

7 October 2016

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

This week at Brindishe Manor

Representatives from seven local secondary schools came along to our secondary transfer meeting on Monday. The meeting was very well attended and, as feedback from parents and carers of Y6 children tells us, very helpful.

Preparations for Year 5 school journey on Monday are now complete. The children are very excited and greatly looking forward to the wide range of fun team building and personally challenging activities in which they will take part. For many children this will be the first time they have been away from home and the visit provides a fantastic opportunity to do this with friends and familiar adults.

Year 5 have visited the British Museum, looking at Ancient Greek artefacts and gathering historical information. Thank you to all parents and carers who accompanied the children.

'Meet the teacher' fortnight has now come to an end. Thank you to everyone who has made time to meet with their child's class teacher – we really value this opportunity to begin the new school year working in partnership with you to support your child. A big thank you to our teachers who have been working hard all day and then again often until 7pm or later, to make these meetings possible. If you still need to meet with your child's teacher please speak to them at the end of the school day or contact the school office to make an appointment.

Sharing our School Development Plan

As you know, each week I am letting you know about an area of the School Development Plan. This week it's

'Safeguarding and physical, mental social and spiritual health and safety'.

We will:

- ❖ Ensure that all staff continue to understand and know how they can teach and support children's emotional literacy ("*reading our own and other's feelings, and understanding the part feelings play in the decisions we make*") to help develop resilience and empathy.
- ❖ Teach our communities to understand the part played by competition, cooperation, collaboration and teamwork in the pursuit of excellence and how we can all approach success and failure with resilience and determination.
- ❖ Continue to support children and parents/carers to better understand how to keep themselves safe on and off-line, build *a positive digital footprint and protect their own and other's safety, self-esteem and wellbeing.

**A digital footprint describes the trail and traces that we leave behind on-line. It is an on-line portfolio of who we are and what we do.*
- ❖ Actively teach children how to make considered and safe choices and to resist potentially harmful and exploitative influences encountered both in and out of school; e.g. peer/media pressure, gangs, sexploitation, radicalisation, drugs and addictive substances etc.
- ❖ Ensure our Relationships policy incorporates an inclusive and

relevant approach to self-image, identity, sex and relationships, use of language and e-safety; **we ensure these are understood and consistently well-implemented.**

- ❖ Develop and secure everyone's understanding of their unique and shared responsibilities within a culture of health, safety and safeguarding.

Dates for your diary

10–12 October Year 5 School Journey

13 October Welcome Evening 5.45 – 7pm

17 October Y3 to the Horniman Museum

18 October and 9 November: Full Governing Body meetings at Brindishe Lee at 6.00pm (let us know if you wish to attend as an observer and we'll arrange seating)

21 October Y2 to the Horniman Museum

31 October Secondary school applications deadline. Apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk

31 October School nurse drop-in session 2.30 – 4.30pm. More info from the school office.

3 Nov PSFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 6.45- 8pm. More info to follow.

And finally...

If you are a parent or carer from any year group who is new to our school we hope you will join us at our Welcome Evening on 13 October, 5.45 – 7pm. Invitations have been sent out – please let us know if you are new to the school but have not yet received one.

Best wishes,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher