



**Brindishe Lee Newsletter**  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021**  
**Headteacher: Ms Maxine Sebire**



Dear families, governors, staff and friends,

In less than two days, this academic year will be drawing to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Brindishe Lee community.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Brindishe Lee staff. They are such a dedicated and talented team and have worked tirelessly during a national pandemic, not only to continue to improve the education we are providing at Brindishe Lee, but also putting in many different measures and adhering to different restrictions which have enabled us to keep our school community safe and well.

Thank you parents for working with the school throughout this period and for all the positive comments, phone calls and emails of gratitude and appreciation for what the school was able to provide during this time. We really have appreciated your support and kindness. To add to this, a special thank you parents, for adapting to all the changes, including taking on remote learning in the way you did and ensured that our children remained safe, happy, and engaged during the Lockdowns. We have also appreciated the constructive feedback of parents that allowed the school staff to reflect and adapt throughout the ever-changing ebb and flow of this global pandemic.

Let us not forget the bravest of all... our wonderful children. A massive well done to all our children who remained focused on their learning (in whatever shape or form this took). During the year, we have seen our children grow in resilience and learn to deal with so many unprecedented situations. We have developed our curriculum and enhanced our enrichment opportunities which has created smiles and excitement for learning. Well done children of Brindishe Lee, we are proud of you all.

To our Year 6 children who are about to leave us for their next phase of education; you have been super stars. This is not what we envisaged for you at the start of Year 6, but you have demonstrated such positivity and resilience throughout, and we are proud of your achievements. You will not be remembered as the COVID-19 cohort because to us you will forever be the warriors of 2021. We hope you will enjoy the fitting farewell which is being planned for you.

Finally, we wish you all a happy, healthy and safe summer break. Best wishes to all the families and staff members moving on to pastures new, we wish you well in the future.

To everyone else, we look forward to welcoming you all back in September for another successful year and many more learning and enrichment opportunities for our children.

Happy holidays!

Kind regards,

Maxine Sebire, Rachel Waite, Kate Porter and the Brindishe Lee Team.



## UPDATE FROM THE BRINDISHE GOVERNING BODY

### **What an amazing community effort!**

As we approach the final days of this academic year, it's important to reflect on the way that the whole Brindishe community - staff, parents, carers, volunteers, local groups, businesses and residents – have worked and contributed to keep the children learning and achieving their very best in the most difficult of circumstances. On behalf of the Governing Body, I'd like to say a very heartfelt thank you to you all.

Not everything's been about the pandemic this year, and since summer 2020 governors and senior leaders have been working on a range of topics. **Here are just a few recent highlights:**

\*After much research, discussion – and a little bit of tasting - a new **school meals** provider has been selected and they will start in September. They're called Radish, and you'll be hearing lots about them as we hope you'll sign up for your children to try their dishes.

\*Brindishe Manor's nursery and reception children will be able to enjoy an **exciting new outside play and learning space** from the start of the new term. Their outside space has been due for an upgrade for a while, so it's wonderful to be able to approve this at last.

\* New link governors for Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Special Needs were appointed during the past year and have visited each school to make sure that our buildings are in a good and healthy condition, and that our **children are safe**. Link governors have also recently been appointed to the **individual schools** to work closely with the Headteacher and senior leaders, and advance the sense of individuality where appropriate to all governors.

\*A major focus for the GB this year has been to **recruit new governors** to fill several vacancies. It's important to get the right people with the right skills so that we can work effectively and efficiently. I'm pleased to say that we've been successful in recruiting Carolyn Unsted and Andrew Fiddy, both very experienced and skillful, and you can read more about them shortly on the governors page of your school website, together with pieces about the existing current governors. Our focus from September will be filling the remaining vacancies with governors who will help the GB better **reflect our diverse community**. If you know of someone who might be interested and is not currently a Brindishe parent or member of staff, do please let us know.

\*Finally, we're hoping that from September all full GB meetings will be able to be held in person, which means we can **welcome back observers**. So if you would like to come along to see what goes on, please email [rwait@brindisheschools.org](mailto:rwait@brindisheschools.org). The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. If you're unable to attend, the minutes of each full GB meeting are available on request at your school office.

With thanks for all that you do,

Liz Murphy, Chair of Governors.

### PCR Testing

If you or your child are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, you must isolate as a family and book a PCR test on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

#### **WHEN SHOULD I HAVE A PCR TEST?**

- **If you currently have symptoms** that may indicate COVID-19, this is the test you should have to diagnose the infection.
- **If a lateral flow test is positive**. The purpose of the PCR test is to confirm the diagnosis, since it is a more accurate test than the lateral flow test.

#### **WHEN SHOULD I HAVE A LATERAL FLOW TEST?**

- You should only have this test **if you don't have any symptoms** and have been invited to take one as part of an exercise to identify infected people without symptoms.

### Summer Activity Camp At Brindishe Lee

Sportacus will be running an activity camp for four weeks over the summer holiday at Brindishe Lee. Please contact Harry via email [harry@sportacus.co.uk](mailto:harry@sportacus.co.uk) for more information.

### FSM Vouchers Over The School Holiday

Lewisham have announced that all children in receipt of Free School Meals will received a £90 voucher per child to cover the summer term. This does not include Universal Free School Meals for those children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

### F@B Lottery

This week we drew the F@B lottery for the last time this year. Well done to the winners!

1<sup>st</sup> prize – Miss Matthews

2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Kerry Bennett.

F@B will continue into 2021 – 2022 so watch this space to enter and have the chance to win some fabulous prizes.

### Summer Library Challenge

This year's Summer Library Challenge is called Wild World Heroes. Our local libraries have teamed up with WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) for a very special nature-themed challenge that will inspire children to stand up for the planet! The challenge is open for all families to take part online from **Saturday 10th July**. The children will be able to borrow books from all of Lewisham's libraries through click and collect, a lucky dip, or by reading e-books online. Not only will they be able to access amazing books, they will also be able to play different games online, earn rewards and learn how they can make a difference to the environment too. Don't forget to share all of the new books they discover with their new teacher in September! Follow this link for more information: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

### Travelling Abroad Over The Summer

If you are travelling abroad over the summer break, please ensure that you email us at [info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk) informing the school of where you are going and your return date. This is important information to ensure that children follow any isolation rules that may be enforced and to keep the community safe.

### Important Dates

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - End of Term      Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September - INSET Day      Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Start of Term 1

