

Executive Headteacher: Helen Bruckdorfer BA

Friday, 16 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another brilliant start to the new academic year at Torriano, with children settling quickly into their new classes, returning to good learning habits and being incredibly active learners. We look forward to seeing Reception and Nursery parents at their Meet the Team meetings.

This letter gives further important and detailed information regarding the year ahead and this term's learning. Please keep an eye out for parent workshops which will be running throughout the year. Our weekly newsletter, sent on a Thursday, will keep you updated of all that is happening in the school. Please also follow us on @TorrianoJuniorS .

Together, The Future Starts Here

This year, Torriano and Brecknock schools will be exploring the whole school and federation theme Together, The Future Starts Here. We are excited to embark on a deeper partnership, with each other, with our children, parents and community, increasing opportunities for everyone to learn together.



We will enrich our learning and curriculum with a focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) quality education, reduced inequalities, affordable and clean energy. In the Autumn Term we will mark key events; Global Goals Week, Ada Lovelace Day, Black History Season and Anti-bullying Week.

Please see the rest of the letter below and curriculum leaflet, detailing the core and wider curriculum for children. This information will also be available shortly on our new website.

Rights Respecting Children

As a Gold Rights Respecting school, we consistently focus on the rights of the child and how these help us to develop an understanding of respect and empathy for others. At the start of this term, every class has created their class charter, underpinned by the Torriano school values.



In class, the children are praised for excellent work, participation and following the class charter and whole school values. Our behaviour system is called '1, 2, 3 Magic', which we believe complements our ethos. Children are rewarded with stickers linked to the school value they have demonstrated. These values are celebrated during our weekly special achievement assemblies.

Learning in Reception

The attached curriculum leaflet gives you an overview of the learning that will be taking place this term in your child's year group. Through our 'Kentish Town Community and the Heroes Who Help Us' topic the children will be learning about what makes each of us unique; based on what we like, who our families are, and where we live. We will start our learning by meeting and finding out about the roles of different people in our school. The children will then explore the wider community, meeting local heroes who help us when we return after the half-term.

All classes will use Torriano Timelines, Knowledge Quarters and a range of retrieval tasks to support children to learn, remember and recall key facts about our local community and the heroes who help us.

Trips

We are delighted to be able to plan and take children on a range of educational trips once again. All trips will be risk assessed. This term we are going to be exploring the Torriano school grounds and the wider local area.



Attendance and Punctuality

Ted and Earl will be on the lookout for good attendance and prompt school arrival this term. We understand that reaching 100% daily attendance is challenging at this time, we will be celebrating good attendance and time-keeping behaviour in our weekly, virtual special achievement assemblies. We encourage you to

monitor your child's attendance using Arbor to ensure their attendance remains excellent. Please ensure you download the Arbor App to access your child's profile and complete payments.

Home Learning

<p>Phonics - Little Wandle</p> 	<p>At Torriano we teach children to read through systematic synthetic phonics programme 'Little Wandle'. Phonics lessons take place daily in Reception, with a focus on learning sounds and 'Tricky Words'. We will be learning how to blend sounds together to read simple words and captions this term. Look out for information about parent workshops to inform you about phonics.</p> <p>We use decodable books to support children's growth as readers. Children will begin to take part in weekly group reading sessions, reading a decodable book that has been chosen for them based on the sounds that they have already learnt in class. This means that our children will not encounter unfamiliar GPCs (sounds) in their books, ensuring success in reading and boosting their confidence as readers. Children will also take a home a reading for pleasure book from the book corner, which families can read to, and with, their children for enjoyment.</p>
<p>Home Reading</p> 	<p>Parental support is hugely important for developing reading skills, confidence and understanding. Even if children are independent readers, we still encourage parents to read with them or listen to them and discuss the books they are reading.</p> <p>Reading daily at home with an adult is crucial to helping your child make progress. In Reception, children should be reading at home for around 10 minutes a day. To help the teachers understand what and how much children are reading, we request that parents/carers complete their reading record ('Monkey Book') once a week with a simple comment. Reading records and books must be brought in to class every day (in your child's school book bag). Reading records will be checked regularly by adults, with a teacher comment once a week.</p>
<p>Fluency in maths</p> 	<p>Knowing number facts is an important tool to enable your child to feel confident in maths. Revising number facts, including counting and recognising numbers, is an easy way to support your child's progress in mathematics and we encourage children to revise them regularly. Encourage your child to spot amounts and numbers in everyday life and use positional language (e.g. over, under, behind, next to) to develop their understanding of shape and space.</p>
<p>New words</p> <p><i>Ask me what this means...</i></p> 	<p>Direct vocabulary teaching of new words linked to the learning takes place every day. On a Friday, children choose one of their new words to wear on a sticker and discuss its meaning with their friends and the adults they meet. We encourage you to speak to your child about their chosen word each week. This will help them to deepen their understanding of the new vocabulary and to develop their oracy skills.</p>
<p>Tapestry</p> 	<p>In EYFS, we use an online learning journal called 'Tapestry'. Staff use this to share examples of your child's learning through photos and videos of what they have been doing in school. You can download the Tapestry application onto your tablet or phone to view these and can also use the app to share news and learning which has taken place at home. If you need any assistance with accessing Tapestry, please speak to one of the Reception Team.</p>

Reading books and reading records should be kept in a book bag as these are used/referred to regularly in class.

PE

PE will take place every Wednesday. Children will not be changing for PE so please ensure they wear appropriate clothes for physical activity on these days, including trainers. Please note, we have and will continue to do a Daily Mile, so it is important that children wear appropriate footwear daily.

We look forward to an exciting year and are available at pickup to discuss any queries at the end of each school day.

Kind regards,

The Reception Team

