



Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools

Week ending Friday 25th April 2014

Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson DBE

Dear parents, carers, colleagues, friends and families,

Welcome back

Welcome back to the final term of the year. Many of the children returned to school with fantastic home learning projects, diaries and reading journals and all of them have started the term very well indeed.

You will soon receive details from your child's teacher of some of the learning that is planned for their class this term. Please take time to look at this overview so you can talk with your child and continue to support their learning at home.

Marathon Man

Congratulations to David Wright on completing his first London Marathon. David, of ChandlerWright Hair in Blackheath village is well known to many staff and parents in our three schools – and was running to raise money to provide some great opportunities for Brindishe and Lee Manor children. He raised just over £2500 – an astonishing and generous amount indeed. If you see him as you pass through Blackheath village do pop in and congratulate him. David will visit our three schools next Friday so that we can thank him personally. Congratulations David, well done and thank you!

David's fundraising for Brindishe and Lee Manor page is still open at www.justgiving.com/david-wright007 if you would like to donate or to send him a congratulatory message.

ICT Upgrades

You may have already heard the news from your child that we had a major upgrade of our ICT over the holiday period.

Along with our partner schools Brindishe Green and Brindishe Lee, we have been able to jointly upgrade our wifi system to a much safer and more reliable network. We have also been able to replace all our old projectors and interactive whiteboards in every class with 65-inch touch screen computers – including the nursery who have never had a screen before. We have also replaced each class computer with an upgraded model.

Children are already telling us they can now see the screen in their classroom much better without having to close all the blinds, they no longer have to be careful not to look into the dazzle of the projector (because there is no projector) and they can write and draw on the screen with their finger without having to use a special pen. Teachers tell us that it is much quicker to use the new screens and computers in their lessons too.

After this major investment in this equipment the school is now in a much better position to safely and reliably add more computers and ipads to this upgraded network in the future. We are delighted to be bringing our children's resources right up to date to be the very best for their learning.

As you can imagine this has been a mammoth task over the holidays and huge thanks must go to Ben Chapman our in-house computer manager and his colleague Aleks Piatkowski from Brindishe Green for co-ordinating the very large team of contractors involved in recabling, rewiring and installing the equipment so smoothly. Thanks also to Paul Cunningham our Premises manager, Danny Abels from the Brindishe schools' premises team and John Sultana from our cleaning team who ensured every hole was repaired and painted and every classroom was back to normal without hiccup for the children's first day back.

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Mini Marathon

On a related theme of helping others, we send good luck to Jack Butcher in year 2 Ruby class who is running in the Greenwich mini marathon on Sunday. Jack is raising money for Greenwich hospice and if you are able to, you can sponsor him on <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Laurajames10>.

Lauren Aitken in National Diving Competition

Lauren Aitken from Diamond Class has made it through to the 2014 National diving skills Finals in Sheffield from 2nd to 4th May. We are thrilled and very proud that Lauren will be representing the school at such an important competition and wish her the very best of luck.

INSET day

Staff at school met on Tuesday for a day of training. We spent the day making plans for the children's learning over the next term and also next year. This included how we will teach calculation in maths, how will include more 'metacognition' or thinking skills. We also made plans for government changes to the curriculum (subjects that children learn at school) that will happen from September.

Staff News

This week we welcomed back teaching assistant Mark Maguire to year 2. Mr Maguire returns to us after spending last half term at Brindishe Green school.

We also welcome Jordan Cascoe to our team of teaching assistants. Mr Cascoe comes with much experience including teaching Japanese.

We wish Rebecca Gravener, school manager of our Place2Be service well as she begins her maternity leave this term. We also congratulate Emily Elliot who steps up from being assistant manager to lead Place2Be here this term.

School Meal Price Increase from May 2014

Lewisham will be increasing the cost of Primary School Meals from £1.80 to £1.90 per meal with effect from 5th May 2014. This increase has been designed to cover the cost of food price inflation over the current and forthcoming year. At £1.90 Lewisham meals will continue to provide all of the Government nutritional requirements and compare favourably with other local authorities. The two course daily menus vary throughout a three weekly cycle and the Authority is constantly striving to improve the quality of the ingredients. Over 80% of the meal offer uses fresh, quality products from sustainable sources.

If you pay for school dinners please do remember to pay in advance. You can pay for school dinners at the school office or online via the 'Parent Pay' service. We will be happy to give you log in details at the office.

Visits and Visitors

We have been delighted to host a teacher from France this week. Natalie Pascal is from one of our partner schools in Paris. Natalie brought her class from France to meet Ms Morris' class in London last summer and has returned again for two days on her own to spend time at our school. Thank you to all the staff and children who made her feel so welcome.

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Open Day

We will be holding our next open day on Tuesday 29th April for families who would like to visit the school. Visitors can come for a tour of the school any time between 9:15am and 10:00am and 5:15pm and 6:00pm. If you have any friends or neighbours who would like to visit then please pass on this invitation. We would be delighted to show them around.

Art In Nature Competition

Thank you to all the children who entered the 'Art in Nature' competition organised by the children in our 'Leaders in Learning' team for the holidays. The deadline for entries was today and we will let you know the judges' final decisions very soon. Please also look out for the children's 'Art In Nature' displayed around the school over the next few weeks.

Coming to and from school

Please remember that both our school gates on Leahurst Road open at 8:45am each morning. Families can arrive any time from 8:45am to be ready to go into class at 9:00 am. Please do not send your child to school before the gates open as we do not provide supervision for this time. Parents and carers will need to make alternative arrangements for children coming to school before 8:45am.

Please also note that if you would like your child in year 5 or 6 to walk home alone we will need your written permission for this. Children younger than year 5 and 6 must walk home with an adult.

News from the PSFA

Direct debit donations

You will find with this newsletter a white envelope with information for any parents or carers who would like to support the PSFA's fund raising through making regular voluntary donations by direct debit. Please take a look to see if this is something you would be interested in doing.

Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who came to the cake sale on the last day of term and of course our wonderful team of PSFA bakers.

Important message - School Disco tonight

School disco is from 6:30-8:00pm tonight for children in year 3,4,5 and 6. As we have reached capacity for the event **NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT AND ONLY CHILDREN WHO HAVE ALREADY BOUGHT A TICKET MAY ATTEND. PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THAT ALL CHILDREN MUST BE BROUGHT TO AND COLLECTED FROM THE DISCO BY AN ADULT.**

Many thanks to the parents and staff from the PSFA who are helping this evening. We know the children will really enjoy themselves.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Alex Bell
Headteacher

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