

Newsletter

Friday 12th January 2024



Brindishe
Lee

What has been happening this week?

Welcome to the New Year and the Spring Term. We hope you enjoyed the break and are feeling full of energy and ready for the term ahead. It's a short term, but a very busy one at Brindishe Lee and the learning has got off to a great start this week. Please check Weduc as the teachers have put up some informative newsletters about the curriculum for this term.



Talk Consent

What is happening next week?

Year 1 have trip to The Horniman Museum to support their learning in science. They will look at lots of different animals and their features to be able to compare them. Our salsa troupe will be going to Brindishe Manor to perform for them on Wednesday. Year 5 will also be heading over to Brindishe Manor this week. On Thursday they will be taking part in a Talk Consent workshop. Year 6 have Talk Consent workshops in school on Friday to support their learning in PHSME. Also on Friday, Reception have an exciting visit to the Fire Station at Lee.

Year 1 Phonics Workshop

Year 1 parents and carers are invited to join Mrs Bannister for a phonics workshop on **Friday 26th January at 9am** to find out all about the Year 1 phonics check and how to support your child at home in their reading and phonics learning. Slides will be shared on Weduc if you cannot make the workshop.



Information From the Office

Payments and Permissions: To cut down on paper and improve efficiency, from this point onwards we will be getting all payments and permissions through Weduc. See separate email and keep checking Weduc!

Clubs: Clubs start from Monday



Forms

School lunches- News!

Burger Day is on Thursday 18th January. Yum! Your child can choose this special menu even if they usually have packed lunches.



From Monday, you can choose daily if your child is having a packed lunch or a school dinner. When taking the register, your child will be asked if they have a packed lunch or if they are having a school dinner on that day. This will give a bit more freedom to choose if you would like.

F@B AGM

Please come along to the F@B AGM on Thursday 25th January at 5pm in the school hall. We need your support!

Attendance

Attendance is a high priority across the Brindishe Federation this year. Please have a look at our attendance newsletter for advice and support.

Class	Attended	Mins Late
Reception	95.57%	209
Year 1	98.1%	33
Year 2	97.54%	108
Year 3	98.03%	29
Year 4	97.04%	11
Year 5	97.62%	84
Year 6 Magnolia	93.41%	36
Year 6 Sycamore	91.43%	10

Important Key Dates- Spring 1

January 2024		February 2024		March 2024	
Mon 8 th Jan	Inset day no school	Tues 6 th Feb	Internet Safety Day	Tues 12 th and Thurs 14 th March	Parents evenings
Tue 9 th Jan	Start of Spring term	3.35-3.50pm Thurs 8 th Feb	Open classroom	Thurs 28 th March	Last day of term
Thursday 25 th Jan 5pm	F@B AGM	Mon 12 th - Fri 16 th February 2024	Half term	Fri 29 th March - Fri 12 th April 2024	Easter holidays

Attendance Newsletter

Across the Brindishe Federation, we firmly believe that regular school attendance is essential for the educational progress and overall wellbeing of all our pupils. It is about working in partnership with our children, parents, carers and the Local Authority to ensure we set high expectations. We hope that this letter helps you to keep in mind the key aspects of our attendance policy.

Why does regular attendance matter?

Keeping attendance above 96%, allows your child to:

- Fully engage in learning and make academic progress
- maintain friendships and develop new ones
- Grow in confidence in a supportive and nurturing school environment
- Build a sense of routine and responsibility, essential for future success

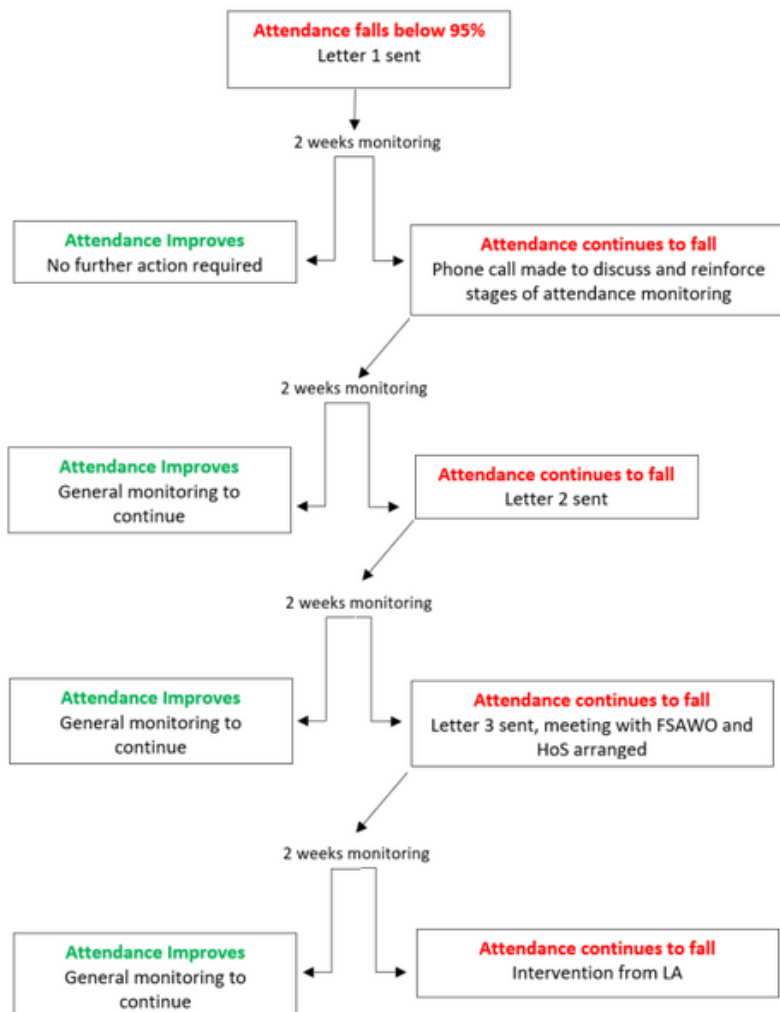


How do we monitor attendance?

Every fortnight, staff at the school monitor their attendance.

If your child's attendance:

- falls below 95%, you will be sent a letter to remind you of the importance of attendance in school
- continues to fall, a member of staff will call you to discuss your child's attendance
- continues to fall further, you will be sent a letter regarding the loss of learning time
- continues to fall further, you will be invited in for a meeting with the HoS and FASWO
- does not improve, you will be sent a letter from the LA informing you of potential legal procedures including a court warning



What does a percentage look like in days?

Below shows how your child's attendance can be affected if they are off. We aim for all children to be around 96%.

- 95% (2 weeks) 9 days off in a school year
- 90% (4 weeks) 19 days off in a school year
- 85% (6 weeks) 29 days off in a school year

What absence will we authorise?

We recognise that there are circumstances where a pupil's absence can't be avoided.

Acceptable reasons for being absent from school include:

- Illness
- Medical appointments: if your child has a medical appointment that CANNOT be scheduled outside school hours, please notify us in advance and provide relevant documentation (e.g. an appointment card)
- Religious observance
- Exceptional circumstances

Don't forget about Punctuality!

The school registers close, straight after the gate shuts, so being in school on time is very important. Missing the start of a lesson means your child is missing their learning and can be very disruptive and unsettling. Minutes late can also affect your attendance, so make sure your child is in school on time.



How should you report an 'unplanned' absence?

In the event of an unplanned absence, we request you follow these steps:

- Contact the school: on the day of the absence, please call the school office before 9am and leave a message to inform us about your child's absence.
- Provide a reason for absence: please provide a brief explanation for the absence, such as illness or family emergency, to help us maintain accurate records.

Can I go on holiday during term-time?

Term-time holidays are generally not permitted during the school year. Absences due to term-time holidays are disruptive to learning and lead to missed opportunities in the classroom.

However, we recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances that require a term-time holiday. In such rare cases, please submit a formal request to the head of school well in advance. The head of school will carefully consider each request and, if deemed appropriate and in the best interest of the child, may grant permission for the term-time holiday.

We emphasise that such instances will only be considered on a discretionary basis, and the decision will be made with the pupil's educational welfare as the utmost priority. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding regarding our approach to term-time holidays.

Fines for unauthorised absence

The Local Authority/head of school may issue a fine (known as a fixed-penalty notice) for unauthorised absence. If issued with one, you'll need to pay this directly to the local authority – £60 within 21 days, or £120 within 28 days.

The decision whether to issue a fine may take into account factors such as the number of unauthorised within a rolling academic year and one-off instances of irregular attendance.



What support can we offer?

We understand that some pupils may face challenges that impact on their attendance. Our school's attendance team is here to provide support and guidance to pupils and families in such situations. If you encounter any difficulties related to attendance, please get on touch with either your child's class teacher, a member of the schools SLT team or Clare Doran (FSWAO).

If you are worried about your child/children's attendance the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. Please feel free to contact Clare on 07943 041970

A big thank you to for working with us to make sure our children attend school regularly!

School Meals Spring Term Update



Brindishe
Federation

At the start of this year the **Mayor** agreed to fund universal **free school meal** provision for all London primary school children.

We have seen a rise in the number of children taking up the offer of a free meal every day, but it is our aim to try and encourage more!

We have therefore decided to trial something new.....

From **Monday 15th January**, we will be letting you and your child **CHOOSE** their meal choice on a **daily basis**.

So, if you choose to have school dinners on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and on Friday have a packed lunch, that is fine. The teacher will ask your child each day for their choice when taking the register.

What are we asking you as parents/carers to do?

We hope, that ALL children, will want school dinners everyday.....

BUT.....if you decide to choose on a daily basis, please ensure your child knows each day if they are having a school meal or a packed lunch. You will need to let your child know what the choice is for each day which can be found on the school website.

IF your child is having a packed lunch, please ensure they bring it to school with them in the morning.



What if I have a question?

If you want to know more about Radish, school meals, allergy menus etc, please go to the virtual office on the school website.

If you can't find what you are looking for, please contact Clare Doran:

E: schoolmeals@brindisheschools.org

M: 07943 041790

The Spring Term Menus.....

- New menus began at the beginning of January
- The menus work on a three week cycle
- Menus can be found under the virtual office tab on the school website
- Year 5 and 6 have a separate menu which includes baguettes as the third option

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Chicken and Tomato Pasta with Garlic Bread	Chicken Burger with Coleslaw	Beef Chopped with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Chops with Peas and Potatoes	Hot Potatoes with Chops and Tomato Sauce
Option 2	Lasagne with Cheese	Vegetable Burger with Coleslaw	Roasted Vegetable Stir-fry with Roast Potatoes	Vegetarian Curry with Rice	Vegetarian Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce
Option 3	Baguette with a choice of filling	Baguette with a choice of filling	Baguette with a choice of filling	Baguette with a choice of filling	Baguette with a choice of filling
Vegetables	Steamed Carrots	Carrot Salad	Roasted Potatoes	Carrot and Peas	Roasted Potatoes

Happy New Year to all our Brindishe Families!



Brindishe Federation

Brindishe Federation Newsletter

Friday 12th January 2024



Reception 2024 Deadline - Monday 15th January

Children who were born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 are eligible to start Reception class in September 2024. The deadline for applications to start school in September 2024 is **15th January 2024**. An email will be sent to you on the evening of Tuesday 16th April 2024 telling you where your child has been offered a place. Lewisham Council expects all prospective parents to make applications on-line. You can apply here:

APPLY ONLINE

Parents and carers will receive an email after 5pm on the evening of Tuesday 16th April 2024 detailing the school place offer. Parents and carers must accept their offer online by Wednesday 3rd May 2023. (Make sure you have saved your log in details).

Please note that having a place in a Brindishe nursery does not guarantee a place in reception; a new application must be made.

School Meals Spring Term Update

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Option 1
Option 2
Option 3
Vegetables

Brindishe Schools Music Tuition

Brindishe Schools are looking to improve and extend their music tuition offer for our children. Currently, we offer a range of music tuition for a variety of instruments and singing, but we are keen to expand this.

Do you know someone who is a self-employed music tutor or a company that can offer a range of musical instrument tuition? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Nikki Tatler (Brindishe Schools Procurement Manager) by emailing NiTatler@brindisheschools.org.



Talk Consent Parent/Carer Workshops - Year 5 & 6

As part of the PSHME curriculum around healthy relationships we are inviting speakers from Talk Consent to run an assembly with our Year 5 children and workshops in classes for our Year 6 children from across the federation. The theme will be based on consent. As you will know consent is threaded through our curriculum from Early Years to Year 6 focusing on the importance of setting clear and respectful boundaries so children can build healthy friendships while also building their self-advocacy skills.

As part of this package we would like to invite you a parent talk by Talk Consent. During these sessions they will cover what the children will be learning about and how to discuss these issues with your children at home.

The session will take place on **Monday 15th January 2024 at 7pm** and will be held online. If you would like to join the session, please contact the school office who will send you the link.

If you would like to know more about the sessions and what they involve here is the website of company delivering the sessions: <https://talkconsent.org/consent-workshop/>

Talk Consent
Education to End Sexual Violence.

Governing Body

If you would like to attend a Brindishe Federation Governing Body meeting, please email our Chair of Governors, Liz Murphy - lmurphy@brindisheschools.org. Our third meeting of this academic year is on **Tuesday 6th February at 6pm** at Brindishe Manor School.

Key Federation Dates

- Reception Admissions Deadline - **Monday 15th January**
- Talk Consent Parent/Carer Workshops - **Monday 15th January**
- End of Term - **Friday 9th February**
- Half Term - **Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February**
- Children return to school - **Monday 19th February**
- Secondary Offer Day - **Friday 1st March**