

Friday 5 September

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

Welcome back everyone! I hope you had a good summer break. As the new headteacher at Brindishe Manor I was delighted to see the children come back to school so refreshed, focused and enthusiastic about their new learning.

Welcome to our new Reception class children and families and to the new children joining us in other year groups. We look forward to our Nursery children starting with us over the next few weeks.

We would like to welcome some new teaching staff to the school: Louise Marks our new nursery teacher; Lizanne Bothma class teacher in Year 2 Amethyst; Lucy Balcombe class teacher in Year 6 Opal; and Maya Basse who is our PPA teacher working across the school, teaching classes while teachers have time out of class to do their preparation, planning and assessment.

We also welcome two new lunchtime playleaders, Jesús Parra and Daniel Czerny, who have joined us this week.

Ben Chapman our ICT manager worked throughout the summer to bring us even more up to date in ICT. Due to his hard work, generous contributions from PSFA and careful budgeting last year we now have at least three desk tops and three ipads and a teacher's desktop in every one of our 16 classrooms as well as extra computers and pc laptops to use in our shared learning areas.

Many thanks to those of you who commented on how smart the school is looking for the start of the new year. We

are very proud of our teachers and classroom staff who have worked so hard to prepare exciting and inviting learning environments for the children. The team led by John Sultana did a fantastic job of cleaning the school from top to bottom during the school holiday. Manor Hall, where Diamond, Opal and Amber classes are based, has also been completely redecorated and is now looking very smart.

Many thanks too to the office staff and to Paul Cunningham and the premises team for getting the office, school buildings and outdoor spaces ready for the children's return.

Brindishe Manor staff training

Brindishe Manor staff started the week with two days of (INSET) training. Much of this was spent looking at the joint Brindishe Schools' Community Development Plan (SCDP). We planned the main projects and developments to take place at Brindishe Manor over the next 3 years.

We will share different aspects of this SCDP in future newsletters over the next few months.

We also looked at the main changes taking place nationally in English and Maths from this September, as a result of the introduction of the new National Curriculum.

School Opening Time

As you may already know we are now opening the school gates and classroom doors at 8.50am every morning. Children are encouraged to come straight into their classrooms from 8.50am so that learning can begin promptly at 9.00am. Thank you to those of you who ensure your children arrive in time for the start of school every day. The beginning of the day is a good

time for a quick conversation with the class teacher or teaching assistant. For anything longer, please ask for an appointment via the school office or see the teacher at the end of the school day.

Secondary Transfer

Children in Year 6 have this week taken home details of Lewisham secondary schools and their open days/evenings.

Parents and carers are reminded that the closing date for secondary school applications is 31 October 2014.

Applications can be made online at www.eadmissions.org.uk

Parents and carers of Year 6 children will be invited to an information sharing evening to be held later this term at school. Please look out for details.

Clubs and Instrumental Tuition

Letters about clubs and instrumental tuition taking place this term are being sent out next week. We have a very good range of lunchtime and after-school clubs and activities for our children, including a number of sports, sewing, cooking, art and choirs. At Brindishe Manor children can also learn violin, brass instruments, recorder, flute and clarinet.

Clubs begin during the week beginning 22 September and will all run for 10 weeks. (Violin tuition only begins on Tuesday 9 September, for 10 weeks.) Clubs and tuition run by qualified sports leaders / professional music teachers have a small charge. All other clubs, run by our dedicated school staff, are free. Families qualifying for free school meals (pupil premium) will be entitled to a reduced cost for clubs and tuition. Please ask at the school office for more details.

Lunchtime arrangements

We now have nearly twice as many children in Reception and KS1 taking up the government offer of a free school lunch so we have had to change our lunch timings.

Reception children have their lunch from 11.30am, followed by Ys 1, 2 and 3 at 12pm and Ys 4, 5 and 6 at 12.30pm.

We will have a wide range of games and activities on offer to our children during lunchtime play. Thank you to our lunchtime staff for engaging the children so well.

Nut Allergies

We have a number of children in school with serious nut allergies, so we ask that parents and carers ***do not include nuts or nut based products (eg peanuts, some cereal bars, nutella) in their childrens' lunch boxes.*** These products can cause a very serious, in some cases life-threatening, reaction in children with nut allergies.

Healthy eating

We are promoting healthy eating and healthy lunches. If your child prefers a packed lunch please can we ask you to think together about what makes a healthy packed lunch.

Look at www.nhs.uk/Change4Life for ideas.

Parents please do not include sweets or chocolate bars in lunch boxes. Sweets are not allowed in school even as 'part of lunch'.

We would like to remind parents and carers that children have access to as much water as they like during the school day, including at lunchtime, so lunch boxes do not need to include a drink. Fizzy, sugary drinks and drinks in glass bottles are not allowed in school.

Lunchtime playleaders

We have vacancies for lunchtime playleaders at Brindishe Manor and Brindishe Green. The pay is £9.80 per hour, £98.00 per week for 10 hours.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in this post please find more information and an application form on www.jobsgopublic.com or ask in the school office for an application form.

Book bags

We encourage every child to have their own book bag to carry books from school every day to read with their families at home. Our book bags cost £4.00 each and are available from the school office. If you would like a Brindishe Manor school sweatshirt for your child they are available every Thursday for you to buy at £8 from the school office.

Dates for your diary:

Week beginning 22 September:

Clubs begin

Meet the teacher appointments. Please look out for more information on dates and times from your child's class teacher

Saturday 4 October

Brindishe Schools Fun Run
Sutcliffe Park, SE9

Mon 27 Oct – Fri 31 Oct

Half term holiday

With best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher

TOGETHER WE RUN: LOGO COMPETITION WINNER!!!

The Brindishe Schools' Parent and Friends and the PE/Sport Staff held a competition last term to design a logo for the upcoming **Fun Run on Saturday 4th October at Sutcliffe Park.**

There were numerous entries and the decision wasn't easy, however one particular entry stood out and truly embraced the concept of a unified Brindishe Green, Lee and Manor Schools and what that means to them.

Congratulations to Florence Vickers, Year 4 Lilac, Brindishe Lee. Her entry will be used on the medals, literature and other material for the Fun Run.

Many thanks to all children who participated in the competition.

Lisa Reddish
Parent at Brindishe Lee