



Brindishe Lee Newsletter

Friday 17th December 2021

Headteacher: Ms Maxine Sebire



Dear families, governors, staff and friends,

Chair of Governors Message:

Once again we come to the end of a term which has presented challenges, but it's been gratifying to see how well everyone has risen to those challenges in order to do their very best for the children.

Over the past three months I've visited all three of our schools several times, and it's so lovely to see the children back in their classrooms, into the swing of learning, playing with their friends and generally being children! Obviously the continuing presence of Covid has not made things easy, but overall the whole community has pulled together to keep the schools open and a hive of quality teaching and learning. On behalf of the Brindishe Federation Governing Body I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone from parents and carers to staff and the children themselves for all your efforts.

This term we've also seen the start of our new lunchtime dining, which seems to be a huge success - extra cucumbers had to be ordered, I hear! And it's been so wonderful to see the return of visits, visitors and events - they all enrich the children's experiences and inspire them to see and think beyond the limits of everyday life.

While in-school Christmas celebrations have had to be more limited than usual, I do hope that you all manage to have the festive period you have planned. Here's to a healthy, happy and peaceful 2022.

Liz Murphy.

Executive Head Message:

The autumn term has drawn to a close and what a few months it has been. From September, we have been so impressed by the way all our children have handled new challenges: a new year group, a new teacher, new learning, trips out....the list goes on. We are confident this will continue and look forward to seeing the children make further steps in their learning and developing as young people as we begin 2022.

I would also like to express my thanks to all parents and carers who have continued to support both the school and your child/ren by ensuring learning is supported at home; bringing them to school ready, prepared and smiling and saying good morning as they walk through the gate. Thank you.

Each school has also been lucky enough to have a fantastic group of parents/carers, who, even in these difficult times have continued to fund raise to ensure each school can benefit from some amazing extras including new playground markings, computing equipment and much more. A huge thanks from us all.

And finally, the staff. My heartfelt thanks goes to each and every member of the Brindishe Federation team, I couldn't feel more proud of being able to work with each and every one of you. Your commitment, ability to change at very short notice and investment to the lives of our children is why you are all just fantastic. Thank you.

On behalf of the Federation, I wish you all a peaceful holiday and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Kind regards,

Rachel Waite.





Message from the Head of School:

Following on from Liz and Rachel's comments above, I would also like to express my thanks to all of our families for their support, kind words and patience this term with new systems, procedures and ways of working. Your children have all been incredibly motivated, positive and happy to be at school. I am sure you will join me in saying a huge 'thank you' to all our staff for their continued hard work, dedication and determination to ensure that the children get the most out of every day. Once again, as a team thank you all for your continued support during the term.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday.

Best wishes,

Ms Maxine Sebire & the Brindishe Lee Team.

School Operation in January 2022

School will be open for all pupils, under the current risk assessment, on **Wednesday 5th January 2022.**

We will be monitoring the guidance over the next few weeks and if any sudden changes are to happen we will update all **parents/carers via WEDUC or the school website by 10am on Tuesday 4th January 2022.**

Please refrain from calling the school office in the first instance.

Travel over the Christmas Break (Covid restrictions)

If any of your household are travelling out of the UK over the Christmas Break, please ensure you email the school (info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk) so we can ensure that you and your family are clear about the procedures and restrictions that may need to be followed. We will ask you to let us know the following information:

- Where you or your household member are going
- The return date to the UK
- Who is in your household

Covid Information - Close Contact of a Positive Case

Government Guidance from Tuesday 14th December states everyone over the age of 5, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a lateral flow(LFD) test every day for 7 days, instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you or your child shows any COVID-19 symptoms, please take a PCR test and not return to school until they have had a negative result. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Please refer to the letter attached to this newsletter from the Director of Public Health for further guidance.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics – Walk in Centres

There are three pharmacies in the borough running walk-in evening vaccination clinics:

- New Cross Pharmacy, Amersham Vale - Mon-Fri 7pm - 9pm
- Vantage Pharmacy, Conisborough Crescent - Mon-Fri 7pm - 9pm
- Lewisham Pharmacy, Lee High Rd - Mon-Fri 6pm - 8pm

[Find more information about these and other vaccination opportunities on the South East London NHS website.](#)

Online Safety & Parental Controls Support

With Christmas just around the corner, we thought we'd provide a little reminder about setting up appropriate parental controls for any new phones, consoles or games your child may receive. Please refer to the link listed below for more information, tips and advice on setting up parental controls: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/onlinesafety/parental-controls/>

Christmas Show

The Christmas Concert is on Weduc for you and your family to enjoy. Please may we remind you that Weduc is a password protected site and that all messages and media clips should not be copied and shared on the world wide web or any other social media platforms, this is to ensure everyone is kept safe.



Reading

Enjoyment of books is the most important factor when learning to read. Sharing books with adults helps children with learning to read. For some children, learning to read will seem to happen easily and quickly. For others, more time and support will be needed. Whatever the case, your help will be a powerful influence over your child's development as a reader. For all children praise, encouragement, reassurance and pleasure are the vital factors towards becoming a confident reader. Listed below are some top tips for reading with your child as well as links to online resources. Happy reading over the festive holiday!

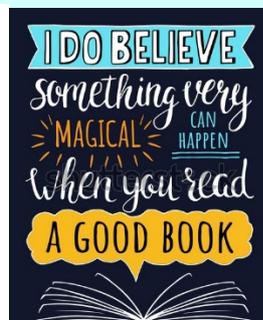
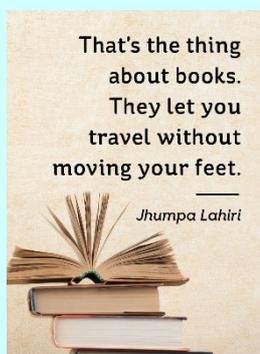
Top Tips:

- Make reading a time of pleasure for you both
- Start sharing books even before your child knows which way up to hold a book
- Learn to accept your child's efforts with praise
- Find somewhere quiet to read
- Read books your child loves, avoid setting up a 'test situation'
- Focus on the things which are right, not on mistakes • Keep reading to children even after they have learned to read independently
- Stop when they have had enough – it's not a punishment!

A selection of reading resources:

- Library opening times - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/branches>
- Library events in Lewisham - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/online-library-events-and-resources>
- Lewisham library E-books - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/elibrary/using-the-elibrary>
- Other sites with free online books - <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-andgames/> and <https://sooperbooks.com/bedtime-stories/>
- Oxford Owl - you have to create an account but it's free - https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/librarypage/?view=image&query=&type=book&age_group=&level=&level_select=&book_type=&series=#
- Audio books - <https://stories.audible.com/discovery> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/eyfsstorytime/zdv4vk7>
- Stories read by authors and celebrities - <https://www.storylineonline.net>
- Recommended Books - <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-primary-school-pupils/>
- Bug Club is our new online platform we are using at school, please refer to your child's login details to gain full access.

Happy Reading!



Mental Health & Wellbeing Support

Place2Be's **Parenting Smart** site is full of tips and advice on a range of topics including transition to secondary school, meltdowns, and sleep difficulties. <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>





Lewisham winter holiday programme of food and fun - December 2021

This winter, with funding from the DfE, Lewisham Council is providing a varied holiday programme, with free activities and lunches for school aged children and young people (aged 5-16 years - up to 19 for children/young people with SEND) eligible for and in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals.

A wide range of providers in Lewisham are supporting the delivery of this programme.

The programme is provided from Monday 20th December to Friday 31st December 2021 and [details for each club are listed in the flyer here.](#)

If you have any questions or need support with registration, please contact HAFProgramme@lewisham.gov.uk

F@B Team – Thank you!

A huge thank you to our wonderful F@B team who have helped to organise some fabulous fundraising events this term including our festive Christmas Fair and the Elves Workshop, which the children really enjoyed. The children and staff loved the kind donations of the Christmas trees too!

Finally, thank you to all the parent/carers who kindly donated items to the Elves Workshop or who helped at the festive fair. Your support is very much appreciated.



DECEMBER ACTIVITY CAMPS

Join the Sportacus team for three days of festive fun this December

As always, we will be offering our 3 popular camp options of:
Multisports (Both locations)
Football (Darrick Wood only)
Dance (Both Locations)

PRICES

3 day booking	£57.50
Individual day booking	£28.50

Use "SIBLING 10" for 10% off any 3 day booking of 2+ places

LOCATIONS

DARRICK WOOD JR SCHOOL, LOVIBONDS AVE, ORPINGTON, KENT BR6 8ER
BRINDISHE GREEN SCHOOL, BEACON ROAD, LONDON SE12 8NA

OPEN 9:30-3:30 EVERY DAY FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 4-12

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS NOW ACCEPTED - GET IN TOUCH FOR MORE DETAILS

WWW.SPORTACUS.CO.UK
07828 218 690
HARRY@SPORTACUS.CO.UK



