



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear families, governors, staff and friends,

Despite the blustery weather this week, we have all been delighted with how calmly and enthusiastically our children and families have returned to school. We hope that our special Sunday video helped the children to feel reassured that we were all very 'happy' to be seeing them on Monday, and thank you to those who shared that it brought smiles to their children's faces and eased any nerves that there might have been.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this week and for following the guidance that we have put in place. We ask that you please continue to follow this guidance for the rest of this half term, and we will review it as national measures begin to ease after the Easter holiday. We understand that wearing a mask/face covering is not always very pleasant, but it is only a short walk between Beacon Road and the back gate, and we believe this is an essential measure to keep our school community as safe as possible during these very busy times.

Also, thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our online survey this week regarding our online learning offer during the recent lockdown. Over the coming weeks we will be in touch with parents/carers who asked to receive a personal response and we will inform all our families of the results and how we plan to use Itslearning moving forward.

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

### Children's Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the school office as soon as possible and leave a voice message. Please be as **specific** as you can by **clearly stating their full name, their class, and why they are going to be off**, for example, specific symptoms, if they need to self-isolate because a household member has tested positive or if they are displaying any of the three main Covid symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough or loss of smell/taste). This is so that we can record the absence correctly and so that the right person can call you back if needed. **Please also state whether or not you have arranged for your child to have a Covid19 test.**

### Year 6 – Secondary Schools

Last week our children in Year 6 received news of which secondary school they had been offered a place at for September 2021. We hope that all our children and their parents were pleased with their offer. **If you have not done so already, please can we remind all our Year 6 parents/carers that they must accept their offer by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March at the latest.** You can do this through the Eadmissions website – [please click here for more information.](#)

Even if you would like to remain on the waiting list for one of your higher preferences, it is very important that you still accept the school you have been offered so that your children definitely has a school to start in September. If you have any questions, please email our school office ([info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk)) and we will do our best to support.

### Beacon Road and the surrounding streets

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.

Also, please can we encourage you to **not park near the back gate on Ardmere Cottages** and to be mindful that the surrounding streets are narrow and used by those residents who live in the local area. We have over 600 children and their families leaving through the back gates and we want to keep the area as safe as possible.



Some parents have asked if their children are allowed to meet them near the back gates at the end of the day. **Children must be collected from the playground by a known adult and will not be escorted by a school adult through the carpark or be allowed to leave by themselves**. Only some older children in Year 5 or 6 are able to walk home alone, with written permission from a parent/carer.

### School Dinners

Please remember that school dinners for children in Years 3-6 should be paid in advance through Arbor. Each school meal costs £2.30 (£11.50 a week).

If your circumstances have changed and you think your child is now entitled to Free School Meals, you should make an application online and inform the school office straight away. Applications can be made using the following link: [Applying for Free School Meals Online](#)

### 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 primary school, **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. 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.

If you would like to order Rapid Flow Tests for members of your household, please click on the link below: [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests](#)

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

### PCR Coronavirus Tests

If you, your child or another member of your household is unwell and **displaying any of the main Covid Symptoms** (a high temperature, a persistent cough or loss of smell/taste), you must book a PCR Covid test immediately and report your results to the school. You may also be asked to book a test if your child is displaying any other symptom associated with Covid-19. These tests can be booked using the link below:

[Get a Coronavirus Test](#)

If you have other problems using the online service, call 119 between 7am and 11pm.

## Comic Relief – Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is **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 to Comic Relief on 19<sup>th</sup> March.



### Important Dates

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Easter/Spring Break

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Summer term begins

***Week beg 26<sup>th</sup> April - Teacher/Parent Meetings (through Weduc – more information to follow)***

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - Bank Holiday

***Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May - INSET Day/Polling Station – school closed to all children***

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June - Half Term

Wishing you all a very happy weekend.

Best wishes,

The Brindishe Green Senior Leadership Team

### A message from Brindishe Friends Group (BFG)

**Final call for Easter Trail** - We are still looking for a final few volunteers to decorate a window for our upcoming Easter Trail. Please let us know by Tuesday 16 March if you want to be included on the trail map: [bfgsocials@gmail.com](mailto:bfgsocials@gmail.com). More info on this coming soon.

**Last night's BFG quiz night** - Last night we held our first ever BFG online quiz night. Thanks to everyone who took part. Special thanks to Charlie and Damian who hosted things rather brilliantly. Looking forward to the next one when we can (hopefully) hold it in person!

**Follow us** - Keep up to date with all our events and plans by following us on social media. Twitter - [@bfghithergreen](https://twitter.com/bfghithergreen). Facebook - search for 'Brindishe Friends Group'.