

Brindishe Green School

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6 December 2019

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends at Brindishe Green,

IMPORTANT REMINDER General Election December 12 – Nursery classes closed for one day

As you know Brindishe Green is being used as a polling station for the General Election on Thursday 12 December. The polling station will be set up in the nursery classroom, with access via the staff car park on Ardmere Cottages, **not** via the main entrance to the school on Beacon Road.



Nursery will be closed to children for the day but the main school will be open for children in year R to 6. Children in these classes should come to school as usual on Polling Day.

We will ensure that the general public (voters) are **ONLY** able to access the nursery classroom. There will be no access for the general public (voters) to any part of the school, dining hall, playgrounds, classrooms, toilets or entrances whilst the school is open and children are on site. The nursery area (polling station) and the entrance to and from it will be fenced off and secure and there will be **no access** into any other area of the school either externally or internally.

Our staff will be supervising the area throughout the school day and officers from the Electoral Commission will organise supervision and security at the polling station itself.

The past few weeks at Brindishe Green The BFG Christmas Fair

We had an amazing turnout for our first Christmas Fair run by our new Brindishe Friends Group last Friday.

Tombola, raffle, biscuit making, present wrapping, card writing, pop-up online safety advice, songs from the choir - we had them all at our fair, along with delicious food and drink and even a quiet place for our youngest children and visitors to play. We want to thank Father Christmas who took time out of his busy schedule to come to the fair and meet with lots of you.

We're delighted to say that the fair made over £1,000 and all proceeds will go towards improving our outdoor and play spaces at school! Raffle prizes are being gathered in and we will announce the winners next week.

Huge thanks go in particular to our co-Chairs, Dana Bradley and Izzy Warren and the BFG committee who helped plan, co-ordinate and run the fair, as well as to all the parents and carers who gave up their time on the day to help set up, run a stall or clear away. We are very lucky to have such a supportive community at Brindishe Green and look forward to future events.

Visits and visitors

KS2 choir went to sing at Merbury Court, a local home for the elderly last week. The residents were delighted to be entertained by our children and look forward very much to seeing them again next year. Thank you to Daisy Johnson and Hollie Campbell for their hard work preparing and supporting the choir.

Y4 were visited by the History Man, who learnt about life in Roman Britain, exploring weapons, settlements, games, clothing and speaking in Latin!

Y3 children visited Chislehurst Caves to help them with their learning about the Stone Age and rocks and soils. The children enjoyed going into the dark caves - with only a few squeals from the adults...

Year Six have visited the National History Museum and travelled back in time to find out where it all began, exploring prehistoric fossils, ancient landscapes and discovering a very distant (and surprisingly small) cousin of the modern day horse. The children were thoroughly engaged and made us all proud with their impressive subject knowledge and thoughtful questions.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who accompany school visits and make it possible for us to take our learning beyond the school gates.

Online Safety Week

Many thanks to all the parents and carers from years 4 to 6 who attended the online safety workshop last Wednesday. As you all know, keeping our children safe online and helping them to make the right choices is becoming increasingly challenging. It is very important that we equip ourselves with the right information and skills in order to be able to do this effectively. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/>



is an excellent resource that gives easy to understand information on different apps, internet controls, age ratings, gaming, cyberbullying, screen addiction and the links between social media and mental health. We plan to run more workshops in the future and really hope to see you there.



Turning of the Year

Well done to all the children from Y2 Cedar who took part in the winter concert, The Turning of the Year, at Blackheath Halls on Monday. The class sang their own special song and joined forces with five other Lewisham schools to sing lots of joyful and uplifting songs together. Special thanks go to Ms Taylor and Ms Eleni for supporting the children so well.

Y5 Poetry Slam

Yesterday our Y5 children held a 'Poetry Slam', hosted by Mr Henry, attended by parents and carers and judged by myself, Ms Buchanan and Ms Brookes.

The children have been writing group poetry around the theme of making a difference in their world, entitled 'I know, I wish, I will'. The poetry was powerful and inspiring, often talking about looking after our planet and looking after each other. The children performed in groups, with spoken word and action.

The judges needed to pick the top 3 which was very difficult, as you can imagine! However the winning groups were as follows:

1st Saviours of the World (Mangrove)

2nd Power of Three (Banyan)

3rd The Chronicles (Walnut)



Well done to everyone who took part, and thank you to Mr Henry for compering so well, and to Ms Brookes and Ms Wilson who organised the whole project for our Y5 children at Brindishe Green.

This project is part of a larger one organised by London-based charity, 'East Side': we will be submitting our performance poetry to them to be judged against other contributions – if selected our children may get the chance to perform their poetry in the West End next year.

Next week

Every year group has a performance or event coming up over the next few weeks – please see the 'diary dates' below.

We are collecting for 'Crisis at Christmas' again this year. Please look out for the buckets to put your loose change into at the end of the performances and help us to make a difference to people who have no home or shelter at this difficult time of year.



Toileting workshop

Last week we held a successful workshop on helping young children with toileting. It was run by the Outreach team of the Lewisham Children and Family Centres on Wednesday - you can find information about the support and advice they offer here: <https://www.lewishamcfc.org.uk/> You can also find information and advice about toileting, potty training, potty training for children with additional needs, daytime bladder problems, and bed wetting on the ERIC website at <https://www.eric.org.uk/help-and-support> .

We asked the parents and carers who attended this workshop for ideas about other sessions we could run – e.g. positive parenting / supporting good sleep habits / supporting children's mental health. If you have a particular request for a workshop, please come and speak with Ms Buchanan, Ms Sheppey or Ms Debbie.

Early Reading workshop

Thank you to our early years staff who held a very well attended workshop for parents and carers on how to support children with reading at home. Please ask a member of early years staff if you couldn't be there but would like more information on what was discussed.

Road safety around our school

You may be aware that Lewisham is launching a Healthy Neighbourhoods Programme. The aim of the programme is to make Lewisham communities 'greener, healthier, and more attractive places to live, work, play and do business'. One key priority is to reduce traffic in the borough, through a number of traffic management measures including road closures. There is due to be a 6-month trial starting in January 2020 within an area to the west of Hither Green station (this does not include Beacon Road). This will include blocking off Ennersdale Road at the railway bridge and so it will not be possible to turn right onto Ennersdale Road from Nightingale Grove. Vehicles would need to drive via Lewisham or the South Circular to get to the other side of the station. You can find more information, including the map of the trial area, here:

<https://streetbuilder.io/lewishamandleegreen>

At Brindishe Green, we have not been consulted about this scheme, and have only recently found out about the trial. Although we support measures taken to reduce traffic and improve air quality, we are concerned about what the impact will be on the roads local to our school, particularly Beacon Road. We plan to invite local councillors into school to discuss the proposal and the implications it may have for Brindishe Green.

Diary dates

10 Dec Year 3 and 4 Christmas performance 9.30 and 2.15

11 Dec Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance 9.30 and 2.15

12 Dec General Election - Nursery will be closed for polling. The main school will be open.

12 Dec 6pm Full Governing Body meeting at Brindishe Lee – please let us know if you would like to attend as an observer and we will arrange seating for you

13 Dec Reception Family Festival ***from 1.45pm***

16 Dec Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert at St. Swithun's Church, 6-7pm

17 Dec Nursery Family Winter Celebration ***9 -11am and 1.15 – 3.15pm***

18 Dec Christmas Lunch

19 Dec End of term

Best wishes to all families,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher