

3 July 2015

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

As you will know we had a full review of the school this term carried out by a qualified Ofsted Inspector, Marion Lewis, with a team of 3 senior staff from other primary schools in the south east of England. The review is organised by Challenge Partners, a national network of schools and academies who work together in School Improvement.

We promised you the report would be good and a copy can now be found and read on the school's website. Although this is not an Ofsted inspection we were very pleased that once again an independent group confirmed the judgement of 'outstanding' for Brindishe Manor School (and indeed the trio of Brindishe Schools).

This week at Brindishe Manor...

It has been a scorcher of a week, but we have managed to keep the children as cool and hydrated as we possibly can. Thank you to everyone who has supported us by making sure their children come to school wearing sun cream, and with a hat and with their shoulders covered.

We have had a very busy few days: on Monday we held a concert for the children who learn an instrument at school. We heard outstanding violin, woodwind and brass performances and many people in the audience commented on the high standards reached by our young musicians. Many thanks go to our music tutors Steffi Dykes, Sam Becker, Henry Salmon and Dave Howells for all their hard work.

Grow Cook Eat

All this week children in different classes, helped by the Gardening Team, have been harvesting the vegetables and fruit they have grown since the spring, and creating 'feasts' to share together as part of our Grow, Cook, Eat project. As one child put it, 'Just think, we've grown all this from a few seeds – its amazing!' So far the children have made and enjoyed courgette and pea pasta, tomato soup and bread, 'eton mess' with home grown strawberries, and salad leaves with broad beans. Very tasty, very healthy and all grown in the Brindishe Manor growing beds!

The feasts continue next week, so listen out for your child telling you all about theirs.

Choir

Our KS2 choir took part in a magnificent concert at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday evening. The concert was a celebration of music and dance in the borough of Lewisham and parents, carers and staff have told us how moved they were by the outstanding quality of music making they heard from across our borough, not least from our very own young singers. We are very grateful to Mark Tiller and Mark Maguire who have worked so hard to prepare our children and enabled them to have such rich musical experiences over the year.

Staffing news

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the school year. With just a few weeks to the end of term we want to share with you the news of our teaching staff and classroom support staff for September.

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Laura Hicks who is now moving to work in a school much closer to home in Essex. Laura has been with the school for 16 years and we are just so grateful that she braved the Dartford Crossing each week for so long – and of course wish her well.

Tom Wiltshire completes his first year of teaching and now moves to take up a post outside London. Lucy Collier, our Reception teacher is moving back across the river to a new school nearer to her home too. Sarah Douglas is also moving on to new challenges, possibly travelling or teaching abroad and we look forward to hearing where she decides to continue her career.

You may already know that Jenny Guest, Diamond class teacher, is due to have a baby in October so she will not be taking a class herself in September. However she will be around to help us get the new year off to a flying start before she goes on maternity leave.

We welcome 5 new members of teaching staff to our team: Rachel Gurr who recently qualified at Goldsmiths College and Lizzie Stephens who joins us from a primary school in Chiswick. Both Rachel Gurr and Lizzie Stephens are spending time here over the next few weeks getting to know the children and staff routines ready for September.

Another teacher Shafiq Dad will be joining us from his current school in Tower Hamlets. Shafiq Dad will be spending time with us and with his new class on 14 July.

Amy Parry, who is currently at St John the Baptist and St Marys CE Schools in Lewisham is joining us as a PPA teacher (a teacher who covers classes while teachers have time for preparation, planning and assessment).

Mark Maguire has successfully achieved Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and will be taking his own class full time from September.

Two of our teaching assistants Mahmud Ahmed and Kamila Rahman have secured places on the School Direct Training Programme to train to become teachers over the next academic year. There is a highly competitive national application process so we are delighted to know they are both so committed to our schools. They will be training here and at the other Brindishe Schools and John Ball School in SE3 – and also studying part time at the Institute of Education.

We have a great track record with School Direct as Mr Maguire and Ms Givens both trained and qualified through this scheme.

We have a new teaching assistant Rebekah Chin joining our classroom support team. The table overleaf shows the classes and staffing from September 2015.

<i>Current class name and year</i>	New class name and year	Class teacher	Classroom Support staff
	Jade Nursery	Louise Marks	Bernie Francis
	Turquoise Reception	Lizanne Bothma	Jasmine Dadzie Charlotte Gibbins
	Emerald Reception	Bee Roddy	Rose Barron Charlotte Gibbins
<i>Turquoise Rec</i>	Jasper Y1	Emily Da Silva	Laura Yardley
<i>Emerald Rec</i>	Onyx Y1	Lizzie Stephens	Asha Chaudhari
<i>Onyx Y1</i>	Ruby Y2	Katie Clapton	Sue Young Janet O'Neil
<i>Jasper Y1</i>	Amethyst Y2	Charisse Phillips	Kamila Rahman
<i>Amethyst Y2</i>	Pearl Y3	Rachel Gurr	Ciarra Willard
<i>Ruby Y2</i>	Sapphire Y3	Kimberley Givens	Rebekah Chin Claire Nicholls
<i>Pearl Y3</i>	Topaz Y4	Shafiq Dad	Lauren Naylor
<i>Sapphire Y3</i>	Amber Y4	Julie Hockham	Jen Martin
<i>Quartz Y4</i>	Aquamarine Y5	Mark Maguire	Liz Newman
<i>Topaz Y4</i>	Jet Y5	Mark Tiller	Mahmud Ahmed Wai-Chi Yu Hannah Germaine
<i>Amber Y4</i>	Quartz Y5	Lucy Balcombe	Hannah Germaine Gill Holley
<i>Jet Y5</i>	Diamond Y6	Keisha Rickman	Marva Hudson Claire Nicholls
<i>Aquamarine Y5</i>	Opal Y6	Rebecca Morris	Elaine Ayeni

Over the next few weeks there will be opportunities for the children to meet with their teachers and teaching assistants for next year. (Your class teachers will let you know in their class newsletter in September which of our PPA teachers will be working in their class for a half or two half days each week).

Dates for your diary

7 July Year 3 Thames visit

9 July Sports Day (Y1 – 6) at Manor House Gdns

10 July Reception Sports Day at school 9.45am

10 July BBQ lunch for children

10 July Reports home

12 July PSFA Summer Fair

*****14 July***** Y6 Leavers' perf. 2pm and 6.30pm.

14 July Brindishe Schools' Nursery **Big Toddle** for Barnardos in Manor Hse Gdns from 10.30am

15 July Reception Art Exhibition in Central Hall, 3.20pm

16 July Y6 Dinner and Dance

17 July Last day of term

And finally...

Don't forget to come along to support the children at Sports' Day on Thursday 9 July for Y1 – 6 at Manor House Gardens (information has already gone home about this), and at Reception Sports' Day at school on Friday 10 July.

With best wishes,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher