

15 January 2016

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

Brindishe Manor is one of the top 100 schools in the country!

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of a letter from Nick Gibb, Minister for Education. He wrote to us recently to congratulate everyone at Brindishe Manor on being one of the top 100 schools in the country for the amount of progress children make between the age of 7 and 11.

In making this judgement the minister's office used the results of tests taken in reading, writing and maths by 11 year olds in 15,000 schools in England.

Well done to all of our staff and to our hard working children and of course to all the parents and carers who help and support in so many ways.

Visit from the new Director of Children and Young Peoples' Services

We were visited yesterday by Sara Williams, Lewisham's newly appointed Director of Children and Young Peoples' Services.

She had a tour of the school and was extremely impressed by the range of exciting learning taking place – she commented especially on the engagement and passion for learning she saw wherever she looked.

INSET day 4 January

On our INSET day last week Brindishe Schools staff met together to share teaching ideas and approaches in an event we call 'Market Place'. Staff came away from the day with many ideas to try out and develop in their classrooms with the children. We all very much benefit from the exciting and innovative practice

from the teachers, teaching assistants and play leaders from across the schools.

Up-to-date contact details

We hear we are due some very cold weather which is likely to involve snow. We have sent a 'test' text message today to every family in the school and this is the way we will contact you if we ever have to close the school, for instance if we have very heavy snowfall which might mean staff are unable to get to work. School closes very rarely because of heavy snow, and we always do our very best to stay open, where at all possible. If you did not receive a text message from us today, please get in touch to let us have your most up-to-date contact numbers.

Now that it is so cold outside, please make sure your child comes to school suitably dressed for outdoor play.

Dyslexia Workshop for parents and carers

We are very much looking forward to seeing lots of you at the Dyslexia information evening on Tuesday 19 Jan at 5pm. If you would like to attend and haven't yet returned the reply slip, please let the office know. Please note this information evening is for adults and there are no crèche facilities.

Are you entitled to free school meals or reduced fees for school visits, clubs or School Journeys?

Pupil premium funding or 'Free School Meals' is for all families with a joint family income of less than £16,190 a year. If you think you might be eligible, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Special menu for Chinese New Year

Next Thursday 21 January there will be a special lunch menu to mark Chinese New

Year. If your child normally has packed lunch but would like to have school lunch on this day please let the school office know by Mon 18 January. Lunch for Rec, Y1 and Y2 children is free. For children in Ys 3-6 lunch costs £1.90.

Dates for your diary

15 Jan –Today! Deadline for applications to Reception, Sep 2016

www.eAdmissions.org.uk

19 Jan Fire safety workshop for Y2 led by London Fire Brigade

19 Jan 5-6pm Information meeting for parents and carers: An Introduction to Dyslexia.

21 Jan Fire safety workshop for Y5

21 Jan Chinese New Year lunch menu

3 Feb National Sing Up Day

8 Feb KS2 choir to Young Voices at the O2

11 Feb and 22 Feb Full Governing Body Meetings at Brindishe Manor at 6.00pm (let us know if you wish to attend as an observer and we'll arrange seating)

15 – 19 Feb Half term

22 Feb Children return to school

23 Feb Y1 to the Horniman Museum

And finally...

Calling all singing parents and carers!

We are celebrating Sing Up Day on Wednesday 3rd February and would love to have some parents/carers sharing their expertise with us. If you would be willing to share a song with us, please let us know. Speak to your child's class teacher or come and find Mrs Clapton in Ruby Class. You can also contact her at: kclapton@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk

With best wishes,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher