



**Lee Manor** – in partnership with Brindishe Schools

Week ending Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Headteacher – Alex Bell   Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson DBE

Dear parents, carers, staff and friends,

### **Lewisham Honouring Nelson Mandela**

With your newsletter today, you should receive a card entitled 'Lewisham Honouring Nelson Mandela'.

In remembering Mr Mandela's life, his long walk to freedom and his dream of a 'rainbow nation' in South Africa, each family in Lewisham is invited to write down their thoughts or feelings about him on the card and then display it in their window over the next few weeks.

We hope that Lee Manor families will take up this invitation and join many, many others in this 'rainbow borough' of Lewisham to mark this very significant loss to the world.

We held two assemblies this week to explain Nelson Mandela's significance to us at Lee Manor. The children all listened and contributed with great respect and great sense of occasion. You may wish to talk with your child about this and what they can tell you about the man and his place in history.

### **Staff changes**

Trevor Unwin one of our teachers and our sports lead at Lee Manor will move to a new post in the new year. He will be moving into the independent sector to take a year 3 class and we thank him and wish him well in his future career. Mr Unwin has been a great sports leader and has motivated and encouraged many teams and individual children in his time with us.

We expect our new PE and sports leader to join us next term as soon as their current headteacher is willing to release them and I'll let you more details soon.

I am also writing to let you know that after Christmas, Gerlinde Achenbach will become acting deputy head at Lee Manor until the end of the school year while Kath Margetts, our current deputy head moves to Brindishe Green to act as their deputy head for the two terms.

Kath Margetts, has kindly agreed to move to Brindishe Green for two terms to cover for a vacancy as the current postholder there is moving to a new post abroad over the Christmas holiday. Ms Margetts is looking forward to the new challenge and experience and will also be just a phone call away.

There will be a change of teacher in Onyx Class. Ms Achenbach will be handing over her class responsibility to Ms Fabiola Ramirez, a very capable and valued teacher from Brindishe Green School. Ms Ramirez is currently one of the year one teachers at Brindishe Green and she knows this age group very well. She will work closely with Ms Achenbach to ensure a smooth handover and Ms Achenbach will keep close contact with Ms Ramirez and the teaching assistants Mrs Francis and Ms Wizard so that the children are well supported and reassured. Ms Ramirez will spend time with the class before the holiday and I know that she is looking forward to meeting you all soon.

### **Winter Fair**

It was one of the great pleasures of the year to welcome hundreds of Lee Manor families, staff and friends to our annual Winter Fair. Not only was it an extremely well-organised and enjoyable community event but a valuable fundraiser for extra school resources.

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It is a privilege to announce that thanks to the support and hard work of many, the event raised a magnificent £3000.96.

On behalf of the PSFA (parents, staff friends association) and the entire school community I would like to thank all of you who came along to support us on Sunday. In particular, thank you to all of you who amongst other things ran a zone, stood behind a stall, baked or sold cakes and sold raffle tickets.

Thank you also to the children who kindly volunteered to serve on stalls, sang in our two choirs and even stepped in to help in the craft zone when the queues started to get a little long.

PSFA Chair Scott McCready and treasurer Adam Spriggs did a magnificent job co-ordinating the whole event and processing the money quickly. They have already passed on funds to us at the school and we are in the process of ordering our first set of iPads ready for children to use in the new year.

### **Christmas Performances**

Thank you to families and friends who came along to see our youngest children perform in the musical nativity 'Born in a Barn' this week.

For those of you able to come, I'm sure you will agree that the children sang beautifully, acted with great enthusiasm and looked wonderful in their costumes. Thank you to all the adults at home and school for supporting the children so well in such lovely performances.

Our key stage 2 performances (years 3,4,5 & 6 classes) will be next week and full details and times of these were with our 15<sup>th</sup> November newsletter and are also on the school website. Tickets are still available from the school office for our extra performances on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Again this year we will be supporting our chosen charity UNICEF Children's fund. We are collecting money at each of our performances if you feel able to give. Your generosity is much appreciated.

### **Nativity DVD**

Please see the separate flyer from the PSFA regarding the sale of DVDs of the nursery, reception and year 1 and 2 nativity. Please note in particular the deadline for ordering copies. Please also note that the distribution date is the very last day of term.

If you do not clearly write your child's name and class on the form along with payment it may delay you receiving the DVD in time.

### **Visits and Visitors**

Alongside rehearsals, many classes have been involved in some exciting learning in and around school and the wider community.

This week, our year 1 classes visited the church of the Good Shepherd on Handen Road and learned how the Reverend Richard Bainbridge prepares for Christmas.

Our year 3 classes visited the British Museum as part of their learning on Ancient Egypt.

Our year 4 children held a magnificent Tudor banquet in Manor Hall complete with roast chickens, potage soup, freshly baked bread, dancing and singing.

Many of our older classes also enjoyed dance workshops based on the story of Aladdin provided by 'West End in Schools'.

As always thank you to all the adults involved in creating such a vibrant week of learning for the children.

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### **Sports News - Will Lee Manor be borough champions for the second week in a row?**

18 more children represented the school in a borough-wide tournament in athletics again today. We wish them well and will know the final outcome after this newsletter is published. Many thanks to Mr Unwin for all his support for the team this year.

### **Christmas Lunch**

A Christmas lunch menu, including vegetarian options, will be offered to all children on the last day of term, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. If your child normally has a school lunch there is no additional charge. However if your child brings a packed lunch this half term, you are also very welcome to request a Christmas dinner for them for that day. Please order the lunch from the school office TODAY. The cost is £1.80 and must have been paid to the school office before today, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, so that school cook Molly Chapman and her team can order and prepare for the extra meals.

### **Parent Pay and school lunch choices**

You are now able to view lunch money payments and balances online via ParentPay. Please see Miss Fulya in the school office if you would like to know your log-in details.

Miss Fulya and the office team have sent home a school lunch form for you to complete and return. Please return the form as soon as possible and indicate whether your child will be having a school or a packed lunch for the half term period after the holidays.

### **Lost Property**

Please look out for our lost property bench next week as all items that remain unclaimed will be given to charity before the start of the new term.

Please also remember to take home all coats, bags, lunchboxes and scooters for the holidays.

### **Frosty footprints**

As we are greeted by frost at the beginning of the school day, please take extra care to keep to the paths that are especially gritted and salted as you walk around the school site.

### **Dates for your calendar**

School ends for the holidays at 3:15pm next Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

School starts again at 9:00 am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 for the Spring Term.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Alex Bell  
Headteacher

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