



Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools

Week ending Friday 20th June 2014

Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson DBE

Dear parents, carers, colleagues, friends and families,

Staff news

As you may already know, I will be leaving Lee Manor at the end of this term after three very happy years and Gerlinde Achenbach, who is currently interim Deputy Headteacher, will be Headteacher of the school when it becomes Brindishe Manor in September. I am sure you will join me in wishing Ms Achenbach well in her new role and together we are already making plans for a smooth handover.

This is also the time of year when we can update you on other staff changes that will be happening as we move to the end of the year.

We are sadly saying goodbye to some of our staff. One of our teaching staff, Sonia Hines leaves us to explore new opportunities beyond education, Rachael French is moving to Spain to live and work, Fabiola Ramirez will become an artist in residence in East London, Sezen Erdogan moves to a school in Blackheath and Christy Hill will also move to a school much closer to her home and her very young family.

Teaching assistant Neesha Rayatt leaves us to take up a trainee teacher position on the School Direct programme at a school in Greenwich. And finally, Sue Rivers-Simpson who has worked at the school for an incredible 22 years, after being a pupil here herself, leaves us to begin a very well deserved retirement. Sue will be working for the first week back in September so we will hang on to our fond farewells for the moment.

I am sure you will join me in wishing all of these staff the very best as they move on and in thanking each of them for their contribution to the school.

We will also be welcoming some new staff ready for September. Lucy Balcombe will be joining us from Brindishe Green school. Lucy brings with her a great deal of knowledge and experience and has worked with Lee Manor staff and children in the past.

Lezanne Bothma is another experienced teacher joining us from a school in East London. Louise Marks who is currently head of nursery in South West London will also join our Early Years team. Teaching assistant Mark Maguire will become a trainee teacher here as part of the School Direct programme. I am sure you will join me in wishing them well.

Possible Strike Action – 10th July

You may have seen in the news that the National Union of Teachers, along with other public sector unions, has proposed to strike on 10th July. We will let you know as soon as we are able to if we will need to close, or partially close, the school if we do not have adequate staff to meet health and safety requirements on that day.

New date for School Sports Day – Wednesday 16th July

In light of the proposed strike action we have also moved the date of our school sports day to Wednesday 16th July. The morning and afternoon times for each class will remain the same.

Musicians' Concert

On a lovely warm Tuesday evening this week, we held our annual Musicians' concert showcasing the talents of all the children who have music tuition in the school. The audience were treated to a full and varied programme of music from groups and soloists from our orchestra, brass and woodwind and violin classes.

Thank you to all the children for providing such a lovely evening of music, to all our families able to come along and support the children on the evening and of course in supporting the many, many hours of practice at home. As always, we thank Simon Sutor our brass instrument tutor, Lucia Viola our woodwind tutor, Henry Salmon our violin tutor and Mark Tiller, who leads on music in the school, for putting the whole event together so well.

Ahoy! at Eltham College

Thank you to all the children who took part in rehearsals and the performance of the musical 'Ahoy!' at Eltham College this week. The musical is based on the story of the Tudor warship The Mary Rose and the children sang as part of a massed choir of several hundred children from Lewisham and Bromley schools along with the Eltham College choir and chorale all accompanied by professional musicians. After only a short amount of rehearsal time, it was a real credit to all the children and their schools that they worked so well together to produce such a

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high quality and enjoyable performance. Thank you to the staff, families and friends who supported the children so well and who were able to come along and join in the sea shanties.

Drama Club performance

Family and friends of children in our Drama club were treated to a very accomplished and confident performance after school this week. The play entitled 'The Forgotten Bears', written and rehearsed by the children over the last six weeks also included several music and dance numbers. It was a real pleasure to see the children really enjoying their roles and this came across to all in the audience.

Open Day

We held our last Open Day of the academic year this week and welcomed around thirty visitors to the school, interested in a place for their child. We had many positive comments from our visitors who noted how happy and engaged the children were in their learning and also the high quality of the learning environment. Details of our Open Days for the next academic year are on our website.

Lewisham Maths 24 Tournament

We were very proud of Jacob, Belal and Sophia in year 5 who represented the school so well in Lewisham's Maths 24 tournament this week. We don't yet know the outcome of their efforts but Ms Rayatt who accompanied them tells us that they were a real credit to the school and would now like to teach other children how to play the game too.

Reception classes

Next week we will be meeting parents and carers of children joining our Reception classes in September. The meeting will be next Tuesday 24th June from 5:00 – 6:00pm where there will be an opportunity to meet the Reception team, gather important information, ask questions and have an opportunity to sample items from the school lunch menu.

Jan Blake – Award Winning Storyteller

Please don't forget to return the permission slip and voluntary contribution for the storytelling and music performance from award winning international storyteller Jan Blake at the school on Wednesday 2nd July.

Jan will be performing a number of stories from around the world along with her own musician for each of our classes in year 3,4,5 and 6. She has been a storyteller in Residence for the National Theatre and Southbank Centre and advisor to the National History Museum and British Council. She regularly tours worldwide and we are delighted to have her come to the school.

Tag Rugby finalists

Last week's newsletter incorrectly said that the recent Tag Rugby contest was organised by Colfe's School. Infact it was organised by Old Colfeain's Rugby Club and we are very grateful to them for this opportunity for our children.

Manor House Gardens Festival

Please come and support our children singing as part of Manor House Gardens Festival tomorrow at 1pm. For families bringing children to sing, please meet by the main stage at 12:45pm. The forecast for the day promises blue skies and sunshine so we look forward to seeing you there.

Warm Weather

As the warm weather continues please make sure your child is wearing sensible shoes (no flip flops or exposed toes) and a top that covers their shoulders and middle. Please help us to ensure children enjoy the warm weather as safely as possible.

Dates for your calendar

21st June Collaborative Choir sing at Manor House Gardens Festival, 1 – 1.30pm

24th June Meeting for parents of children starting in Reception classes in September

10th July PROPOSED STRIKE ACTION BY NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS AND OTHER UNIONS

11th July Exhibition of children's Matisse artwork at Lee Manor

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13th July Summer Fair, 1 – 4pm
16th July REVISED DATE FOR SCHOOL SPORTS DAY Manor House Gardens Festival
17th July Y6 Leavers' Performance
21st July 2:30pm Year 6 leavers' assembly
21st July 6:30-8:00pm Year 6 Dinner and Dance
22nd July End of term

Best wishes for the weekend,

Alex Bell
Headteacher

PSFA news

No Quiz Night Tonight

Hello All,

Unfortunately we've had to take the decision to cancel the Quiz tonight. We didn't have enough people wanting to go so wouldn't have been worth doing either as an experience for the six people there or as a fundraiser. It appears a very wise woman (ie my wife) was 100% right "Bad idea. June? Not a summer thing." Quizzes are for winter. Who knew? Everyone but me clearly.

Quiz will be back with the dark nights sometime in October. Watch this space.

And lo, on we march to the Summer Fair! We've again agreed with Winkworths estate agents that for every parent who agrees to host a Winkworths branded board advertising the Lee Manor Summer Fair outside their house for three weeks they will donate £10 per board.

This is a simple, low impact, high value way parents can help the school. During the Winter Fair 40 parents and carers kindly supported us this way raising £400. If we can raise this sort of money again it could fund the hire of the bouncy castle and the bungee run. We are looking for anyone who can host a board for Summer Fair. If this works for you can you please mail me at leemanorpsfa@gmail.com

Also, we are looking for additional prizes for the raffle. If any of you have your own business or know of someone with a local business who would benefit from supporting the school please get in touch at address above!

More news on Summer Fair in following newsletters. As ever, thanks for your support of our school!
Scott McCready, PSFA Chair 2013/14

Community News

Manor House Gardens Festival tomorrow Saturday June 21st. Music, arts, food & drink, funfair, fete. 12 noon to 9pm. Look out for the giant letter M created by Lee Manor children in the style of Matisse.

The Chorus of Our Lady of Lourdes present a short concert of excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Pirates of Penzance' on Sunday 22nd June at 4pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Burnt Ash Hill. All welcome.