

Brindishe Green School

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31 March 2017

Dear parents and carers, friends and families,
This half term we had our annual Quality Assurance Reviews of each school. The reviews are organised through Challenge Partners, a practitioner-led national education charity. The reviews were carried out by a team of 3 or 4 senior leaders from schools outside Lewisham and usually outside London. A registered and experienced Ofsted inspector working with our own senior staff led them. They looked at our results, observed the quality of teaching and learning in every classroom, sampled children's learning and interviewed or met with groups of children and staff.

I'm very pleased that once again all three schools were judged to be in the category of 'outstanding' and I can tell you that every one who visited us thought the Brindishe children were truly delightful, beautifully behaved, polite and enthusiastic learners. They did you and their schools proud. On your behalf I thank the staff who work so hard and with such commitment and energy every day. You will see the reports on each school posted on the front page of the school's website once they are available.

I'm sure that many of you will be aware of the difficulties schools, especially London schools, are experiencing because of the cuts to our budgets and anticipated further reductions. The government's plans to ensure that similar schools in different parts of the country receive a similar level of funding per pupil means that we now need to reduce our spending considerably. We hear many schools in Lewisham are drastically cutting their staffing and are in financial difficulty. The schools that are hardest hit are the stand alone, one-form entry primary schools.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that although we will have to make lots of reductions we will not be making any staff redundant. That is a
Headteacher - Sarah Gorbutt

great relief. However where or when staff leave we will not now be able to automatically replace them. We must make do without if we can. We will have to be even more resourceful and careful so that we make ends meet. We are lucky in that being in a partnership of three we are able to buy in bulk, to negotiate good deals and contracts, to share resources and expertise and, as you know we share our people. We always say what matters is the needs of each Brindishe child - and not which Brindishe School they happen to be in. This philosophy will be ever more important now and in the future.

Some of the ways in which you can help us are small but very significant:

- Please pay online for clubs, music tuition, school journey and school meals, it saves us a great deal of time and energy all of which costs money
- Please pay your debts promptly and please pay for your child's school trips if you can afford it - we lose hundreds of pounds through parents / carers not making the effort to pay (and this is mostly not the most financially challenged parents or those who are entitled to only pay 50%)
- Please sign up for your child's entitlement to free school meals / pupil premium funding if you are eligible. (Simply go to <https://schools.lewisham.gov.uk/parentportal/> or just type Lewisham Pupil Premium into your search engine. The school office staff will always be able to help you apply.
- Please let the class teachers know if you are able to accompany classes on visits, as we will have a reduced number of teaching assistants and nursery nurses in each school from Sept.
- Make sure we have your contact details and all up to date information about your child - and your email address - so that we can send the newsletters or other letters electronically to you
- Help us to raise money by buying from books sales and cake sales and raffles and fairs. Money raised this way buys lots of extra equipment for the schools.

Executive Head - Vicki Paterson DBE

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And if you are going to write to your MP or the Secretary of State for Education can you think about making the point that the education of children and young people in any and every part of the country is a priority regardless of whichever party politics you are supporting. It simply makes no sense to take from one group of schools to give to another.

And finally, as the Brexit process begins, can I say on behalf of staff and governors in our three schools, that we are very proud to welcome and work with children from over 40 nationalities; that in our schools we hear over 40 different languages and we work with people from every listed ethnic background. We work with families at every point of the social spectrum and from many different circumstances and family structures. We have many levels of ability and disability and in our community we have members of every faith and of no faith. It is our joy and delight to be able to do so.

It is what makes us three very rich schools. Best wishes to all families and friends for a peaceful holiday and Happy Easter if you are celebrating,

Dame Vicki Paterson DBE

Place2Be

Many of you will already know that our Place2Be School Project Manager (SPM), Emily Elliot, left this week to have her baby. While Emily is on maternity leave she will be replaced by Karen Orlebar. We will introduce Karen to the children during the first week back after the holiday. We wish Emily all the best for the next few months and look forward to welcoming her back soon.

Year 6 Mock SATS

Well done to the year 6 children who worked so hard this week to complete a full set of challenging end of year tests. You all deserve a well-earned rest, including the staff!

Sporting events at BG

I'm sure you will be pleased to know that out of 2,378 London Primary Schools Brindishe Green are ranked:

Headteacher - Sarah Gorbutt

13th in year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics, 2017, 21st in year 5/6 Hockey, 2017, 25th in year 5/6 Tag Rugby, 2017. **This is in the top 1% out of the whole of London and such a great achievement!** Brindishe Green has now represented Lewisham at the London Games 5 times in 4 different sports. Only a handful of schools across London can say that! Well done to all for your dedication and hard work including Mr Lewis for preparing you so well!

Thank you also to the many parents and carers who have supported our visits to Tate Britain over the past few weeks. We look forward to Cherry class going on April 19th.

Attendance at Brindishe Green

Well done to Oak, Rowan and Chestnut 4 for the best attendance this week and to Willow, Olive and Chestnut 4 (again!) for the best punctuality.

Music Opportunity at John Ball School

John Ball Primary School are running a strings ensemble in conjunction with Lewisham Music Hub. There are 15 places available to other local schools. The strings ensemble is open to any KS2 pupil learning a string instrument, at any ability level. It will be run by Evie O'Driscoll (specialist strings teacher) at John Ball Primary School, Blackheath from 3:30 - 4:30pm, Wednesday afternoons starting after the Easter break. The total cost for 10 weeks of tuition is £30. Should you wish to sign up, please email Stephen Mitchell, Music Coordinator at John Ball, on: smitchell61.209@lgflmail.org.

The deadline for signing up is Friday 21st

~~April. Please note, children will need to be dropped off school. School can only accept families from~~
for collecting children from other local schools.

School finishes today for a two week holiday and we will return on **Tuesday April 18th at 8.55am**. Have a restful break and a great Easter for those that celebrate it.

Best wishes

Sarah Gorbutt

Headteacher

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