

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

Following my email at the beginning of the week, we are still unable to provide or confirm any details of the 'reopening' of our schools. We are working hard to develop plans to ensure we can welcome children and families back but we need time to work through this, to make sure everything is in place to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can. Below you will find a link to a survey we are asking you to complete in order to support us with this. Please take the time to answer – your input is very valuable to us.

In the meantime, our provision will continue to support children of critical workers and those identified as vulnerable. Once the date for schools re-opening is confirmed, we will be in touch to let you know if, and when, your child can come in. This will be a very gradual process, following all the necessary guidance, and will feel very different to what we know, but we will support our children and families every step of the way.

Once again, on behalf of the staff and Governors, I want to thank you all for your supportive messages and comments, I have also heard how much the staff have enjoyed speaking to the children during their phone calls. Remember, you're all doing a fantastic job, but do what is right for you, your child and your family AND always remember, we are here.... on the phone, at the end of an email. Here to support you all in any way we can.

Rachel Waite  
Executive Head

### **Online Survey – we need your views.....**

We are taking feedback from our school community on the Government's proposals and we are looking for your views. Please take a moment to complete the online survey, as it will help to inform Brindishe Schools as we decide on our next steps. At the forefront of our decision making will always be the needs of our children, staff and families. Your feedback is of great importance to us. Please follow the link below to complete the online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5WCQVQ5>

### **Book Swap**

This week we have had more sunshine, which means we've been able to hold our daily book swaps outside. It was great to see those of you who came along to swap reading books with your children whilst maintaining safe social distancing! It was also a good reason for some of our teachers and teaching assistants to escape their four walls and offer their support! Thank you to them all.

We gave out new exercise books to the children who came along. If you have not been able to attend the book swap but know your child needs a new exercise book for their home learning, please give us a call on 0208 852 7245 or email [info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk) and we will arrange for you to collect one from school.

### **Reception applications for September 2020**

We have written to all our new Reception parents and carers and are excited to be able to meet with them all as soon as it is safe to do so.

### **Nursery applications for September 2020**

Since schools are currently closed to most children due to COVID-19, our current focus is on providing childcare for children of critical workers. This means we are not yet in a position to offer out places for Nursery for September.

We will be in touch with applicants meeting the admissions criteria as soon as we can after half term. We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding.

### **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@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk). Given the current circumstances, even if you think you don't qualify - please try.

Should you find you are not eligible for the government scheme but are experiencing hardship, please contact us on [info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk)

For those **entitled to Free School Meals**, you should now be receiving your vouchers from **Edenred**, the Government provider of Free School Meal vouchers. If you experience any problems with the voucher or are finding it difficult to get to a supermarket/food bank or to provide for your child/ren, please get in touch on [info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk) or call us on 0208 852 7245.

### **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 us on [info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk) if you feel you need this provision.

The links below have been included in our newsletters before and are for your information, in case you need any further advice or support.

Thank you for all you are doing to support your children at home and for your patience at what is a challenging time for everyone. Please get in touch with us on [info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk) if you have any questions for us or need any help or advice.

With best wishes,  
Gerlinde Achenbach  
Headteacher

## 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](http://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](http://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.mensadviceline.org.uk) ([www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.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](http://www.galop.org.uk)) runs a specialist helpline on 0800 999 5428 or email [help@galop.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.respectphoneline.org.uk)) for support and advice on managing your feelings and behaviour.

## 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. These 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/>