

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear Children, Families, Staff, Governors and Friends,

What a curiously contrasting week it has been at school. On the one hand, we have seen a return to face coverings in communal areas as restrictions once again are tightened in response to the Omicron Variant of Covid 19, and on the other hand we have seen the welcome return of inter-school competitions and the much-missed sound of children rehearsing Christmas/Winter songs.

We find ourselves in a time of delicate balance between a desire to return to life as normal and an alertness to the risks that remain. While it may seem ostensibly that these two truths cannot exist together, in fact, what is called for is an understanding of how important the little things are in ensuring the big things can continue. In school, this means doing all we can to keep the virus at bay, wearing masks, ventilating classrooms, limiting visitors and ensuring that hands are washed regularly. At home we ask you to remain vigilant, to test and isolate at the first sign of symptoms and to test after any contact with a confirmed case.

Hopefully, the more of us that take these steps now, the more likely it is that we will be able to continue with things that were so sorely missed during the pandemic. Thank you all for your ongoing support during what remains, challenging times.

We hope you all have a peaceful and enjoyable weekend,  
*The Brindishe Green Senior Leadership Team*

## Wonderful Work!

This week the children across the school have impressed the adults with their focus and dedication to their learning. The children listed below have really shone throughout the week and will be bringing a praise card home:

Year 1 - Abdullateef & Eliza, Sophie & Noah, Eliza & Brandon

Year 2 – Janan & Chloe, Isaac & Eabha, Zara & Sandro

Year 3 – Yachen & Averie, Ausar & Sol, Moni & Hayk

Year 4 – Scarlett & Noah, Vivaan & Jazmin,

Year 5 – Alfie & Esther, Thanushan & Fanta, Rafael & Eliza,

Year 6 – Isabella & Olivia, Roary & Michael, David R & Hoang



## Athletics Competition

On Wednesday this week the 18 children (9 boys and 9 girls) that make up the 'Brindishe Bolts' Athletics Team travelled to Prendegast Ladywell School to compete in the Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics Borough Final. The team, led by the indomitable Mr Lewis, had trained intensively for 3 weeks and went on to compete in a range of track and field events including: 4x1 Relay, 6 Lap Parlauf, Obstacle Relay, Triple Jump, Long Jump and Javelin.



Facing competition from no less than 10 other Lewisham schools, the 'Brindishe Bolts' set the bar very high in the morning heats and had to wait until Thursday morning to find out how they had fared against the afternoon heats.



When the results came in the team had stormed to victory, some 92 points ahead of the team who came second place! An outstanding victory and a welcome return to interschool competition which has been sorely missed during the pandemic. A huge congratulations to the team who will go on to represent the borough of Lewisham at the London Youth Games in February 2022. Congratulations to all the children who took part, and gave it their all!

### Christmas Performances and Events

Each class will be holding a short concert outside on the stage in the playground which parents can come and watch too. The performance dates are listed below. All performances start at 9:15am and last around 15 minutes - please come wrapped up warm and make sure your children have coats and hats. Please bring your children to school as normal, allow them to go up to their classroom and remain on the playground near the stage. The children will be registered and brought back down by their teachers for the performance.

8th December - Year 4

9th December - Year 3

10th December - Year 5

14th December - Year 6

15th December - Year 1

16th December - Year 2

In addition to the live performances, we will also be creating Christmas videos of the children singing their Christmas songs. These will be available to watch on the last day of term.

Reception classes will share special videos with their families of their children singing and taking part in Christmas activities.

On 14<sup>th</sup> December it will be our **Christmas Dinner and Festive Jumper Day**. Children and staff are encouraged to wear their festive jumpers and money raised will be donated to the local charity – **Jumpers for Jimmy (The Mizen Foundation)**. There is no need to buy a new jumper! Reuse one you already have or create your own using decorations from your home.



### Christmas Cards

Last year it was necessary for us to ask children not to bring Christmas cards to school. This year we would like to mindfully restart what we recognise is an important tradition. In a school as large as ours there is an enormous number of Christmas cards written each year which require a huge amount of time to sort and deliver and more importantly, create vast amounts of waste, something children have mentioned to staff several times. This year we would like to ask that if your child wishes to write a Christmas card, they write one to their whole class which can then be displayed and enjoyed by everyone. As always, we are not able to provide lists of children in the school.

### Design an Apron Competition

If you fancy doing something creative in the warm and dry this weekend, why not enter the Design Your Own Apron competition being run by Radish, our catering contractor? Create your design and send it in to Radish who will choose 10 winners from across all their schools. Each of the 10 winners will receive an apron with their design printed on it.

Step 1 Create a design on a sheet of A4 paper

Step 2 Scan or take a photo of your design

Step 3 email the image to [catering.admin@radishallgood.com](mailto:catering.admin@radishallgood.com)



The closing date is 31/12/21 and the winners will be announced on 14/01/22, good luck!

### Message from Lewisham Immunisation Team

The Lewisham and Greenwich School Health Service Immunisation team would like to extend a big thank you to all schools for their support in facilitating the Flu sessions during this challenging Covi-19 pandemic. To ensure that all the children in Lewisham are protected against the flu virus, they will be offering **catch up clinics on Saturdays to children who may have missed the school sessions**. These sessions will be at **Kaleidoscope Children's Centre, Waldron and Downham Health Centre**. Please see attached the flyers for catch up clinic's dates, venues and times.

They will also be offering other school age vaccinations such as HPV, MMR and Meningitis and DPT if your child is not up to date with all their vaccination.

### We are a Gold Rights Respecting School

We are sure you have all heard the distressing stories in the news of people trying to cross the English Channel to come to United Kingdom. Some of these people are children and we wanted to share this week Article 22 which protects children who are refugees. A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, danger or natural disaster.:



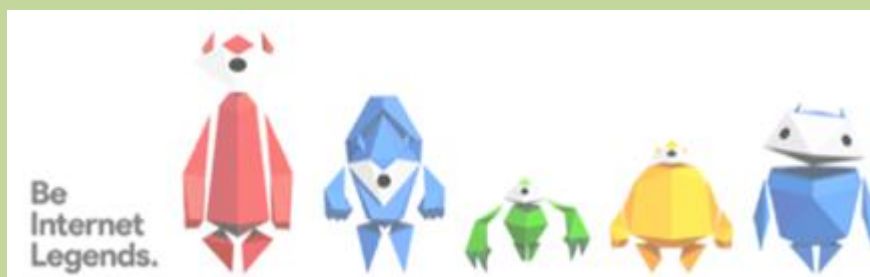
**Article 22 (refugee children)** If a child is seeking refuge or has refugee status, governments must provide them with appropriate protection and assistance to help them enjoy all the rights in the Convention. Governments must help refugee children who are separated from their parents to be reunited with them.

### Our Weekly Online Safety Message from Ms Chin –

#### Online Gaming

Gaming has become the new digital playground for a lot of children and young people, so, socialising through gaming is now the norm. Please take a few minutes to check out what children, parents, educators and researchers have to say about the media your children are accessing by looking at: <https://www.common sense media.org>.

If your children love gaming, have a go at Google's 'Be Internet Legends' a game designed to help children make safer choices online. [https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en\\_uk/interland](https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/interland)



### Young Climate Warriors

'Every time you spend money, you are casting a vote for the kind of world you want'. Anna Lappé.

Approximately half of packaged supermarket products contain palm oil, including many bathroom products – shampoo, soap, shower gel, shaving foam, make-up, deodorant, toothpaste...

Whether as part of our routine shop, or as Christmas gifts, we all have many opportunities to 'cast our votes' when buying bathroom products.



This week's Young Climate Warriors challenge encourages children to become detectives in their bathroom – to see how many products contain palm oil. It is not always easy to spot – so some clues are provided!

If you'd like to find out more about the issues around palm oil, this CBBC Newsround video is excellent. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/39514977> or take a look at this interactive page produced by WWF: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/which-everyday-products-contain-palm-oil>

Please remind children to 'HIT THE RED BUTTON' when they have completed the challenge.

### **Important Dates**

*Please look on the Weduc Calendar for key dates and information regarding your child's class.*

Last day of Autumn term – 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021

8<sup>th</sup> –16<sup>th</sup> December – Winter performances (see above)

Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day – 14<sup>th</sup> December

Winter Break 20<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2022

INSET Day – 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 – No children in school

Start of Spring term – 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

Remember children must be in school by 9am every day and be collected at 3.15pm

### **A Message from the Brindishe Friends Group (BFG)**

**Festive trail packs** - ON SALE FROM MONDAY at £2.50 a pack. For that you get a map showing the location of 15 windows in Hither Green all which display a letter. Together these letters spell a festive word. Let us know what you think the word is and your name will be entered into a hat to win a prize. The pack also contains a voucher for free hot chocolate from Found Hope, stickers, a candy cane, etc. The letters will be on display from 11th December.

**Raffle ticket sale continues** - Chance to win some great prizes (a laptop, cinema vouchers, dance lessons, panto tickets, etc). £1 for a strip of 5. The draw will be made in the last week before the holidays.

**Guess the baubles comp** - also continues. Guess the number of baubles in the jar correctly and win a prize. £1 for 3 guesses, 50p for one guess.

**Keep in touch** - find out more about what we are up to - follow us on Twitter: @bfghithergreen and connect via Facebook (search 'Brindishe Friends Group').

### **COVID UPDATES**

Please see below a copy of the decision chart to support you in knowing what to do if your child or another member of your household is exposed to Covid-19 in the coming weeks.

What do I do if.....	What ACTION is needed?	When can I RETURN to school?
My child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19: <b>Sore throat, runny nose, headache, tummy ache, chicken pox, tonsillitis, sickness, diarrhoea</b>	Follow the usual School Absence Policy	When the child is feeling better <b>or 48 hours</b> if the illness is sickness/diarrhoea
My child has one or more of the 3 main Covid-symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HIGH TEMPERATURE – this means feeling hot to the touch on the chest or back</li><li>A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH – this means coughing for more than an hour, or having 3 or more episodes in 24 hours</li><li>A LOSS OR CHANGE TO SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE – this means being unable to taste or smell as usual</li></ul>	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL  Contact school to inform us  Obtain a PCR test  Self-isolate until results are known  Siblings <b>who have no symptoms</b> should continue to attend school	On receipt of a negative test result and when your child is well enough to attend
My child tests <b>positive</b> for Covid-19	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL  Contact the school to inform us, stating the earliest possible date of return  Engage fully with NHS Test and Trace  Engage with remote learning if your child is well enough to do so	After the applicable isolation period and when your child is well enough to attend  Children can return after 10 days even if the cough and loss of taste/smell remains. This can last for weeks
My child tests <b>negative</b> for Covid-19	Contact school to inform us	...same day/next day and when they are well enough to return

Someone in my house is ill with Covid-19 symptoms	<p>Obtain PCR tests for everyone in your household and advise all close contacts of the person with symptoms to do the same</p> <p>If your child(ren) have no symptoms of Covid-19 they should continue to attend school while awaiting the test result. If your child(ren) have symptoms, they must self-isolate for the required period or until a negative PCR test result is received.</p> <p>A person is only required to isolate if they are over the age of 18 years and 6 months <b>and</b> are <b>not</b> double vaccinated. Any person who is double vaccinated or is under the age of 18 years and 6 months are not required to isolate <b>unless</b> they test positive, have 1 or more of the 3 main symptoms of Covid 19 or are a confirmed contact of an Omicron Variant case.</p>	
Someone in my house tests positive for Covid-19	<p>Obtain PCR tests for everyone in your household and advise all close contacts of the person with symptoms to do the same</p> <p>If your child(ren) have no symptoms of Covid-19 they should continue to attend school while awaiting the test result. If your child(ren) have symptoms, they must self-isolate for the required period or until a negative PCR test result is received.</p> <p>A person is only required to isolate if they are over the age of 18 years and 6 months <b>and</b> are <b>not</b> double vaccinated. Any person who is double vaccinated or is under the age of 18 years and 6 months are not required to isolate <b>unless</b> they test positive, have 1 or more of the 3 main symptoms of Covid 19 or are a confirmed contact of an Omicron Variant case.</p>	
NHS Test & Trace has identified my child as being in close contact of someone with symptoms confirmed as Covid-19	<p>Obtain a PCR test for your child</p> <p>If your child has no symptoms of Covid-19 they should continue to attend school while awaiting the test result. If your child has symptoms, they must self-isolate for the required period or until a negative PCR test result is received.</p> <p>A person is only required to isolate if they are over the age of 18 years and 6 months <b>and</b> are <b>not</b> double vaccinated. Any person who is double vaccinated or is under the age of 18 years and 6 months are not required to isolate <b>unless</b> they test positive, have 1 or more of the 3 main symptoms of Covid 19 or are a confirmed contact of an Omicron Variant case.</p>	
Someone other than NHS Test and Trace has informed me that I am a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19	<p>Obtain a PCR test for your child</p> <p>If your child has no symptoms of Covid-19 they should continue to attend school while awaiting the test result. If your child has symptoms, they must self-isolate for the required period or until a negative PCR test result is received.</p> <p>A person is only required to isolate if they are over the age of 18 years and 6 months <b>and</b> are <b>not</b> double vaccinated. Any person who is double vaccinated or is under the age of 18 years and 6 months are not required to isolate <b>unless</b> they test positive, have 1 or more of the 3 main symptoms of Covid 19 or are a confirmed contact of an Omicron Variant case.</p>	
We/my child has travelled and needs to self-isolate as a period of quarantine	<p>Do not take unauthorised leave in term-time</p> <p>Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</p> <p>Return from a destination when quarantine is needed</p> <p>Agree an earliest possible date for return</p>	...the quarantine period has been completed