

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear families, governors, staff and friends,

Wow! What a wonderful week it has been across the school as we have all enjoyed celebrating World Book Day/Week. We hope that you and your children enjoyed listening to stories, sharing books, reading out loud, guessing who The Masked Readers were, entering our competitions and dressing up, as much as we did. Thank you to all the staff who made the week possible, especially Emma Brookes, our English lead. We hope that this week has sparked an even greater love for reading in your home and that this continues – reading as a family or on their own is so important for your child's education, mental health and imagination.

This week you will have received a letter and guidance giving information on how we will open the school to all children on **Monday 8th March**. By now, we hope that you will have read it through carefully and have emailed the school if you have any questions. We are really looking forward to opening up all of our classrooms again and welcoming the children back. By working closely with you all, we will be able to keep our school as safe as possible for everyone.

Please remember to bring your face mask or visor with you every day as you will not be allowed on site without one.

School Dinners

There are a number of families who still have an outstanding balance on their dinner money account from before Christmas. Please can we ask all families to check their balance and pay for their child/ren's meals before returning to school on 8th March. This can be done on Arbor.

School Street – Beacon Road

As you know, Beacon Road is very soon to become a School Street – **you will not be able to drive down the road from 8.30am to 9.30am and 2.45pm to 3.45pm**. Everything is in place and we are just waiting for the council to let us know the official start day. While we wait, **we would like to encourage all our families to not use Beacon Road in preparation**. This will help to keep our children safe and allow for better social distancing.

Private Music Lessons

If your child receives private music tuition in school, these lessons will resume again week commencing 8th March. Please make sure they bring their instrument with them to school on the day of their lesson. If you have any questions, please ring the school office.

Comic Relief – Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is back on Friday 19th March and it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living in challenging situations in Africa and the UK. As a school, we hope everyone will **dress in red and donate** what they can on 19th March. Also, look out for other enjoyable, fundraising opportunities nearer the time.

Rapid Flow Tests for Families

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, **who do not have symptoms**, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes as this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Today you should have received two emails from the school: one with your child's World Book Day Token and another with a link to a Parent/Carer Survey. If you did not receive either of these emails, please contact the school office to make sure that we have the correct email address for you.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend...and we look forward to seeing you on Monday morning.

Best wishes,

The Brindishe Green Senior Leadership Team

A message from Brindishe Friends Group (BFG)

Quiz night - There's still time to book yourself a spot to take part in the first ever BFG online quiz night. The fun starts at 7.30pm on Thursday 11 March. Email: bfgsocials@gmail.com to request the link to take part.

Easter Trail - Following on from the success of our Festive Trail at Christmas, we are looking for volunteers to dress their windows for our upcoming Easter Trail. To be included on the trail map please send an email with your name and address to bfgsocials@gmail.com. You will be asked to decorate a front-facing window, including a specific letter of the alphabet for people to spot. All the letters on different houses will spell a special word when put together. More info on this coming soon.

Running to raise money for BG - Unfortunately The Vitality Big Half has now been postponed, but the Brindishe Green Team will still be out running on 25th April. A route for our own 'Brindishe Green Big Half' is being planned, the fundraising page will still go live and training is still in full swing. We'll send out more info in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, here's how Hannah's been getting on with her training:

"I've never been sporty and I've always hated running. My dad did a lot of half marathons growing up and he'd always try to get me to run with him... without much luck! I've been avoiding exercise most of my adult life but when lockdown 1 came along and I had a lot more time at home (yay for no commutes!) I thought I'd try Couch to 5k. And I loved it! Until 4 weeks in, I came off my bike (another lockdown project!) and broke my arm into pieces. I spent 6 hours in surgery, 6 weeks off work and it's been 6 months now since I did it! Hayley convinced me into trying to run this half marathon and I'm starting my training slowly but surely... I feel like I have a long way to go but it's a massive sense of achievement even to get past the 3/4 mile mark. Glad the snow has passed, I have got back into my stride and I'm now not terrified of slipping over!"

Follow us - Keep up to date on quiz night news and the Easter Trail as well as everything else we're planning by following us on social media. Let us know what you think as well. We're on twitter @bfghithergreen and on Facebook - search for 'Brindishe Friends Group'.