

4 March 2016

Dear parents and carers,

News for Brindishe Schools

We are enclosing with this newsletter a yearly summary of performance data for the three Brindishe Schools. By 'performance data' we simply mean the facts and figures ofsted collects to find out how children in each of our schools perform, usually in tests, compared with children in schools up and down the country.

As well as 'test data' we have included a few more interesting facts which I hope will give you a broader picture about what's important and what's going well at Brindishe. A copy of the summary is also available online via our website.

We have a very busy time ahead in each of our schools as we start to think about whether we become a multi-academy trust (MAT) and this half term we are fact-finding and carefully watching the local and national press to see what's next on the political agenda for all state funded schools.

In all three schools this half term we have full and independent reviews coming up. We commission these reviews to be carried out by senior leaders from schools outside the LA and led by an Ofsted Inspector. They act as a sort of 'health-check' for us and guide us in our quest to keep our 'ofsted outstanding' judgments.

As ever we have planned lots of building works. At Brindishe Lee works will only take place in the school kitchen; at Brindishe Manor we will repair the Reception building roof - at last - and make preparations for a complete re-roof of the main school buildings. The re-roof

is likely to take about 4-6 months in total. At Brindishe Green we are planning some exciting and very extensive building works to our Early Years classrooms and buildings next term and as soon as we have agreed plans with the architects and Lewisham we will let you know what's on the horizon.

For September 2016 we will be offering 210 Brindishe Reception places altogether (BL 30, BM 60 and BG 120) and the draft figures from Admissions at Lewisham so far show that every one of these will go to a child whose parent/carer made it one of their top choices. That's great news and we look forward to welcoming our new ones over the summer term.

Best wishes to all families,

Dame Vicki
Executive Head
Brindishe Schools

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

This week at Brindishe Manor...

Y3 Pearl at Lewisham's Dance Showcase

Congratulations to all of Pearl class who took part in the dance showcase at Catford Broadway on Wednesday evening. Their dance told the story of why we need to look after the rainforests on our planet. Ms Gurr tells me every single child gave their all and the performance brought her to tears – happy ones! Many thanks to Rachel Gurr and Helen Coupe who worked so hard to help our children produce such an incredible performance.

World Book Day – celebrations today!

We have had an amazing day today, starting with the delicious PSFA Book Breakfast – thank you to everyone who helped serve the breakfast, and to everyone who came along to enjoy a croissant and juice before popping in to their child's classroom for a quick read before school!

We have really enjoyed seeing the book character costumes that the children have arrived in today. There has been a fantastic turnout of children (and staff!) who have wanted to take part, and we have raised yet another amazing amount of money for UNICEF. Thank you to everyone who has taken part.

Eco-News - Fairtrade Fortnight

As part of our focus on Global Citizenship, we have been learning about Fairtrade across the school. This learning was enriched for KS2 classes with an assembly and children's questions to Ivania Calderon Peralta, a farmer from Nicaragua who is part of a Fairtrade coffee collective.

The children learnt first hand about the extensive benefits to farmers of people choosing to buy fairtrade products and Ivania was very impressed by their considered questions and excellent listening. She said: ***"Los niños deben ser muy inteligente, ya que han pedido tan buenas preguntas !"***

Brindishe Manor Meat-Free Day

Wednesday 9th March 2016

Eco Team report:

'Next Wednesday, we are having a whole school meat-free day as part of our journey to become an Eco-School. Going meat-free for a day is good for the environment and for you because:

- trees are being cut down to make room
- for beef farms and we need trees for

- oxygen
- cows and sheep produce methane and
- CO2, which are greenhouse gases and
- lead to global warming
- they are fed chemicals to make them
- grow bigger faster and then the
- chemicals go in to our bodies
- animals are not treated very nicely
- before they are killed for us to eat
- it's unhealthy to eat too much red and
- processed meat

So Molly, our school cook, is going to serve two vegetarian options, staff are going to join the children in 'going veggie' for a day and we are requesting packed lunches to be meat-free where possible, please.

Thank you from the Eco-Team, Amber class and the world's sheep, pigs, cows, chickens and fish!

Dates for your diary

7 – 11 March Parent/teacher Mid-term Review meetings week 2

7 - 11 March Fairtrade Fortnight Week 2

7 March Y6 to Imperial War Museum

9 March Brindishe Manor Meat-Free Day

9 March KS2 Choir to 'Lewisham Live' at Catford Broadway – letters home today

17 March 5.45pm **'What is Safeguarding?'**: information sharing workshop for parents and carers

delivered by Sharon Cole from Place2Be. (more info to come early next week.)

18 March Easter Cake Sale 3.15pm

24 March Last day of term

11 April INSET day (staff only)

12 April Summer term begins for children

18-22 April 'Why Not Walk?' week

9–13 May KS2 SATs (Y6)

Safeguarding

We need to know about your child's medical and dietary needs in school, including any allergies. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to let us know

straight away if there are any changes to these.

Whilst it is possible to change your child's medical needs on Parent Portal, it is important that you also contact the school office or Clare Doran, our AWSO (Attendance, Welfare and Safeguarding Officer), with information about any changes you need to make.

Medical needs requiring any action at school (such as an EpiPen or asthma pump) need to be very carefully documented through a Health Care Plan, drawn up in conjunction with the school nurse.

And finally...

Parent Meetings

We are now half way through our parent meeting fortnight and we have been delighted to see so many parents and carers this week coming to talk with us about how their child is getting on. Feedback for online booking through Parent Portal has been very positive, despite the inevitable first-time glitches!

If you have not already done so, please login to Parent Portal via the email sent to you from 'Arbor' in order to book an appointment with your child's class teacher.

Please speak to the school office or your child's teacher if you have any difficulties.

With best wishes,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher

PSFA (Parents, Staff, Friends Association) News

EASTER CAKE SALE FRIDAY 18th MARCH

The next cake sale is two weeks from today. Could you help? We need help setting up (2.30-3.15pm) selling (3.15-3.30pm) and clearing up (3.30-3.45pm). If you could help with any part of that, please contact Claire Johnston at brindishemanorpsfa@gmail.com. We also need plenty of yummy treats to sell - homemade is wonderful but shop bought is super too! Please bring your donations to the office on the 18th.

Thank you to everyone who helped and attended the book day breakfast this morning - it was great to see all your wonderful costumes!