brought invention and imagination to life. Some lucky pupils even received one of her handcrafted dolls, making the experience even more memorable.

This inspiring session not only celebrated Black excellence in STEM and creativity but also encouraged our young learners to think like inventors and explore their own ideas.



Year 6 Writing

This week, Year 6 have been using their skills to create descriptive narrative openings. Pupils have been learning how to hook the reader from the very first line using techniques such as show not tell, expanded noun phrases, *and* adverbials for cohesion. We're so impressed by their creativity and the confidence they are showing in their storytelling!

As my heart broke into a ~~+~~ million pieces, the smell of perfumed fruits ~~survived~~ swirled around my nose. The hot sun glistened down ~~on~~ on my pitch black, curly hair when sweat dripped down my forehead. My empty stomach rumbled when it smelt the mouth-watering fruits that glistened like the stars. A gush of wind, which was full of ^{fragrant} scents of spices, ^{surrounded} ~~surrounded~~ me which when the shopkeepers shouts made ~~me go across to see~~ be could be heard from a mile away.

As I stepped down from the ~~rope~~ a gust of warmth went through me the market had new merchants today. As I walked through the new stalls my empty stomach churned in delight as the smell of curry chicken wafted through the air. One of my friends joined ~~be me~~ in adorning the fragrant air. On the way to explore a new stall my tired legs started dragging along the large market. At noon, the blazing sun boomed over me causing sweat to drip from my forehead. As we approached the stall the biggest most fragrant cocktail sat in front of me. I bought it and drank it ^{indulgently} as fruity flavours overwhelmed my

Spoon Carving Workshop



From beginners to experienced carvers. Use simple techniques and tools to make something beautiful.

SPOON CARVING WORKSHOP

Torridon School, SE6, Sunday 9th November, 10am – 3pm
£50 per person (18+ only. Discounts available.)



amyas.varcoe@gmail.com



@VarcoeWoodcraft

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 9 th November	Wood Carving Workshop
w/b Monday 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 10 th November	Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 11 th November	Year 1 boys' football tournament
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need Non Uniform Day Bake Sale
Monday 17 th November	Individual and class photographs Yar 5 and 6 basketball tournament (TBC)
Tuesday 18 th November	Year 3 to the Natural History Museum
Thursday 20 th November	PTA fundraiser – Non uniform day
Friday 21 st November	INSET DAY
Monday 24 th November	Reception cinema visit
Thursday 27 th November	Reception to Year 6 height and weight screening
Friday 28 th November	Artisan Craft Market – 3-5pm
w/b 1 st December	Whole school assessment week
Thursday 4 th December	9am Coffee Morning with the Mental Health Schools Team – challenging behaviours
Wednesday 10 th December	Music concert
Thursday 11 th December	PTA School Disco
Friday 12 th December	Festive assembly performances 9.00 Year 1 2.45 Year 2
Monday 15 th December	Festive assembly performances 9.00 Year 5 2.45 Year 6
Tuesday 16 th December	9.00 or 2.30 Reception nativity performance
Wednesday 17 th December	9.00 Nursery – festive songs Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18 th December	Festive assembly performances 9.00 Year 3 2.45 Year 4
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term (2pm finish)
Monday 22 nd December – Friday 2 nd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 5 th January 2026	First day of spring term



STARS OF THE WEEK



Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Saraiyah	For coming back to nursery and settling so beautifully – we are so happy to have you back!
Nursery PT	Zarah	For always being a kind and sensible friend and building her confidence in nursery everyday.
Blue Class	Khalil	For being an excellent role model and always doing his best to be kind to others. Well done, Khalil!
Red Class	Lashwin	For being confident when speaking to his friends and adults. Also, his fantastic name writing! Well done, Lashwin! 😊
Yellow Class	Zyon	For working hard and trying his best in phonics. Well done!
1M	Feliks	For his new and improved attitude towards his learning. Feliks is beginning to complete tasks with greater independence. Keep up the fantastic work! 😊
1N	Kimora	For her excellent listening skills! Kimora has shown fantastic focus as we've learned about sea creatures with Anansi the spider. She has impressed us with her memory for new facts. Keep up the great work! 😊
1W	Kalai	For showing such a positive attitude towards completing his independent learning. He has even been trying to help his friends complete theirs! Well done Kalai!
2E	Valentina	For her growing independence in her learning. Keep it up, Valentina.
2S	Albert	For his impressive effort in all areas of his learning this week! Well done for independently making corrections to your learning and extending yourself to achieve your best! Well done Albert 😊
2SW	Josiah	For trying his very best in all lessons this week. It has been lovely to see his independence and confidence grow! Well done Josiah, keep it up! 😊
3A	Nikol	For an excellent effort during your maths lessons this week. You have tried really hard and should be very proud – well done!
3G	Yanushi	Well done for being respectful and kind to everyone around the school 😊
3S	Christian	Fantastic attitude towards his learning, especially spellings. Well done, keep it up 😊
4C	Ethan	For trying his best in all his learning. I have noticed a huge difference. Well done Ethan 😊 Keep it up!
4K	Navpreet	For her thoughtfulness and caring nature towards her peers. She has been an outstanding role model this week by helping a new child around the school.
4S	4S	For showing such amazing enthusiasm, confidence and bravery in their swimming lessons. Also, for using every second as a learning opportunity by teaching each other sign language on the bus during silent time. You are superstars! 😊
5A	Elijah	For settling well into the school and class community, and for already displaying our core values of excellence and respect. Keep it up!
5C	Austin	For taking pride in his maths learning this week and never giving up, even when learning is challenging. This shows excellence and resilience, Keep it up!
5V	Eda	For listening to and implementing feedback, and for making good progress in her writing.
6L	Gursewakpal	For his beautiful use of emotive language as well as using a range of impactful expanded noun phrases. Well done!
6LG	Madison	For her determination in maths lessons recently. You have been self-motivated to do well. Keep it up 😊
6R	Virat	For making thoughtful contributions to class discussions, demonstrating focus and producing an excellent setting description. Well done.

TORRIDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS ARTISAN CRAFT MARKET

**FRIDAY 28TH
NOVEMBER**

 **3-5PM**

**VENDORS
WANTED!**

Join us for a festive
afternoon and showcase
your handmade gifts,
crafts, and seasonal treats.

STALL ENQUIRIES:

torridonmarket25@gmail.com



St Andrew's Catford

Christmas Tree Festival

**24th - 29th
November**

**St Andrew's Church
Sandhurst Rd
Catford
SE6 1XD**

**Carols and
concerts
throughout
the week**

**Mulled wine,
mince pies, festive
activities and stalls
in the Church Hall and
Corbett Library on
Saturday 29th**

EDUCATION ADVOCACY DROP-INS



Purpose: Monthly support sessions partnered by SIRG and the Family Hubs, providing direct education, advocacy and guidance for parents/carers.

**FROM 10:00 AM
TO 5:00 PM**

17th October 2025

28th November 2025

19th December 2025

30th January 2026

27th February 2026

26th March 2026

24th April 2026

22nd May 2026

26th June 2026

LADYWELL FAMILY HUB

30 Rushey Mead, SE4 1JJ

DOWNHAM FAMILY HUB

Downderry Children's Centre
Shroffold Road, Bromley BR1 5PD

DEPTFORD FAMILY HUB

Clyde Nursery School
Alverton Street, SE8 5NH

BELLINGHAM FAMILY HUB

109 Randlesdown Road, SE6 3HB

Support Includes:

- School applications, admissions, and exclusions
- SEN provision and referrals
- Appeals and complaints processes
- Signposting to Family Hub and wider borough services
- Raising awareness of the support available to black families of Lewisham.



Funded
by NCIL



NCIL PARENT EMPOWERMENT PROJECT 2025-2027

SIRG is an education advocacy organisation supporting parents, carers, and young people to navigate the education system, resolve school issues, and access the right support.

We're empowering Black parents in Lewisham to feel confident and informed about their child's education through a series of free events focused on advocacy, knowledge, and support.

DROP-INS

Monthly support sessions providing direct advocacy and guidance for parents/carers at the Family Hubs across Lewisham.



ADVOCACY TRAINING

Upskilling parents through focused, termly workshops on navigating the education system.

EXPOS

A community and statutory space where parents can connect with services, vendors, and guest speakers.



SCAN TO STAY UPDATED

Find times and locations for every event on pep-lewisham.eventbrite.co

www.sirglondon.org @sirglondon info@sirglondon.org