

9 December 2016

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

### **Crisis at Christmas**

As you know, this year we are collecting for Crisis at Christmas and have buckets for your donations after each of our performances. The children are enthusiastically doing 'bob a job' around the home to collect small amounts of change to add to our collection. This coming week is the final week for contributions so please help your child's class raise as much as they can. £22.32 will buy a few days' respite for a homeless person, giving them a room in a hostel, 3 hot meals a day, a hair cut, doctor and dental consultations and access to advice and support with finding accommodation and work – a very worthwhile cause as I'm sure you'll agree.

### **Lewisham Food Bank**

Christmas is a time for giving and many of you have asked us about ways to do this. Brindishe Schools have been in contact with the local food bank to see how our families could contribute. We are delighted to let you know that the food bank is very happy to receive donations of any items you may have, **especially the following much needed items:**

- RICE
- UHT MILK (1 LITRE)
- BREAKFAST CEREALS
- TINNED MEAT
- TINNED FISH
- TOILET PAPER
- TOILETRIES
- SANITARY PRODUCTS
- SUGAR (500 G BAGS)
- TINNED RICE PUDDING
- UHT FRUIT JUICE
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- PASTA SAUCE

We are asking that you bring food bank donations to school between Monday 12 and Thursday 15 December. We will then arrange for donations at all 3 schools to be collected and taken to our local food bank in time for Christmas.

Thank you so much for thinking of those in great need within our own local community.

### **Premises team**

Just letting you know that our premises officer Sergio Soares has moved over to Brindishe Lee for the time being and Haydn Phillips, who made our 'Peaceful Place' and is the most senior premises officer, is now allocated to BM as we have a number of projects in the pipeline, not least finishing the roof and ensuring all is completed inside and outside to our satisfaction.

He is joined by Robert Johnson and Greg Cookman who will be working with us to improve the building and grounds for our children and staff and community. I know you will make them most welcome as you see them on the gate and around the school.

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

#### **Winter performances: 'Prickly Hay'**

Well done to all our children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 who each performed 2 marvellous shows this week. Our Y2 actors carried each show really well and we all enjoyed the dancing and singing from the rest of the cast. Many thanks go to all the staff who helped prepare the children and to parents and carers who helped them learn lines and contributed to costumes. The PSFA (parents, staff and friends association) made a video of each performance which will be on sale shortly. Do ask at the office for an order form if you would like a copy – £5 each, order by Tuesday 13 December.

### **Polite request for performances**

I am delighted to say that not one person left the hall in the middle of the EYFS/KS1 performances this week. We're all expecting the same at our KS2 performances next week - please do not leave the show in the middle just because your own child has finished performing. For those of you leaving to get to work, please allow 75 minutes per show as the length of time you will need to be in the school hall. Thank you very much for your support with this.

### **Winter Showcase KS2 Dec 13 and 14**

There is a limited number of tickets left for the KS2 Winter Showcase next Tuesday and Wednesday - please ask at the school office.

### **Christmas Lunch Rec – Y6**

Children who usually have packed lunch are able to join in the Christmas school lunch on Thursday 15 Dec. This needs to be paid for if children are in Y3-6. Please make sure you let the office know if you wish your child to have a school lunch on this day, and send £2 payment in an envelope labelled with your child's name if your child is in KS2. Meals for children in Rec – Y2 are free, as part of the 'universal infant free school meals' programme.

### **NSPCC – ShareAware**

The internet is an amazing resource in so many ways. However we know it is also fraught with difficulties, in particular when it comes to children staying safe online.

**ShareAware** is an NSPCC initiative designed to help keep children safe when using the internet. In particular it highlights how sharing personal information online – such as your name, age, address, school etc - can be very risky.

Google 'ShareAware' or go to [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) for more information, and take time to discuss with your child

the ways in which they can keep themselves safe online.

### **Dates for your diary**

**13+14 Dec** KS2 Winter Showcase

**15 Dec** Christmas Lunch for children

**16 Dec** Last day of term

**3 Jan** INSET day for staff only

**4 Jan** Children back to school

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Gerlinde Achenbach  
Headteacher