

# Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026

## What's been happening this week?

Year 4 had a great time at the Good Shepherd Church. They learned about the Christian faith, how a baptism happens, tried on some vestments and even got to stand in the pulpit!



Eco- Council are delighted with the number of birds we now have visiting our grounds as a result of the new bird feeders. Our resident cockatoos have been enjoying the tasty treats. Mr Nathan took this snap whilst he was tidying the school grounds!



Children's Mental Health Week created a sense of calm reflection in the school as the classes considered how to ensure everyone feels like they belong. Year 2 and 3 had a wonderful workshop from Strawberry Kiwi Arts where they played drama games to help them understand that we can show and read emotions through facial expressions and body language.



Thank you to all who attended the Open Classroom event. We hope you enjoyed seeing your child's learning. Thank you also for buying books at the Book Fair- we will have about £300 to spend on lovely new books!



## What is happening after half term?

It is a fairly quiet first week back, but we are looking forward to an assembly about the start of Ramadan and a visit from Dr Bike on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

The school is registered for the RA Young Artists' Summer Show if you have a budding artist at home and want to submit a piece! Last year, we took a group of children to the exhibition and had a great time. We hope to do the same this year and maybe see a piece of art from a Brindishe Lee pupil!



## Important Information From the Office

- Year 2:** Please complete permission form on Weduc for Year 2 BrightSparks Concert and make payment on Arbor
- Year 5:** Permission for children to attend Lewisham Live Dance dress rehearsal needs to be completed on Weduc. How to purchase tickets for the performance is on Weduc.
- Year 5:** Bikeability, there are 7 places available, please sign up as soon as possible. It is free!
- Year 5:** Please complete permission form on Weduc for the Mudlarking trip and make payment on Arbor.
- Year 4:** Please complete permission form on Weduc for the National Maritime Museum Vikings trip and make payment on Arbor.

### Attendance

The cup is back with Year 5! Congratulations on your excellent punctuality!

Whole School	Registration Form	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (%)
All Students	Reception	93.68%	0.74%
All Students	Year 1	96.17%	0.38%
All Students	Year 2	94.07%	1.11%
All Students	Year 3	98.85%	3.07%
All Students	Year 4	96.3%	1.85%
All Students	Year 5	97.94%	0%
All Students	Year 6	98.77%	2.88%

### Important Dates

February 2026	March 2026
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 3.40pm- 4.10pm	Open Classroom
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March TBC
	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
	Dress <del>Copy</del> for World Book Day Parent/Teacher Meetings Last day

### Dr Bike!

We have booked a visit from Dr Bike for pre-Bikeability bicycle safety check, adjustment & minor repairs on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Year 5 children will need to bring their bikes to school on Friday. We still have seven spaces left for Year 5 to learn this important life skill.



Have a great half term and see you on  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February!



# Brindishe Federation Newsletter

## Friday 13th February 2026



### Holiday Vouchers

London Borough of Lewisham will use an allocation of the 'Household Support Fund to once again support families with FSM eligible children by providing vouchers for the February half term holiday, 2026. The available funding means Lewisham can assist these families at a rate of £15 per eligible child for this holiday. Vouchers will be sent out to Brindishe Families on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Please note that the Household Support Fund is set to end in March 2026.**

### Lewisham's New Executive Director

This week Lewisham has a new Executive Director for Children and Young People. Sara Rahman (previously our Director of Families Quality and Commissioning) was appointed to the role following Pinaki Ghoshal's retirement. In a message to school leaders, she wrote;

*'Our shared priorities remain clear: ensuring inclusive, high-quality education; strengthening our work around attendance, reducing exclusion, safeguarding, and wellbeing; and continuing to create environments where every child can thrive. I am looking forward to getting out to visit schools and settings as I settle into my new role and to hearing about successes, opportunities and pressures so that we can continue to work together in a coordinated and effective way.'*

We look forward to welcoming her to Brindishe Schools soon.



### Feb Half Term at Lewisham Leisure Centres

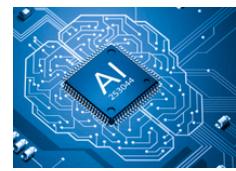
The Better run Leisure Centre's are running a range of activities this February Half Term.

Activities on offer

- Kids swim for £1
  - Additional Swim for All's (family swims)
  - Soft play sessions
  - Swimming lesson Crash Courses
  - Junior classes
  - Additional Junior Gym sessions
  - SEND holiday camp at Alex Yee Ladywell Arena, run in partnership with Access Sport
  - Kids Football Camp at Bellingham Leisure & Lifestyle Centre
  - Inflatable sessions at Wavelengths Leisure Centre
- To find out more about what's on offer please contact your nearest leisure centre for more information. [https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/leisham](https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/lewisham)

# Online Safety Bulletin

## AI Chatbots and companions



A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available, many are rated as 18+ so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them. Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are Character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

### What are the risks?

- Over reliance on AI companions, for example they may replace 'real life' friendships or over reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

### How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

## Sharing REAL course for Parents

# Sharing REAL with Parents



To book go to:  
[lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk/  
events/parenting-course](http://lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk/events/parenting-course)  
scan the QR code  
email [family.hub.bookings  
@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:family.hub.bookings@lewisham.gov.uk)  
or call 07720 152902



This fun 4 week course aims to build your confidence in how you can support early literacy within your home and help your children's learning and development in communication and language.

- Meet other parents and carers.
- Share ideas to support your child's early learning.
- Take home FREE resources each week.

Wednesdays 14th January - 4th February 2026

9.30am - 11.30am

**Corbett Community Library**  
103 Torridon Rd, SE6 1RQ

Wednesdays 18th February - 11th March 2026

1.00pm - 3.00pm

**Evelyn Family Hub**  
231 Grove Street, SE8 3PZ

Fridays 6th - 27th March 2026

1.00pm - 3.00pm

**Bellingham Family Hub**  
109 Randlesdown Road, SE6 3HB

[leishamfamilyhubs.org.uk](http://lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk)



Raising Early  
Achievement  
in Literacy

# Rights Respecting Article - Safer Internet

Safer Internet Day is marked on 7th February every year and we recognised this national day in Brindishe Schools this week.

We all have a right to feel safe and secure and that means safe online as well as in the real world. Safer Internet Day is an annual event that promotes the safe, responsible and positive use of the internet. There are a large number of articles that link with being online. These articles have a particular focus on Article 19, the right to protection from harm, Article 17, the right to reliable information and Article 34, protection from exploitation.



The internet can be a great place but needs to be used carefully. Please use these activities to start the conversation about internet issues that matter to you, what changes you would like to see and how we can make it a more positive and rights respecting place!

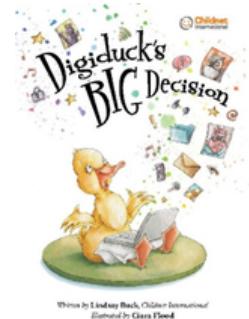
Discuss these questions with your children at home.

*What do you feel are some of the great things about the internet and life online?  
What don't you like about the internet and life online?*

*Read 'Digiduck's Big Decision' - there is an [online version](#).*

*Discuss the lessons from the story about friendship and respect online at home over half term.*

*Your child's right to be safe and protected is always important, including when they use computers, phones and the internet.  
Can you think of three top tips for staying safe online?*



## Key Federation Dates

- February Half Term - Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026
- Shine on Saturdays for selected Year 5 children - Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> March ) Celebration Event)
- Easter Holidays - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

## Brindishe Schools Governing Body

Governing Body meetings are regular and meet every half term. Parents/carers are more than welcome to attend our meetings as 'observers'. This means you can sit and observe the meeting but will be unable to speak/comment and would need to leave the meeting during confidential items.

If you would like to know more about the governing body or you would like to attend one of our meetings, please email Rachel Waite - [rawaite@brindisheschools.org](mailto:rawaite@brindisheschools.org). An email to confirm attendance at the meeting will need to be received before a parent/carer can join the meeting.

*Our third meeting for 2025/2026 will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Brindishe Manor School - 6pm.*

# Pick up your FREE World Book Day books at Downham Library

Downham Library will become a pop-up book exchange which means children can swap their World Book Day tokens for their choice of World Book Day books from 12 February - 14 March.

And don't miss an afternoon of fun family activities on World Book Day (Thursday 5th March) at Downham Library from 3.30pm:

At 4pm join poet and performer Arji Manuelpillai for a high-energy poetry workshop for ages 7-12. Through games, movement, sound and storytelling, children will create their own bold, funny, and surprising poems. No pressure, no boring worksheets — just imagination, confidence, and the joy of playing with words.

Get stuck into some fun book related crafts, show off your World Book Day costumes with our selfie frame, discover new ways to read with an exciting selection of graphic novels, picture books, dyslexia friendly books and audiobooks to borrow. And try out Libby, the library reading app. Plus choose your free WBD book!



 **WORLD BOOK DAY**  
5 March 2026

**£1 Book Token**

Valid from 12 February - 15 March 2026

Discover the incredible world of audiobooks with Yoto. Win a Yoto Player and up to £200 worth of Yoto cards from the large library selection in Yoto's card store.

To enter and for full terms and conditions go to [worldbookday.com/yoto-competition](http://worldbookday.com/yoto-competition).

One entry per person. Winners will be notified shortly after 15 March 2026.

Prize promotion runs from 12 February to 15 March 2026.

**Choose your £1 book for free!**

Children, families & educators: This token is for single-use only and entitles children (under 18) to ONE FREE World Book Day 2026 book or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating bookstores only, subject to stock availability.

Find your nearest participating bookseller at [worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/participating-retailers](http://worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/participating-retailers).

Full terms and conditions: [worldbookday.com/terms-conditions](http://worldbookday.com/terms-conditions)

Yoto: Full terms and conditions: [worldbookday.com/booksellers/](http://worldbookday.com/booksellers/)

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