

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we have seen the sun shine again and temperatures rise, hopefully allowing everyone to take the opportunity of some daily exercise, whether it be in the garden, on the nearby street or in the local park. Even if you are shielding or worried about going out, a few breaths of fresh air is good for us all – open the window, the door and take a breath, before the temperature drops again on Sunday!

There has been a lot of speculation recently about schools reopening and what it might look like for our young children. There have also been a number of surveys and petitions that you may have been signposted to regarding the opening of schools, only when it is safe to do so. We know this is a very difficult time for us all and, as I have mentioned before, we will only do what we feel is safe and right to do so, putting the needs of our children, staff and families first. Sunday will hopefully begin to give us some direction to what schools will look like moving forward and we will also be asking to hear from you in the coming week to ensure we work as hard as we can to get it as right as we can.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM US ALL.....Home Learning

Thank you to all who have worked hard to support the online learning activities teachers are providing on a daily basis and thank you for all your kind comments. We appreciate some days may be harder than others, so remember reading a book, playing a game or watching a film can be just as valuable as ploughing through a maths word problem. Come back fresh another day...it may help.

BOOK SWAP

On the day of school closure, we handed out packs of books/paper etc to support your child at home. We would now like to offer the opportunity for you to come in and swap the reading books over for new ones and pick up any paper or pencils that you require.

On Tuesday 12th May, we are inviting you to come to the school to exchange your books. We will have a box to put the 'returning' books in and a new set laid out for collection to select from. We will be using social distancing measures to accommodate you all. **Please see the table below for when you should come.**

	Tuesday 12th May
Reception & Year 1 and any of their older siblings	11am – 12 noon
Year 2 and any of their older siblings	12 - 1 pm
Year 3 and 4 any of their older siblings	1 pm – 2 pm
Year 5 and 6 any of their older siblings	2 pm – 3.30 pm

Lewisham Music: ZOOOOM CHOIR

Lewisham Music are delighted to launch the new Zooooom Choir for Y2 – Y8, starting from next week: <https://youtu.be/0Jk3Vq5T77s>

In order for your child to take part, you will need to sign up and agree to read and comply with Lewisham Music online safety policy. You can find all the relevant information at <https://www.lewishammusic.org/zooooom-choirs/>

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. Topics include:

- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour
- Talking 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/>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

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 to either 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 Green continues to remain open for the childcare provision of critical workers, where there is no alternative childcare available. The provision runs from 7.45am – 6pm. Please contact info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk if you feel you need this provision.

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 801 0327.
- 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 Phoneline 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