



## Message from our Chair of Governors

Once again we come to the end of a term which has presented challenges, but it's been gratifying to see how well everyone has risen to those challenges in order to do their very best for the children.

Over the past three months I've visited all three of our schools several times, and it's so lovely to see the children back in their classrooms, into the swing of learning, playing with their friends and generally being children! Obviously the continuing presence of Covid has not made things easy, but overall the whole community has pulled together to keep the schools open and a hive of quality teaching and learning. On behalf of the Brindishe Federation Governing Body I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone from parents and carers to staff and the children themselves for all your efforts.

This term we've also seen the start of our new lunchtime dining, which seems to be a huge success - extra cucumbers had to be ordered, I hear! And it's been so wonderful to see the return of visits, visitors and events - they all enrich the children's experiences and inspire them to see and think beyond the limits of everyday life.

While in-school Christmas celebrations have had to be more limited than usual, I do hope that you all manage to have the festive period you have planned. Here's to a healthy, happy and peaceful 2022.

Liz Murphy - Chair of Governors

## Message from our Executive Head

The autumn term has drawn to a close and what a few months it has been. From September, we have been so impressed by the way all our children have handled new challenges: a New Year group, a new teacher, new learning, trips out....the list goes on. We are confident this will continue and look forward to seeing them make further steps in their learning and developing as young people as we begin 2022.

I would also like to express my thanks to all parents and carers who have continued to support both the school and your child/ren by ensuring learning is supported at home; bringing them to school ready and prepared, smiling and saying good morning as you/*they* walk through the gate. Thank you.

Each school has also been lucky enough to have a fantastic group of parents/carers, who, even in these difficult times have continued to fundraise to ensure each school can benefit from some amazing extras including new playground markings, computing equipment and much more. A huge thanks from us all.

And finally, the staff. My heartfelt thanks goes to each and every member of the Brindishe Federation team. I couldn't feel more proud of being able to work with each and every one of you. Your commitment, your ability to change at very short notice and your investment to the lives of our children is why you are all just fantastic. Thank you.

On behalf of the Federation, I wish you all a peaceful holiday and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Rachel Waite – Executive Head



### Children's Winter Performances

We hope that you were able to come and enjoy your child's winter performance over the past two weeks – didn't they all do well! A big thank you goes to our Premises and IT team who helped to ensure everything ran so smoothly. If your child's performance was postponed, we will inform you of the new date after the winter break.



We are delighted to let you know that a range of festive performances can now be found on **Weduc and Itslearning (Shared Students Room – see link on the Overview, or go to Resources)** for you to enjoy as a family. Our Reception to Year 6 staff and children have all been working tirelessly to produce different videos of the children singing, and we hope you agree they have done a wonderful job. A big thank you goes to all the staff who prepared the children so well, and to Aleks, our invaluable IT support, who put it all together.

### 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 – Elliot & Ronan, Janat & Basile

Year 2 – Lotta & Maylliny, Nailah & Anvi, Olive class

Year 3 – Ase & Serif, Kwabena & Lars, Alex & Aayla

Year 4 – Maverick & Emilio, Elm Class, Carmelo & Olive

Year 5 – Grace & Thalytta, Said, Lucas & Thanureka, Kyleigh & Alice, Bea & Maya



### Start of Spring Term - School Operation, January 5<sup>th</sup>

School will be open for all pupils, under current Covid risk assessments, on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.

We will be monitoring the guidance over the next few weeks and if any sudden changes are to happen we will update all parents/carers via **WEDUC or the school website** by 10am on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Schools have always heard government announcements at the same time as everyone else, and therefore we will endeavour to provide you with all the information you need as soon as possible. Please avoid calling the school office for information until we have shared what we know with you on Weduc.

### Travel over the Winter Break

We would also like to remind our families that if you are travelling abroad over the festive period, please ensure you are clear on the travel guidance. Please email the school (using the info@ email address), to let us know of where you have travelled to and of any quarantine restrictions.



### Close Contact of a Positive Case

Government Guidance from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December states that **everyone over the age of 5, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a lateral flow (LFD) test every day for 7 days**, instead of self-isolating.

Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19. **If you or your child shows any Covid19 symptoms, please take a PCR test** – children should not return to school until they have had a negative result. Many thanks.

### **COVID-19 WALK in Evening Vaccination Clinics**

There are three pharmacies in the borough running walk-in evening Covid-19 vaccination clinics:

New Cross Pharmacy, Amersham Vale - Mon-Fri 7pm - 9pm

Vantage Pharmacy, Conisborough Crescent - Mon-Fri 7pm - 9pm

Lewisham Pharmacy, Lee High Rd - Mon-Fri 6pm - 8pm

Click here to [find more information about these and other vaccination opportunities on the South East London NHS website.](#)

### **Letter from Lewisham Council**

Please find attached to the newsletter a letter from Lewisham Council's Director of Education and Director of Public Health regarding important information for parents/carers on Covid-19.

### **The Things I Wish My Parents Had Known**

Also attached to this week's newsletter is a useful information on guide on how to talk to your child about sexual harassment online. It has been shared by the Children's Commissioner for England. It is vital that we all do our part to educate our children on what is and isn't acceptable, and what they should do if they feel unsafe or at risk. Please take the time to read it carefully.

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

**Festive activities update** - We hope you all enjoyed taking part in the *Festive Trail* last weekend. The letters in the windows spelt out.....J-I-N-G-L-E A-L-L T-H-E W-A Y. Congratulations to everyone who got it right. One lucky winner has been drawn from a hat and will receive a box of goodies. If you have won a prize in the *raffle draw* you will have heard from the school through your child. And the same for the *Guess the Baubles*. In case you are interested the winning numbers were 31 and 144. Congratulations to all our winners! In total we raised a huge £785.60 for the school from these three events all thanks to you.

**Panto and popcorn** - We have also been able to pay for the children to enjoy a pantomime this week along with bags of popcorn donated by Bryan & Keegan.

**Food parcels** - Our BFG 'pizza at home' evening meant we were able to provide approximately 100 food parcels to Brindishe Green families who needed them this festive season. Some incredibly supportive shops in our community also donated to these parcels - thank you to Found Hope Store and La Delice. Through other donations, we also were able to make sure that some of those families had gifts to open on Christmas morning.

**BIG THANK YOU!** - Of course, none of this is possible without YOU. We have the most amazing school community - your willingness to get involved, donate and help out is fantastic. We will be meeting again in the New Year to discuss some exciting plans for the summer and look forward to welcoming some new, and returning faces. Let us know if you'd like to get involved: [bfgsocials@gmail.com](mailto:bfgsocials@gmail.com) and join us on Facebook @bfgthithergreen and Twitter @bfgthithergreen to see what is happening and what we have coming up!

