

Brindishe Green School
Beacon Road, SE13 6EH
info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk

21st October 2016

Dear parents and carers,

Year 6 School Journey

Today our year 6 children return from their School Journey and we hear they have been simply magnificent! They have taken part enthusiastically in all activities and really challenged themselves. We are very proud of you and look forward to welcoming you back to school and hearing all your news.

This week at Brindishe Green

On Tuesday our year 1 children visited The London Transport Museum as part of their learning about London. The day was a huge success and we are very grateful to the many parents and carers who came to support the children on the day.

On Wednesday Mr Woollard spent the day with Magnolia class making bread. Thank you for your time and your expertise - the children loved the experience and especially enjoyed eating the bread they made together.

Governors' meeting

On Tuesday we held a full governing body meeting at Brindishe Lee. Governors heard presentations from senior leaders about health and safety and safeguarding across all 3 schools.

Shakespeare Schools Festival

Straight after half term, 15 lucky Y6 children from across Brindishe Schools, specially invited for their potential in drama and their proven commitment, will take part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival at Greenwich Theatre. Supported by a dedicated team of staff from each school, the children have been rehearsing and preparing intensively over the past few months for their very own version of 'Twelfth

Night'. We are all very excited to see them 'take to the boards' on November 1 in this amazing, once in a lifetime, opportunity.

Diary Dates

31st October - Secondary school applications received. Please make a note of the date!

1st November - Shakespeare in Schools Festival.

Tickets available at Greenwich Theatre 7.00pm

2nd November - History Man visits

9th November - Full Governing Body Meeting (let us know if you wish to attend as an observer and we'll arrange seating)

Week beginning 14 Nov : 'Celebrating Diversity' week at Brindishe Schools

23rd November Flu vaccine for Yrs 1 to 3

16th December - End of Term

4th January - Children return to school

Well done to Mangrove and Birch for this week's best attendance

Mangrove's attendance was 98.7% and Birch's attendance was 99.0%

Well done to Beech and Palm who were the classes with this week's best punctuality

School terms account for 39 weeks leaving **13 whole weeks of holiday each year.**

Every school year we receive requests for absence in term time from parents and carers. As you know there have to be exceptional reasons in order for a requested absence in term time to be authorised. The request must be received in writing, along with documentation, **at least two weeks before the date required.**

We will not authorise absences in term time for the following reasons:

- it's cheaper
- we can't afford to go in school holidays
- we can't go in school holidays because it's too hot, hurricane or monsoon season
- someone else is paying for the holiday/flights to see a relative

- the children's grandparents are getting older/haven't seen children/not been well
- honeymoon of parents
- we had a baby and want a break
- family get-togethers/birthdays

New learning takes place every day at school, right from 9am, and children need to be there in order to keep up. It is very difficult for a child to keep up with their peers when they regularly miss days or are absent for a longer period of time.

We do monitor absence patterns (regular days off, annual long term absence abroad) and we follow up on all absences. Any child whose attendance is below 90% is now considered by the relevant authorities to be a *persistent absentee*, and their attendance is referred to the local authority Attendance and Welfare Officer - fines will be issued by the local authority in certain circumstances.

As you know, attendance percentages are recorded on each child's end of year report from Nursery to Y6.

Lost Property

Please make sure you collect any mislaid items today as we have run out of space to house unclaimed items. These will be disposed of during the holidays if they are not collected today. Thank you

School lunches next term

If you are thinking of changing your child's lunchtime arrangements (changing to or from a packed lunch), please inform the school office this week so that they can make the necessary arrangements for next half term.

....and finally

Paying for Meals Online using Arbor Parent Portal

Please note that with effect from Monday 31st October you will no longer be able to use Parentpay to pay for your child's meals online. All online payments should now be made via the Parent Portal.

If you still have not received your logon to the parent portal via email please email info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk to advise.

Parent Portal also allows you to view your child's attendance and to check and amend your child's personal information, including emergency contact details, using your own username and password.

Please also use the Parent Portal to check your emergency details please so that we have the most up to date emergency contact details for you. This is your responsibility and a safeguarding requirement. Thank you

The link to Arbor is: <https://brindishe-green.uk.arbor.sc/?/home-ui/index>

You are advised to use a PC/Mac when logging into Arbor for the first time. Following this, once you have accepted the website's terms and conditions, a smartphone or tablet can then be used.

Have a lovely half term break. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 31st October at 8.55 am.

Best wishes

Sarah Gorbutt
Headteacher