

12 February 2016

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

### **This week at Brindishe Manor...**

#### **Young Voices**

The songs are still ringing in our ears! Very well done to our dedicated and talented KS2 choir who performed at the O2 this week with Young Voices. They sang their hearts out, along with a few thousand other children, and raised the roof with their music making!

Many, many thanks to Mark Maguire who has shown such dedication in coaching the choir over the past 5 months to prepare them for this very special event.

#### **Debate Club**

Thanks go again to Mark Maguire for organising the Brindishe Schools Debate Competition which took place this week at Brindishe Lee. It was a very close contest but we are delighted to announce that the team from Brindishe Manor was voted the most persuasive. Well done to everyone who took part and many thanks to Brindishe Lee for hosting.

#### **Shine**

Congratulations to our Year 5 children who received certificates last weekend after 10 weeks of fun learning on Saturday mornings at Blackheath High School. We hope to be able to take part in this special opportunity again next year.

#### **Science Museum**

Year 5 have had very successful visits to the Science Museum this week, watching an IMAX film about space and visiting the galleries. They came back to school buzzing! Many thanks to the adults who

gave up their time to accompany these visits.

#### **Oxfam Workshops**

Ms Gurr reports that Year 2 and 3 have had a visitor from Oxfam this week who talked about climate change and Oxfam's work in countries around the world. Year 3 took part in some workshops and were truly inspired by what they learned. Poppy said, "I think we need to tell *everyone* about how to be eco-friendly!" Safe to say the future of our planet looks to be in very capable hands!

#### **Reward for entrepreneurs**

Y4 Topaz and Amber classes have been visited by 'Albert & Friends Circus' today. They have learned how to balance on a ball, unicycle, walk on a tightrope, juggle, use diablos and spin plates. The money raised through their recent enterprise project (Amber class raised £278.75 and Topaz £325.30) funded this exciting opportunity. Well done children – you are true entrepreneurs!

#### **News from the Eco-Team**

##### **Change it! Protect it!**

Children on the Eco-Team and in Year 4 Amber are proposing that we have a **whole school Meat-Free Day** next term, and then as a regular Eco-event after that.

The team says this is because:

- trees are being cut down to make room for beef farms and we need trees for oxygen
- cows and sheep produce methane and CO<sub>2</sub>, which are greenhouse gases and lead to global warming
- animals are fed chemicals to make them grow bigger, faster, and then the chemicals go in to our bodies

- animals are not treated very nicely before they are killed for us to eat
- it's unhealthy to eat too much red and processed meat

**Talk it!** What do you think?

Go to the **Eco-Award page** on Fronter to share your thoughts on Meat-Free Day.

### **Staffing news**

Shortly after half term two of our teachers Emily Da Silva and Lucy Balcombe will each start their maternity leave. We wish them all the best with the final few weeks before their respective babies arrive. They will be replaced by Kamila Rahman in Jasper class and Mahmud Ahmed in Quartz class.

We have another new teacher here at Brindishe Manor. Vanessa Pouso-Rios has recently joined us as one of our new 'PPA' staff providing cover for teachers if they are absent or out of class for training, planning, preparation and assessment time.

Next half term two more teaching assistants will join us - Alexis Jagger who has been working at Brindishe Lee and Amy Snaith an experienced Early Years Professional both of whom plan, one day, to be primary class teachers.

We will also have some new children after half term and as a result of our latest performance review meetings we are organising some further changes in support staff for classes, groups of children and individual children. Class teachers will keep you informed about these via their weekly class newsletters.

Staff development is very important to us all and I'm delighted to tell you that congratulations are due to four of our current teaching assistants who have

been accepted on a teacher training programme starting September 2016. They will train with us in Brindishe Schools and at the Institute of Education through the Schools Direct route.

We are currently advertising for an Assistant Headteacher at Brindishe Manor and plan to appoint next half term.

Jenny Guest popped by with baby Beth the other day and says she is looking forward to returning to us later in the year. We will keep you posted...

### **Parent Portal**

If you have given us your email address you will shortly receive an email from Arbor with your Parent Portal login. Once you have logged in for the first time you will be able to check and amend your child/parent/carer contact information and view your child's attendance.

From next Monday (15 Feb) on Parent Portal you will be able to book your mid-term review meeting with your child's teacher. These meetings are scheduled for the fortnight beginning 29 February. **Online booking is open from 15 – 25 February.**

If you haven't done so already, please send us your email address along with your child/children's names, to [info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk) so that you can book your appointments online via Parent Portal too.

If you do not have an email address and therefore cannot access Parent Portal, please speak to your child's class teacher after half term and they will arrange a time to meet with you.

### **Dates for your diary**

**15 – 19 Feb** Half term

**15 – 25 Feb** Booking window for mid-term review meetings via parent Portal

**22 Feb** Children return to school  
**23 Feb** Y1 to the Horniman Museum  
**24 Feb** Full Governing Body Meeting at Brindishe Manor at 6.00pm (let us know if you wish to attend as an observer and we'll arrange seating)  
**29 Feb – 11 March** Parent/teacher Mid-term Review meetings  
**29 Feb - 11 March** Fairtrade fortnight  
**2 March** Pearl Class to 'Lewisham Live' dance festival.  
**3 March** World Book Day  
**4 March** PSFA 'Book Breakfast' and 'Dress as a book character' day  
**7 March** Y6 to Imperial War Museum  
**18-22 April** Why Not Walk? week

### **Safeguarding**

Once the school gates are closed all visitors must report to the office. This includes parents / carers collecting children for appointments. If you are bringing something for your child, please take it to the school office and they will make sure your child gets it.

And finally...

### **Dining hall roof repairs**

Works have begun to the dining hall roof, and these will continue over half term. We anticipate that the roof works will be complete by the time children come back to school on 22 February – we are keeping our fingers crossed that the very high winds have now passed...

We hope you all have a good half term break and we will see you again on Monday 22 February.

With best wishes,

Gerlinde Achenbach  
Headteacher