



18 October 2019

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends at Brindishe Green,

A message from Rachel Waite, our 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 threaded through 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/rens 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.

Kind regards,
Rachel Waite

This week at Brindishe Green

Year 2 visited St Swithun's Church on Hither Green Lane this week. Reverend Juliet Donnelly showed the children around and explained what the church is used for. The children followed clues to find features of the church and some children even tried on special items of clothing. Reverend Juliet was impressed with the way the children were so respectful of being in a place that is special to others. Thank you to the parents and carers who accompanied the children and to Reverend Juliet for hosting.

Some parents and carers have asked why we visit places of worship. At Brindishe Green we have connections with a range of different places of worship in our local community. Our visits support the children's understanding of faith, respect for others, diversity and difference and how "there is more that unites us than divides us" in our community and in our world.

School Journey for Year 6 children

Our Y6 children on school journey have had a fantastic week of fun, team building activities at Liddington PGL near Swindon, including buggy building, climbing, fencing and archery. As ever, they have learnt to work as a team and to challenge and support each other. For many children, this will be the first time they have spent any length of time away from home. The adults on school journey tell us they are very proud of the way the children have worked together and supported each other over the week.

They are all on their way home this afternoon, tired but very happy! Huge thanks go to all the staff who accompanied the children on this very memorable adventure: Daisy Johnson, Tom Williamson, Hollie Campbell, Chris Sinclair, Chloe Adams and Lauren Campbell.

Full Governing Body meeting

We held the first full governing body meeting of the school year on Wednesday. Governors learned about the priorities for each of the Brindishe Schools this coming year and heard our successful outcomes for 2018/19. We will be sharing these with you in our newsletters over the coming weeks.

Curriculum Survey

You may remember that before the summer we asked parents and carers to help us review the curriculum offered at Brindishe Schools and to contribute to a survey about it. In total we received 46 responses telling us that overall parents and carers are very happy with the school's curriculum, in particular its focus on diversity, inclusion and the arts and the engaging, cross-curricular way in which children learn:

- *Very impressed with my daughters education in relation to being a rights' respecting school*
- *Brindishe Green is an excellent school and has helped both of my children to grow and learn in imaginative and interesting ways*
- *The school's commitment to equality and diversity is second to none*
- *My child learned how to manage his anger through the mindfulness class he attended*
- *Some of the cross-curriculum learning projects at Brindishe Green have been so impressive!*
- *I've noticed the school has opened up a variety of learning in the arts and that is so great*

They felt we could do more about:

- offering competitive sport to a greater number of children
- learning languages
- music education
- expanding the range of educational visits
- after school clubs not related to sport
- healthy eating, cooking and gardening

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:

- more competitive sport for children
- gardening, growing and outdoor learning for all children
- expanding the range of clubs on offer
- increasing our instrumental tuition offer
- learning a modern foreign language (Spanish)
- exploring new educational visits

There were some questions about home learning and on the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and I can explain both briefly here:

In most classes the children have a 'Me Book' and inside there are suggestions for home learning or ways to support your child at home each week. Older children may be given some specific learning to complete at home.

We are currently reviewing our policy on Relationships Education, including sex education, in line with new government statutory guidance. We will be sharing this with you over the coming months.

Please continue to give us your feedback and suggestions so that we can find ways to improve what we do.

Developing our outdoor spaces at Brindishe Green

As you may know, this year we are looking to develop and improve our outdoor spaces at Brindishe Green. Fund raising from the new 'Brindishe Friends Group' (BFG) will support us with this. We are looking to create outdoor eating and learning spaces, improve the trim trail, and introduce opportunities for our children to learn about growing plants that can be harvested and eaten!

This term we are taking part in a charity project called Edible Playgrounds to create an exciting learning environment for growing food. We would like to invite parents and carers into school on Thursday 31 October 9 – 9.30am (main hall) to meet with part of the team and find out how you can contribute to the project. For more information about Edible Playgrounds, go to www.treesforcities.org/our-work/edible-playgrounds

Summer Reading Challenge – a message from Mrs Brookes, English Lead

'I am very excited to share that we have heard from Lewisham Library Services about the Summer Reading Challenge. There was a great turn-out this year with many children signing up to the challenge at their local library during the summer holidays and completing the 'Space Chase'. It was fantastic to share these achievements with everyone in our praise assembly this week. Well done children and keep on reading!'

Headlice in school

There are some cases of headlice in classes across the school. Please take the opportunity to check and treat your child's hair next week during the half term holiday.

Diary dates

21-25 Oct Half Term

28 Oct Back to school

29 Oct 6pm BFG (Brindishe Friends Group) meeting to plan the Christmas Fair, school hall.
Adults only please.

*****Advance notice*****

10 Dec Year 3 and 4 Christmas performance 9.30 and 2.15

11 Dec Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance 9.30 and 2.15

12 Dec Reception Family Festival 1pm

17 Dec Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert in St. Swithun's 6-7pm

18 Dec Christmas Lunch

19 Dec End of term

And finally...

Cake Sale today!

3.15pm is when we are selling all your cakes and raising money for our school. Please come along to the school hall to buy as many as you can.

Next week is half term. Have a really good break everyone and we look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Monday 28 October.

Best wishes,
Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher