

Friday 12th June 2020

#Blacklivesmatter

'Together we are more', the Brindishe Federation motto that drives our school ethos and it is so true in today's world. The unlawful killing of George Floyd is a stark reminder that we must tackle racism, violence and work together as one. With rights respecting at the heart of our teaching, we strive to ensure that everyone feels valued, everyone feels secure and everyone is treated with fairness and respect. We are all different yet we are all equal. We are proud to be who we are, and we stand together as one community. As educators, we will give our children the tools to challenge injustice and identify possibilities, so they are better equipped to make a difference to their world - for themselves and for others.

"You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but ... history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own." Michelle Obama.

A Statement from the Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan

The Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan has published a statement on behalf of Lewisham Council in response to the killing of George Floyd in the United States. You can read the full statement here: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/black-lives-matter-in-lewisham>

A Statement from the Leaders of Lewisham

As Lewisham Leaders, we stand united with the family, and friends, of George Floyd, who was unlawfully killed last week, in Minnesota, USA.

We are committed to tackle and challenge racism, address inequality and call out discrimination.

As educators we cannot remain silent.

The murder of George Floyd must prompt careful reflection about racism in Britain today, and the extent to which it shapes our values, politics and economic life.

Our community needs and deserves to feel safe in the belief that its leaders condemn all acts of racism and violence and that they believe racism is an abhorrence that we as Lewisham Leaders reject.

Lewisham Leaders have a duty to address systemic racism in our society and we uphold this in our united condemnation of the unlawful murder of an innocent black man George Floyd.

Rachel Waite
Executive Head

Welcome back...

We have welcomed back some of our year six children to join our provision children, which has been an absolute joy. They seemed to have all grown over the past couple of months and are filling the playground with noise and laughter! All the staff have made sure that the return has been smooth and stress free.

We are now looking forward to welcoming some of our Reception and Year 1 children on Monday. Letters will have been sent to you regarding start and end times and plenty of information about the day.

Children returning to Year 6

If you are still deciding whether to send your child back into Year 6, please inform the school office of your final decision before **Friday the 19th June**. We will try and accommodate all children however once the 'bubble' capacity has been reached, we will be unable to welcome any more children back.

Children returning to Nursery, Reception and Year 1

If you are still deciding whether to send your child back into Reception or Year 1, please inform the school office of your decision before **Friday 26th June**. We will try and accommodate all children however once the 'bubble' capacity has been reached, we will be unable to welcome any more children back.

Social Distancing

We are working hard as a school to remind the children about keeping apart and have put in necessary measures to ensure this happens within school. Please could all parents/carers dropping off/picking up respect this and follow the rules when outside the school gates. It is imperative we all follow the guidance to protect the people around us.

School Dinners – Important Information

If your child is coming into school and you are not entitled to free school meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals, you will be charged for lunches. 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. 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.

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 Lee continues to offer childcare provision of critical workers, where there is no alternative childcare available. The provision runs from 8am – 5pm. Please contact info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk if you feel you need this provision.

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>

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 8010327
- 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 Phonenumber 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

