



Brindishe Lee Newsletter

Wednesday 16th December 2020

Headteacher: Ms Maxine Sebire



Brindishe
Lee

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, writing to you in September seems like such a long time ago and here we are, finishing off the Autumn term... and what a term it has been. Since March, we have all made many significant changes in our lives; in the way we live, in the way we socialise and in our day to day living. It hasn't been easy but I know one thing for sure, opening the school gates to welcome all of our children and families back in September was all we could wish for.

Since then, every single member of staff has adapted, creating an environment that has been second to none. Every morning, we haven't known what the day will bring us: a phone call, a new piece of guidance; a change to procedure, but the support from the teams in each of the three schools has astounded me. No words can express how grateful and lucky I am to have such a great team of colleagues around me who do all they can to make a difference to our children and families. There have been times when we haven't been sure which direction to go, but those strings have pulled together and we have got through it. My heartfelt thanks goes to you all.

Alongside the staff, we know as parents and carers, you have had to adapt to change – a once open and accessible school may seem a distant memory, but your support has been instrumental in keeping us all as safe as possible and ensuring the children can come to school each day. Thank you.

And the children, who have made these challenging times extremely rewarding and worthwhile. Your boundless energy, personalities, kindness and spirit make our three schools very special places to be. We praise you for adapting so quickly to a new way of learning and look forward to seeing what else you are capable of in the new year.

So with a few days left, I wish you all a wonderful time over the festive period. Whatever the few weeks may bring, take the time to enjoy it as a family. Snuggle up, watch your children's performances and enjoy those precious moments together .

Kind regards,

Rachel Waite.

Executive Headteacher.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from Rachel's comments above, I would also like to express my thanks to all of our families for their support, kind words and patience over the last few months with new systems, procedures and ways of working. Your children have all been incredibly motivated, positive and happy to be at school.

I am sure you will join me in saying a huge 'thank you' to all our staff for their continued hard work, dedication and determination to ensure that the children get the most out of every day.

Once again, we as a team thank you all for your continued support during the term. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday.

Best wishes,

Ms Maxine Sebire.

Headteacher & the Brindishe Lee Team.



Staff News

- Congratulations to Mr Metin who has secured a new post as a Sports Coach in another local Lewisham school. He has been a teaching assistant here at Brindishe Lee for two years and more recently transferred to Brindishe Green. During his time here, he forged superb relationships with all children, staff and parents/carers and launched our sporting achievements alongside Mr Trevor, bringing home many silver medals and trophies. We wish him all the best in his new role and thank him for all his hard work at Brindishe Lee. We will miss him greatly.

Sportacus Fantastically Festive Activity Camp

Sportacus are running a festive programme of activities on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd December at Brindishe Green School and Darrick Wood Jr School. Call Harry on **07828 218690** or email Harry@sportacus.co.uk for further information.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 18th December – End of term – Early Closure
Monday 4th January – INSET Day
Tuesday 5th January – Children return to school

Sportacus Wrap Around Care Spring 2021

Sportacus are now open to take bookings for Wrap around Care for Spring Term 2021.

Sportacus, our breakfast and after school provision, will start back up again from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Please call Harry on **07828 218690** or email Harry@sportacus.co.uk for further information.

May we also remind you that Sportacus are now able to accept childcare vouchers.

Friday 18th December – Early Closure – Reminder

You will have received a letter informing you that we will be closing early on the last day of term. Please make sure that you know what time your child must be collected from school on this day.

Sportacus are kindly providing *Wrap around Care* on the final Friday, until 3.30pm due to the early finish. We thank everyone for their support and understanding.

Main gate Effingham Road	KS1 gate Effingham Road	Side gate Wantage Road
Year 3M – 1.30pm Year 5 – 1.40pm	Year 1 – 1.30pm Year 2 – 1.40pm Reception – 1.50pm	Year 3S – 1.30pm Year 4 – 1.40pm Year 6 – 1.50pm

Travel over the Christmas Break

If any of your household are travelling out of the UK over the Christmas Break, please ensure you email the school (info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk) so we can ensure that you and your family are clear about the procedures and restrictions that may need to be followed. We will ask you to let us know the following information:

- Where you or your household member are going
- The return date to the UK
- Who is in your household

'A Brindishe Lee Christmas Card'

We are delighted to be able to share with you a virtual Christmas performance from the children this year. Many thanks to Simon Mason (parent of Year 2 child) who spent two days in school filming and many more hours (of his own time) editing the footage into a superb online show for parents/carers to enjoy. This will be available to view on your child's *ItsLearning* page from **Friday 18th December.**

Please note, you should not be downloading the performance videos to share with friends and family. The videos are on *ItsLearning*, a password protected site, this platform keep all of our children safe.

Inset Day – Monday 4th January 2021

A friendly reminder, on Monday 4th January it is a staff training day and the school is closed for children. Children will return to school on Tuesday 5th January. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Reading

Enjoyment of books is the most important factor when learning to read. Sharing books with adults helps children with learning to read. For some children, learning to read will seem to happen easily and quickly. For others, more time and support will be needed. Whatever the case, your help will be a powerful influence over your child's development as a reader. For all children praise, encouragement, reassurance and pleasure are the vital factors towards becoming a confident reader.

Listed below are some *top tips for reading* with your child as well as links to online resources.

Happy reading over the festive holiday!

Top Tips:

- Make reading a time of pleasure for you both
- Start sharing books even before your child knows which way up to hold a book
- Learn to accept your child's efforts with praise
- Find somewhere quiet to read
- Read books your child loves, avoid setting up a 'test situation'
- Focus on the things which are right, not on mistakes
- Keep reading to children even after they have learned to read independently
- Stop when they have had enough – it's not a punishment!

A selection of reading resources:

- Library opening times - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/branches>
- Library events in Lewisham - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/online-library-events-and-resources>
- Lewisham library E-books - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/elibrary/using-the-elibrary>
- Other sites with free online books - <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/> and <https://sooperbooks.com/bedtime-stories/>
- Oxford Owl - you have to create an account but it's free - https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/?view=image&query=&type=book&age_group=&level=&level_select=&book_type=&series=#
- Audio books - <https://stories.audible.com/discovery> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/evfs-storytime/zdv4vk7>
- Stories read by authors and celebrities - <https://www.storylineonline.net>
- Recommended Books - <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-primary-school-pupils/>
- Bug Club is a new online platform we are using at school for Reception and KS1. Details have been sent out to parents/carers.

London – Tier 3 (Very High Risk)

As you all know, London is now in Tier 3. For more information on the restrictions we must all follow, please click here - [Tier 3 poster](#).

Reporting COVID over the festive holiday:

Over the Christmas break, it is very important that you continue to follow the guidelines and get your child tested for Covid 19, if they show one of the main symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough, loss of smell/taste).

If your child develops symptoms and tests positive for Coronavirus over the Christmas break, it is very important that you contact the school immediately via email (info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk), so that we can inform Lewisham, Public Health England, staff who have been in close contact with your child and all the children who are in their bubble.

Thank you for your support.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

At this challenging time, the mental health of all is more important than ever. The NHS as well as other organisations have provided some support for parents/carers who would like to find out ways to help their family in this area.

- NHS - <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mindmatters/childrens-mental-health>
- Young Minds - <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>
- Brindishe Lee - recovery@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk for help and support from the staff at school.

