

Newsletter

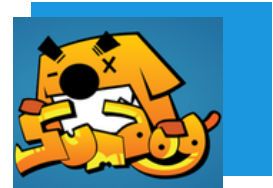
Friday 18th September 2026

What's been happening this week?

Our Meet the Teacher Meetings have now all been delivered (except Reception, which is on Friday 25th!) They were all really well attended and we are grateful for such a supportive family network. There will be more parent workshops coming up and we look forward to supporting you to support your children with their learning at home. In the meantime, we are sharing some information about Bug Club and Sumdog- two platforms that we use to deliver effective home learning. Have a look at the bottom of this newsletter.

Our football trials have taken place. Well done to all who took part. Sportacus will soon be sharing details of the teams and the upcoming fixtures to look forward to.

The teachers and teaching assistants had a great training session with Lewisham Mental Health Support Team who will be working across the Federation this year. They learned about the role of the MHST and the important role that schools have in the mental health and wellbeing of children and families. The MHST will be running sessions and holding coffee mornings in school soon, to support families with information and education.



What is happening next week?

In assembly on Monday, we will look at the value of Curiosity. Wednesday's assembly will celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight and we will announce our Pupil Parliament for 2026/27 on Friday.

We are excited to start our school-run clubs next week. Your child will get a slip today if they have a place. If they do not have a place, they will have their club later on in the school year and are on a waitlist. Don't forget Sportacus run our sports clubs and you can sign your child up here:

<https://sportacus.classforkids.io/camp/174>

Year 6 start their lunchtime clubs for Key Stage 2 next week. We have Knex, Mindful Colouring and Crochet clubs between 1pm and 1.30pm.

What a great week for
Year 2! Excellent
punctuality and
attendance!

Registration Form	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (%)
Reception	98.01%	0.4%
Year 1	95.3%	0.85%
Year 2	100%	0.38%
Year 3	95.93%	1.85%
Year 4	96.83%	2.78%
Year 5	98.61%	0.46%
Year 6	93.78%	0.89%

Important Dates

Friday 25th September- Reception Meet the Teacher meeting- 9am

Wednesday 30th September- Year 5 trip to Prince Phillip Centre

Thursday October 1st- Flu Immunisation programme

Thursday October 1st- Year 3 trip to Chislehurst Caves

Friday 9th October- Hello Yellow Day for Youngminds charity. Wear something yellow today!

Thursday 15th October- Open Classrooms- 3.40pm

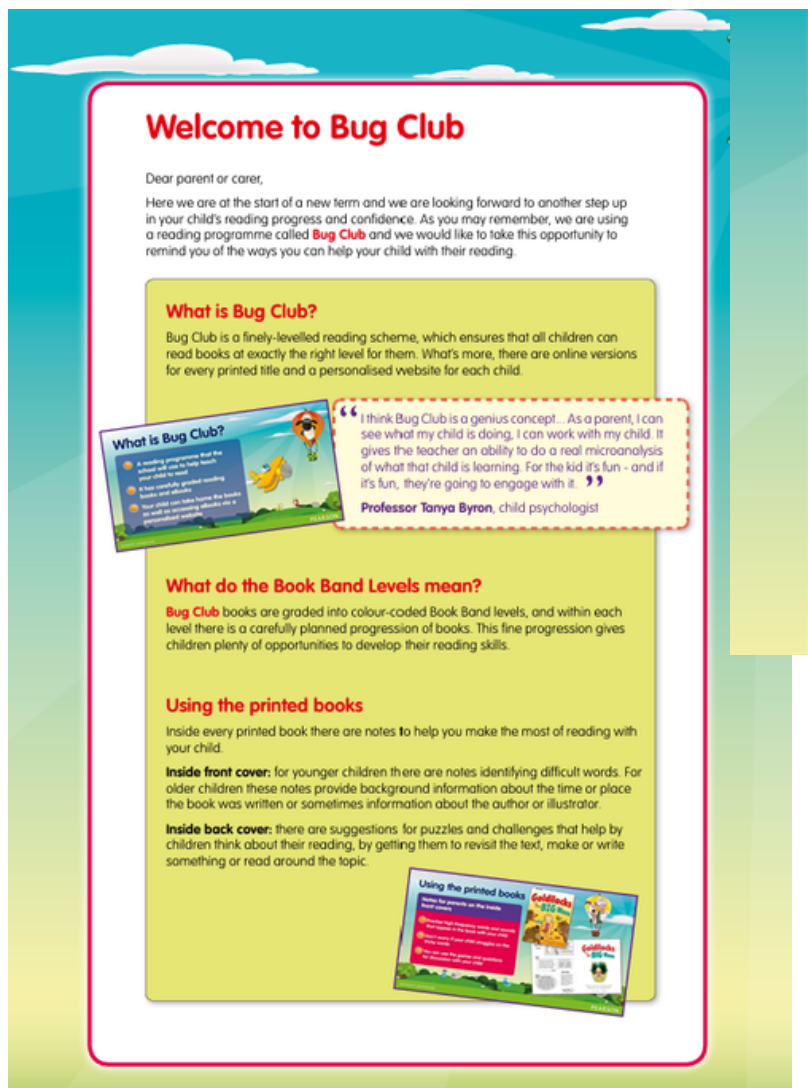
Tuesday 20th October- Year 4 trip to Lesnes Abbey

Monday 26th October- Half term week.

Wednesday 4th November- Year 6 Eco Coding Workshop- at school.

Monday 9th November- Year 6 Residential Trip- Cuffley in Hertfordshire

Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th November- Scholastic Book Fair in The Atrium.



Welcome to Bug Club

Dear parent or carer,

Here we are at the start of a new term and we are looking forward to another step up in your child's reading progress and confidence. As you may remember, we are using a reading programme called **Bug Club** and we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the ways you can help your child with their reading.

What is Bug Club?

Bug Club is a finely-levelled reading scheme, which ensures that all children can read books at exactly the right level for them. What's more, there are online versions for every printed title and a personalised website for each child.

What is Bug Club?

A reading programme that the school will use to help your child to read

A fun website for reading books and eBooks

Your child can have the books as well as an accompanying website with a personalised website

"I think Bug Club is a genius concept. As a parent, I can see what my child is doing. I can work with my child. It gives the teacher an ability to do a real microanalysis of what that child is learning. For the kid it's fun - and if it's fun, they're going to engage with it."

Professor Tanya Byron, child psychologist

What do the Book Band Levels mean?

Bug Club books are graded into colour-coded Book Band levels, and within each level there is a carefully planned progression of books. This fine progression gives children plenty of opportunities to develop their reading skills.

Using the printed books

Inside every printed book there are notes to help you make the most of reading with your child.

Inside front cover: for younger children there are notes identifying difficult words. For older children these notes provide background information about the time or place the book was written or sometimes information about the author or illustrator.

Inside back cover: there are suggestions for puzzles and challenges that help by children think about their reading, by getting them to revisit the text, make or write something or read around the topic.

Using the printed books

Notes for parents on the inside front cover

Notes for parents on the inside back cover

Notes for parents on the inside back cover



Reading a book online

Your child's teacher will regularly allocate new books to your child according to their reading level and these books will appear on their personal homepage. By now your child should be quite used to the online environment and the process of answering quiz questions and earning 'Bug Points'. If you haven't already, why not ask your child to show you the books they have already read and how many rewards they have accumulated.

Getting involved

The reader

Until they are fluent readers, younger children will benefit from reading aloud to you as often as possible. By the time they are in Years 5 or 6, many children prefer to read silently to themselves. Create quiet opportunities for them to do so, but then talk to them about the book they are reading.

Sharing reading

When sharing a book with your child, try to take opportunities to talk about the book - before, during and after reading.

- Before reading:** look at the book cover and talk about your child's expectations.
- While reading:** support your child when unknown words need tackling and have a 'meaning check' every now and again to ensure your child understands the text.
- After reading:** talk about the book. What was it about? Did it match your child's expectations?

For more information about helping your child with their reading at home, click on the Parents' help button on the Bug Club homepage (www.activelearnprimary.co.uk). If you would like to discuss your child's reading at any point, please do not hesitate in contacting me, I will be only too glad to help.

Important Information from the Office

Music: Please pay for music lessons on Arbor.

Year 6: Please return forms to the office and make payment on Arbor.

Year 3: Please make payment on Arbor for the Chislehurst Caves trip.

Year 5: Please give permission on Arbor for the Prince Phillip Centre trip.

Please remember to call the office if your child is off sick and remember the 48 hour rule for vomiting and diarrhoea.



Hello! This is Sumdog, and our school will be using it to help your child with their learning.

What is Sumdog?

Sumdog is an online learning tool which provides personalised maths and spelling practice that children love. It adapts questions to each child, using engaging games to build their confidence, and it's been shown to accelerate progress.



Making learning fun

Sumdog helps children to practise regularly, combining questions from the curriculum with fun mini games. The games are non-violent, child friendly and highly engaging - children don't even realise they are learning! For every correct answer, children are rewarded with coins to spend on their avatar or Sumdog house. And every time a child masters a new skill, their pet learns a new trick!

The work is ready - your child just needs to log in

Your child's teacher may set focused work on topics they've learned, which will pop up when they log in or you can check their 'task list'. If the teacher hasn't set any work - no problem! Sumdog automatically chooses the topic for your child, based on an initial diagnostic test.



Shown to accelerate progress

Sumdog has been developed with the help of teachers and educational experts around the world and has shown additional progress and increased confidence in children. Focus groups and questionnaires guide our pedagogy and consultations from independent experts and data analysis help refine our educational algorithms.

Parents can join in too

You can play games with them, encourage them and even choose your own topics to focus on. Parent subscription information can be found on our website.



Get started now

Sumdog can be accessed on a computer, mobile or tablet. Go to www.sumdog.com or download the free Sumdog app which is available on Apple, Android or Amazon.



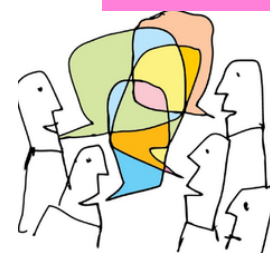
Keeping your child safe

Sumdog follows best practices in GDPR and data security, and does not support communication between pupils.



Brindishe Federation Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026



Oracy at Brindishe Schools

We're excited to share that oracy – the development of speaking and listening skills – continues to be a key focus in our school development plan this year. We wanted to explain what this means and how it will benefit your child.

What is oracy?

Oracy is the use of verbal interaction (dialogue) to develop pupils' skills in using spoken language, their understanding and use of vocabulary, and their ability to communicate effectively with others. You might also hear it referred to as 'speaking and listening'.

In the classroom, this includes activities like:

Class discussions and debates

Explaining concepts and ideas

Structured questioning to deepen understanding

Presenting to peers

TIME TO TALK AT HOME

Would you rather...?

... Be friends with the
Gruffalo or the mouse?

Why does oracy matter for your child?

Oracy can help pupils:

Increase self-confidence

Deepen their self-awareness

Improve resilience

Boost their wellbeing

Increase their academic achievement and employability

What does this look like at Brindishe Schools?

Our teachers are embedding oracy throughout our curriculum by:

Creating more opportunities for meaningful classroom discussions

Teaching subject-specific vocabulary explicitly

Modelling how to speak in full sentences and use appropriate tone

Giving children time to think before answering questions

Providing feedback on both what children say and how they say it

How can you support oracy at home?

A lot of oracy practice takes place outside of the classroom – especially at home. A lot of families may practise oracy without even realising it, through activities like family discussions at mealtimes. Simple ways to practise at home include:

Family mealtimes – ask your child open-ended questions about their day

Story time – encourage your child to retell stories or predict what might happen next

Board games – these naturally spark conversation and friendly debate

Everyday activities – involve your child in planning meals, shopping lists, or weekend activities

The key is to give your child opportunities to talk, explain their thinking, and express their opinions in a supportive environment. We'll be sharing more detailed resources and tips over the year to help you support your child's oracy development at home.



Building Belonging: Parent and Carer Voice Survey

In Lewisham, we have high aspirations for all children and young people and are committed to developing a more inclusive education system where every child feels valued, supported and able to thrive.

As part of this work, Lewisham are seeking feedback from parents and carers whose child has experienced a suspension, permanent exclusion, managed move, alternative provision placement, or other period away from school.

We know that exclusion can be a difficult experience for children, young people and families.

Through this survey, Lewisham want to better understand families' experiences, including:

- Whether they felt informed and supported throughout the process
- Whether they felt listened to and involved in decision-making
- How well their child's needs were understood
- What support worked well
- What could have been done differently
- What inclusion looks and feels like for children, young people and families



The feedback gathered will help improve communication, strengthen support for families, and ensure that parent and carer voices help shape future inclusion practice across Lewisham.

The survey should take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and confidential. There are no right or wrong answers, and we welcome both positive and challenging experiences.

Follow the link or use the QR code below

[Parent and Carer Exclusion Experience Survey](#)

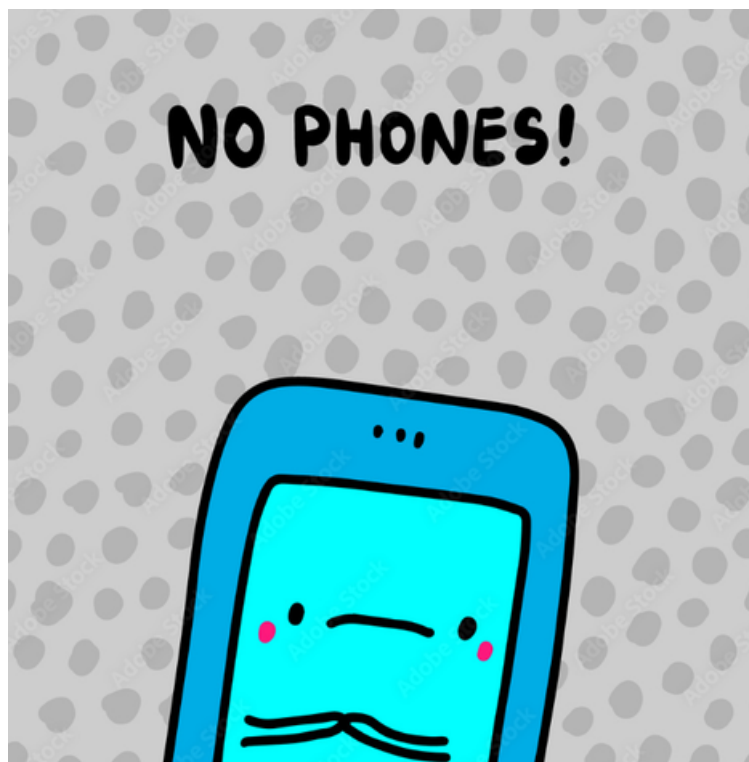


Mobile Phones, Mobile Phone Policy and Survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring Brindishe Schools are safe and focused learning environments, we would like to remind you that our schools are a mobile phone free site. We request that parents/carers do not use mobile phones anywhere on the school premises (including the playgrounds, school foyers, breakfast and tea club sessions and when entering and exiting the sites). Staff will politely ask you to stop using your phone and put it away before you enter the school grounds.

There is still time for you to send us your thoughts and comments on our 'Mobile Phone Policy'. Link can be found here - [Mobile Phone Policy – Fill in form](#) and policy attached.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in this matter.



Online Safety Bulletin - Parental Controls

Back to school: Parental Controls

As we return to school, we need to remember the importance of keeping our children safe online in the classroom and at home. Internet Matters has many informative resources specific for all ages and topics.

While the internet can offer children many benefits, there is also risk of them coming across online harm. Click on the poster to explore some of these risks along with tips to keep your child safe.



Is your child in Year 6?

Important dates for secondary school admissions

Schools open for visits: **September/October 2026 (please check on school websites for up to date open day/evening information)**

Applications open (apply online): **Tuesday 1 September 2026**

Closing date for applications: **Saturday 31 October 2026 (we recommend that you submit your online application by Friday 23 October 2026)**

Closing date for supplementary forms (if required) to be returned to the school directly: **Saturday 31 October 2026**

Further advice and guidance from Brindishe Schools to follow



Key Federation Dates

- **Half Term - Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October**
- **INSET DAY - Friday 27th November 2026**

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. An email to confirm attendance at the meeting will need to be received before a parent/carers can join the meeting.

Our first meeting for 2026/2027 will be held on Thursday 15th October at Brindishe Green School - 6pm.

Rights Respecting Article

Article 38 (war and armed conflicts)

Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflict.

Article 39 (recovery from trauma and reintegration)

Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.

The International Day of Peace("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21st September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution at the General Assembly, it has been declared as a day devoted to "commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."

What does peace mean to you?

- Feeling calm, quiet, still
- Feeling safe wherever you are (in school, at home, in your community)
- Knowing you can trust the people around you
- Living in harmony with others
- Being the person you want to be without fear
- Supporting others who need help
- Living in a world without conflict or violence
- Living in a world where people respect and value each other
- No discrimination
- A just and fair government you can trust
- Living in an inclusive community without racism or hate
- Acting in a way that helps others to feel calm and happy



Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace. Explore the [International Day of Peace website](#) to find out what the International Day of Peace is all about.

Listen to the story [This is Our House](#) by Michael Rosen. At the beginning of the story George didn't know how to play and share with other children which made them upset. What did he learn? How do you make sure you include everyone in your class so that it is a safe and peaceful place?

This Is Our House



Michael Rosen Bob Graham



Brindishe Schools Federation

Priorities 2026-2027

Securing the Best Practice, Achieving the Best Outcomes

Creating an Education without Boundaries



Brindishe
Federation

1

Building Capacity, Strengthening Accountability

- Teachers and staff will resume in meeting regularly in groups to share ideas and work on making things better for your children.
- As always, all our teachers and staff will have personal goals that link to our school's priorities.
- We will provide coaching, training and support to help all our staff become even better at what they do.

2

Diversity by Design: Every Voice, Every Story

- We will regularly check our curriculum to ensure all children can see people like themselves in the stories, examples and topics we cover.
- Children will learn best when they can get hands-on and creative which is one of our main aims.
- We will continue to plan our lessons so that children with special educational needs (SEND) or those who need extra help can continue to access the same exciting learning as everyone else.

3

Creating Meaningful Learning Experiences

- We will focus on developing children's speaking and listening skills (oracy) alongside their reading and writing.
- We will continue to strengthen Maths Mastery in EYFS so children spend more time really understanding number concepts.

4

Excellence Without Exception

- We will use our new tracking system called INSIGHT to strengthen how we monitor all children in their learning. This will help us quickly spot if any child or group of children needs extra support.
- We are still very committed to closing any gaps in achievement, so vulnerable children make just as much progress as their classmates.

5

Every Child Seen, Heard and Valued

- We will introduce a new behaviour policy called 'Promoting Good Relationships'.
- We're continuing to expand our range of clubs, trips and special activities we offer children.
- We've carefully planned our after-school clubs, lunchtime activities and special events so they complement what children are learning in class.



Brindishe Schools Federation Priorities 2026-2027

Securing the Best Practice, Achieving the Best Outcomes

Creating an Education without Boundaries

6

Engage, Enrich, Belong

- We will work hard to make sure children attend school regularly, aiming for at least 96% attendance across the school.
- If a child misses more than 10% of school (roughly one day every two weeks), we will work closely with you and your child to understand what's making it difficult for them to attend.

8

Every Child, Every Layer, Every Day

- We will continue to plan our lessons so that all children can access the same high-quality learning, whatever their needs.
- The government is introducing changes to how schools support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We're preparing for these changes

10

Protecting Pupils in Every Space

- As we do every year, we're providing annual updated training for all our staff on safeguarding issues that happen outside of family life and in the digital world.
- We will further strengthen our leadership and systems in place to protect children when they're using technology at school.
- We will introduce a mobile phone policy that restricts when children can use phones at Brindishe Schools

7

Playful Minds, Happy Learners

- We're introducing OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), which transforms playtimes into richer, more exciting experiences for children.
- We're creating even more opportunities for children to take on leadership roles and have their voices heard.
- We will continue with our 'Let's Go Zero' campaign, which means making our schools even more environmentally friendly and work towards becoming carbon neutral.

9

Beyond the Four Walls

- In our Early Years, we're focusing on 'oracy' – which simply means helping children become confident speakers and good listeners.
- We're expanding our outdoor learning and educational visits because children learn so much from hands-on experiences outside the classroom.
- We will help children understand why what they're learning matters and how it relates to their lives and the world around them by creating real-life experiences.