

Friday 18th October 2019

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

This week...

Our year 5 children returned on Wednesday from 3 days away at PGL Windmill Hill in Guildford. They all had a fabulous time and particularly enjoyed being in the great outdoors! Miss Coupe reported that the children really enjoyed the challenge and supported each other so well. For many children, this would have been the first time they had spent any length of time away from home.

A message from Mrs Waite, Executive head...

Dear Parents/Carers,

With our first half term drawing to a close, I would like to thank all the children, families and staff for a fantastic start to the year. So many amazing opportunities have been thread throughout the last 6 weeks: the welcoming of all our new children who have settled in so well; waving our school journey groups off for days of fun adventures; the teaching of all the new topics for the year and of course, giving you the opportunity to meet your child/ren's new teachers and hear about how they have started the new school year.

I wish you all a fantastic break and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Secondary transfer...

Please be reminded that the deadline for applying for secondary schools is **October 31st** If you would like any support in completing your online application then please contact the school office.

Changes to lunchtime...

Reception and Year 3 parents and carers will have received a letter today with regards to some changes we are making to the lunchtime experience

Our Reception children will now join year 1 and 2 children in the main playground for their lunchtime play. This will give them the opportunity to use the multi-use games area, play ball games, target games and have more space to run and play in a change of environment, with other children. The children will also have access to the existing outside dance/ music stage and a new reading stage which is being built over the half term.

After half term year 3 children will join Years 4-6 for our second lunchtime, which is between 12:45-1:45pm. By doing this we can offer an inside space in our community room for children who wish to read, complete crafts or design and make Lego. We can also offer a board game area, different zones for different activities and opportunities for ball games and target games. We will still have music on offer for the children and for dancing, as well as a new outside reading area.



'Go Green' children's team introduced themselves and a competition this week to Key Stage 1 children.

Lydia from Go Green writes... From Wednesday 16th of October, there will be a competition not too dissimilar to science week. This competition has been organised by *Go Green*, a group formed in the school that wants to help save the environment in lots of different ways.

The competition will be for your child to gather as much plastic in your home as possible and then make something out of it. For example, they could make a piggy bank out of a plastic bottle, or an octopus out of sweet wrappers. The children will have two weeks to do this – the deadline is Wednesday 30th October. Entries should be brought in to your child's class. Children from the class will have a vote as to which model is the best in each class. The Go Green team will then vote on their top 3 models which will be put on display in the school.

Curriculum Survey

You may remember that before the summer we asked you to help us review the curriculum offered at Brindishe Schools and to contribute to a survey about it. In total we received 106 responses telling us that overall you are very happy with the school's curriculum, in particular its focus on the way children are able to lead their own learning, how it encourages resilience and curiosity and the varied and rich opportunities the children at Brindishe Manor receive.

You said:

'We are very happy with the school. Learning is done in a very imaginative way.'

'Brindishe is very child-led which allows my daughter to develop a love of learning.'

'Overall excellent provision.'

'I am very happy with the varied curriculum that my child receives at Brindishe Manor.'

'My children have always been taught to move out of their comfort zone.'

'Brindishe Manor is a very nurturing school.'

You felt we could do more about:

- Offering deeper learning on a foreign language
- Learning around mental health and well-being
- SEND provision
- Communication between home and school

Opinion was divided on the subject of home learning (both for and against)

Thank you for taking the time to respond and give us your views. We have listened to your feedback and will be working to improve and increase the opportunities across the curriculum in a range of ways this year, including:

- All children learning a modern foreign language (Spanish)
- More training for staff and support for children around mental health and well-being
- Improving our communication with parents of SEND children
- Looking at ways to improve communication with our parents and carers

Fabulous attendance this week...

KS1 – Moonstone 97.9%

KS2 – Topaz 99.3%



After half term our Rights Respecting children's team will introduce each assembly and explain to children how this links with the Rights Respecting agenda. Here is the link to the Rights Respecting agenda which you can look over and talk through with your child.

https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Our-rights_UNCRC.pdf

Dates for your diary

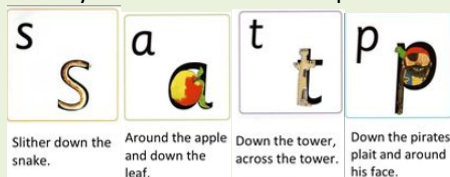
Monday 21st – 25th October – Half term break
Thursday 31st October – PSFA cake sale 3:15pm
Friday 13th December - Christmas Fair 3:15pm
Monday 9th- Friday 13th December – KS2 Winter performances
Thursday 12th December – EYFS Winter performance
Thursday 12th December – Christmas Dinner/ Dress Festive day
Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th December – KS1 Winter performances

Have a good half term,

Kate Porter
Headteacher
Brindishe Manor

Nursery: The children have settled into the Nursery routine and space really well. They use the resources creatively and have made wonderful friendships already. After the half term, we would like to send home story books as well as the children's Me Books. In order to do so, each child needs a Book Bag to keep the books neat and in a good condition. We would not be able to put the books in their spare clothes bag due to the need for space and proper care. Book bags can be purchased for £5 from the school office. Have a wonderful half term with your child.

Reception: Ask your child to find as many things as they can that begin with one of the sounds. You could also practise writing the sounds in different places and with different materials - paint, mud, sand, peas, condensation on the windows... Writing letters is tricky so please give your child lots of praise for their effort!
The rhymes that we use to help the children remember how to form the letters are:



Maths: The children are counting up and down from 0-5 very confidently. Can you play ping-pong with numbers 1-5 and then 1-10 at home? You 'bat' a number to your child with your hand, and they bat the next number back to you as quickly as they can. For extra challenge, see if they can tell you the number that is 1 less than the number you say.

Over half term, you might like to do some cooking or baking with your child. This is an excellent way of developing speaking and listening, as well as mathematical language linked with measurement, for example: *How much? more / less / weigh / heavier / lighter / scales / add / take away / How long? / minutes / hours / timer*

Reading: Please keep the red reading response books in children's book bags so that they come to school every day. Your child's reading day may change each week and it is really important that we have their red books so that we can tell you what we've read at school and your child can share the lovely reading they've been doing at home with us. Many thanks!

Year 1 We have continued with addition by counting on from the greater number. The children have been creating their own number sentences and working in pairs to solve them. They have also been challenging themselves with numbers up to 20. Have a go at home by asking your child to create their own number sentence, and teach you how to count on from the greater number. In English, the children have been finishing off their own story plans. We have had dragon, ogres, giants, witches and many more! The children have also really enjoyed using drama to sequence a story which is something they could also try with books at home. This has been a fantastic half term and the children have settled in so well. Have a lovely, restful and relaxing break!

Year 2 It has been a big week for writing in year 2! The children have ploughed ahead with their stories –set in the world of our class text, 'Journey'. We focussed on using time connectives (after that / soon / next etc) to link their sentences together, and using conjunctions (but/ because/ while etc) to extend their ideas. In maths we continued looking into addition and subtraction and have been focussing on our ten times table. Over half term, please practise your times tables. We will be moving on to the five times table next half term.

Year 3 This week in Year 3 we have been applying descriptive writing techniques that we have learned to an independent writing task. We have used a picture as stimulus to create a short story. The children's ideas were amazing and we are confident we have some authors in the making!

In maths we have been recapping place value and column addition. We will be setting specific learning on Sumdog which will be personalised to what we have been learning in class.

Next term our topic will be the Stone Age. Over the half term we would like the children to conduct some research about this time period. We would like the children to share their research in the first week of term including the source of their

research. This is a good opportunity to support your children in learning about reliable sources of information which is something we will be focusing on through our Rights Respecting and Online Safety learning.

We have had a fantastic first half term, we hope you have an enjoyable, well deserved break

Year 4 All the Year 4 teachers in both Topaz and Amber class have been so impressed with the super start all children have made. Over the last six weeks, they have demonstrated a wonderful attitude towards their learning, particularly showing great interest in 'The Tudors' and we are looking forward to continuing with this next half term and extending our learning to include the plays of William Shakespeare.

This week in maths, Topaz class have been using mental and written methods of division to solve problems, whilst Amber class have been exploring factors and factor pairs. They have also looked at the patterns and relationships between different times tables.

Our writing continues to explore lots of elements of grammar and spelling and we are also building up our stamina for writing by writing some more extended pieces that engage the reader from start to finish.

Please do look at the home learning activities we have asked the children to look at over the next week but more importantly we hope you all have a lovely half term and a rest!

Year 5 This week, most of Y5 visited Windmill Hill for their school journey. We had such a fantastic time taking part in a range of activities such as climbing, the Giant Swing, Jacob's Ladder, orienteering and raft building. Even though it was a pretty wet and muddy few days, all of the children put their very best effort into all of the activities and were wonderful at cheering each other on. We're all really proud of how well they did.

Next half term, our class learning theme will be Space. It would be great if you could encourage your children to find out some interesting information about any aspect of this whether it be a trip to the library to find some books on the topic, a visit to the Science museum or even some research online at home. The children are also welcome to share any of their learning with their classmates if they wish. We hope you all have a wonderful half term break!

Year 6 We've had a wonderful first half term in Year 6. The children have published their extended narrative based on 'The Piano' and should feel exceptionally proud of this achievement, we are certainly very proud of them. We will be going on an educational visit to the Imperial War Museum after the half term break (Weds 30th Oct), so please complete the slip and return to the school office by Monday 28th October.

The children have been given home learning to complete over the half term - we are very much looking forward to hearing how they got on with 'Reading Bingo' which is in their reading response book. Please take pictures of the children completing each challenge so we can share them in class and put them on display.

Community News...

Lewisham refugee Welcome New Befrienders Meeting

Could you offer support and friendship
to a refugee family in Lewisham?

Saturday 26th October 11:30am -1:30pm
Manor House Library

We will be in the Baring Room, from 11.30am onwards. Please do come and join us - bring your children (there will be toys!) and enjoy a piece of cake and a chance to find out more about befriending.