

Friday 14th February 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Friends

We have had a very busy end to the half term this week with visitors from Charter Primary school in Chippenham. They enjoyed the morning having a tour of the school, focusing on our Reception/Year 1 classrooms and how Science is taught throughout the school. They felt that one of the strengths of the school was the high levels of engagement and enthusiasm from the children and the challenge they were presented with, in a range of subject areas.

Year 5 have finished their first half term of swimming sessions at Glassmill Leisure Centre. The children are enjoying these sessions and developing their skills each week. Many thanks to the parents and carers who have volunteered to support in walking the children to and from the pool!

It has been really positive to see so many parents and carers coming into school this week to meet with their child's teacher/s. I know that teachers have really enjoyed speaking about the children's achievements and their next steps. If you were unable to meet with your child's teacher this half term, please get in touch with the school office.

Staffing changes...

Next half term there are a number of support staff changes as our trainee teachers, Gemma Gibson and Chloe Adams return to Brindishe Green to complete their teacher training. Ikram Ajami returns from her recent teaching experience at Brindishe Green and will join Topaz class in Year 4 for the rest of the year. Megan Williams (teaching support) will return from Brindishe Green and join Onyx class, Y1. Stephanie Penfold (teaching support) will move from Y1 to join the Y2 team. Louise White (teaching support) will move from Turquoise class to join Amber class, Y4. Jamila Alleyne (support staff) will join Turquoise class.

Coronavirus message

We recognise there is public anxiety around reported cases of Coronavirus in the UK and locally. Advice from Public Health England is as follows:

- You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your child catching the coronavirus.
- You should continue to send your child/children to school
- We recognise that some families may be planning to travel to China during the half term. If so please refer to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office latest travel advice via this link <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>

The poster attached gives you some guidance on reducing the risk of the virus spreading.

A huge thank you to all of the families who supported their children in our NSPCC event which we held last week. We raised the HUGE sum of £4276.69...and we are still counting. If you have any donations that have not been brought in yet, then please do so straight after half term so that we can pass the money on.

Message from the PSFA

After weeks of training, 43 members of the Brindishe Manor community will be running the Vitality Big Half <https://www.thebighalf.co.uk/> on Sunday 1st March 2020.

We need your help in one of the following ways:

- 1) **Are you a keen runner?** Would you like to join the running team? 2 places have become available so if you are interested please let the school office know
- 2) **Sponsorship:** all 43 runners are raising money to support the development of the outdoor spaces at Brindishe Manor. If you are able to, a small donation would be gratefully received: <https://localgiving.org/fundraising/BrindisheManor/>
Last year we were able to secure match-funding from a company. If you know anyone who may be able to do this, please do let the office know
- 3) **Support on the day:** the runners will all be wearing Brindishe Manor t-shirts and would love to hear a clap or cheer to keep them going. For more information, please click on the following: <https://www.thebighalf.co.uk/event-info/spectator-info/>

Attendance of the week...

Key Stage 1 – 97% Jasper and Onyx

Key Stage 2 - 98% Opal

Calling all creative writers in Y4 and 6

Our Creative Writing Club takes place on Fridays after school from 3.15 – 4.15 pm and we have some spaces for next half term. If your child would like to join, please let the office know. The first session will be on Friday 6th March.

Year 1 choir will be starting again after half term on Thursdays from 3.15 – 4 pm. If your child was already a member, they will still have a place. If your child would like to join, please let the office know and they will let you know if there are any available spaces. The first session will be on Thursday 5th March.

Safeguarding our community... We try very hard to keep our zigzag lines outside school clear at drop off and pick up times. This is for the safety of all our children and their families who need to cross the road. Thank you to everyone who parks up safely and doesn't either stop on the zigzag lines or double park on the other side of the road. If you ask a friend or family member to drop off or collect your child, please remind them to respect the zigzag lines outside school and to park up legally and walk in with your child. If you are coming to school in a taxi, please do not ask the taxi to stop directly outside the school.

Educate and celebrate News... If you are looking for something fun to do during the half term why not have a look at the events happening at Greenwich Maritime Museum as they are running a range of workshops and events as part of their Rainbow Week celebrating LGBT+ History Month <https://www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/exhibitions-events/february-half-term-rainbow-week>

Dates for your diary

Week Beg 17th February – Half term
Monday 24th February – Return to School
Monday 24th February – Y2 to Horniman Museum
Thursday 27th – Whole School Author Workshop
Friday 28th March – Visit to Lewisham Chamber Office
Monday 2nd - 6th March – school journey to the Isle of Wight
Thursday 5th March – World Book Day
Monday 9th March – Sports Relief week

Please be reminded that the Government announced last year that the early **May bank holiday** would this year be moved from Monday **May 4th** to **Friday May 8th**, to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

The 2020-2021 term dates are available on our website.

Best wishes for the half term and we look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 24th February.

Kate Porter
Headteacher

Nursery - We have been practising writing our names using our phonics cards. This helps us to form clear letters when writing. We have turned our Fire Station role play area into a Police Station so that the officers on duty can investigate, arrest and put the criminals in jail if needed. We have learned about 'finger prints' and learning the meaning of the words 'What?', 'Where?', 'When?' and 'How?'. We will be baking and eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (25th of February 2020). We would just like to remind adults to please complete and return the permission slips to the Nursery after Half Term. Have a lovely week.

Reception - You should all have received your login details to <http://www.lgfl.net> so you can now access lots of useful games on your computer. Please let us know if you need any more help with logging on.

We'd love to hear from the children about which ones they enjoy using the most and why. This week we also invited you all to become a 'Secret Reader' in Reception. If you are able to read to us on Wednesdays at 2.55pm, please sign up for a session at the office. However please don't tell your child that you are visiting as we want to keep it a surprise until the day! We look forward to having our first reader on Wednesday 27th February.

On Thursday 28th February we are taking part in an exciting author workshop called 'Dylan's Amazing Dinosaurs'. Please make sure you return the slip with your donation to the office so your child can take part. You will also have a chance to buy a copy of the book and have it signed by the author- look out for your pre-order form in your child's bag.

We have really enjoyed seeing how the children are becoming more independent with their learning this term, especially with their phonics, reading and writing. Thank you for all the support you are providing at home- it really helps. Have a lovely half term holiday.

Year 1 - Jasper class have been working very hard to solve the last part of the naughty bus mystery – who gave it to us? The children created a timeline of events and facts to create their own interview question, interrogated 5 staff members after considering who might have given it to us, and finally they looked at their findings to come to a conclusion. Ask them to give a recount of our investigation this week and who we found out to be the culprit.

In Year 1 maths, we have been partitioning numbers into 10s and 1s using Base 10. For example '14 is 1 ten and 4 ones'. At home you can have a go by giving your child a number from 1-20 and asking them to draw the Base 10 to represent that number. We have also been testing different materials to see which one makes the best umbrella, the children designed, made and tested their own materials.

We hope you have a lovely and restful half term break!

Year 2 - This week, Year 2 have been making Galimotos! These objects are homemade push or pull toys that are popular in parts of Africa. Children recycled materials such as bottles, boxes and pieces of wire to create the car-like contraptions, and we did the same. A big thank you to the families who gave us a supply of recyclables to use - it really helped! Our children designed their versions based on real life examples - often choosing to model them on a particular animal or type of vehicle. With help from members of staff, they then attached wheels to help them move around. If you have a free afternoon over half term, why not root around in the recycling to see if you have any materials that could make a similar toy? We'd love to see the results!

Year 3 - It has been a fantastic half term, all the children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of their achievements. This week in maths, we have continued with our learning on division. We have been using the 'bus stop' method to divide with regrouping and remainders. Ask your child to show you this method. Also, it would be very helpful if you could give your child as many opportunities as possible to learn and practice their times tables. In English, Sapphire class have been writing instruction texts on how to make Ancient Egyptian bread. The children have been thinking of ways they can improve and extend their instructions by using adverbs and conjunctions. Pearl class have been writing instructions on how to mummify a mummy, they focused on using time connectives, imperative verbs and adverbs. We would also like to say a big thank you to all of the parents and carers who came to the parents' meetings. It was a lovely opportunity to share your child's learning and progress with you!

Year 4 - This week has been very exciting for the whole of Year 4 - we have now either written letters or speeches to our local MP Janet Daby about what we feel could be done to make Lewisham a cleaner, greener borough. The children have been very engaged and passionate about this task and we eagerly await a response. In other news, Topaz have investigated complete and incomplete circuits in science and after the half term we will be looking at how switches can break the flow of electrical current in a simple series circuit. Furthermore, we have begun designing bird houses for our DT project for house sparrows. During our research for our letter writing, we discovered many creatures in the UK are depleting in numbers and house sparrows are one of them. We have decided to create homes for them, which will be placed on school grounds permanently once they are complete. Perhaps you can look at the 'Naturehood' website to find out about other animals we can help in our local area? Amber class have explored electrical appliances in more detail and discussed what it is that powers them. We have also continued our learning about equivalent fractions and the children are persevering with this topic and applying their understanding in different ways. Please do keep practising your times tables at home - it is amazing how many areas of maths these facts are needed for. We are continuing with our work on abstract art based on coral reefs and in particular focusing on installation art and how we can use recycled paper to create a structure which will stand unaided. After half term Amber class will also be starting their DT project and using some of the facts on the 'Naturehood' website to consider what we would like to design and build that would support our local wildlife. Year 4 would also like to say goodbye and good luck to Miss Adams and Miss Gibson who continue their teaching training at Brindishe Green after half term, thank you for all your hard work and wonderful teaching!

Year 5 - This week, in English we have planned and started to write our own non-chronological reports about our mythical creatures. We've focused on using subordinate clauses, generalisers and punctuation such as brackets and dashes to add extra information. In maths, we've looked at finding missing angles in rhombuses and trapeziums as well as recap our use of the bus stop method to solve division word problems. In Spanish, we've consolidated our learning in our 'all about me' topic and have used what we have learnt to create our own sentences. Perhaps ask your child to talk about themselves to you in Spanish at home. We have also been enjoying our swimming lessons this half term. If you are worried about your children returning from swimming with wet hair in the winter, please supply them with a swimming hat. We hope you all have a lovely half term.

Year 6 - This week, Year 6 have continued to improve in their maths; we are very proud of how hard the children are all working to build solid foundations in their maths understanding which will help them in secondary school. Something to work on at home is converting between different measures. E.g. *What is 6.7litres in millilitres?*

Most newspapers are read online these days, so when we finished drafting and editing our newspaper reports about the Australian bushfires, we have begun to word process them and design our own website front pages.

This week we concluded our gymnastics lesson sequence and the children have shown a development in both skill and confidence. We have also continued to develop our climate protest artwork.

CORONAVIRUS: PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

You can help too.

Germs can live on some surfaces for hours. To protect yourself and others:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.

- If you have arrived back from China within 14 days follow the specific advice for returning travellers.

This is the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus.

Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)