

Friday 5th June 2020

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

It has been fantastic to see the children back in their own schools this week and see more children accessing the provision. Everyone is also looking forward to welcoming back the year 6 children on Monday. For those of you who still have your children at home, we have provided details of the changes we have made to Itslearning and hope you enjoy the new aspects we are now including.

We are sending out lots of information, at the moment, and asking for certain year groups to complete different surveys. Please make sure you take the time to read the information so you are clear about the plans we have in place moving forward. The staff teams are working very hard to ensure all these changes are made whilst ensuring safety is kept at the heart of all our decisions.

Have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Waite
Executive Head

ONLINE SURVEY – We need your views...

We are continuing to take feedback from our school community regarding the reopening of certain year groups. This week we have taken feedback from year 6 parents and carers and as a result we will be welcoming back some of our year 6 children next week. We are also in the process of seeking the views of our reception and year 1 parents/carers about a possible reopening in the near future. We will of course continue to listen and take on board your opinions going forward.

Online Learning

This week we have also sent out further information regarding how our online offer for children is changing. With further opportunities for a more interactive learning experience, we believe that the children will continue to enjoy and develop their learning. We look forward to hearing your views going forward.

School Dinners – Important information

From Monday, if your child is coming to school and you are not entitled to Free School Meals, or Universal Free School Meals, you will be charged for your child's lunch at £2.30 per day. Please ensure you make your payments through the Arbor Portal.

Free School Meals

For those **entitled to Free School Meals**, you will continue to receive your vouchers from EdenRed, the Government provider of FSM. From the 15th June, if your child is coming to school either in the provision or in one of the year groups returning, your EdenRed vouchers will be cancelled as your child will be receiving a meal at school. Any siblings not returning to school, will continue to receive the voucher. However, if your child is in years 3 – 6 and is

returning to school, as part of our reopening, and is not entitled to a free school meal, then you will need to continue to pay through our online payment system – Arbor.

NSPCC

Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice and support for parents and carers (NSPCC)

The NSPCC has created a number of resources to support parents and carers during this difficult time. These include:

- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour
- Taking to a child worried about coronavirus

The advice can be found on the NSPCC website here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please follow the link below and make an application for Free School Meals. If a decision comes back and you are entitled to free school meals, you will receive vouchers to support your shopping bills for your children: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-mealsand-extra-support-for-your-child>

If you need any additional support with completing the application, please email us at info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk. Given the current circumstances, even if you think you do not qualify - please try.

Should you find you are not eligible for the government scheme, but are experiencing hardship, please contact us on info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk

For those **entitled to Free School Meals**, you should now be receiving your vouchers from Edenred, the Government provider of FSM. IF you experience any problems with the voucher or are finding it difficult either to get to the supermarkets/food bank or to provide for your child/ren, please get in touch on info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk

CHILDCARE FOR CRITICAL WORKERS

Brindishe Green continues to remain open next week for the childcare provision of critical workers, where there is no alternative childcare available. The provision runs from 7.45am – 6pm. Please contact info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk if you feel you need this provision.

KEEPING SAFE

We have all been encouraged to stay at home and stay safe, but for many women and men, home is not a safe place. The National Domestic Abuse helpline has seen a 25% increase in calls and online requests for help since we have been told to stay at home. Although this is a very stressful and anxious time for everyone, domestic abuse is unacceptable in any situation. If you are suffering from domestic abuse of any kind, or you are worried about a friend, relative, colleague or neighbour, we encourage you to seek guidance and support straight away.

IMMEDIATE DANGER:

Advice from the government is that if you are in immediate danger:

- call 999 and ask for the police.

If you are in danger and unable to talk on the phone:

- call 999, and then press 55. This will transfer your call to the relevant police force who will assist you without you having to speak.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND INFORMATION:

- The National Domestic Abuse Helpline website (www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk) provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. They can also be called for free and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247
- Women's Aid (www.womensaid.org.uk) has provided additional advice specifically designed for the current coronavirus outbreak, including a live chat service
- The [Men's Advice Line](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk) (www.mensadvice.org.uk) is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them. It can be contacted on 0808 801 0327
- If you are a member of the LGBT+ community, [Galop](http://www.galop.org.uk) (www.galop.org.uk) runs a specialist helpline on 0800 999 5428 or email help@galop.org.uk.
- Finally, if you are worried about hurting the ones you love while staying at home, we encourage you to contact Respect Phoneline on 0808 8024040 (www.respectphoneline.org.uk) for support and advice on managing your feelings and behaviour

Best wishes to you and your family,

James Baguley
Headteacher

