



Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools
Week ending Friday 25th January 2013

Associate Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson DBE

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

Parent and carer survey

Very many thanks to those of you who took the time to complete our parent and carer survey. It is extremely useful to hear your views, which we will now use to continue to improve Lee Manor School for our children. If you haven't completed your yet don't forget the survey can be translated into different languages on our website (or ask in the office and we can print one for you in your home language).

As we were closed due to the snow earlier this week we have extended the deadline for returning the survey to next Monday.

School Development Plan explained

This week we continue our series explaining each aspect of our school development plans for Lee Manor. Last term we explained the parts of the plan concerning teaching and learning at the school. We also explained how we monitor and assess children's progress and achievement.

Today, we explain the third part of our school development plan. This describes how we seek to ensure enriched, personalised and creative learning for our children.

The subjects we teach in school are called the school curriculum. Our development plans include ensuring that all Lee Manor teachers now teach from a curriculum called 'The world is my classroom'.

This curriculum was developed by our teachers alongside teachers at both Brindishe schools and introduced in all three schools last September. Class teachers are asked to let you know what your children are learning from this curriculum through the topic overviews at the start of each topic or half term and also in more detail through their weekly newsletters.

We have now arranged our curriculum into six areas of learning:

Communication, languages and literacy

Maths, economics and enterprise

Scientific and technological understanding

Historical, global, social and spiritual understanding

Physical wellbeing, health and lifestyles

Creative and expressive arts

These areas all cover many aspects of a 'traditional' curriculum subjects that you might be familiar with such as history and geography. They also include the sorts of skills and attributes we believe our children will need in our global community in the 21st Century.

We plan that as your child moves through the school, this curriculum should give them opportunities to learn about themselves, their local community and the world in which they live. Using the new curriculum as a guide, teachers will plan activities that interest and excite the children and teachers will combine subjects in a meaningful way so that children can make links between areas of learning. We want to make sure that

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teachers plan for children to learn about what they need and want to know about as well as what they are interested in and care about. This is called *personalised learning*.

We are introducing weekly class newsletters to both let you know what is being taught in class and to give you and your child opportunities to continue the learning at home.

Our plans include reviewing; developing and extending the resources we have in school to support our new curriculum. This includes improving our ICT, making links with other schools, local groups and organisations (such as dance and theatre groups) and building close partnerships between teachers and curriculum leaders in and across our three schools so that our knowledge, ideas and experiences are shared.

To support this curriculum we are building a virtual learning environment (called our MLE) so that teachers can easily store, share and access many, many ideas and resources quickly and easily. Over this year we will build 'virtual classrooms' so that children, teachers and parents can share the resources and learning via a secure site at school and at home.

Our plans include developing learning beyond the classroom. This means giving children more opportunities to learn outside the classroom (for example gardening and cooking), and in, around and beyond the school site. It includes a wider range of educational visits and visitors, working with our partner schools (for example working with talented writers in our local schools) and making good use of projects that we can access because we are part of Lewisham and because we are in London.

As part of our plans we will expand our offer out of school clubs and activities including music and sporting opportunities so that children experience a wide and varied curriculum at Lee Manor School.

Meeting for Nursery and Reception parents and carers on 'Helping your child learn to read'

Thank you to all parents and carers who came along to our meeting on how we teach beginning reading at school and how you can support at home.

You told us that you found these meetings useful so please look out for more for other curriculum areas and for other year groups in the future.

Thank you to all the staff who organised contributed to and led these very well attended sessions.

Theatre Tots Chinese New Year workshops

Thank you to Laura Sydonie from Theatre Tots who led a wonderfully colourful Chinese New Year drama workshop after school for our key stage 1 children yesterday.

Many thanks also to our PSFA volunteers for feeding the children so well before the session and to Ms McAliskey and Ms Roddy our Reception teachers for their support.

Chinese New Year drama workshop for key stage 2

There area limited number of spaces for a Chinese New Year drama workshop for key stage 2 children after school on **7th February**. Please contact the school office for details.

Year 6 parents – two important messages:

SATS tests - a meeting for parents

6pm Monday 28th January

All year 6 parents and carers... please come along to this important meeting where we will explain in detail what is involved for your child in this year's SATs tests in May; We will explain what children need to be able

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to do, what the tests will look like, how we are preparing the children and how you can help at home too. The meeting will be a chance for parents and carers to ask questions and address any concerns. Year 6 children should not attend the meeting so that the adults can talk freely!

Cover for Mrs Hill after half term

I'm sure you will now know that Mrs Hill, one of our year 6 teachers is expecting a baby and is due to go off on her maternity leave a little after half term. Mrs Hill's class will be taken by Katie Matthews, a highly experienced year 6 teacher from Brindishe Green School. Ms Matthews will stay with the class until they leave in the summer. Ms Matthews and Mrs Hill have worked closely together over this last year and so we are confident of a smooth handover so that your child's learning will not be disrupted. We are all very much looking forward to meeting baby Hill!

Home Learning

Please look out (and ask for..) the class teacher's class newsletter that should come to you in your child's book bag. Teachers are encouraged to provide ideas and insights into the learning your child has been doing at school also ideas of how you can support and follow this up at home.

Mrs Clapton has asked me to say a particular thank you to all the families who supported the story box project for home learning in her class over the past few weeks. Look out for an invitation to view them all together.

A parent asked...

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

When are the next parent teacher meetings coming up?

Next week please look out for invitations from your child's class teacher to meet and discuss your child's progress. The teachers will make these appointments for the times when they are not teaching their class and will do their best to see parents and carers at a mutually convenient time between 6-17th February.

(Please remember that you don't need to wait for 'a Parent Teacher Meeting' to discuss your child's progress and well being. If you want to find out at any time of the term how your child is getting on then our class teachers are always happy for you to ask for an appointment so that you can have time to talk together.

Coming into school during lesson times

Please avoid coming into school and going into classrooms or through the school halls once the school day has started or before it has ended. This is for safeguarding reasons and because it disrupts children's learning. You should not cut through the halls to cross to the other side of the school. Please walk round.

Once school has started at 9.00am parents and carers must **only come to the school office** where staff will be able to help.

Lee Manor News App

Don't forget that you can download the Lee Manor newsletter app onto your smartphone to receive an electronic version of this newsletter to your phone each week.

With best wishes to all Lee Manor families and friends.

Alex Bell Associate Headteacher