

Brindishe Green News
www.brindisheschools.org

Brindishe Green School
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Dear parents and carers,

Looking into the future for schools you may have read or heard, I am sure, that this government expects all local authority schools to become academies by 2020. With the number of schools converting to or being taken over by academies soon more children will be in academies than in non-academy schools.

In recent weeks some of you may have heard that many primary schools in Greenwich and Lewisham are now thinking about if, how or when to convert to academy status or to become or to join what is known as a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

Our closest neighbours are mostly in Bromley or Greenwich. Already all Bromley Primary Schools are academies. A number of nearby Greenwich Primary Schools are now consulting their parents and staff and the LA is supporting their move to academy status. You can find out more by googling for example "Greenwich primary school academy consultation". There are a number of FAQs published by schools undergoing consultation and you may wish to look at these to start to find out more.

Recently a number of schools in Lewisham have started to explore the options available. The new Executive Director of CYP in Lewisham, Sara Williams is encouraging schools to be well informed and to look for good practice across London. The Mayor of Lewisham has appointed an Education Commission led by Christine Gilbert, former Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, to help develop a longer-term vision for education in the borough. This reports in April.

Headteacher - Sarah Gorbutt

In all three Brindishe Schools we have never before had need to consider becoming an academy or MAT but we think the time has come for us to start our fact-finding and our governors are keen that we are properly informed in the event that we decide we need to move forward. As a formal federation of three ofsted-outstanding schools under one governing body we are in a very good position to be able to consider our options - we don't want to be on the last bus going.

What is most important to us as a governing body is that we make any decisions on the basis of 'what is best for children and their learning' and that, whatever our schools do, they do it together. We will of course keep our staff fully informed in school and all families posted through this newsletter.

My best wishes to all families,

Dame Vicki Paterson
Executive Head
Brindishe Schools

Parent Portal

Please remember to let us have your email address as the window for booking your parent mid-term review will open on Tuesday 1st March and close on Sunday 13th March. More information on this is being sent to you on Monday. Please remember that the first time you sign into the system, you will need to use a **laptop or a PC** - not a smartphone or iPad.

This week at Brindishe Green

On Friday 12th, Emmerson from Elm class attended a special attendance conference and addressed a large group of senior Lewisham staff such as the Director of Children and Young People's Services, giving his perspective on attendance and punctuality. Emmerson is one of 5 advisors to the Young Mayor having come across

Executive Head - Vicki Paterson DBE

a link for young advisors to the young mayor on the internet. He now meets with his fellow advisors once a week to discuss issues affecting young people in the Lewisham area. Mrs Franks, who was also at the conference told us Emerson spoke beautifully and with great confidence. Well done Emerson!

On Tuesday our indoor athletics team took part in the final of the London Youth Games indoor athletics championship and finished a respectable 4th. This was an amazing result given that this was the first time we had ever qualified for such a prestigious competition. Mr Lewis reports that he was extremely proud of everyone that took part and that our relay teams were superb winning all of their races!

On Thursday we welcomed Beatrice Musole to Brindishe Green. Beatrice is a teacher from Brindishe Manor's partner school, Kabitaka, in Solwezi, Zambia. Beatrice talked to children about the similarities between children at Kabitaka and Brindishe Schools and about challenging some of our preconceptions about schools in Africa.

Also on Thursday, the maths team ran two workshops for reception parents and carers.

Thank you to all those people who came along and especially to the maths team who have worked so hard to put this important workshop together

Thank you also to all those who have already attended the book fair - the turnout has been great and thank you also to the BG staff who so ably organize and run these important Book Fairs.

Finally, today we say goodbye to Jessie De Leon who leaves us to return to Australia, having been away from her home for over two years. Jessie has been part of our team of non- class based teachers since September and we wish her the very best of luck for the future. Perhaps we will make some global links with her once she has settled at her new school in Australia!

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Attendance and punctuality

This week Redwood and Palm class had the best attendance. Lilac class had the best punctuality - well done Lilac!

Diary Dates

3rd March - Elm class at Catford Broadway
4th March - World Book Day (see details)
10th March - Musician's Concert
16th March - BG choir at Lewisham Live
15th/16th March - Challenge Partner Review
17th/23rd/24th March - Year 3 to Dulwich Picture Gallery
W/C 21st March - Mock Sats week for Yr 6
W/C 17th - 23rd March - Mid-Term Reviews
24th March - End of term
11th April - Inset Day
21st April - Open Day
5th May - Inset Day/school closed to children
2nd May - 6th May - year 6 SATs
24th May - Full Governing Body Meeting
27th May - Spring half term
9th June - Full Governing Body Meeting
16th June - Open Day
20th July - End of Term

...and finally

Children with asthma at Brindishe Green

Parents/carers please make sure you have returned your Emergency Salbutamol Consent Forms. We take the safety and well-being of our children very seriously and are working closely with a specialist asthma team to ensure we support our asthmatic children in the best possible ways. We will be writing to you early next week regarding your child's asthma care plan and would be grateful if you could look out for this important letter when it arrives.

Best wishes

Sarah Gorbutt
Headteacher

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