

6 July 2018

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

Farewell to Dame Vicki, our inspirational Executive Head

In a few weeks time Vicki Paterson, our Executive Head, will be leaving Brindishe Schools. Today we would like to acknowledge and celebrate her immense contribution to Brindishe Manor and to our federation of Brindishe Schools.

Vicki has been working on behalf of Lewisham's children, and in primary education, for 40 years, 28 of them as Head and Executive Head. She started as Headteacher at Brindishe Lee (originally Brindishe) and has since worked with both Brindishe Green (originally Hither Green) and Brindishe Manor (originally Lee Manor) to create the highly successful and unique partnership of Brindishe Schools.



As you will know, Vicki came to Lee Manor School in 2011 at the request of Frankie Sulke, the Director of Children & Young People's Services for Lewisham. Together with a hugely talented team of teachers, support staff and governors, many of whom came from Brindishe Lee and Brindishe Green, and following on from the hugely successful partnership with the previously failing Hither Green School, which brought it to 'outstanding' in just 2 years, we set about transforming Lee Manor, a school in difficulty, into the successful, happy and vibrant school it is today.

If you ask her, Vicki says that she did not do this on her own, but equally, it would not have been possible without her strategic vision, her relentless determination that all children at Brindishe Manor would achieve at the highest standards, her ability to turn vision into reality and a strong set of values that children should feel empowered, trusted, included, valued, recognised as individuals and challenged.

In 2013 she was recognised in the Queen's Honours List for services to education and became known as Dame Vicki.

In all this time, Dame Vicki has kept our three schools at the forefront of national thinking, maximized opportunities to engage in leading practice and kept us all one step ahead, often many steps ahead, of other schools in and beyond London. She has been influential on national education platforms and has worked tirelessly behind the scenes for the benefit of all of our children.

Dame Vicki, as you know, will leave us at the end of term and I'm sure would be delighted to see any of our families who wanted to pop in to say goodbye to her. She is normally at Brindishe Manor on Monday each week.

She will continue to be a Trustee for Challenge Partners and will no doubt keep in touch with us. She leaves a legacy which I feel confident will continue for many years to come as there is no other federation of schools that works so openly, harmoniously, collaboratively and successfully as Brindishe.

We wish Dame Vicki a happy and healthy future as she moves on to other things and thank her wholeheartedly for all she has done for Brindishe Schools, for Brindishe Manor, for our community and most importantly for our children.

This week at Brindishe Manor

Musicians' Concert

We heard our young instrumentalists perform on Monday evening. They were so polished and well prepared and clearly enjoying the opportunity to play for parents and carers. It was a real celebration of their talent and dedication.

Many thanks go to tutors Jim Howard (brass), Sam Becker (clarinets and orchestra), Cheryl Gaudiano (violin) and Victoria Isaacs (recorder and flute) for supporting and encouraging the children so well across the year.

Produce Sale

Over the past months, our 'green fingered' Y4 gardeners have been growing vegetables in our Peaceful Place. Their first sale is next Wednesday 11 July, straight after school. They will be selling rainbow chard, lettuce and potatoes.

Reception Vision and Hearing tests

are taking place on Wednesday 11 July. Please make sure consent forms are returned to school by Monday 9 July.

Love my Books!

Jenny Guest, our Literacy lead writes...

Sharing stories together with your child is not only an enjoyable experience but can help them learn and understand about the world around them as well as develop their vocabulary.

We have found a wonderful website to support sharing stories at home.

www.loveyourbooks.co.uk provides suggestions for reading, talking and writing as well as lots of other creative activities to extend their enjoyment of books. It is definitely worth a look!

The Summer Reading Challenge 2018

On Wednesday we had a visit from Sarah Welsh from Lewisham Library, who came to tell us about this year's Summer Reading Challenge. It's completely free and the aim is to get every child to read any six books of their choice from their library during the summer holidays.

This year the theme is **Mischief Makers** inspired by the much-loved iconic children's title Beano, which celebrates its 80th anniversary. Children can sign up to the challenge at their local library and will receive a Beanotown map and stickers each time they finish a book. Happy Summer Reading everyone!



Sun safety

As the hot weather continues, please remember to apply sunscreen before school, keep children's shoulders and toes covered (if your child chooses to wear open-toed sandals) and ensure they bring a sunhat to school. We encourage the children to drink plenty of water during the day and to stay in the shade at play and lunch time.

Fantastic attendance

Jet 97.6%

Onyx 97%

Very well done to both classes!

Dates for your diary

8 July Brindishe Manor Summer Fair 1-4pm

10 July Songfest concert at Trinity School 5pm - Pearl and Ruby classes

10 and 11 July Y6 Summer Performances (see Y6 letter for details)

11 July Reception vision and hearing tests

11 July Children's barbecue lunch

12 July Nursery's Big Toddle at Manor House Gardens

13 July End of year reports distributed

16 July Y6 leavers disco

16 July Reception to Manor Park

19 July End of term

3 and 4 September INSET days – staff only

5 September Children back to school

And finally...

It's the Brindishe Manor Summer Fair on Sunday! Please tell your families, friends and neighbours and we look forward to seeing you all there. Gates open at 1pm.

With best wishes,
Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher

PSFA (Parents, Staff, Friends Association) News

SUMMER FAIR THIS SUNDAY 1-4PM

It's time to come along and enjoy all the fun of the fair! There will be games, stalls, crafts, bouncy castle, festival face painting, glitter tattoos, cakes, BBQ, drinks and performances. Bring the family for a relaxed afternoon of fun and food, and know that the money raised will go towards helping the school enhance the school life of the children.

If you have any cakes to donate, or last minute tombola gifts, please bring them to the school on Sunday morning. We will be setting up from 10am. If anyone could spare some time to help with set up too we'd be so grateful. Likewise if you find yourself with time on Sunday afternoon and can help on a stall for any length of time please approach any of the volunteers and we'll find you a position!

Many thanks

The PSFA Team

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Facebook: Brindishe Manor PSFA

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