



Brindishe Lee Newsletter

Friday 4th February 2022

Headteacher: Ms Maxine Sebire

Brindishe
Lee

Dear families, governors, staff and friends,

With only a week to go until our half-term break, we are looking forward to our *Meet the Teacher* meetings next week. This is a great opportunity for our teachers to let you know how your child has been progressing in school since you last met virtually. We hope that you will make an appointment as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so. We have sent you further information today about the meetings. Any further questions, please do call or email the school office who will happily assist.

Thank you to everyone for your efforts to reduce the spread of covid-19. The number of positive covid cases across the school have significantly decreased this week, which is pleasing to see. As a result of this, indoor clubs can restart next week (Pod clubs). However, we still have a number of staff not in school as they are still unwell. Hopefully by next week most staff will have returned.

A few school highlights this week include, a focus on the love of reading across the school. In addition to this, reception have been discussing their future aspirations using speech bubbles. Year 4 have been looking at the layers of the rainforest. Years 2 and 3 have been working hard on their maths equations. Year 5 have been painting a beautiful skyline. Year 1 have been exploring the great beyond in Science. Year 6 have been exploring being safe online and in the local community. Finally, the Science Dome made an appearance at school this week. The children loved taking part in this fun and immersive activity.

Stay safe and well everyone. Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,

Ms Sebire & the Brindishe Lee Team.



*Happy New Year
to all of our families celebrating
Chinese New Year.*



Rights Respecting focus of the week

Article 3 is one of the most important articles in the UNCRC, and many other articles are related to it. It says that the interests of children and young people should be thought about at all levels of society, and that their rights should be respected by people in power.

In other words, it says adults should think about the **best interests** of children and young people when making choices that affect them.

Reading Challenge – Reading in unusual places

During the half-term holiday, we have a challenge for your children to complete. The staff are also going to take part in this fun reading challenge!

Children - Your challenge, with the support of your parents, is to select an unusual place to read.

Ask a family member to take a photograph of you reading in an unusual place and email it into info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk by **Monday 21st February (note - date extension)**

The staff and children will vote on the top 3 photos of unusual places to read. The winners will receive a book voucher.

Weduc Updates

Please look on Weduc for key dates and information regarding your child's class. All information regarding updates, parent meetings and what your child is learning about will be posted for you to access.

LGBTQ+ History Month

LGBTQ+ History Month LGBTQ+ History Month takes place in February every year and offers the chance to connect and to reflect on the past and present of the LGBTQ+ community. At Brindishe we see this is as a further opportunity to celebrate LGBTQ+ culture and progress towards equality over time, and to explore what the lessons of history can teach us for the future. Over the coming month we will hold a variety of learning opportunities to highlight this important month.



Important Dates

Saturday 5th February (Please note change of date) – Blackheath 'Shine' Programme starts

Monday 7th February – Friday 11th February – Year 5 swimming sessions

Monday 7th February – Friday 11th February – Parents/Carer Meetings (Note: Communication was sent via email and Weduc today)

Monday 14th February - Half term break

School Lunches

If you would like your child to have a hot lunch, please refer to our website for further information <https://lee.brindisheschools.org/page/?title=School+Meals&pid=110>

If your child has any special dietary requirements, please email schoolmeals@brindisheschools.org
Clare Doran will work closely with you and Radish to provide a menu to suit your child's needs.

Safer Internet Day

February 8th marks this year's **Safer Internet Day**. Whilst we believe being safe online is a part of everyday life, this is a good opportunity to spark a conversations at school and home and remind ourselves what it means to be safe online.

This year's theme for Safer Internet Day is '*All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online*'. Your child will spend time with their class thinking about this theme.

To support this learning, why not try the new government resource to help keep children and young people safer from sexual abuse. The new Stop Abuse Together website -

<https://stopabusetgether.campaign.gov.uk/> can help you learn to spot the signs and support you to have regular conversations with you children which can help keep them safer, and know when it's right to reach out for more support.

Listed below are a selection of useful websites to explore:

- [Resources for 3-11s | Safer Internet Centre](#) - Information all about Safer Internet Day 2022 including resources and quizzes.
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/> - Categorised by age groups and includes an internet safety checklist, articles, facts and statistics, links to a variety of parent guides, activities to do together and suggested age specific apps.
- <https://www.everyschool.co.uk/i.c.t.-key-stage-1-internet-safety.html> - Links to free educational resources suitable for children aged 5-7.
- <https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin> - Join Smartie the penguin as he learns how to be safe on the internet. Suitable for children aged 3-7.
- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/classroom-resources/hectors-world/your-personal-information-online> - animated videos about Hector and his friends who live under the sea. They learn how to protect their personal information and use computers and mobiles safely.
- <https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons> - There are 6 interactive videos explaining the smart rules for staying safe online. These are suitable for children 6+
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> - articles and advice for parents on talking to your child about online safety, information on live streaming and video apps and support with parental controls on devices.

ATTENDANCE

'Attend today...and achieve tomorrow!'

As we all know, every child has the right to an education (Article 28). In England, children are expected to attend 190 days of school year, with the exception of when they are too sick to come to school or isolating due to Covid19. This means that there are 175 other days in the year to book holidays, trips away and visits to see family members.

Every year, we receive a number of requests for children to be absent from school during term time. Schools cannot authorise an absence for a holiday/visit and we will only grant an authorised absence for exceptional circumstances. The process for applying for a leave of absence is as follows:

1. A 'Request for a Leave of Absence' form is completed by the parent/carers (see the school website or email the office)
2. The request will be passed to the Headteacher and discussed with the school's Federation Attendance, Safeguarding and Welfare Officer
3. The school decides if it will authorise the absence.

Parents/carers should note that flights (etc.) should not be booked before a leave of absence is authorised. Every day of school missed by a pupil reduces their attendance by 0.5%, meaning that a child with 95% attendance has missed ten whole days of school. If a pupil is persistently absent (85% attendance), they have missed six weeks, or half a term, of schooling.

Days Absent at End of Year	Absence Percentage	Attendance Percentage at End of Year
1	0.5%	99.5%
5	2.5%	97.5%
10	5%	95%
20	10%	90%
30	15%	85%

THE THINGS I WISH MY PARENTS HAD KNOWN

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVICE ON TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT ONLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Summary of top tips

- 1 Start speaking to your children about these issues before you first give them a phone or set up a social media account. This might feel very early, but you can do it in an age-appropriate way. It is better to be proactive than reactive.

Don't wait for the crisis.

- 2 Keep the conversation going. Adapt to your child so you can support them.

Don't mention it once and think that's enough.

- 3 Keep it casual, find everyday opportunities to speak about these issues with your child – like when you're walking or driving somewhere.

Don't scare them with 'the big talk'.

- 4 Focus on your child's emotions first and work out what they may have seen online. By listening to your child and understanding if they accessed harmful content, you can help to support them.

Don't punish them before listening and understanding.

- 5 Keep curious about the technology your child is using and stay up to date with platforms, apps and trends.

Don't pretend these issues don't exist

- 6 Set boundaries. Use filtering tools to limit your child's exposure to harmful content. Decide on rules and boundaries with your child, allowing them to input. Explain which monitoring and filtering tools you are using, and why.

Don't leave your child unsupervised online without using monitoring and filter tools. You wouldn't leave them alone in the park or the street, apply the same level of protection online.

