

Friday 3rd July 2020

A note to our families...

As the end of term creeps ever closer, I wanted to write to let you know about the leadership at Brindishe Lee. As you will be aware, James Baguley came across from Brindishe Manor in September as the Interim Head of school. Over the course of the year, he has worked tremendously hard to lead Brindishe Lee, in what can only be described as through some very challenging times. His commitment to education is clear and he always puts the needs of the children at the forefront of all his decisions. In September, James Baguley will be moving to a substantive headship in Dorking and will therefore be leaving us. We wish James, all the best and thank him for all he has given to the Brindishe Federation. Interviews are taking place for the position of Head at Brindishe Lee and I will update you before the end of term.

Rachel Waite
Executive Head

September

You may well be aware that yesterday the Government announced their guidelines for the full reopening of schools in September. We are currently working our way through all the key guidance to ensure we are in the best place to safely open to all our pupils in September.

Dear Parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

Thankfully, the weather has been much cooler this week, which has certainly made the days more bearable. As ever, it has been a joy to welcome our 'provision' children each morning on the school gate. However, like all of us, I continue to yearn for the return of all our children and parents/carers. After the most recent government announcement, we sincerely hope to see you all back in September. I fully appreciate the huge amount of time, patience and effort that you are all putting in at home to support our children. I wish to once again 'thank you' for your ongoing support and understanding in what are unprecedented times. We have very much appreciated the supportive comments and emails and please be rest assured that we are doing our very best to support all our community.

James Baguley
Headteacher

Social Distancing

We are working hard as a school to remind the children about keeping apart and have put in necessary measures to ensure this happens within school. Please could all parents/carers dropping off/picking up respect this and follow the rules when outside the school gates. It is imperative we all follow the guidance to protect the people around us.

Latest news...

We have a maximum of 42 children accessing our Key worker provision across 5 classrooms/spaces in the school. This also includes children who are considered vulnerable. I have had a few enquiries this week from families who would like to send their children into school. Sadly, we are unable to take in any further children.

Key worker and vulnerable children provision...

Since 23rd March, we have provided a provision for our key worker and vulnerable children during term, half term, Easter and bank holidays. As of 21st July, the last day of term, this support for parents **will be closing** for the summer. Time is needed for staff to have a break, the school's to have a full deep clean, essential works to be carried out and for us to be able to set up ready for September.

In order to support families with childcare a holiday club will be run by Sportacus during the summer holidays. If you are interested in accessing this, please see the flyer attached. Places cannot be guaranteed due to numbers and the need for social distancing measure to be in place

Reports

We are currently compiling all of the children's reports and these will be ready for the children to take home.

Year 6 parents will take their child's report home on their last day **Friday 17th July**. **If your child walks home alone they will not be permitted to take their report. It will only be given to an adult.**

Reception, Year 1 and Years 2-5 will collect their reports at the end of their transition session on **Mon 20th or Tue 21st July**. A message will be sent out reminding parents/carers of the transition time for their child.

Free School Meals

One voucher per child will be sent across to all parents on **27th July** to the value of £90. This will cover the whole of the summer holidays. You will therefore *not receive a voucher each week*.

Even if you are a parent of a child in reception, year 1 and year 2, and you are receiving a free meal through the universal infant free school meal offer, please **remember to register your eligibility** at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

For those **entitled to Free School Meals**, you will continue to receive your vouchers from EdenRed, the Government provider of FSM. However, if your child is in years 3 – 6 and is returning to school, as part of our reopening, and is not entitled to a free school meal, then you will need to continue to pay through our online payment system – Arbor.

Further guidance on how and where you can use your free school meal vouchers can be found at:

https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FreeSchoolMeals_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf

The Government has temporarily extended free school meals eligibility to **include some groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)**. Guidance on the temporary extension is [available HERE](#).

The Summer Reading Challenge continues...

Please do encourage children to join and continue to read over the Summer Holidays. There is masses of online content and also ebooks and audio books.

This year it will be different. It will be a digital offer.

Children can join the challenge on the Reading Agency website.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

The new platform provides a fun, immersive and safe environment for children to achieve their reading goals and explore the Silly Squad theme.

- Children must create a free account to take part; this is a simple process and requires approval by an adult (via email). The Reading Agency are required by law to use this two-step authentication process for children under the age of 16.
- Although you must have an account to take part in the actual Challenge, lots of other content will be available on the website for everyone to explore.
- Children taking part will be asked to set their own reading goal. However, The Reading Agency will still be suggesting six books as the best goal to try for.
- Digital certificates can be printed out. No physical materials will be used.

Lewisham Libraries offer:

Facebook Group - https://www.facebook.com/groups/LewishamSillySquad/?source_id=16451686911

Here we will encourage children to join the challenge by going to the Reading Agency website.

Help children find ebooks and eaudio books.

Provide an alternative fun and interesting online experience.

Some of the content the children will find on our Facebook Group

- A weekly books recommendation from our ebooks.
- Tell us a Joke – On twitter, video clips. All compiled into a blog at the end of the summer.
- Games
- Craft sessions

- Story telling
- Competitions

If you need more information about our free e-books and audio books, please go to the Lewisham website or contact us

Children (and adults) can join Lewisham Libraries online and start borrowing ebooks free straight away. There are never any overdue or fines.

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/using-the-library/join-the-library>

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/elibrary>

NSPCC

Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice and support for parents and carers (NSPCC)

The NSPCC has created a number of resources to support parents and carers during this difficult time. These include:

- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour
- Taking to a child worried about coronavirus

The advice can be found on the NSPCC website here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents>

KEEPING SAFE

We have all been encouraged to stay at home and stay safe, but for many women and men, home is not a safe place. The National Domestic Abuse helpline has seen a 25% increase in calls and online requests for help since we have been told to stay at home. Although this is a very stressful and anxious time for everyone, domestic abuse is unacceptable in any situation. If you are suffering from domestic abuse of any kind, or you are worried about a friend, relative, colleague or neighbour, we encourage you to seek guidance and support straight away.

IMMEDIATE DANGER:

Advice from the government is that if you are in immediate danger:

- Call 999 and ask for the police.

If you are in danger and unable to talk on the phone:

- Call 999, and then press 55. This will transfer your call to the relevant police force who will assist you without you having to speak.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND INFORMATION:

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline website (www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk) provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. They can also be called for free and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247

Women's Aid (www.womensaid.org.uk) has provided additional advice specifically designed for the current coronavirus outbreak, including a live chat service

The [Men's Advice Line](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk) (www.mensadvice.org.uk) is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them. It can be contacted on 0808 8010327

If you are a member of the LGBT+ community, [Galop](http://www.galop.org.uk) (www.galop.org.uk) runs a specialist helpline on 0800 999 5428 or email help@galop.org.uk.

Finally, if you are worried about about hurting the ones you love while staying at home, we encourage you to contact Respect Phonenumber on 0808 8024040 (www.respectphoneline.org.uk) for support and advice on managing your feelings and behaviour

Best wishes to you and your family,

James Baguley
Headteacher