



Brindishe Lee Newsletter
Friday 5th March 2021
Headteacher: Ms Maxine Sebire



Dear parents, carers, governors, staff and friends,

What a wonderful week it has been across the school as we have all enjoyed celebrating World Book Day/Week. We hope that you and your children enjoyed listening to stories, sharing books, reading out loud and dressing up, as much as we did. We hope that this week has sparked an even greater love for reading in your home and that this continues – reading as a family or on their own is so important for your child's education, mental health and imagination.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school and have lots of exciting activities planned for them. We recognise that many children have not accessed face-to-face teaching since January and that the children have spent time away from their peers. In order to support the children back to school, we will focus on rebuilding relationships. We have planned a range of special activities including, wellbeing and team-building opportunities for each class bubble as well as PE lessons to include working collaboratively.

This week you will have received a letter and guidance giving information on how we will open the school to all children on Monday 8th March. By now, we hope that you will have read it through carefully and have emailed the school if you have any questions. By working closely with you all, we will be able to keep our school as safe as possible for everyone.

Please be assured that the Brindishe Lee community is as safe as it can possibly be. Our risk assessment control measures are well established and the staff and children are aware of the measures in place. The teachers will be reminding the children of the measures before they return as well as during the transition period. As we move through the roadmap out of lockdown, these measures will be reviewed, whilst always putting the safety of the Brindishe Lee community first.

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend. Stay safe and well everyone.

Kind regards,

Ms Sebire and the Brindishe Lee Team.

Communication

If you have any questions or queries during this time, please can we ask that you use the following email addresses, so that the right person can get back to you:

- **Queries** about online learning, Free School Meals, login details, concerns, general questions – info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk
- **Technical support** - If you are having technical issues with *Itslearning*, *Weduc* or *Zoom*, please email – support@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk for further support and guidance.
- **Wellbeing Support** – Please email recovery@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk for further wellbeing support and guidance.

School Meals – Reminder

All parents/carers in Year 3 upwards who choose for their child to have a school dinner must ensure payment is made through the Arbor online portal. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to receive school meals for free, funded by the government's universal free school meals grant. Parents/carers of pupils from Year 3 upwards will need to pay for their child's meal unless you qualify for the free school meals grant. To apply for the grant, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> as soon as possible or contact the school office for further information.

Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing at Brindishe Lee

We are delighted that all children will return to school from Monday 8th March. Staff are preparing to welcome back classes and our key priority will not only be academic but also to focus on the mental health and wellbeing following another lockdown. We will focus on reconnecting the children with our school expectations, values and learning behaviours as well as reviewing their learning, so that teachers know how they can best support all the children in the future.

We will focus on mental and physical wellbeing, social connections and as well as having high academic expectations for all the children. There will be a range of different activities and methods used to support the children with their transition back to school.

Activities will include:

- *collaborative learning at every opportunity within class bubbles*
- *creative and expressive activities*
- *outdoor learning opportunities*
- *additional physical health activities*
- *a range of methods to support children's emotions, e.g. 'Worry Jars' in every classroom*
- *dedicated time for children to have 1:1 conversations with staff*
- *assemblies will revert to being 'live' whole school events, so that children can see other classes*
- *regular brain and learning breaks will be part of the daily routine*
- *We will also be introducing 'Happy Mondays' whereby a range of enrichment learning opportunities have been planned such as art, music, dance or drama to 'kick start' the week and to further support and engage the children with their learning*
- *All children in school will take part in a shared art project focusing on the theme of 'Hope, Kindness & Love'. The children will work within their bubbles on a pebble project, which will eventually form part of a whole school art piece.*

We hope that these activities, as well as other mental health and wellbeing interventions will support our children's return to school.

Wellbeing Support - We recognise that all families are having different experiences at the moment and some of you may be finding this time especially challenging. In order to support you and your child on their return to school, we have kept our recovery email account active, in order to sensitively support you during this time. If you feel there is anything that you would like the school to know about your family or about your experience, please contact us via the following email address recovery@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk

Parent/Carer Room on Itslearning – Please refer to this page on *Itslearning* for additional resources to support your families mental health and wellbeing.

Medication

It is vital that we have the right medication in school for your child. Please can you ensure you keep the school up to date with your child's medication as well as any changes to their care plan. If we have contacted you regarding out of date or due to expire asthma pumps, please do send the most recent medication in as soon as possible. Thank you for your support with this matter.

PE Times

Children will remain in their class bubble for PE and have their own allocated PE slot outside. At this present time, indoor PE will not take place. Please refer to the table at the end of the newsletter for information about class PE days.

Water Bottles

Please ensure you send your child in with their own, labelled water bottle. The weather will be warmer in the coming weeks, and the children will need access to their own water whilst in the classrooms.

Contacting Teachers

As I am sure you all understand, at this time we are unable to facilitate face-to-face meetings with your class teacher. However, the staff are still available to you and can be contacted if you have any questions or concerns or if you wish to pass on some vital information about your child. Please email info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk and mark the email '*for the attention of*' and your child's class teachers name, e.g. F.A.O. Ms Sharrock. We assure you that these emails are sent directly to the teacher, who will contact you by phone or email as soon as they can.

Bikes/Scooters

If your child brings their scooter, or bike to school, please remember that they must be named and locked with their own personal lock to ensure they are kept safe and secure. Children are often, accidentally, taking the wrong scooter home, this will not happen if they are locked up and named.

On the children's return to school on the 8th March, Key Stage 2 children will store their bikes at the back of the school, near the lodge. The staggered start/finish time will ensure there is sufficient time to walk their bike/scooter to the back of the school near the new bike rack location.

Pupils will be reminded to walk their bike or scooter when in the school grounds for everyone's safety.
Please note, that bikes and scooters are parked at the owner's risk, please secure them with your own lock.

A message from Lewisham Council and TFL - Returning to school: ensuring sustainable journeys to and from school this spring

As all children will return to their classrooms for the spring term, as part of the Government's roadmap for leaving lockdown, we remain committed to doing our part to help them travel to school and college safely on our network. Please find attached useful information to help students, parents/carers and staff plan safe, sustainable journeys to and from school this spring.

Wrap Around Care

Sportacus, our before and after school provider, are up and running again from Monday 8th March. If you are interested in a place at their wrap around care, either before or after school, please call Harry on **07828 218690** or email Harry@sportacus.co.uk for further information.

Comic Relief – Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is back on Friday 19th March and this year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives in Africa and in the UK. As a school, we hope everyone will **dress in red and donate** what they can on 19th March. We will update you nearer the time with further information about the day.

Rapid Flow Tests for Families

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, **who do not have symptoms**, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

And finally ... thank you!

We would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone again for their ongoing support and patience during this challenging time.

As a senior leadership team, we would also like to thank all our staff, who have been amazing – have pulled together, are working tirelessly either at home or in school, and who are doing everything they can to provide great learning opportunities.

Many thanks to everyone,
The Brindishe Lee Senior Leadership Team.

P.E Day Reminder

PE days	
Year 1	Monday
Year 2	Tuesday
Year 3 Sycamore	Thursday
Year 3 Magnolia	Wednesday
Year 4	Friday
Year 5	Wednesday
Year 6	Thursday

