

19 July 2018

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

As you know, this is my final week as Headteacher at Brindishe Manor. In today's newsletter I would like to say a personal thank you to the very many people who have supported me throughout my six years here, four as Headteacher.

Firstly I would like to thank all our families for their unfailing support for the school. Brindishe Manor has a strong, cohesive community where families offer their support willingly and make every effort to know about and contribute to their children's learning. The partnership between home and school is something we value greatly and I'm delighted to know that this is in a secure place as the new leadership team takes over in September.

I am very sad to be saying goodbye to a fabulous staff team. Each and every adult working in school has been part of the transformation of Brindishe (Lee) Manor to the creative, buzzing, happy and successful school it is today. Brindishe Manor really is a great place to work and I shall miss this dedicated, inspirational and supportive team.

I want to thank the senior leadership team Kate Porter, Charlotte Dougan and Jenny Guest for their unfailing support for and dedication to the school and our children.

I know you will want to join me in giving a very big thank you to our school business manager, Fulya Kiroglu, supported by our energetic and efficient office team for keeping the business of the school running so smoothly, to Haydn Phillips and the tri-school premises team for their amazing

ongoing work that takes place day after day to bring our school buildings into the 21st century, and to Michael Payne and Aleks Piatkowski, our IT managers who quietly work miracles to ensure our schools are constantly moving forward.

We must also thank the governors who give freely of their time and work very hard behind the scenes to support the schools. In particular I would like to thank Spyros Elia, Chair of Governors who, as you know, is stepping down from his post this summer. Spyros has been a tower of strength for many years and has always had the best interests of all Brindishe children in his sights. He has also offered unfailing personal support to me in my first headship here and I am very grateful to him.

I cannot write this newsletter without giving personal and professional thanks to two key people who have been at the very heart of Brindishe schools and their success – Dame Vicki and Sarah Gorbitt. Their support and wise counsel has been most valuable to me and I will miss them greatly.

Most of all I will miss the lovely children at Brindishe Manor who have shown me today, in two separate assemblies, just how much they love the school and its 'fun' learning opportunities and how, at Brindishe Manor, you can truly 'be yourself'.

I am now moving on to take up the Headship at Brindishe Green from September. There is so much that I will miss about Brindishe Manor but, as I have said to all of you who have come to thank me over the past months, it is just down the road and the schools work so closely together that this is not goodbye, just 'so long'. I am really looking forward to taking up the new challenge at Brindishe Green and to staying within the Brindishe family.

I know that Brindishe Manor will go from strength to strength under the leadership of Kate Porter and Julie Hockham who step into the hotseat from September as Head and Deputy, joined by new Executive Head, Rachel Waite.

I wish everyone in this fabulous community all the very best for the summer and for the future.

Year 6 – farewell and good luck

We say goodbye and very good luck to our very lovely cohort of Year 6 children today. They have worked incredibly hard this year and achieved so much – we are very proud of them and they should be very proud of themselves. We thank all our Year 6 families for their support over the years and wish children and families much luck for the future.

End of year reports

You should by now have received your child's end of year report. Many thanks to everyone who has returned their parent/carer comment sheet and given us their feedback. These also form part of the report each year.

If you have not yet received the report, please arrange to pop into the school office to collect it by the end of the week.

Summer works

There are important works going on over the summer to replace our school boilers and upgrade the condition of the 3 boiler houses under each of our halls – Manor, Central and Lee. These works will continue into the autumn term, but will cause very little, if any, disruption to learning and playtimes.

Our new bike store will be ready for use in September and can be found at the front of the school next to Lee Hall. Many thanks to

Haydn Phillips, Rob Johnson and Alex Casagrande for doing such a lovely job of creating it.

Dates for your diary

19 July Today - 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**

Wishing all our families, staff and governors a restful and happy summer break,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher

PSFA (Parents, Staff, Friends Association) News

A huge THANK YOU to all of you who took part in our Summer Fair and to all of you who came and enjoyed it. It was a lovely afternoon full of smiles from all who were there. We're still counting up the pennies and expenses and will publish the amount raised in September.

Many thanks to all of you for supporting our events throughout the year, from cake sales and discos to ceilidhs and fairs. Together we have raised funds which will help to provide a really great learning environment for the children.

Have a great summer holiday. We look forward to another year of fundraising, fun and community.

The PSFA Team

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www.brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk