



# Brindishe Lee Newsletter

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Headteacher: Ms Maxine Sebire



Dear parents, carers, governors, staff and friends,

Firstly, I just want to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for how quickly you have been able to adapt once more to the changes at this time. I know school closures and remote learning are not easy for anyone but you have been brilliant in encouraging your children to log in to *Itslearning* each day and have done your best to support your children at this very difficult and challenging time. With your continued support, I know we can work through these challenges together and come out of them much stronger and more resilient. Obviously, we don't know what is to come in the next few weeks but all indications are that schools will be working remotely up to at least the February half-term.

I must also say a huge thank you to the staff at Brindishe Lee. They have consistently gone over and above throughout the whole pandemic in their dedication to support all children to do the best they can. They have adapted to an ever changing set of circumstances, often with very little notice. They have shown resilience and persistence when faced with challenges and have not only made sure learning is in place, both at home and also in school for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, they also continue to support the families and children who are most in need at this time. Thank you to the parents/carers who have echoed this by sending the school messages of support and praise, we appreciate your feedback.

And, most importantly we want to say a huge well done to the children for how well you have adapted to online learning. It has been excellent to see how much you have engaged with the lessons and tasks in the first few weeks online and in school . You have been brilliant! This week the teachers have really enjoyed catching up with you via video calls. School is not the same place without you all, so it absolutely made our week being able to say hello!

Please find listed below important information to digest, including updates on our remote learning, important Critical Key Worker information, as well as a selection of lockdown ideas. Stay safe and look after each other.

Kind regards,

Ms Sebire and the Brindishe Lee Team.

## Support

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, accessing devices, Free School Meals, login details, concerns, general questions – [info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk)

If you need **technical support** with *Itslearning* or *Weduc* – [support@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:support@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk)

### Critical/Key Worker Schooling - Update

Over the past two weeks we have had an increasing number of families asking for their child/ren to attend school rather than remain at home. After the initial announcement, *following advice from the local authority*, we offered places to households that had two critical workers or were classed as vulnerable according to the criteria set out by the Government. *This is to keep the school as safe as possible for everyone*, by providing for those who were in real need the care provided in school.

We are aware that the Government has advised that only one parent/carer has to be a key worker, but until we knew what the uptake would be for Critical Keyworkers, and had offered spaces to all our vulnerable children, we have needed to remain with our initial criteria. Safety must come first and our aim has to be keeping the size of bubbles manageable so that Critical Worker provision can remain open as for long as possible.

We want to work with all our families, therefore applications to school can be made if there is just one critical worker at home and you feel you really need to use the provision, at present you will be placed on a waiting list. If safe to do so, we will allocate children on a needs basis, to start during the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The school will be in contact if we are able to offer a place.

**Please remember that the message from the government and scientists is that everyone is safest at home unless it is really impossible to do so.**

### Teacher/Child Video Catch Up Calls

Teachers were delighted to see so many children during their video catch up this week. It was wonderful to hear the children talk about their learning and how they have been engaging in the tasks set. There will be another opportunity to book a *Teacher/Child Video Catch Up Call* on the **27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> January from 1.00-3.30pm**. The school will update parents/carers next week on this matter.

### Itslearning - Update

The increase in children accessing home learning this week has been superb. The teachers have all been exceptionally proud to see nearly everyone online, completing work and responding to feedback. Please don't forget to upload any assignments to the platform so that school staff can provide feedback and next steps.

All classes will have a **Share and Celebrate** folder in the **Resources tab** of *Itslearning*. Children can upload work, photographs and videos they have been doing during the week so that the teacher and the other children in the class can see and celebrate the fantastic effort everyone is making. During the **Teacher and Child Catch Up** video calls, references will be made to work uploaded and selected pieces will be recognised in a weekly celebration video. In addition to this, Ms Sebire, Miss Matthews and Mrs Ferrant will also share your great learning in a Friday's Praise assembly.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the Senior Leaders will **share an assembly** with you. Don't forget to take a break from the learning and watch our assemblies, just as you would have done in school. This is an important part of your *'home-school'* day.

### Devices and Connecting Online - Reminder

Having the right device to access remote learning is essential, and we believe that now we have been able to get devices out to families, all our children have access to some form of computer or tablet to enable them to work properly from home. However, there could still be a number of families needing to use one computer, so if this becomes a problem in your household, do please contact [info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk).

We appreciate, also, that broadband width and speed can become an issue for some households, and if this does become problematic, please contact us to see if there is anything we can do to help this situation.

### Appreciation Box - Compliments and Comments

Thank you for all the positive feedback we have received this week, we really appreciate this feedback. As a school, we have been pleased to hear that children are getting on well at home and enjoying the new way of learning. We would like to share some of the lovely comments we have received with the Brindishe Lee community. Again, thank you for your kindness, understanding and support.

*"Thank you so much for all of the hard work that has clearly gone on over Christmas in preparing the online learning resources".*

*"The online material produced by teachers is superb. The videos of themselves accompanying the tasks are so helpful and engaging for our child. We are both really enjoying these lessons. It must be strange for them producing the videos with no feedback from the class, so please pass on our thanks to them. They are making our tasks as parents a lot easier and in turn our child is learning and enjoying his lessons".*

*"The online videos are brilliant, the teacher is so thorough and timely with her feedback, everything is pitched perfectly for our child, who, most of all, is loving her online learning. Our 'school' days are definitely varied but most of all totally enjoyable and captivating for our child, and to have video lessons with the teacher is amazing!"*

*"We are lucky to have such a wonderful and supportive school".*

*\*A selection of comments from the parents/carers of Brindishe Lee.*

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

Each week, after your remote learning for the day, we will be asking families to take part in a weekly kindness challenge.

If you have completed any of the challenges and would like to share these with your teacher, please email them to us or post them onto *Itslearning* in the **Share and Celebrate** folder. Please refer to the suggestions listed below.

#### Weekly Kindness Challenge

**Focus: Looking after our families**

- **Day 1** - We hope you have been enjoying the fitness sessions at Brindishe Lee each day. If you're ready to try something new, visit our **Shared Student Room** on *Itslearning* to enjoy further links for you and your family to enjoy. Try a yoga class - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=X655B4ISakg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X655B4ISakg) and invite the family to join in.
- **Day 2** - As a family, listen to the 'Be Kind' by Pat Zietlow Miller and Jen Hill - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6NUJ2JZz50>. You could create a poster together called 'In our family, kindness is...' and display it proudly in your house.
- **Day 3** - Find a healthy recipe online - [www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/family-meal](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/family-meal) and offer to cook it with your family. Sit down and share the meal you've cooked together and discuss your day - remember no phones and no TV!
- **Day 4** - Think about how you might help others, you could arrange a virtual playdate on a video call with family and friends to restore positivity about the world.
- **Day 5** - Paint or draw your family tree - [www.familytreetemplates.net/category/kids](http://www.familytreetemplates.net/category/kids) Under each person's name, write something you like or admire about them. When you're done, ask them to write something nice about you under your name.

Please look at our updated **Shared Student Room** on *Itslearning* for further information and support around the [topic of Mental Health and Wellbeing for parents/carers and children.](#)

### Free School Meals – Vouchers

The National Free School Meals voucher scheme will **relaunch on Monday 18th January** and will be run by the original government supplier, **Edenred**. Parents/Carers of children entitled to Free School Meals should receive the eCode and instructions on how to use the voucher within 4 days. **These £15 supermarket vouchers will be sent weekly, up to the week commencing the 8th February**. Families will be able to use the vouchers to buy food for their child as soon as they receive it. Vouchers can not be used to buy age-restricted items such as, alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets.

If you think you might be entitled to free school meals for your child, please use this link to view the criteria and to apply ([apply for free school meals](#)). If you are successful, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

### Shared Student Room

If your child has finished their home learning for the day and is looking for something different and exciting to do, we encourage you to visit the **BL – Shared Student Room** on *Itslearning*. Here you will find assemblies by members of the Senior Leadership team, a project to do at home, information on e-safety, useful website links, singing, fitness, wellbeing as well as virtual tours and even parent/carer workshops to give you help on how to support your children with learning, e.g. Maths and English support.

### Writing Competition

Following on from Mr Richardson's successful *Winter Writing Competition*, Miss Lea has produced the first of many spring term competitions, which you will find on your class page on *ItsLearning*. This week, we were very excited to hear that *Damien Egan, Mayor of Lewisham* will be our guest judge. You can find the task listed below and entries must be submitted to the **Competition Folder** on *ItsLearning* under **Resources**. Good luck children!

*Best wishes to you all – and your families.*

*Stay safe and well.*

*The Brindishe Lee Team.*



# Writing Competition 2021

## 'Healthy at Home'

Can you help us create a persuasive poster to encourage everyone to stay healthy and happy whilst at home?

Do you have some good ideas for staying active whilst at home?

Maybe you know some top-tips for keeping yourself feeling mentally well during lockdown.

How can you encourage others to join in?

All entries must be uploaded to the "Competition" folder on the BL Students Shared Room on ItsLearning by Friday 5th February.

