

8 January 2016

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

A very happy new year to you all. We have had an amazing start to the new term and today's newsletter is going to give you a flavour of some of the very exciting learning opportunities that the children experienced on their first day back to school this week.

Year 3 Pearl class kicked off their 'Eco Warriors' learning this week by experiencing a day without any paper or electricity. The children were shocked to discover, as they arrived on Tuesday morning, that these resources had apparently been cut off over the holiday because they had used too much last term!

However, Ms Gurr and Ms Willard tell us that the children really rose to the challenge and thoroughly enjoyed a day of learning by 'candlelight'. They came up with a variety of extremely creative schemes to solve the problem and eventually managed to use their persuasive writing skills to prove that they would take much more care not to waste resources this term.

Year 4 Amber had a surprise visit from a well known entrepreneur who apparently arrived and left in a helicopter and had very few manners...

Here is a report from Lily and Niall:
"This half term we are learning about Making Money. On Tuesday we had a visitor who called himself 'Lord Shockham'. He gave us £6.00 per group so that two people each week can go to Sainsburys to buy ingredients for snacks that we will be selling after school. The adults who go with them will not be allowed to say what the pair need or where to find it in the shop. At the end of

Headteacher: Gerlinde Achenbach Executive Head: Dame Vicki Paterson DBE Chair of Governors: Spyros Elia

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all this we have to pay £6.00 back to Lord Shockham. We will be selling snacks after school next week by the gate. Please come and support us."

Ms Hockham and Ms Martin hope Lord Shockham is a little more polite next time he visits the school...

Year 6 Opal and Diamond thought they were coming into their classrooms on Tuesday morning, but instead found themselves in a WW2 air raid shelter with the debris from a recent 'air raid' all around them. Rosie reports:
"When we walked into school something was definitely wrong. The windows of our classroom were blacked out and a sign on the door read 'Air Raid Shelter - maximum 100 people!' It was an exciting experience for everyone, cramming into the shelter, and later on feeling what it was like to be an evacuee."

The children spent the rest of the day learning about gas masks and evacuees, and making cheese pudding from a wartime recipe. It was a very memorable day.

Year 5 Jet came back after lunch to find that their classroom had turned into a space station – they then enjoyed a space exploration afternoon including 'anti-gravity' writing!

Year 5 Aquamarine began their new theme 'To Infinity and Beyond' with a visit from a 'Professor Wolfenstadt' who claimed to need some information in order to intercept an alien missile launched from the moon – of course he needed the children's help to work out the information from clues he had been given...

I'm sure you'll agree that we have very lucky children here at Brindishe Manor, with such exciting opportunities to bring their learning alive. Thanks go to all the

staff who work so hard to make it all possible.

Health and Safety at Brindishe Manor

Before the holiday we had an independent and full inspection of the schools' health and safety procedures and practice and this week we received the consultant's report. The school was graded 'excellent' in all areas. A full audit like this is required every 5 years and covers such areas as staff training, safeguarding, first aid, fire drills, medical needs policies, educational visits, premises management, statutory maintenance checks, site security and safety awareness.

This week, we also had our annual governors' self-audit of Health and Safety. We were accompanied in the review by Jackie Stirling, our Vice Chair and the link Governor for Health and Safety. I'm pleased to tell you the school policies and practices are fully compliant and we again achieved full marks.

Trainee teachers

Kamila Rahman and Mahmud Ahmed are currently based at John Ball and Brindishe Green schools respectively for a 4 week placement. We welcome Danielle Sullivan, TA from Brindishe Green and Hannah Nolan-Neylan, trainee teacher from John Ball, both of whom are working at Brindishe Manor as part of their teacher training.

Dates for your diary

11 Jan Music classes begin

12 Jan Open Day for prospective applicants' parents and carers:
9.15 – 10.30am / 5 – 6.15pm Please tell interested friends and neighbours.

15 Jan Deadline for applications to Reception, Sep 2016

18 Jan Clubs begin

19 Jan Information meeting for parents and carers: An Introduction to Dyslexia

8 Feb KS2 choir to Young Voices at the O2

And finally...

Friday 15 January is the deadline for applications to Reception in September 2016. Prospective parents and carers can visit Brindishe Manor at our Open Day this coming Tuesday (9.15 – 10.30am or 5 – 6.15pm).

Online applications should be made at www.eAdmissions.org.uk

Please ask at the office if you would like any help with making your application.

With best wishes,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher

PSFA (Parents, Staff, Friends Association) News

THANK YOU: A big thank you to all of those parents, carers and teachers who helped to make the Winter Fair such a lovely event, and to all of you who attended. The final amounts are being counted and we will be able to tell you how much you raised next week.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT AMNESTY:

We hope you had a great holiday break and that Santa was kind to all those he visited. If, however, you received anything which made you smile sweetly but think "I'll never use that in a million years" (it happens to us all!), then why not save space in your house and donate the gift to the PSFA for the summer fair tombola? Any donations can be left at the school office. *Please note we cannot accept electrical goods – for safety reasons.*

Best wishes for a fun filled 2016 from all of us.