

Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

As we come to the end of our first half term of this academic year we would like to express our thanks to you all for the support you have shown us over the past 6 weeks. It has been a tricky time for everyone and the Brindishe Schools have been no exception. At a time when we are all dealing with so much, it has been comforting to know that the school community is here to support each other. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to email the school or pass on their support at the school gate.

As Friday draws to a close, our true thanks goes to the teachers and support staff across the Federation for doing such a fantastic job to ensure our children are focused and engaged in their learning, and most of all feeling happy, safe and calm. They have worked tirelessly, through the recovery curriculum to support the children's return and we are all very grateful.

So now is the time to switch off from the morning school run and enjoy the half term break. Next week may feel a little different for each and every one of us. Not being able to mix with extended family members or close friends in our homes may be hard but we must remember, the rules are there to keep us safe and we should all think carefully and act responsibly.

We really do wish you all, children, parents, carers, staff and governors a lovely break. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 2nd November and if any further guidance is published before then, we will email you as soon as possible to let you know of any changes.

From all of the Brindishe Federation Team

Get a Garment

We would like to thank **The Brindishe Friends Group** for organising and running the 'Get a Garment' event earlier this week. It was a great success and we look forward to seeing lots of children wearing their cosy new coats, jumpers and shoes over the next couple of weeks. Please see a message below from the BFG regarding the event and... thank you to those who donated for your generosity!

Foodbank Collection

On Monday and Tuesday we worked together to collect long-life fruit juice for the **Helping Hands Refugee Foodbank**. When Reverend Bridget came to pick up our collection she was blown away by how many had been donated. Thank you to everyone who contributed, and thank you to Ms Callow for organising the collection. We will do another before Christmas so look out for further messages!



Parent Teacher Meetings

After half term we will be holding our Virtual Parent Teacher Meetings using video call app. These will take place during the week beginning **9th November** and more information will be sent to you on our return back to school.

Half Term Holiday Camp

Sportacus will run their ever popular holiday camp again this half-term. From **Monday 26th to Friday 30th October**, they will be providing an action packed programme of sports and games at Brindishe Green. Call Harry on **07828 218690** or email Harry@sportacus.co.uk for further information.

School Dinners

If your child is in Years 3 -6 and has a school dinner, these should be paid for at least a week in advance (£11.50 per week). This can either be done through Arbor Parent Portal or by posting cash in an envelope into the black box at the main door. If you have any outstanding dinner money debts, please make sure that these are paid before the half term break.

Pupil Safety and Dark Nights

On **Sunday 25th October at 2am**, we will all be setting the clocks back an hour and summer time officially ends.

Every year, road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the clocks go back, as it is darker earlier in the evenings. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under 16 years are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users.

The resources below will help remind children, about road safety and safe cycling. Please take some time to talk to you child about the importance of being safe when crossing roads.



Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night <https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Be Bright, Be Seen Poster https://6282.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Be_Bright_Be_Seen-A5-Flyer.pdf

School Street

Last year we met with Lewisham Council to talk through a proposal for Beacon Road to become a School Street: this would involve closing the road to cars during drop off and collection. Lockdown happened in March but during this time plans were created and we believed that everything would be put in place this term. Unfortunately this has not happened for a variety of reasons but we look forward to working with Lewisham again to establish a system that is both manageable and safe for our children. We will keep you updated of any developments that occur.

Online Safety Bulletin

‘Whatsapp’ is a very popular app used by many people to make/receive calls and send messages, photographs and videos. It is also very popular with older children who have a mobile phone as it is free to download and use. However, Whatsapp has an age restriction of 16+. Like many age restrictions on social media apps, some children may choose to ignore this and sign up for Whatsapp when they are younger. If your child has a mobile phone, can we please encourage you to regularly check their device and ensure they do not access it at bedtime or during the night. Click here to view a useful website which tells you everything you need to know: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp/>



We are a GOLD Rights Respecting School

This week’s article for you to talk about with your family is...

Article 8 - Protection and preservation of identity.

Identity is a really important topic to explore and it is important that everyone is able to talk about and celebrate who they are. This includes learning about your family’s history, culture and race. It is also important to learn about other people and their identity, as this will help create a more respectful, inclusive, peaceful and fair world.



Recovery Email

We recognise that all families are having different experiences at the moment and some of you may be finding this time especially challenging. In order to support you and your child, we have kept our recovery email account active, in order to sensitively support you during this time.

If you feel there is anything that you would like the school to know about your family or about your experience, please contact us via the following email address: recovery@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk. All emails will be treated confidentially. Although the school will be closed next week, we will continue to closely monitor this email inbox, and address any concerns and queries raised as soon as we can.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe half term.

Best wishes,
The Brindishe Green Senior Leadership Team

Important Dates

Secondary School Applications – Saturday 31st October (at the latest)

Half Term Holiday – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Teacher/Parents Online Meetings – 9th - 13th November

Flu Vaccinations (Rec to Year 6) – Monday 9th November

A message from the Brindishe Friends Group (BFG)

Thank you to everyone who took part in our very first 'Get a Garment' event this week. Your response was incredible. We were overwhelmed by your contributions and hopefully many of you were able to take advantage of the donations and find a coat, jumper and/or pair of shoes that were suitable for your child or children! For those of you who didn't, covid restrictions allowing, we plan to hold another event soon. We will keep you posted on possible dates for this.



We also managed to raise £99.88 in our donation buckets which all goes towards books and playground equipment for the school. Thank you again for your generosity.

And in case you were wondering, all items of clothing not snapped up, have been given to the [Lewisham Donation Hub at Unit D, Place Ladywell](#). The Hub is a wonderful volunteer service set up to support families across Lewisham.

If you have any suggestions for ways to raise money for the school, or would like to get involved in the group, or even organising and running events, please get in touch. **We are planning our first meeting of the new school year the first week back after half term via Zoom. If you'd like to be involved then let us know.** Our email is bfgsocials@gmail.com. You can also keep in touch via our Facebook page (search for 'Brindishe Friends Group') or on twitter (@bfgthegreen). We'd love to hear from you!