



Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools

Week ending Friday 24th January 2014

Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson DBE

Dear parents, carers, colleagues, friends and families,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and hello to all who are new to our school this term. I hope to meet you in person at the school gate or at one of the family events we have planned for this year. This week we have been visited by a group of Head teachers from East Sussex who wanted to find out more about how schools work together. They were full of praise especially for the children who were so very engaged and enthusiastic in their learning. The children were genuinely delighted to welcome the visitors and tell them all about their schools. The Heads also commented on 'such creative classrooms and your warm, open and very committed staff'.

As ever our three schools continue to be very well thought of in our local community. It was with great delight that we heard from Lewisham this week that each of the three schools in our partnership are proving to be very popular again as the first choice school for many families applying for Reception places for September 2014.

We are offering 180 places (30 at Brindishe Lee, 60 at Lee Manor and 90 at Brindishe Green) and by the deadline-for-applications date of 15 January we were all very oversubscribed at first choice. This means that every single Reception place across the partnership will go to a family who named one of our schools as their preferred school. We're sure that the fact that each of the schools now holds an 'Ofsted-outstanding' judgement has influenced many parents' and carers' choices.

I am writing today to let you know of some important news regarding the partnership between both Brindishe Schools and Lee Manor School. The governing bodies of Brindishe and of Lee Manor met together on Wednesday evening this week at Lee Manor to agree a proposal to formally federate (or make a permanent partnership) from September 2014. Next Friday, 31 January, we will be sending out letters to all staff, parents and carers, local schools and local representatives (MPs and ward councillors for example) to seek views and comments on the proposal. The proposal will be posted on the three schools' websites and from there can be easily translated into many, many home languages. There will be plenty of time in which to respond, as replies will be welcome until the deadline of 14 March. After this both governing bodies together will consider them. Please look out for the letter, think about the proposal and let us have your response.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Dame Vicki Paterson
Executive Headteacher Brindishe and Lee Manor Schools

Rights Respecting School News

This week the children took part in some exciting assemblies where they thought about all the rights children have.

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In KS1 they were visited by the Rights Respecting Bear who helped them to understand how to show respect for everyone's right to play, to be safe and to learn.

KS2 children had their knowledge tested by taking part in a 'Who Wants to Be A Rights Millionaire' quiz.

All the children showed great understanding about rights and how to show respect for them.

Look out for our next Rights Respecting event: 'A Day for Change' on Friday 7th February. More information on UNICEFs Day for Change can be found online at www.dayforchange.org.uk.

Katie Clapton (Rights Respecting leader)

Year 1 visit the Royal Observatory Greenwich

Jasper and Onyx classes had a fabulous time at the Royal Observatory Greenwich this week. Many thanks to the many adults who were able to accompany the children and who commented at how very well organised the whole event was.

Basketball News from Mr Tiller and Mr Wiltshire

Children from year 3 and 4, and also year 5 and 6, represented Lee Manor at the Lewisham borough basketball tournament last week. All of our teams did exceptionally well and two children, Ola Ostrowska in Aquamarine, and Callum Young in Pearl, received certificates for team work and determination. Our year 3 and 4 team came second overall which means that they will represent the borough in the next stage of the competition. Well done to everyone involved.

Contact Information

We are sending home today the contact information we hold for you. Please make sure all the information is correct, in particular, mobile phone numbers and emergency contact details.

On Monday 20th January at 2pm we sent a test text message to every family. Please update the school office with the correct number if you did **NOT** receive a text at this time.

Attendance and punctuality

Congratulations to Amethyst, Ruby, Quartz, Topaz, Aquamarine, Diamond, Opal and Emerald classes who all had attendance above our target of 95% this week.

We are still noticing large numbers of children and their families rushing into school after the bell has been rung at 9am. We all know that this is not the best way for any child to begin a day of learning so please make every effort to get to school in good time to allow your child to settle well at the start of each day. Thank you to the many, many families with excellent punctuality.

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Dates for your calendar

In last week's newsletter we published the term dates for the rest of 2014, which we hope you will find useful when making family plans and holiday arrangements. These are also available on the school website for you. Please also remember when planning holidays that in accordance with government guidelines, no absences in term time will be authorised unless they are for exceptional circumstances.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Alex Bell
Headteacher