



Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools

Week ending Friday 27th June 2014

Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson DBE

Dear parents, carers, colleagues, friends and families,

ArtsMark

At Lee Manor we are very proud of the quality of our provision in dance, music, drama and art, as well as the many cultural opportunities that our children receive. So, we applied for The Arts Council to visit and assess the school for the ArtsMark Gold award. Last Friday, we were visited by one of their assessors.

ArtsMark Gold is the highest level of award that any school can achieve and we were very proud to share with the assessor all the wonderful learning that children have completed in the Arts over the past few years. Thank you to all the children who hosted the assessor and joined groups to speak with her about the Arts in our school. Just on that one day, she saw our youngest children creating Matisse cut outs, Year 6 making cushions inspired by Henri Matisse and Year 3 learning about musical instruments and their timbre linked to their projects on weather. Year 4 were also working with opera specialists preparing for their debut of the 'Adventures of Count Ory' at Blackheath Halls. The assessor also spent several hours looking at videos, photographs and other examples of learning that our children have taken part in, compiled over the last few years.

Our assessor left us saying that she was 'extremely impressed' with what she saw. She commented on the exceptional quality of learning across the school and the lovely 'buzz' children had for their learning around the Arts in the school. We are anticipating a very successful outcome and will let you know whether we achieved the ArtsMark Gold standard when this is announced in the Autumn. Thank you very much indeed to Mrs Guest for compiling the very numerous examples of children's learning across the Arts at the school in preparation for our assessment. Thank you also to our children and staff for such a vibrant commitment to the Arts too.

Manor House Gardens Festival

It was lovely to see so many families in the sunshine at the Manor House Gardens Festival last Saturday to celebrate our wonderful local community. Thank you to the children who sang so well alongside others in the Collaborative choir of local schools, to the children who played in bands throughout the day and to all the friends and families who came along to support them.

Year 6 team building event

This week we hosted children from the year 6 classes of Brindishe Lee and Brindishe Green alongside our own year 6 children. The children met for an afternoon of team-building exercises working in groups mixed from each school and getting to know each other before some of them join Secondary schools together in the autumn. The children took part in a range of challenges including code breaking, memory tests and physical tasks. All involved agreed that the afternoon was a real success thanks to the excellent organization of Ms Coupe and her team. Thank you also to our team of year 5 helpers who worked very well to keep the afternoon running so smoothly. We look forward to repeating more of these afternoons next year.

Pavilion Opera

This week our year 5 children went along to Brindishe Lee school for a performance of Mozart's 'Cosi Fan Tutti'. It was especially performed for the children of our three schools by professional Opera Company, Pavilion Opera, who installed a grand piano at the school especially for the performance. The children have been studying the story and have produced writing and artwork based on the opera as part of their learning over the last few weeks. They were also an excellent audience on the day.

Proposed strike action

We are now able to confirm that due to industrial action by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) the school will be closed to all children on Thursday 10th July. School will reopen on Friday 11th July at 9am.

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Parent Governor Elections

Earlier this week your child will have brought home a letter inviting you to stand as a candidate in the forthcoming Parent Governor Election. We are looking to elect one parent governor in each of our three schools to join the federated governing body in September 2014.

If you did not receive a letter please contact the school office to request another copy. The election will be held on 11 July. Candidates must submit their nomination form by no later than the end of the school day on Wednesday 2 July.

As a parent governor you are not asked to speak for or on behalf of parents and carers (like a politician or union representative). Parent governors are asked to give their views as a 'typical' or 'representative' parent. You do not need to have had experience as a governor before or to be confident at public speaking. If you would like to talk to someone to find out what is involved in being a parent governor on a federated schools' governing body, Lindsay Dale, one of our very experienced parent governors and a governor trainer for Lewisham Schools, is happy to make contact with you. Please contact the Executive Headteacher vickipaterson@brindisheschools.org or our Chair of Governors spyroselia@brindisheschools.org and they can put you in touch with Lindsay.

Reception classes

This week we hosted a Welcome Evening for families of children joining our Reception classes in September. Although we have children coming up from our own nursery, I am sure you will join me in welcoming all those families who are new to the school.

School Photographs

Early next week, please look out for sample copies of your child's school photograph in book bags. Details of how to order and pay for the photographs will be given alongside the samples.

Please bring back our books

This is the time of year when we would like everyone to please search behind the sofa and under the bed for any missing books that belong to the school. We would be delighted to see as many books as possible return to school over the next few weeks. We would much prefer to buy new books for the school than have to spend the same money replacing missing ones. So please take a look this weekend.

Play Equipment and resources before and after school

Please help us to keep children as safe as possible at the end of the school day by not allowing them to play on the large equipment near the bike store.

Year 1 staff also request that adults and children waiting outside Nursery and Year 1 in the morning do not play with or move resources and learning set out ready on tables for the day.

Sports Day

Sports Day will be on Wednesday 16th July at Manor House Gardens.

Onyx, Ruby, Sapphire, Quartz, Amber, Jet and Opal class will start at 9:45am. Jasper, Amethyst, Pearl, Topaz, Aquamarine, and Diamond class will start at 12:45pm. All these classes will be there for lunch from 12:00-2:30pm. Please feel free to come and join us on the day.

Dates for your calendar

2 July - Jan Blake Storytelling Performances, years 2-6

10 July - School closed to children due to industrial action

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

11 July - EYFS Sports Day at school

13 July - Summer Fair

17 July - Y6 Leavers' Performance

21 July - 2:30pm Year 6 leavers' assembly

21 July - 6:30-8:00pm Year 6 Dinner and Dance

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22 July - End of term

Best wishes for the weekend,
Alex Bell
Headteacher

News from the PSFA

Hello there! Two bits of news for you this week....

First up...it's the Summer Fair.

As you know the Summer Fair is on Sunday 13th July from 1 – 4pm. We urgently need about 20 parents to come forward and volunteer to run a stall, help collect money on a ride or similar. The Fair is the lead fundraiser of the year, but it can only function with support of volunteers.

All we need is one parent or carer from your family to offer up an hour of their spare time. One hour, no more. Speaking from experience and personal aptitude there is literally no skill required or involved.

Activities we need volunteers to run are:

GAMES: Hook A Duck, Lucky Dip, Coconut Shy

RIDES: Bungee Run, Buckin' Bronco, Bouncy Castle

STALLS: Adult Tombola, Kids Tombola

If you can spare one hour please let me know at leemanorpsfa@gmail.com

Sponsored Cycle Ride

And in other news, PSFA Treasurer Adam Spriggs, father of Elisabeth in Amethyst Yr 2, will be riding from London to Brighton on an overnight cycle ride on the night of Saturday 12th/Sunday 13th.

He is cycling on behalf of the PSFA. If you would like to sponsor him, please log on to our webpage at: <http://www.btplc.com/mydonate/> and search for Lee Manor.

And to answer your next question, yes, Adam was absolutely thrilled when I told him I'd gone and scheduled the Summer Fair for immediately after said 65 mile cycle ride and that, yes, he would need to be at Fair. Ooops. Sorry about that.

Many thanks!
Scott McCready
PSFA Chair, 2013/14

Community News Lee Manor Parent, Shirin Shabestari, starts the first of her five challenges to raise funds for

'Save the Children' this weekend. If you would like to sponsor her, you can at <http://www.justgiving.com/shirin-shabestari> or by texting SAAJ73 £5 to 70070.