

18 November 2016

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

Some parents/ carers have asked for clarification or more information on the security of the school's MIS (management information system or pupil database) and the method of electronic payment systems.

The information given below is a brief overview of how the systems work and how they each comply with regulations to ensure that your data, your child's data and your payment details are managed safely and securely:

Arbor (MIS System)

Arbor Education provide their MIS system to Brindishe Schools. The Arbor MIS system is a database that holds pupil information for the purpose of enrolment, registers, attendance records, safeguarding etc. Arbor is a trusted provider to education and its system is fully compliant with UK, EU and Department for Education guidelines. As a data processor, Arbor abides by all terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 and is on the UK Government G-Cloud and Department for Education frameworks, which ensures that they meet all known standards of data security.

Stripe Payments

Stripe manages card payment transactions between parents/carers and the school. Stripe does not ask for bank verification as the system (known as "3D Secure") is not used in Stripe. This method of security is only mandatory for Maestro cards and there are other forms of security such as the one used by Stripe. Security is further increased in that you create your own passwords when you log in. The school provides you with an

automated email directing you to the instructions to create your own password and access. Passwords are not known to the school. The school cannot see or access your bank or payment details. We only receive notice of how much was paid against your child's record and for what purpose. For example we would see that a payment of £20 had been made for dinner money but we would not see who paid it or how it was paid.

If you are ever concerned about making payments online please remember you are still able to pay over-the-counter in the school office: on Monday mornings please for dinner money, Thursdays for school uniform or book bags and any day for trips and clubs. It helps if you avoid the early morning rush and have the correct money available.

This week at Brindishe Manor

'Celebrating Diversity' week



It's been a fantastic week with much discussion, learning and exploration around the issues of inclusion, acceptance and respect.

Children have had the opportunity to explore and challenge gender stereotypes, to research people in history whose contribution has been overlooked for many different reasons, and to recognise that families are all different.

Our younger children have challenged the view that 'girls/women can't be firefighters', and our older children have explored and challenged the fact that a person's age, religion, gender, ethnicity, choice of partner or ability / disability have been reasons for exclusion and discrimination in everyday society, both in

the past and in the present day around the world.

As Cameron in Y5 said in assembly today, "Inclusion means it doesn't matter who you are, girl or boy, you should be able to join in any group together."

Look out in your class newsletter for an invitation to come and see the class / year group learning from our 'Celebrating Diversity' week over the next fortnight.

PSFA (Parents, Staff and Friends Association)

Every parent/carer and member of staff is automatically a member of our PSFA. On Nov 3, the PSFA held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) where we elected the committee for the next academic year, looked at funds raised for the school, discussed how these funds have been spent over the past year and looked forward to planning the next big event, our Winter Fair.

Our PSFA committee is now made up as follows:

Chairs

Sandra Tidholm-Sezgin
Wendy Humble

Assistant Chair

Diane Foster

Co-Secretaries:

Claire Johnston
Shara Choudhury

Co-Treasurers:

Sarah Tigwell
Lisa Sweet

Committee Members:

Julie Morrison
Victoria Flint

The committee works very hard on behalf

of the school to plan and co-ordinate events such as regular cake sales, a welcome breakfast for new families, an annual 'World Book Day' event, an International Food celebration, KS2 discos and a Winter and a Summer Fair every year. We are very lucky that so many parents and carers give up their time to support these events, either by helping to run them or by attending them.

Traditionally the PSFA raises significant amounts of money for the school every year and the money raised is used directly to benefit our children's learning and wellbeing in school. Over the past 2 years, funds raised have gone, for example, towards ensuring that every class in school has access to at least 8 ipads (each ipad costs approx. £350), and



towards the large-scale project of creating the 'Peaceful Place' play area by developing a wild, overgrown corner of our site next to the multi-use games area and



incorporating an outdoor loom and 'growing beds' for each class from Y1 to Y6.

In the spring we were able to replace our worn-out picnic tables and benches, and funds are used across the year to replenish our lunchtime play equipment (balls, bats, skipping ropes, table top games, books etc).

Most recently the PSFA have donated £4,000 to the school and this year we are keen to continue to increase our playspace and are investigating two possibilities. The first is how to make our field all-year-round play friendly. Options are very expensive but we are not ruling

them out, and there are also some repairs needed to the trim trail equipment.

The second possibility involves exploring how to better use the Manor Hall end of our site, re-siting our bike/scooter storage and developing this area into increased play space. We are getting quotes for each option and will let you know how things are progressing.



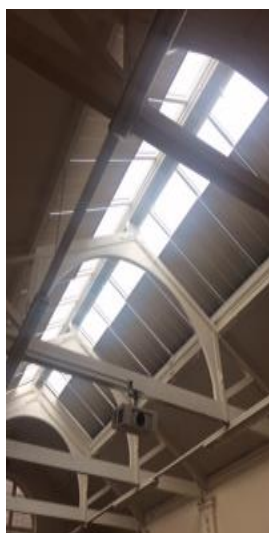
In addition to this we have earmarked some of the money for our new Chrome Books, laptops which are designed to make 'coding' and the computing curriculum very accessible to our learners.

We are very grateful for this financial support, particularly over the next few years where all London schools will see their budgets cut dramatically compared to previous years.

We look forward to seeing you all at our Winter Fair next Friday from 3.15pm!

Roof works

We are full of praise for our children, staff and parents/carers who have barely complained about the noise and disruption caused by our roof replacement this term.



We are told that, with reasonable weather, the roofing works should be completed by the new year. New windows and blinds in Central and Manor Halls are already making a big difference to our hall and assembly experiences, ensuring that we can better

control the temperature / sunlight on the children and can now actually see what's on the screen.

We are looking forward to a 'leak-free' future!

Winter performances for EYFS/KS1 and KS2

Due to restricted space and to be fair to all children we have to limit tickets for performances to 2 per family. Please look out for letters home over the next few weeks explaining how to get your tickets for our Christmas time performances.

Dates for your diary

18-23 Nov Book Fair in Manor Hall, 3.15pm

25 Nov Winter Fair 3.15pm

28 Nov 'Turning of the Year' concert at Blackheath Halls – see Mrs Clapton in year 3 for details

30 Nov KS2 SATs meeting for Y6 parents and carers, 6pm

1 Dec Y6 to Hazard House

5 Dec Y4 to the Golden Hinde

6+7 Dec EYFS/KS1 perform 'Prickly Hay'

13+14 Dec KS2 Winter Performances

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*

And finally...

Apologies for the incorrect 'back to school' January date published in this newsletter last week. Please note that children return to school on **Wed 4 January**. All term dates are available from our website.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher

PSFA (Parents, Staff, Friends Association) News

WINTER FAIR NEXT FRIDAY 25TH NOV
3.15-5.15

It's nearly here! Our Winter Fair is going to be a fun-filled afternoon for everyone, with games, cakes, refreshments, entertainment, retail stalls, crafts, face painting, glitter tattoos, a gift room for the children to wrap up something for their grown ups, and of course Santa's Grotto. Preparations are well underway and we just have a few more things to get sorted. Please take a look below and see if you could help us make this the best fair ever!

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time to help run the games and stalls already. We still have a few time slots left to fill. Here's a list of the people we need for each area - could you help us with any of these?

Gift room 2
Games - 2
Retail - 4
Face painting - 5
Glitter tattoos - 6
Crafts - 2
Cakes - 3

We also need more helpers (around 7) for setting up the fair, before the end of school. So if you can't help during the fair because you have a child to look after, perhaps you could come to school a little early on the day and help us to get it all ready? We will be setting up from 2.15pm. Likewise, we are always grateful for help clearing up afterwards - many hands make light work!

DONATIONS

We are still seeking donations of gifts for the children's tombola, and adult presents (no alcohol please) for the children to wrap up in the Gift Room. Also, any final donations of prizes for the raffle (you'll want a ticket for this one - the prizes include free tickets to the London Eye and a meal for two from the delicious Damascus Chef!).

CAKES AND BAKES

Our cakes and refreshments stall is one of the most popular at the fair, so we need plenty of your home baked or shop bought goodies to fill up our hungry fair-goers! Please bring donations to the office on the morning of the fair.

ESTATE AGENTS BOARDS

Many thanks to all of you who have agreed to have a Cluttons board advertising the fair. We had our highest ever number of addresses this year - watch this space for details of how much this super easy way to volunteer has raised for the PSFA.

CONTACT US

at brindishemanorpsfa@gmail.com or on our Facebook page Brindishe Manor PSFA

Have a great weekend - we'll see you at the fair next Friday!