



Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools

NEWSLETTER 14th September 2012

Associate Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson

Dear parents, carers and friends,

Deutsche Bank/Impact volunteers

They came, they went and they have left us with some wonderful new resources.

We were delighted to host 50 volunteers from Deutsche Bank earlier this week and their supervisors from the charity Impact International.

We now have a very sturdy and beautifully designed playhouse in the year one outdoor area, a stage by the dining hall and a smaller stage in the reception outdoor area. We also have four picnic benches and two storage benches - all at no expense to Lee Manor.

We have now established a very good working relationship with Impact and are hoping to have them back again to complete our long wish list of playground resources.

I took a smaller delegation of children over to thank all the volunteers at the end of the project and we also had our first assembly from the stage in the sunshine yesterday. The children are already thinking of all the different ways we can use this new equipment so look out for summer outdoor concerts and also for ice creams from the playhouse.

Spruce up

As our new windows in Lee Hall really showed us how sad the nursery and Reception class windows and doors were looking, we have also given them a lick of paint in colours that we hope are more sympathetic to our beautiful 101 year old building. Sadly, we were painting over rotten wood in many cases but are ever hopeful that we will be able to replace these in the future.

Year one outdoor space

Many of you will already know that we are underway with making the year one outdoor space a much more inviting learning space for the children.

Our plan is to be able to set up equipment and activities and leave them outside ready for the children and that day's learning.

So...we now need parents and carers to know where to drop off their children and to pick them up from each day.

Nursery children will turn right at the main school gate, wait with their families and then come into the nursery through the new nursery front door.

Mrs Clapton's class will turn right at the main school gate and wait outside the year one outdoor area.

Ms Edmund's class and *Ms Achenbach's class* will turn **LEFT** at the school gate and come round the building to their classes.

If you have normally come round the back of the school to get to *Ms French* or *Ms Douglas's year 2 classes* then you now won't be able to 'cut through' the gated year one outdoor area.

It will take a bit of getting used to so please try to remember we are doing this so that we can develop a lovely outdoor learning area for the children free from buggies and crowds at the start and end of the day.

A parent asked...

Each week we answer a question asked by a parent or carer. This week a parent asked:

Why can't I bring my buggy into the building any more?

We are constantly reviewing our health and safety policy and practice and following a recent whole staff review we were reminded that buggies and prams must now be kept out of the school building. They can block fire exits and also can be hazardous when causing crowding in cramped spaces in school. We do have a covered canopy between Lee Hall and the main school building which should provide rain cover if you need to bring your baby or toddler inside with you. With babies asleep in their prams we will always try our best to come to a solution that doesn't compromise the safety of the school or wake the baby if we can help it. Thank you for your understanding.

Heroes

Our assemblies this week focused on the theme of heroes. From the Olympics, Paralympics and within Lee Manor.

We were delighted to be joined by Spyros Elia, our chair of governors in his full 'Games Maker' kit explaining his contribution to our great summer event and the heroes that he met all over the Olympic Park.

Speaking of heroes, we send our best wishes to our very own 'Lightning Bolt' Mr Unwin as he takes part in the Great North Run this weekend.

Healthy lunches

As the new term begins, it is a very good time to remind you about packed lunches. We do not like to see crisps, sweets or other 'treat food' in the children's packed lunches. I know there are a lot of very tempting foods and snacks marketed at children that make their way into everyone's shopping baskets but please remember that we do expect our children's regular lunchtime meal to be as healthy and nutritious as the school dinners we provide.

Dining Hall

We are very pleased with our initial trial of using the dining hall to take the pressure (and noise) off our other learning areas and so will continue to use this newly rediscovered resource.

Nursery places

Please don't forget to remind friends and neighbours to get in touch with the school office very soon if they are interested in taking up the last few of our nursery places.

Please also join me in welcoming our new children and their families as they start to join our Reception and nursery classes next week.

Lego please

I have had a number of requests from a group of year 5 children requesting a lunchtime Lego club. In order to get this off the ground, I am putting a call out for any donations of clean Lego that you or friends and neighbours no longer need.

I have told the children that we need at least a dustbin full of Lego in order to ensure every child who would like to join the club is able to do so.

So please have a look in your cupboards and see if you are able to help us out. Donations to the main school office please.

Olympic and Paralympic memories

We were delighted to hear so many Lee Manor children were able to see Olympic or Paralympic events on television or live.

Please remember we would love to collect as many photos or written memories as possible to display in school over the next few weeks. Just drop them with your child's name on the back in the school office or pass on to the class teacher.

With best wishes to all Lee Manor families.

Alex Bell
Associate Headteacher

Vicki Paterson
Executive Headteacher

PSFA news

Wednesday 19th September: PSFA Annual General Meeting: 8pm in the Community Room: All welcome! The PSFA is a very friendly group of parents, staff and friends committed to supporting the children through fund-raising and social activities. As parents and carers you are all automatically members. At this AGM we will be voting in new trustees. It's also our first meeting this year, so it's a great time to come along and get involved. New faces are especially welcome! We already have candidates for the posts of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We still need nominations for a **Vice-Chair**. If you are interested in finding out more about this role, please do email us at leemanorpsfa@gmail.com

If you can't make the evening meetings, we also hold coffee mornings and other fund-raising and social events throughout the year so please get in touch to find out more or if you want to be added to our mailing list. As outgoing trustees, Maxine, Charlotte and Julia would like to thank all of you for a fantastic year of fun and fundraising, and we look forward to continuing our support...

