



Brindishe Manor Newsletter  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Headteacher: Kate Porter



Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

It has been another really busy week here at school, and at home, for all of our staff and families. We know that everyone is working hard, whilst trying to remain as positive as possible. We hope that everyone in our school community is keeping safe and looking after themselves and each other, and to those of you who are unwell, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Throughout this week, our teachers have been adding more and more content to their virtual classroom, as have the leadership team to our school page. We know the children are benefitting from the videos that teachers and support staff are creating and are able to use these throughout the day/week and to revisit particular themes and learn at their own pace. As we move in to the third week of home learning, we will continue to look at ways we can offer the best content and provision we can and I will be in touch early next week with more details.

### **Teacher/Child Video Catch Up Calls**

Teachers were absolutely delighted to see so many children during their video catch-up sessions this week. It was wonderful to hear the children talk about their learning and how they have been engaging in the activities that have been set. We will be in touch next week with details of our next Weduc sessions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contacted teachers to send messages of support or feedback. The staff have been sending those on to the leadership team and we hope that we are managing to get back to you all promptly! Sometimes it can take a few days – we haven't forgotten you!

### **Who to contact and when?**

If you have any questions or queries during this time, please can we ask that you use the following email addresses so that the right person can get back to you:

[info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk) – queries about online learning, accessing devices, Free School Meals, concerns, general questions.

[support@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:support@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk) – if you need technical support with Itslearning, log in details or Weduc.

### **Critical/Key Worker Schooling Update**

Over the past two weeks we have had an increasing number of families asking for their child/ren to attend school rather than remain at home. After the initial announcement, **following advice from the local authority**, we offered places to households that had two critical workers or who were classed as vulnerable according to the criteria set out by the Government. **This is to keep the school as safe as possible for everyone**, by providing for those who were in real need of the care provided in school.

We are aware that the Government has advised that only one parent/carer has to be a critical worker, but until we knew what the uptake would be for this provision, and had offered spaces to all our vulnerable children, we have needed to remain with our initial criteria. Safety must come first and our aim has to be keeping the size of bubbles manageable so that Critical Worker provision can remain open as for long as possible.

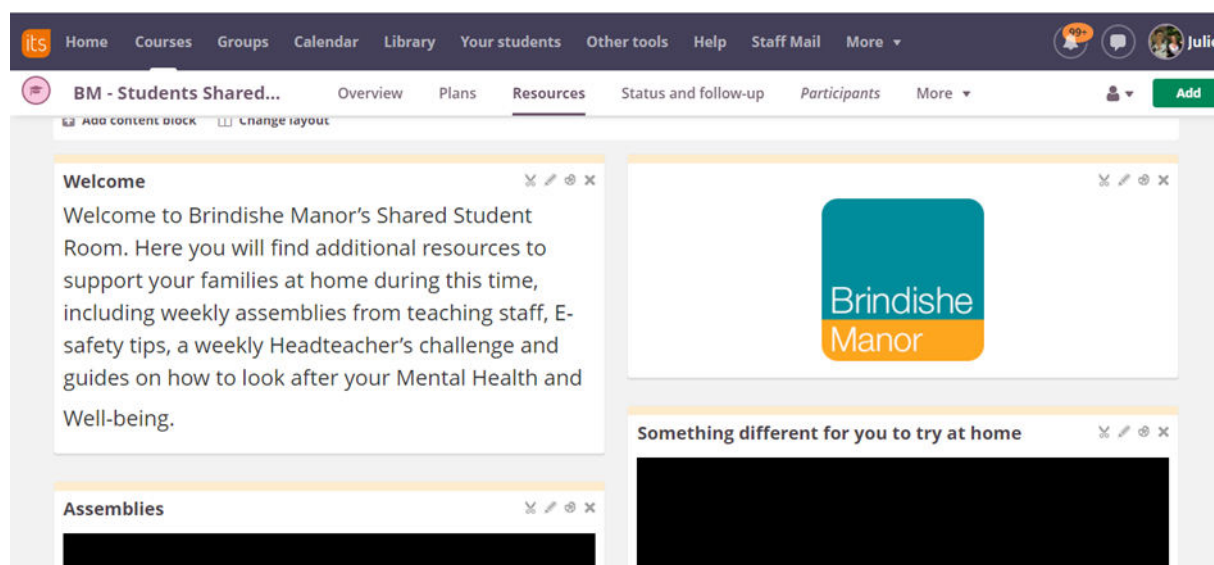
We want to work with all of our families, therefore if you are in a household with two parents/carers and just one critical worker at home and you feel you really need to use the provision, please email us at [info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk) and let us know your critical worker role; **at present you will be placed on a waiting list.** If safe to do so, we will allocate children on a needs basis. The school will be in touch next week if we are able to offer your child/ren a place.

Please remember that the message from the government and scientists is that everyone is safest at home unless it is **really impossible** to do so. Lewisham has a higher rate of infection than the rest of London - 25 people in every 100 has the virus.

### **Finished your learning and want something else to do? Need suggestions for how to keep yourself mentally and physically fit?**

Don't forget to access the BM – Shared Students Room. Here you will find assemblies by Miss Porter and other members of the Senor Leadership team, a project to do at home each week, information on e-safety, useful website links and even parent/carer workshops to give you help on how to support your children with maths and different aspects of English.

There is a large section on mental health and wellbeing for both children and parents/carers and a 'Virtual days out' section if you would like to get out of the house without actually leaving it!



The screenshot shows a web-based interface for the 'BM - Students Shared...' room. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Courses', 'Groups', 'Calendar', 'Library', 'Your students', 'Other tools', 'Help', 'Staff Mail', and 'More'. The main content area is divided into several sections: a 'Welcome' message, a 'Brindishe Manor' logo, and a section titled 'Something different for you to try at home'. The 'Welcome' message reads: 'Welcome to Brindishe Manor's Shared Student Room. Here you will find additional resources to support your families at home during this time, including weekly assemblies from teaching staff, E-safety tips, a weekly Headteacher's challenge and guides on how to look after your Mental Health and Well-being.' The 'Something different for you to try at home' section is currently blank. The interface also features a 'Resources' tab and an 'Add' button.

### ItsLearning: Assignments

Well done to all our children who have been logging in to Itslearning every day and uploading their daily assignments. **Assignments must be uploaded by 3.15pm. It is very important that every child completes and uploads each daily assignment on time so that the teacher can respond to it on the same day.**

Other learning can be uploaded to the child's Shared learning folder. We want to be able to see and praise all your child's hard work.

### Shared area for homelearning

All classes have a folder in the **Resources tab of ItsLearning** where children can upload work, photographs and videos that they have been doing during the week so the **teacher and the other children in the class** can see and celebrate the fantastic effort everyone is making.

### **Free School Meals – Vouchers**

The National Free School Meals voucher scheme will **relaunch on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January** and will be run by the original government supplier, **Edenred**. Parents/Carers of children entitled to Free School Meals should receive the eCode and instructions on how to use the voucher within 4 days.

**These £15 supermarket vouchers will be sent weekly, up to the week commencing 8th February.** Families will be able to use the vouchers to buy food for their child as soon as they receive it.

If you think you might be entitled to free school meals for your child, please use this link to view the criteria and to apply ([apply for free school meals](#)). If you are successful, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

*Please note that Free School Meals, is different to Universal Free School Meals which all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children automatically receive, but only when they are in school.*

## PSFA news – 15 January 2021

### Virtual Valentine's Day Cake Sale

Happy New Year to all the Brindishe Manor community. We hope you're all safe and well. Times continue to be challenging and to prevent traditional forms of fundraising. Usually before the February half term we would hold a cake sale - one of our most popular events.

This won't be possible this year but could you donate the money that you would have spent at the cake sale to help raise funds? The minimum JustGiving donation is £2 and whatever you are able to donate will be much appreciated.

For the full cake sale experience, you could bake a Valentine's Day themed treat to enjoy at home. Share pictures with us on the Brindishe Manor PSFA Facebook page; we'd love to see what you make.

We are working this term to support remote learning - donating money to buy books to be distributed to children who might not otherwise be able to access them, contributing to musical instruments and other resources. In the current circumstances budgets are being stretched like never before - every donation helps no matter how large or small.

If you are able, please donate via this page to support all our children's learning and experience <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/virtualcakesale>

Thank you.

### Autumn term fundraising

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, fundraised and took part in the Halloween Trail, 2020 Exercise Challenge, Christmas Lights Trail and also everyone who bought personalized cards and gifts as part of the Christmas Cards art project.

Thanks to all of you we raised over £5,000 in a single term and this will be increased by donations from the employers of some parents who offer matched funding.

This is an incredible achievement and will help to pay for playground equipment and improvements (for when everyone is allowed back into the playground) and also to help support additional resources for remote learning. We honestly can't thank everyone enough for your support, enthusiasm and generosity.