

Brindishe Green School
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16th December 2016

Dear parents and carers, friends and families,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping to make 2016 another successful and rewarding year for Brindishe Schools. We have seen our children enjoy much success and enjoyment in their classrooms, their shared and outdoor learning spaces, playgrounds, pitches and halls and out and about on many educational visits in London and the South East. We have seen many changes and improvements this year including a big increase in our IT provision for everyone and a welcome investment into our premises in all three schools. We are grateful to our local authority Lewisham for funding over a million pounds worth of building works on Brindishe Schools' buildings and classrooms in the last 12-18 months. Thank you everyone for your patience and flexibility whilst these works have taken place - we really do appreciate it.

This year Brindishe children have danced on (Catford!) Broadway, sung in the Blackheath Concert Halls and at the Dome, played in and won many tournaments (including now representing Lewisham Borough in Pan-London competitions in tag rugby, athletics and hockey). They have performed Shakespeare in Greenwich Theatre and had the red carpet treatment at the National Television Awards. Brindishe children have 'Shone' on Saturdays, written beautiful poetry, 'Educated and Celebrated', cooked delicious healthy treats and crafted wonderful sculptures. They have helped us to raise literally thousands of pounds for charities including Crisis at Christmas and Unicef and have also generously donated their time and energy to support each other as buddies, ambassadors and leaders and members of The Children's Teams. These include being our Young Interpreters, our Eco Teams

helping us to be Green through our Eco Team, they've Lead the Learning with children in different classes and of different abilities, our Digital Leaders showed us all how to use technology well and safely and to stay at the forefront of IT and, of course, the children have represented their school in many important inter-school events throughout the year. All of this is made possible by a very talented and creative team of Brindishe people working inside and outside classrooms to give the children the best education we can. On your behalf I thank them all. They do a great job.

You might be aware that for many new parents and carers a place for their child in a Brindishe School is highly sought after and because of this we are usually in the group of the most oversubscribed schools in Lewisham. **For this reason I was delighted to hear yesterday that we will be able to offer 'bulge' or extra Reception classes in both Brindishe Lee and Brindishe Manor in September 2017.** This means we can offer 8 new Reception classes across the Brindishe federation altogether. This will be 3 at Brindishe Green, 3 at Brindishe Manor and 2 at Brindishe Lee for the next academic year. We will not need to build new classrooms because will re-use the classrooms already on site as the previous bulge classes (from 2010/2011) will leave at the end of their year 6 in the summer of 2017.

I'd like to thank the governors of Brindishe Schools for their support and efforts on behalf of our nearly 1500 Brindishe children. The Federation Governing Body, a group of committed volunteers, led so capably and earnestly by Spyros Elia our Chair of Governors and Jackie Stirling our Vice-Chair, work tirelessly on your behalf to make sure we do all we can to provide the very best we can for every Brindishe child no matter to which school they belong. Their work is often unseen but never unappreciated. Finally may I thank all of the parents and carers and family members who bring their children to

our schools every day ready to learn and ready to succeed with us. Your support is very much appreciated and I know how resourceful and generous you are in helping our schools. I wish you all the very best for the festive season, Happy Christmas to those who are celebrating and to everyone in our community and beyond a peaceful and happy 2017.

With very best wishes

Dame Vicki
Executive Headteacher
Brindishe Schools

And from Sarah Gorbutt:

Dear parents and carers, friends and families,

This week at Brindishe Green

Thank you to the many parents and carers that attended the two reception performances this week. Huge thanks to the teachers who made it all possible and managed to rehearse, stage and create such a wonderful spectacle with 120, 4 and 5yr olds!

Also on Tuesday Nursery held their 'Winter Celebration Family Day'. Thank you to all the families that came to spend time with us.

On Wednesday children from years 1 - 6 enjoyed a performance of Rumpelstiltskin by the Globe Players.

Also on Wednesday children and staff were treated to a fabulous Christmas Lunch. Staff and children shared a delicious meal together, carefully prepared by the Chartwells team and school cook Ndidi Williams.

On Thursday our oldest children in Yrs 5 & 6 and the KS2 choir took part in their annual Christmas celebration at St Swithun's Church. Thank you to all those parents and carers that attended.

Thank you to the year 5 and 6 team and music specialists who produced such a professional and high quality performance from their classes and to the children whose singing (and dancing) was fabulous! Special thanks to Aleks Piatkowski and Carlos Ribeiro for the quality of the sound - it made all the difference!

Headteacher - Sarah Gorbutt

Also on Thursday a group of children from our Enterprise Project sold hand-made stress balls, fruit kebabs and Christmas Emojis in aid of Crisis at Christmas.

Today, we wore our Christmas tops and jumpers in aid of Crisis. We have been collecting over the past few weeks and can tell you that in excess of £2,505 has been raised so far for this worthwhile charity as a result of the generosity and thoughtfulness of the many families across our three schools.

Also today, we delivered the food items and toiletries that have been kindly donated to the Lewisham Foodbank. The Foodbank were very grateful and wanted us to pass on their thanks to all those who contributed.

Athletics success for Brindishe Green

I am pleased to announce that the Brindishe Bolts will continue for the second year running at the Sportshall Athletics Champions for Lewisham thanks to another resounding success at the Lewisham Thunderdome yesterday. 18 BG children competed as part of 15 teams and 270 children. They scooped the cup and will once again represent the borough at the London Youth Games 2017 at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. Huge congratulations to them and to Mr Lewis for preparing them so well.

Attendance at Brindishe Green

Well done to Mangrove for the 6th time and Olive for best attendance this week. Chestnut 4 were also top attenders for the 5th time! Well done to those classes.

Lilac and Oak and Chestnut 1 again have had the best punctuality this week. This is the fourth time for Chestnut 1.

Mobile phones and hot drinks

Just a gentle reminder to all families that mobile phones should not be used anywhere on the school grounds and please do not bring hot drinks onto the premises for health and safety reasons. Many thanks.

Executive Head - Vicki Paterson DBE

Shakespeare Schools Festival

You will remember that, earlier this term, a tri-school Brindishe drama group put together a performance of Twelfth Night at Greenwich Theatre. We have received official feedback from the Festival organisers, as follows:

"Many congratulations to the cast and crew from the Brindishe schools who participated in this brilliant production! It was great to see the students from three schools working as a unique ensemble.

Shakespeare gives us larger than life characters in this story. What makes them funny is when the actors really commit to what they are doing.

Your company was a fantastic example of this! Well done for your very funny, joyous and characterful **Twelfth Night**."

Congratulations again to all the staff and children involved!

Second School Experience

In January our trainee teacher, Danielle Sullivan, will be at Brindishe Manor for five weeks whilst on their second school experience. We welcome trainee teacher Rebekah Chin to Brindishe Green for five weeks from the beginning of January.

We also say goodbye for the next few months to Arzu Ikiz as she leaves us to have her baby and welcome Julia Collie who joins our team of teaching assistants, Clair Taylor, the new year 1 teacher in Rowan class and Lizi Faletas, who some of you will have already met, who joins our non-class based team of teachers from January.

Applications for a place at Brindishe Green

For all of our families who have children who were born between **1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013** and are due to start Reception class in **September 2017**. The closing date for applications is **Sunday 15th January 2017**. Apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk Please ask in the school office if you have any questions or queries.

...and finally

Please remember to collect your PE kits before you leave today and make sure you have checked Lost Property as the number of good quality coats and jumpers is increasing daily and need re-homing.

My best wishes to all our families for the holiday period and may I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Sarah Gorbutt
Headteacher

P.S We have been informed by Widdicombe Chemist on Hither Green Lane about the 'Pharmacy First for common ailments scheme'. By visiting your pharmacy, you could save yourself time and trouble instead of booking and waiting for a GP appointment. Pharmacies can give advice or, where appropriate, medicines that will help clear up the problem. What's more, many pharmacies are open in the evenings and on the weekends.

Medicines are free of charge if you don't normally pay for your prescriptions. Examples of common ailments that can be treated through Pharmacy First include:

- hay fever and allergies
- head lice
- sore throat, cold and flu
- threadworm
- warts and verrucas, mouth ulcers and cold sores
- teething

You can find a more detailed list on www.lewishamccg.nhs.uk