



Dear Parents and Carers,

**TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND – COLLECTION – FRIDAY**

We are sure the horrific news coming out of Turkey and Syria will not have passed you by. The thousands of men, women and children that have lost their lives is heart-breaking.

Added to this, as more news reaches us, it is clear that the awful earthquakes that have occurred have left tens of thousands injured, and even more without the basics for living: including food, shelter and water.

In our schools, we will be speaking with children at an age-appropriate level, and in our whole school assemblies.

Across the Brindishe Federation, we feel that whatever we can do, to support the families of Turkey and Syria, we must.

Next term, we will write to you to let you know about a school-focused planned event to raise money for the earthquake relief fund. Until then, we would like to invite you to donate your spare change on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at your child's school gate**, through bucket collections. All donations received will be banked together and a donation sent on behalf of us all to the relief fund.

We are all too aware how tight things are for many families right now, so please do not feel obliged to donate, but if you can spare £1.00, or some loose change, we would be very grateful.

As we head into half term, our thoughts go to all those children who are suffering in Turkey and Syria right now.

Best wishes

Rachel Waite  
Executive Head  
Brindishe Schools

**Children's Mental Health Week** - This week the children have explored themes and learning around Children's Mental Health Week. Across the school, the children have taken part in a range of activities about Mental Health and Wellbeing, in our assemblies, in class and our yoga sessions. Children have been reminded about how they can ask for support with their mental health and well-being from adults in school and the tools that we have around school for them to use.

You may also like to visit Place2Be <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>



**Safer Internet Day** - We have had a really busy week in school, as it has also been Safer Internet Day! On Tuesday all of the children heard from Mr Jones, our computing lead and Ms Dougan, one of our Assistant Headteachers responsible for safeguarding, about how they can make sure they stay safe online.

You may also like to visit <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

### **Open Classroom**

We would like to invite you into school on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February so that parents and carers can pop in and see their child's classroom and Design Technology learning which will be our focus for our first week back in school. All classrooms apart from Year 6 will be open straight after school for your child to show you around and talk you through what their DT projects have been.

### **Parent/ teacher meetings**

Parent and teacher meetings for Spring term will be held the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> March. We will be in touch closer to the time so that you can book your appointment with your child's class teacher. These meetings are always held after school.

### **Volunteers**

We are looking for volunteers to come in and listen to children read. If you feel you would be able to commit to some time even if it is once a week, please contact [info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk) for more details.

We hope you all have a fantastic week of not rushing around quite so much, visiting friends or family and hopefully seeing the sunshine!

We look forward to seeing the children on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Kate and the Brindishe Manor Team



Brindishe  
Federation

## Brindishe Federation Newsletter

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### **LGBT+ History Month 2023**

Every February is LGBT+ history month. Lewisham Children & Family Centres are a safe, open and welcoming place for all families regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. All our sessions are open to all types of families.

The LGBT+ History Month 2023 [#BehindTheLens](#) celebrates LGBT+ peoples' contribution to cinema and film from behind the lens. Directors, cinematographers, screen writers, producers, animators, costume designers, special effects, make up artists, lighting directors, musicians, choreographers and beyond. At a time when LGBT+ lives are in the media we also encourage you to look 'Behind the Lens' and listen to LGBT+ peoples' lived experiences.

[You can find out more about LGBT+ History month here.](#)

### **LGBTQ+ History Month 2023 in Lewisham**

There is a wide range of events happening in the borough throughout February. See the link below for more details. If you know of any activities that are taking place and should be included [contact the team here](#).



[Lewisham LGBTQ+ webpage 2023](#)

### **Children's Mental Health Week 2023**

Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing, and our survival. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health.

*Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections for all, during Children's Mental Health Week - and beyond.*

For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, Brindishe Schools have been encouraging our children to connect with others in healthy, rewarding, and meaningful ways. Watch the video below to learn more about the theme.





## ***Rights Respecting at Brindishe Schools - Article of the Week***

### **Article 13 (freedom of expression)**

#### **Sharing Thoughts Freely**

Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

At Brindishe we think it's important that children and young people are able to express their thoughts, ideas and opinions freely.

- Their views matter.
- Free expression helps good conversation and discussion.
- Many thoughts and ideas can lead to a better world.
- Children have some great ideas that adults might never think of.
- It helps to prepare them for adulthood.
- Adults have this right so children should have it too,
- It helps children and young people to feel valued.
- Involving young people means there are more people to make a difference.
- We all have different views and experiences, so including everyone means we get lots of perspectives.
- It can help children to learn about politics and democracy.
- Children have rights!

We have many teams at school, which children lead including Rights Respecting teams, Digital Leaders and Lunchtime Buddies. Brindishe children are able to share their thoughts freely.

Watch [this video of Greta Thunberg](#) addressing adults at COP26 for inspiration. Is there anything that you feel very strongly about? How do you express your thoughts about this issue? How could you help you child share their views in school?





## ***Brindishe Weekly Online Safety Bulletin***

### **Safer Internet Day - 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**



#### **Online Safety with Google**

As part of Google Families, Google have a hub of resources that you can use including conversation starters with links to additional tools and advice and information about parental controls.

Google also provide you with resources to help your children build healthier habits and stay safe online. There is also a selection of ideas on how to use technology as a family in a fun and engaging manner such as exploring the world and learning how to code. You can access the hub here: [https://families.google/intl/en\\_uk/](https://families.google/intl/en_uk/)

#### **How can the law help you?**

Whilst we wait for the Online Safety Bill to be passed, which will hopefully improve Online Safety, there are certain laws already established to help protect us online.

For example, in the UK we have the Malicious Communications Act 1988 that states it is an offence to send a communication that conveys an indecent or grossly offensive message or a threat. We also have the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, which covers threatening behaviour or harassment online.

Report Harmful Content have curated a list of laws that are relevant to online behaviour here:  
<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/when-should-you-go-to-the-police/>



#### ***Governing Body Dates***

If you would like to attend a Brindishe Federation Governing Body meeting as an observer, please email our Chair, Liz Murphy - [lizcmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:lizcmurphy@gmail.com)

Spring 2  
Summer 1  
Summer 2

Brindishe Green  
Brindishe Manor  
Brindishe Lee

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023, 6pm  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, 6pm  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 6pm



Brindishe  
Federation

### *Lewisham School Term Dates*

Lewisham schools term dates have now been published up to 2027 and can be found on our Brindishe Website or on the Lewisham Council Website.

[Lewisham Council - School term and holiday dates](#)



### *Key Federation Dates*

- **Half Term - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb**
- **Easter Holidays – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Children return to school for Summer Term**
- **Primary offer day - Monday 17 April 2023 (you will get an email in the evening telling you where your child has been offered a place)**

***Further Strike Days – possible school closures will be communicated closer to the strike days***

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### *Consider an apprenticeship*

It's National Apprenticeship Week which seems like the perfect opportunity to tell you about the Council's award-winning apprenticeship scheme. We know many young people, teachers and parents don't realise where apprenticeships can take you. But for those leaving higher education and weighing up next steps – they're a brilliant route into many skilled and well-paid professions.

Lewisham's programme offers lots of different roles, at different levels in a range of services – from IT to data protection, from Early Years to Culture and Events.

[Further details of Lewisham's programme can be found here.](#)



# Brindishe Book Talk

Time seems to have flown since Christmas and it's already time for our latest edition of Brindishe Book Talk! This edition is particularly special as it's the first one that our new reading ambassadors are contributing to.

## What are we reading?

We are so lucky to have extensive class libraries at our school where we encourage all the children to read a range of books from different genres. Our teachers also choose high-quality books to read out-loud with their class each day...so what has been read so far this half term?



## Peer recommendation shelves

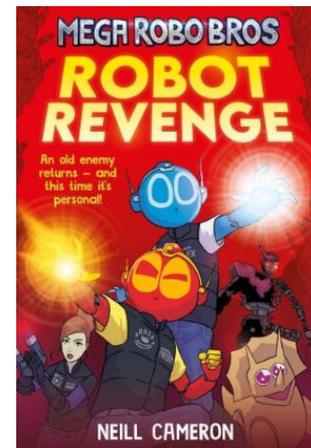
- These shelves are run by the children independently. They bring in books from home to recommend to their peers, write what they love about the book on a post it and display it for a week in the book corner. Other children in the class can then borrow the recommended books.



# A focus on...

Mega Robo Bros creator Neill Cameron says 'Comics [and graphic novels] are a fantastic, vibrant, complex and diverse art form in their own right. They combine all the power and potential of written language with all the joys and immediacy of visual art. They are their own language, their own medium, and like any medium they can be used to convey a potentially infinite range of ideas and experiences.'

## Graphic Novels

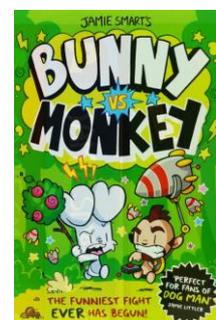


Many children at Brindishe Manor love reading comics and graphic novels as they are a great alternative to more traditional 'chapter books'.

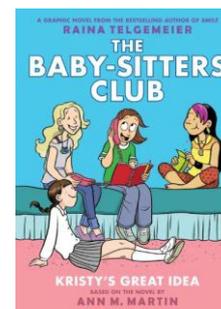
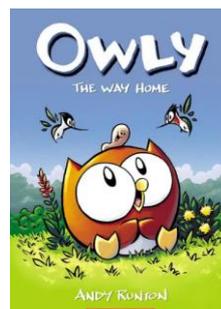
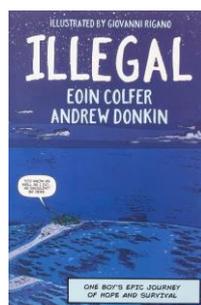
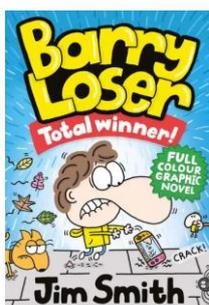


There are also some great magazines in the same style – e.g. The Phoenix Magazine.

Why not try something new this half term...?



Here are some great recommendations from the 'Books for Topics' website (<https://www.booksfortopics.com/>):



# KS2 Reading Ambassadors



We are thrilled to have new KS2 reading ambassadors!

They say:

Hello! We are the reading ambassadors. We applied for the job because we wanted to share the journeys we've had through reading and encourage others to explore the world of books.

"I've been reading books since I was two. I would sit on the sofa with an upside down book, looking at the pictures. Since then, I've taken pleasure in reading and I want to share that with others."

"To read or not to read, that is the question... And my answer is... READ!!"

**Happy reading and have a great half term everyone!**