



Friday 19th June 2020

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends

Our schools are now as full as they can be, with children settling in to the structures of school life as it is at the moment. Hand washing, bubbles and social distancing are the 'norm' but it hasn't stopped the staff and children enjoying their time together. Alongside teaching, the staff are also continuing to enjoy speaking to the rest of their class, hearing about the news from home, and uploading work and videos onto Itslearning. With announcements this week of funding being secured to support all children when they return for the Autumn term and the speculation with regards to 'how September will look', we are working on a number of different plans to ensure we are ready. We cannot provide any details at the moment as, like you, we have no further information. If we had a hotline to the Government or the DfE it would be so much easier!

As soon as we are able to, we will update you on:

- End of term arrangements for all children, including any further transition support
- Information on the new classes and teachers for September
- Plans around the return to school in September

I appreciate you would all like answers to this now as many of you have told me during conversations this week. The unknown is so hard to navigate but I can assure you, we are not hiding any information from you.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Rachel Waite
Executive Head

At Brindishe Manor... we now have all of our teachers teaching in bubbles all week. Please be mindful that teachers have been asked to continue with fortnightly calls home to children in their class, but these may come towards the end of the day. On some occasions the leadership team are picking up these calls to support staff.

READING BOOK SWAP

There will be an opportunity for you to swap your child(ren)'s reading books next week. Please see the timetable below. Please come to the front gate, **at the correct time slot and on the right day**, bringing any school reading books and place them in the box so that they can be put into quarantine. You may then choose some other books to take home from the table in the playground. Unfortunately, at this time, we cannot take in any exercise books with home learning in but you will be able to collect one if you need it. Due to social distancing measures, we will only be able to do the relevant year group swap at the following times:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10 – 11.30 Year 2	10 – 11 Year 4		10 – 11 EYFS
1 -2 Year 3	1 -2 Year 5	1 -2 Year 6	1 -2 Y1

Black Lives Matters

Following on from my message last week, we have started to re-look at our curriculum and how we can further enhance the education we provide for children. As parents, your voice is important to us and we would like to hear your views. If you would like to make any comments or suggestions about this and ideas

of what you might like to see, please do get in touch via the school's email:
info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk Please put Black Lives Matters in the subject heading.

Next Week – weather update

Next week is predicted to be very hot. Please ensure your child comes to school with a sun hat and a bottle of water. Sun cream must be put on your child before coming to school as we are unable to apply sun cream whilst they are at school.

Children returning to Nursery, Reception and Year 1

If you are still deciding whether to send your child back into Reception or Year 1, please inform the school office of your decision before **Friday 26th June**. We will try to accommodate all children however once the 'bubble' capacity has been reached, we will be unable to welcome any more children back.

Social Distancing

We are working hard as a school to remind the children about keeping apart and have put in necessary measures to ensure this happens within school. Please could all parents/carers dropping off/picking up respect this and follow the rules when outside the school gates. It is imperative we all follow the guidance to protect the people around us.

School Dinners – Important Information

As you may be aware, the government this week announced that Free School Meals will now be extended through the summer holidays. If you feel that you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please apply online to Lewisham using the link below. Any applications made during the holiday may not be processed until the end of August.

Free School Meals

For those **entitled to Free School Meals**, you will continue to receive your vouchers from EdenRed, the Government provider of FSM. However, if your child is in years 3 – 6 and is returning to school, as part of our reopening, and is not entitled to a free school meal, then you will need to continue to pay through our online payment system – Arbor.

Please follow the link below and make an application for Free School Meals. If a decision comes back and you are entitled to free school meals, you will receive vouchers to support your shopping bills for your children: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-mealsand-extra-support-for-your-child>

If you need any additional support with completing the application, please email us at info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk. Given the current circumstances, even if you think you do not qualify - please try.

Should you find you are not eligible for the government scheme, but are experiencing hardship, please contact us on info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk

For those **entitled to Free School Meals**, you should now be receiving your vouchers from Edenred, the Government provider of FSM. If you experience any problems with the voucher or are finding it difficult either to get to the supermarkets/food bank or to provide for your child/ren, please get in touch on info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk

The Summer Reading Challenge – The Silly Squad started on Friday 5 June.

Please do encourage children to join and continue to read over the Summer Holidays. There is a lot to find online including e-books and also e-audio books.

This year it will be different. It will be a digital offer.

Children can join the challenge on the Reading Agency website. <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

The new platform provides a fun, immersive and safe environment for children to achieve their reading goals and explore the Silly Squad theme.

- Children must create a free account to take part, this is a simple process and requires approval by an adult (via email). The Reading Agency are required by law to use this two-step authentication process for children under the age of 16.

- Although you must have an account to take part in the actual Challenge, lots of other content will be available on the website for everyone to explore.
- Children taking part will be asked to set their own reading goal. However, The Reading Agency will still be suggesting six books as the best goal to try for.
- Digital certificates can be printed out. No physical materials will be used.

Lewisham Libraries offer:

Facebook Group - https://www.facebook.com/groups/LewishamSillySquad/?source_id=16451686911

Here we will encourage children to join the challenge by going to the Reading Agency website.

Help children find e-books and e-audio books.

Provide an alternative fun and interesting online experience.

Some of the content the children will find on our Facebook Group

- A weekly books recommendation from our e-books.
- Tell us a Joke – On twitter, video clips. All compiled into a blog at the end of the summer.
- Games
- Craft sessions
- Story telling
- Competitions

If you need more information about our free e-books and e-audiobooks, please go to the Lewisham website or contact us.

Children (and adults) can join Lewisham Libraries online and start borrowing e-books free straight away.

There are never any overdue or fines.

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/using-the-library/join-the-library>

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/elibrary>

NSPCC

Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice and support for parents and carers (NSPCC)

The NSPCC has created a number of resources to support parents and carers during this difficult time.

These include:

- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour
- Talking to a child worried about coronavirus

The advice can be found on the NSPCC website here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents>

KEEPING SAFE

We have all been encouraged to stay at home and stay safe, but for many women and men, home is not a safe place. The National Domestic Abuse helpline has seen a 25% increase in calls and online requests for help since we have been told to stay at home. Although this is a very stressful and anxious time for everyone, domestic abuse is unacceptable in any situation. If you are suffering from domestic abuse of any kind, or you are worried about a friend, relative, colleague or neighbour, we encourage you to seek guidance and support straight away.

IMMEDIATE DANGER:

Advice from the government is that if you are in immediate danger:

- Call 999 and ask for the police.

If you are in danger and unable to talk on the phone:

- Call 999, and then press 55. This will transfer your call to the relevant police force who will assist you without you having to speak.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND INFORMATION:

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline website (www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk) provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. They can also be called for free and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247

Women's Aid (www.womensaid.org.uk) has provided additional advice specifically designed for the current coronavirus outbreak, including a live chat service

The [Men's Advice Line](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk) (www.mensadvice.org.uk) is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them. It can be contacted on 0808 8010327

If you are a member of the LGBT+ community, [Galop](http://www.galop.org.uk) (www.galop.org.uk) runs a specialist helpline on 0800 999 5428 or email help@galop.org.uk.

Finally, if you are worried about hurting the ones you love while staying at home, we encourage you to contact Respect Phonenumber on 0808 8024040 (www.respectphonenumber.org.uk) for support and advice on managing your feelings and behaviour