

13 July 2018

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

“Ms Gorbutt you are a legend – I knew you’d make it happen.”



These are the words of a Brindishe Green parent and he sent them to Sarah Gorbutt recently when she made sure that his daughter had the opportunity to take part in something she really wanted to do but might not otherwise have had the chance.

It was a fitting tribute, born of appreciation – and it illustrates exactly what Ms Gorbutt has done over the past 11 years at Brindishe Green – made things that were previously thought impossible happen for children just as they should. For her there must be no barriers to children being able to take part, to succeed and to achieve.

This is Ms Gorbutt’s last week in Brindishe Green and I know that many of you will want to say your farewells and to thank her for her work at and on behalf of the school which under her leadership has been transformed.

In 2007 the school, then known as Hither Green, was half empty, had gone through 5 headteachers in as many years and was the lowest achieving school in Lewisham. It was a very sad and troubled place with a dreary

curriculum and not a trophy or cup to its name. It now holds its head high and is one of the largest, most successful and creative schools in London and its trophy cabinet, as you may know, is full of prizes and accolades for sport, art, inclusion, science and more.

It is now recognised as one of the Mayor of London’s ‘Schools for Success’ and will be honoured again in October under the strapline of “being disadvantaged is not a disadvantage at Brindishe Green” as our performance data shows that children here succeed equally well regardless of their circumstances.

Ms Gorbutt must be rightly proud of her achievements; she has been and always will be an outstanding teacher and headteacher. Her colleagues, her families, her community and children will miss her enormously as she sets off to enjoy a different kind (and pace!) of life nearer the coast.

Her influence in shaping the future of Brindishe Green and building the partnership of Brindishe Schools has been significant and I am certain that without her we would not have our very successful federation of three great schools. We all wish her well and thank her from the bottom of our hearts. I know that she will keep in touch and that everyone at Brindishe Green will make sure that her legacy of tolerance, warmth, good humour and a genuine desire to make the impossible possible will live on in Brindishe.

As we near the end of the academic year we also take this opportunity to say good bye and thank you to several of our Brindishe Governors who are now stepping down as they come to the end of their terms of office.

Most significantly we say goodbye to Spyros Elia our Chair of Governors who leaves Brindishe after being part of our schools for over 30 years and 25 of them as a governor. Spyros first became a governor in 1992 and in his time has served as a parent, co-opted and local authority governor. For the majority of his time as a governor he has been unanimously elected to be Chair, a role to which he has given care, clarity, intelligence and wisdom.

Spyros was part of the group who first supported and brokered the partnership between Brindishe and Hither Green Schools, and then Brindishe and Lee Manor Schools to help us become one of the first, strongest and most successful and lasting genuine partnerships in primary education.

His contribution to Brindishe, to education, to our community and to Lewisham is rightly locally and nationally recognised and is immeasurable. We wish him well.

We also say goodbye to Nasrin Tarafder Rashid who was elected as a parent governor at Brindishe and then co-opted to be a governor at Hither Green as we began our partnership. Nasrin has given over ten years of her time, care and attention to making sure we get it right for our communities and that we think about the needs of all children and all families in our work together.

We thank also our elected parent governors Sarah Clayton and Fahmida Din and Katie Matthews our elected staff governor for their hard work and commitment over four years of office with us; time and energy given freely and willingly and all towards making sure our schools are successful.

I am pleased to let you know that some of our experienced governors are remaining on

the governing body – Lindsay Dale who is the newly elected Chair from 31 August 2018, Jackie Stirling will remain as vice chair (and for her 26th year as a governor), Liz Murphy, Haydn Phillips and John Myers will also remain and elections for new governors will follow in September .

For now we say to Spyros, Nasrin, Sarah, Fahmida and Katie – a thousand thanks on behalf of everyone in our community. To all of our governors we say thank you for their voluntary but invaluable work this year, and for most of the governors year after year after year, for Brindishe.

Dame Vicki Paterson.
Executive Head

This week at Brindishe Manor

End of year reports

End of year reports are being distributed today and will be handed directly to parents and carers.

If your child walks home alone or if you are not able to collect your child, please contact the school office to let them know when you might be able to pop in to collect your child's report – the office will hold onto it for you until you collect it.

Please also remember to let us have your feedback on your child's report as your views are important to us.

Y6 perform Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Congratulations to our Y6 children who, this week, gave two very witty and highly polished performances of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Each and every child had an important part to play in this production and learned a great deal about the team work required (actors, stage hands, musicians, and the sound and tech

team) to put on a show of this quality. It was very, very impressive and a wonderful final extravaganza for this cohort of children who have been a really lovely group right the way through our school.

Much praise and thanks go to Mark Tiller, Mark Maguire, Liz Newman and Lauren Blackie for supporting the children to put together so skilfully their final ever primary school performance.

Nursery sing song and Big Toddle

Nursery took advantage of the stage being set up in Central Hall to sing for their parents and carers on Thursday morning. They sang beautifully and everyone joined in all the actions. Thank you to Nursery parent, Kathryn Mason, for accompanying the children on the piano.

The children and their families then headed out to Manor House Gardens, along with families from Brindishe Green, for their sponsored Big Toddle raising money for Barnardos.

Songfest

Ruby and Pearl classes took part in Lewisham Music's Songfest on Tuesday. They performed so enthusiastically along with friends from St Winifred's and Sir Francis Drake Schools in an early evening concert. Thank you to Trinity for hosting.

Brindishe Manor Summer Fair

It was very sunny on Sunday for our Summer Fair. The weather meant that everyone was in great spirits and many, many people came along to enjoy the games, stalls, refreshments and entertainment.

The Fair is run by parent, carer and staff volunteers who all belong to the school's Parents, Staff and Friends Association

(PSFA), as does every member of our school community.

Many thanks go to the very hard working PSFA committee who help all our fund raising events run so successfully throughout the year. We are very grateful for all they do.

Money raised by the PSFA is going towards our Dining Hall project which involves creating a landscaped outdoor dining area for lunchtimes and redecoration of the dining hall itself, planned for the coming months. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to this important project.

Summer works

As you have probably seen, our premises team is working on creating a new bike and scooter shelter at the front of our site as well as preparing the ground behind the dining hall for future paving and landscaping to create the outdoor dining experience at Brindishe Manor.

Fantastic attendance

Onyx 98%%

Amber and Topaz 98.6%%

Very well done to all these classes!

Dates for your diary

16 July Y6 leavers disco 5.30 – 7pm

16 July Reception to Manor Park

19 July Y6 Leavers' assembly 2.15pm

19 July End of term 3.15pm

20 July INSET day – staff only

3 and 4 September INSET days – staff only

5 September **Children back to school**

With best wishes for a lovely weekend,
Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher

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