

Friday 4th February 2022

Dear Children, Families, Staff, Governors and Friends,

With only a week to go until our half term break, we are looking forward to Children's Mental Health Week and our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. This is a great opportunity for our teachers to let you know how your child has been progressing in school since you last met. We hope that you will make an appointment as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so.

As always at the end of a term, we say goodbye to and welcome some members of staff. We told you a couple of weeks ago that Mr Phipps was moving to a job much closer to his home and we wish him all the very best with this exciting new venture. We will all miss him very much but we are sure he will keep in touch.

Nick Bradley, who has spent this term of his teacher trainee practice in Year 4, will be returning to Brindishe Lee – we thank him for all his hard work and dedication since starting with us in January. **Jade Mackay** will be returning from her teaching practice and Brindishe Manor. We also say farewell to **Lydia Fearn**, who has worked as a TA in Year 4 and Reception, who is packing her bag and off travelling in Asia – we thank her for her flexibility and how she has supported our children during her time with us. **Isabel Horner** will be joining us next week.

We will be saying goodbye to **Maddy Pearce**, who works with Hannah Cosin in Maple class, as she goes off to have her baby. We really hope she will keep in touch with us and let us know when there is good news to share. We will be welcoming back **Indie Pearson**, who taught at Brindishe Green for many years, to teach in Maple class on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Finally, we say goodbye to **Penny Channon**. Penny has worked at Brindishe Green since 2015 and has made a huge difference to the learning and emotional well-being of the children in Reception and Year 1. She has supported and taught many members of staff new ways of teaching children in order for them to understand and express themselves. We thank her for all she has done as she moves to a different role, closer to home.

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: Maya & Rochelle, Rhianna & Jacob, Abner & Link

Year 2: Alice & Brayden, Isaac & Poppy, Cassidy & Poppy

Year 3: Alex & Jeremiah, Alex & Esther, Cindy & Ismail

Year 4: Anita & Emmanuel, Ola & Aiden, Vy & Chiraz

Year 5: Sienna & Esther, Kelvina & Jacob, Thalytta & Ali, Kayden & Thanureka

Year 6: Ange & Kulnoor, Owen & Ray, Chuma & Ahmed



Year 1 – 6 Parent/Carer Meet the Teacher Meetings

Our Spring Meet the Teacher meetings begin next week and by now most of you have signed up for your appointment – thank you for doing this so quickly. If you need to book your appointment, please log on to School Cloud via your Weduc App. **The bookings will close on Monday 7th Feb.** We have sent you a letter on Weduc with more information on how these appointments will run. Please can we ask that you set an alarm 1hour/30mins before your appointment to remind you it is coming up. **Please log on 10mins before your time so that you can check the video, microphone and internet connection are all working properly.** Thank you!

Headteacher: Adam Twyman Executive Head: Rachel Waite Chair of Governors: Liz Murphy
In partnership with Brindishe Lee and Brindishe Manor

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is national Mental Health Week and we are really looking forward to running a special week of creative projects to remind and teach our children about the importance of talking about, looking after and protecting their mental health. The children will be learning to explore their emotions through colour. Our lives are full of colour and the children can use this to help them make sense of how they're feeling, who they are and the world they live in.

One of the activities that we are going to do is to create a school rainbow. On **Friday 11th** we would like the children and staff to dress up in their rainbow colour:

Red: year 6 Orange: year 5 Yellow: year 4 Green: year 3
Blue: year 2 Indigo/Purple: Year 1 Violet/Pink: Reception/Nursery

Jewellery in School

As you know we do not have a uniform at Brindishe Green as we want the children to be comfortable and to be able to express themselves freely. We do point out however, that certain types of clothing and footwear are not permitted in school; these include 'onesies.

We also do not allow jewellery in school apart from religious items such as Sikh bangle, a simple watch (not a smart watch) and only close-fitting stud earrings – this is for safety reasons. We do not allow necklaces, bracelets or hooped and dangly earrings to be worn by children in school. All jewellery (apart from stud earrings) must be removed by the child themselves if they wear it to school.

Attendance – Authorising Absence

'Attend today...and achieve tomorrow!'

As we all know, every child has the right to an education (Article 28). In England, children are expected to attend 190 days of school, with the exception of when they are too sick to come to school or isolating due to Covid19. This means that there are 175 other days in the year to book holidays, trips away and visits to see family and friends.

Every year, we receive a number of requests for children to be absent from school during term time. Schools cannot authorise an absence for a holiday/visit and we will only grant an authorised absence for exceptional circumstances. The process for applying for a leave of absence is as follows:

1. A 'Request for a Leave of Absence' form is completed by the parent/carer.
2. The request will be passed to the Headteacher and discussed with the school's Attendance, Welfare and Safeguarding Officer
3. The school decides if it will authorise the absence and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Parents/carers should note that flights (etc.) should not be booked before a leave of absence is authorised. Every day of school missed by a pupil reduces their attendance by 0.5%, meaning that a child with 95% attendance has missed ten whole days of school. If a pupil is persistently absent (85% attendance), they have missed six weeks, or half a term, of schooling.

Days Absent at End of Academic Year	Absence Percentage	Attendance Percentage at End of Academic Year
1	0.5%	99.5%
5	2.5%	97.5%
10	5%	95%
20	10%	90%
30	15%	85%

School gates – important reminder

It is important that classes make a prompt and effective start to the day. Teachers provide early learning tasks each morning before they begin to take the register.

If children arrive late, they must go to the school office to be registered for 'late entry mark'. This ensures that a record of late arrivals is made, for monitoring purposes, and also ensures that the learning of the other children is not disturbed.

We fully understand that a late arrival does sometimes happen due to unavoidable circumstances. For example, there may be a serious traffic delay or a one-off unforeseen event. Whenever possible, it is always better to inform the school by telephone when a child will be late. Where a child has a pattern of late arrivals we will investigate the causes and seek an improvement. A pattern of late arrivals after the registers have closed may lead to the school referring the family to the Local Authorities's attendance and welfare officer for investigation.

School gates open	8:45am
Learning starts (Gates close)	9:00am
Late (report to the office)	
Arrival after 9:00am	Attendance the child will receive a late mark on the register
Arrival after 9:30am	Attendance mark will be late after the register closes
End of school	
School gates open	3:15pm
Gates close	3:30pm

We are a Gold Rights Respecting School

Article 17: Every child has the right to reliable information from the media. This should be information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Article 19: Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

On 8th February we celebrate Safer Internet Day – an annual global event promoting safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. This year, Safer Internet Day will focus on exploring respect and relationships online. This is a great opportunity to discuss with your children how they navigate the online world, while making a link to their Rights.



Our Weekly Online Safety Message from Ms Chin.... Common Sense Media

Media and technology are at the centre of children's lives every day. From a very young age, children use technology at home and at school to connect with friends and family and to document their lives and create digital content of their own. With more and more of life happening online, what catches their attention isn't always what's best for them, and what companies do with their personal information isn't always clear.

Common Sense Media combines original research with game-changing advocacy efforts to make the digital world work better for all children. It rates movies, TV shows, books, and more so you can feel good about the entertainment choices you make for your child.

Type the name of the media into the site, and it will give you a breakdown of its contents, the age rating from the app, from its editors, from parents and from children. Feel confident in the media your children are accessing.



<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

Young Climate Warriors –

'This planet is where we live, it's all we have. Let's get passionate about the environment because it's more important than the sport we follow'. Dale Vince, Chair of Forest Green Rovers – 'the greenest club in the world' – according to FIFA.



The Winter Olympics gets underway on the 4th February. The Olympic Games are already suffering the impacts of climate change – excessive heat in Tokyo, not enough snow in Beijing. The Olympic Games themselves, in turn, have an impact on our planet. Have the Winter Olympic ski runs really been created in the middle of a nature reserve, involving the removal, and replanting of 20,000 trees? 100% artificial snow needs gallons of water in a water-scarce area. The newly created Beijing wind and solar farms however should surely be applauded.

Fortunately, however, an increasing number of top athletes and sports clubs are taking advantage of their popularity to encourage action against climate change. This week Young Climate Warriors are invited to hear from some of these inspiring sports 'heroes' alongside swapping 'screens for sport', or 'devices for dirt' – helping to cut our digital technology related carbon emissions by getting outside.



A Message from the Brindishe Friends Group (BFG)

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Date for next meeting - We would love you to join us at the next BFG meeting. It'll be held at the school on **Thursday 10th March at 6pm**. Please let us know if you want to come and we'll make sure we send you through further details: bfgsocials@gmail.com

'Make you own pizza' night - is also booked for **10th March**! We'll be sending around more info on how to buy a 'make your own Pizza' (and cookies!) kit very soon. These were a huge hit in October - everything we raised went to pay for food parcels for families in the Brindishe Green community during the school holidays.

Keep up to date - Search for us on Facebook - search 'Brindishe Friends Group' - and follow us on Twitter - @bfghithergreen - to find out more about what we're up to. You can email us too to find out more and with any questions: bfgsocials@gmail.com.