



Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools
Week ending Friday 26th April 2013

Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson DBE

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends of Lee Manor,

I hope that all is well with you and that (at last!) you are enjoying the sunshine and warmer weather. I am writing to let you know about the most recent reviews of the performance of Lee Manor School and also to update you on discussions about the future of our school.

Independent reviews of Lee Manor School

Last week, on Thursday and Friday we had a formal review of teaching and learning at Lee Manor carried out by a lead Ofsted inspector and two senior leaders from schools in a neighbouring borough. They carried out a full audit (like a mini Ofsted) and looked at all of our data on children's progress and achievement, safeguarding and behaviour, our curriculum offer and its development by teachers with areas of responsibility and, most importantly, the quality of teaching and learning in every class. All teachers were formally observed and the team also interviewed leading teachers and representative groups of children across the school.

I am delighted to let you know that the outcome of the review concluded in its report that “ **Lee Manor is a good school rapidly moving towards outstanding**’. In particular the report praised the children for their exemplary behaviour especially behaviour in class which strongly supported their learning and the learning of others. This included the children's ability to share, listen, engage, question, ask the right kind of question, talk about their learning, be resourceful, help each other and keep their focus.

The inspector commented on the great sense of teamwork, collaboration and genuine care and passion for the school evident amongst the staff – and this included all staff – those who work in classrooms and those who have a supporting role in school. They remarked that it was incredible that a team which in effect had only been together as a team since September 2012 (two terms!) were clearly so cohesive and mutually supportive – and described it as ‘a genuine learning community’. All of our data was found to be very thorough and accurate and we clearly had a very good idea about each and every child and how we could enable every one to achieve their next steps.

This week Lee Manor was also subject to a formal termly School Review by Lewisham. The senior School Improvement Officer visited every class and looked at the progress and achievement data for every class, year group and group of children across the school. Again the conclusion of the review is that **Lee Manor is now firmly in the category of a good school, with many aspects either outstanding or very much on their way to being outstanding in the near future.**

In the reports special mention was made of how well Lee Manor works in partnership with Brindishe Green and Brindishe Lee, of the very open, supportive and mutually beneficial relationships that exist between the three communities so that all children can access the very best that is on offer. This is a very positive and clear picture for Lee Manor and a testament to the hard work, dedication and determination of its staff and children and the great support we receive from our governors, many, many parents, our local community and our partner schools.

Thank you to everyone who works for and on behalf of Lee Manor. The children deserve the very best and are responding so very well to our high aspirations for them and their future successes.

I must just let you know that the children who spoke to the reviewers told them that in their opinion “the school has become much more curricular now”, “ the work is more challenging and we are encouraged to talk more during learning which really helps us” and that they thought the school could be improved if “Mr Bell would give out sweets at lunchtime”.

Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools
Week ending Friday 26th April 2013

Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson DBE

The partnership with Brindishe Schools

As we are now half way through our three-year partnership with Brindishe Schools we are reviewing how it is working so far and thinking about our next steps. The partnership, which was arranged by Lewisham with the governing bodies of all three schools in 2010-2011 is funded by Lewisham for three years from September 2011-August 2014.

At our last Lee Manor governors' meeting in March we discussed the options available to us at the end of the 3 years. This includes going our own separate ways – or Lee Manor being a stand alone school with its own head and governing body and budget; continuing the partnership with Brindishe Schools but funding from our own budgets or federating with Brindishe Schools to become a formal federation or alliance of three schools with one Executive head, three Head teachers and one governing body.

The governing bodies of each school will take the decision on the future after discussions, which will take place during the school year 2013-2014. The decision will be based upon what is best for all three schools to ensure that they remain successful and serve the needs of their children well. As all three schools are Lewisham schools and are state funded local authority community schools the views of the local authority and the schools' communities will be important in helping us to reach our decisions. Lewisham is very supportive of Lee Manor and Brindishe and the partnership working which is clearly helping to secure the improvements needed and identified by Ofsted for Lee Manor in 2011.

Providing extra school places in this area

Lewisham is very oversubscribed for school places and there is a serious shortage of places for Reception aged children. Our local area is one of the areas where Lewisham has to find extra places for Reception aged children year after year. Both Lee Manor and Brindishe Lee have opened extra classes (or bulge classes) to help provide a solution to the problem in recent years. This year Brindishe Lee closed its nursery so that it could open two Reception classes in September.

Ideally Lewisham would like to build permanent extra classes in this area in future years and there have been some initial discussions between Lee Manor and Lewisham about expanding the school in return for remodelling and improving the building and playground. We would of course want to ensure that if this goes ahead the children's learning is not disrupted, the play spaces for children are increased and improved not reduced and the heritage of the building is maintained. As discussions continue or develop about the progress of Lee Manor, the future of the partnership with Brindishe and the possible expansion and remodelling of the building and grounds we will keep you informed through this newsletter and on our website.

Finding out more

All aspects of our school are shared with and discussed by our governing body and all of our meetings, both here and at Brindishe Schools are open to observers. Interested parents/carers may attend any of the meetings as observers and also may request copies of all of our minutes once the governing body approves them. If you would like to know more about any of the matters I have outlined here please do contact Alex Bell or me and we will happily arrange a meeting with you. Our email addresses are on the school website or contact us via the school office.

My best wishes to all families and let me take this opportunity of thanking everyone who supports the school and the partnership. It makes a big difference to all of our children and their future. And that's what matters most.

Dame Vicki Paterson
Executive Headteacher Lee Manor and Brindishe Schools

Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools
Week ending Friday 26th April 2013

Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson DBE

Other school news

Enterprise Projects

Many of our classes are planning enterprise projects including running small businesses this term. Next week, our Year 3 classes will be selling snacks and drinks near the front gates at the end of the school day. These will be from ingredients they have bought and prepared that day. Please feel free to support them in their projects and buy something delicious.

Collaborative Choir

This week we hosted choirs from Brindishe Lee, Brindishe Green and St Winifred's to start rehearsals for a massed 'collaborative' choir concert with other neighbouring schools on May 23rd at John Ball school, Blackheath. The children spent time getting to know each other before the rehearsals and are already making a fabulous sound together. Thank you to the children and staff at Lee Manor for making the other schools so welcome here.

Dates for your diary

Monday 6 th May	School closed – Bank holiday
Tuesday 7 th May	Year 5 Banding tests week
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 23 rd May	KS2 Collaborative choir performance at John Ball school
Thursday 23 rd May	KS1 choir performance at Hither Green festival (more details to follow)
Monday 27 th -Friday 31 st May	Half term holiday
Monday 3 rd June	INSET day for school staff
Tuesday 4 th June	Children return to school
Sunday 30 th June	PSFA Summer Fair

With best wishes to all Lee Manor families and friends.

Alex Bell
Headteacher