

16 December 2016

Dear parents and carers, friends and families,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping to make 2016 another successful and rewarding year for Brindishe Schools. We have seen our children enjoy much success and enjoyment in their classrooms, their shared and outdoor learning spaces, playgrounds, pitches and halls and out and about on many educational visits in London and the south east. We have seen many changes and improvements this year including a big increase in our IT provision for everyone and a welcome investment into our premises in all three schools. We are grateful to our local authority Lewisham for funding over a million pounds worth of building works on Brindishe Schools' buildings and classrooms in the last 12-18 months. Thank you everyone for your patience and flexibility whilst these works have taken place – we really do appreciate it.

This year Brindishe children have danced on (Catford!) Broadway, sung in the Blackheath Concert Halls and at the Dome, played in and won many tournaments (including now representing Lewisham Borough in Pan-London competitions in tag ruby, athletics and hockey). They have performed Shakespeare in Greenwich Theatre and had the red carpet treatment at the National Television Awards. Brindishe children have 'Shone' on Saturdays, written beautiful poetry, 'Celebrated and Educated', cooked delicious healthy treats and crafted wonderful sculptures. They have helped us to raise literally thousands of pounds for charity including for Crisis at Christmas and Unicef and have generously donated their time and energy to support each other as buddies,

ambassadors and leaders and members of Children's Teams. These include being our Young Interpreters, our Eco Team members helping us to be Green, they've been Leaders of Learning with children in different classes and of different abilities, our Digital Leaders showed us all how to use technology well and safely and to stay at the forefront of IT and, of course, the children have represented their school in many important inter-school events throughout the year. All of this is made possible by a very talented and creative team of Brindishe people working inside and outside classrooms to give the children the best education we can. On your behalf I thank them all. They do a great job.

You might be aware that for many new parents and carers a place for their child in a Brindishe School is highly sought after and because of this we are usually in the group of the most oversubscribed schools in Lewisham. **For this reason I was delighted to hear yesterday that we will be able to offer 'bulge' or extra Reception classes in both Brindishe Lee and Brindishe Manor in September 2017.** This means we can offer 8 new Reception classes across the Brindishe federation altogether. This will be 3 at Brindishe Green, 3 at Brindishe Manor and 2 at Brindishe Lee for the next academic year. We will not need to build new classrooms because will re-use the classrooms already on site as the previous bulge classes (from 2010/2011) will leave at the end of their year 6 in the summer of 2017.

I'd like to thank the governors of Brindishe Schools for their support and efforts on behalf of our nearly 1500 Brindishe children. The Federation Governing Body, a group of committed volunteers, led so capably and earnestly by Spyros Elia our Chair of Governors and Jackie Stirling our

Vice-Chair, work tirelessly on your behalf to make sure we do all we can to provide the very best we can for every Brindishe child no matter to which school they belong. Their work is often unseen but never unappreciated.

Finally may I thank all of the parents and carers and family members who bring their children to our schools every day ready to learn and ready to succeed with us. Your support is very much appreciated and I know how resourceful and generous you are in helping our schools. I wish you all the very best for the festive season, Happy Christmas to those who are celebrating and to everyone in our community and beyond a peaceful and happy 2017.

With very best wishes,

Dame Vicki  
Executive Headteacher  
Brindishe Schools

And from Gerlinde Achenbach:

### **Crisis at Christmas**

We are delighted to let you know that, at last count, Brindishe Manor has raised a staggering **£1263** for Crisis at Christmas! Across our 3 schools we have raised **£2505** – a phenomenal amount for this very worthwhile cause. Children have been doing ‘bob a job’ for the past month, earning small amounts of money in exchange for doing jobs at home. Parents, carers and friends have been very generous at the end of our winter performances. This year staff also agreed to make a donation to Crisis instead of spending money on greetings cards to each other. £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.

We are very proud to have supported ‘Crisis’ this Christmas. Thank you everyone for your fantastic support.

### **Lewisham Food Bank**

Thank you so much for your very generous contributions to the food bank this week. Your donations were collected today and taken to our local food bank and the organisers are extremely grateful.

It has been very heartening to see the true message of Christmas – that of giving to others – being celebrated by our children and families.

### **This week at Brindishe Manor Winter Showcase KS2**

Congratulations to all of our KS2 children for their amazing performances this week. We have been transported from Ancient Egypt, through Tudor times to World War II and on to celebrating equality and diversity in modern times. Thank you to all staff and children who have worked so hard to make these high quality and deeply memorable performances.

### **Christmas Lunch Rec – Y6**

We all thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas Lunch day yesterday. Staff and children shared a delicious meal together, carefully prepared for us by the Chartwells team led by Molly Chapman.

### **Award from the Mayor and Transport for London**

We have this week received an accredited Gold STARS award (Sustainable Travel: Active Responsible Safe) for sustainable travel to and from school. Congratulations and many thanks to Hannah Cosin for working with children and families to

promote leaving cars at home and walking, scooting and cycling to school.

### **Traffic News**

I'm attaching with this newsletter a consultation leaflet from the council about road safety improvements in this area. As you see they are proposing to improve safety along Manor Lane which is great – but we need the improvements extended to Leahurst and Longhurst Roads too.

If you can please do respond to the consultation asking them to look at our problems as well. We have between 500 and 800 pedestrians using these pavements twice a day every day. In the new year we plan to meet with road safety representatives from Lewisham Council to discuss road and pavement safety for our families outside– a concern I know many of us share.

### **Shakespeare Schools Festival**

You will remember that, earlier this term, a tri-school Brindishe drama group put together a performance of Twelfth Night at Greenwich Theatre. We have received official feedback from the Festival organisers, as follows:

*“Many congratulations to the cast and crew from the Brindishe schools who participated in this brilliant production! It was great to see the students from three schools working as a unique ensemble.*

*Shakespeare gives us larger than life characters in this story. What makes them funny is when the actors really commit to what they are doing. Your company was a fantastic example of this! Well done for your very funny, joyous and characterful **Twelfth Night**.”* Congratulations again to all the staff and children involved!

### **Second School Experience**

In January our four trainee teachers, Rebekah Chin, Ciarra Willard, Laura Yardley and Jasmine Dadzie, will be at

one of our partner schools for five weeks whilst on their second school experience. We welcome trainee teachers Joanna Smith, Danielle Sullivan, Christina McCusker and teaching assistant Ainsley Crawford, to Brindishe Manor for five weeks from the beginning of January.

### **Dates for your diary**

**3 Jan** INSET day for staff only

**4 Jan** Children back to school

### **And finally...**

With great relief we are saying goodbye to the roofers at the end of term. Thankfully the job is complete and the final scaffolding is to be removed on Saturday. We are delighted to have our play space around the site back in time for the new year, and are looking forward to many drip and flood-free years with our brand new roof.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday, and a Happy Christmas if you are celebrating, and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year!

Gerlinde Achenbach  
Headteacher

### **PSFA (Parents, Staff, Friends Association) News**

#### **A GREAT START!**

Thank you for all your help and involvement this term - be it baking or buying cakes, running a game or winning a prize. With your help we've made a great start to our fundraising. There will be plenty more opportunities for fun and fundraising in the new year and we look forward to seeing you then. In the meantime, we wish you all a very happy holiday.

With best wishes,  
The PSFA team