

Friday 23rd July 2021

Dear parents/Carers,

In less than two days, this academic year will be drawing to a close, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Brindishe Green community.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Brindishe Green staff. They are a dedicated and talented team and have worked tirelessly during a national pandemic, not only to continue to improve the education we are providing at Brindishe Green, but also putting in place many different measures and adhering to restrictions which have enabled us to keep our school community safe and well.

Thank you parents for working with the school throughout this period and for all the positive comments, phone calls and emails of gratitude and appreciation for what the school was able to provide during this time. We really have appreciated your support and kindness. To add to this, a special thank you to parents for adapting to all the changes, including taking on remote - learning in the way you did and ensuring that our children remained safe, happy, and engaged during the Lockdowns! We have also appreciated the constructive feedback from parents that allowed the school staff to reflect and adapt throughout the ever-changing ebb and flow of this global pandemic.

Let us not forget the bravest of all... our wonderful children. A massive well done to all our children who remained focused on their learning (in whatever shape or form this took). During this year, we have seen our children grow in resilience and learn to deal with so many unprecedented situations. We have developed our curriculum and enhanced our enrichment opportunities which has created smiles and excitement for learning. Well done children of Brindishe Green, we are proud of you all.

To our Year 6 children who are about to leave us for their next phase of education; you have been super stars. This is not what we envisaged for you at the start of Year 6, but you have demonstrated such positivity and resilience throughout, and we are proud of your achievements. You will not be remembered as the COVID -19 cohort because to us you will forever be the warriors of 2021. We hope you will enjoy the fitting farewell which is being planned for you.

Finally, we wish you all a happy, healthy and safe summer break. Best wishes to all the families moving on, we wish you well.

To everyone else, we look forward to welcoming you back in September for another successful year and many more learning and enrichment opportunities for our children.

From Rachel Waite, Kate Porter, Maxine Sebire and all the Brindishe team

Wonderful Work!

This week, the wonderful work 'shout outs' go to Year 6.
Well done for all you have achieved this year!



A message from Adam Twyman, the new Head of School for Brindishe Green

Dear Parents, I am very proud to have been appointed as the next Head of School for Brindishe Green Primary School. From the first time I looked around the school it was clear to me that it is a warm, vibrant and exciting place to be. I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone at the school and beginning to understand what I can do to contribute to the continued recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, ensuring that we continue to provide exceptional education for all our pupils into the future.

UPDATE FROM THE BRINDISHE GOVERNING BODY

What an amazing community effort!

As we approach the final days of this academic year, it's important to reflect on the way that the whole Brindishe community - staff, parents, carers, volunteers, local groups, businesses and residents - have worked and contributed to keep the children learning and achieving their very best in the most difficult of circumstances. On behalf of the Governing Body, I'd like to say a very heartfelt thank you to you all.

Executive Head: Rachel Waite Chair of Governors: Liz Murphy

In partnership with Brindishe Lee and Brindishe Manor

Not everything's been about the pandemic this year, and since summer 2020 governors and senior leaders have been working on a range of topics. **Here are just a few recent highlights:**

*After much research, discussion – and a little bit of tasting - a new **school meals** provider has been selected and they will start in September. They're called Radish, and you'll be hearing lots about them as we hope you'll sign up for your children to try their dishes.

*Brindishe Manor's nursery and reception children will be able to enjoy an **exciting new outside play and learning space** from the start of the new term. Their outside space has been due for an upgrade for a while, so it's wonderful to be able to approve this at last.

* New link governors for Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Special Needs were appointed during the past year and have visited each school to make sure that our buildings are in a good and healthy condition, and that our **children are safe**. Link governors have also recently been appointed to the **individual schools** to work closely with the Headteacher and senior leaders, and advance the sense of individuality where appropriate to all governors.

*A major focus for the governing body this year has been to **recruit new governors** to fill several vacancies. It's important to get the right people with the right skills so that we can work effectively and efficiently. I'm pleased to say that we've been successful in recruiting Carolyn Unsted and Andrew Fiddy, both very experienced and skillful, and you can read more about them shortly on the Governors page of your school website, together with pieces about the existing current governors. Our focus from September will be filling the remaining vacancies with governors who will help the GB better **reflect our diverse community**. If you know of someone who might be interested and is not currently a Brindishe parent or member of staff, do please let us know.

*Finally, we're hoping that from September all full GB meetings will be able to be held in person, which means we can **welcome back observers**. So if you would like to come along to see what goes on, please email rwaite@brindisheschools.org. The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 6th at 6pm. If you're unable to attend, the minutes of each full GB meeting are available on request at your school office.

With thanks for all that you do, **Liz Murphy, Chair of Governors**

Start and End of Day

At the time of writing this newsletter, the following procedures for the start and end of the day will be in place from September. If guidance changes before September, we will update you further.

Start of Day

The school gates will open at 8.45am and close at 9am. All children will be expected in school before 9am when the gates shut. We will continue to use the one-way system for parents/carers and ask you to walk through the playground and out via the carpark gate.

End of Day

All children in Years 1-6 will come out to the playground at 3.15pm. All parents/carers will enter through the main gates to pick up and exit via the school car park gate.

Reception and Nursery children will continue to be collected from their classroom doors via the Early Years outdoor learning area and parents/carers will be asked to exit through the car park and come back in to the main playground to collect children from Yr 1-6.

Nursery AM collection and **PM** arrival will continue to be via the Car Park entrance.

Travelling Abroad Over the Summer

If you are travelling abroad over the summer, please ensure that you email info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk informing the school of where you are going and your return date. This is important information to ensure that children follow any isolation rules that may be enforced.

FSM vouchers over the school holiday and Hampers donated by the BFG

Lewisham have announced that all children in receipt of Free School Meals will receive a £90 voucher per child to cover the summer holiday. This does not include Universal Free School Meals for those children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. To compliment the vouchers, the BFG have put together hampers which many parents have collected.

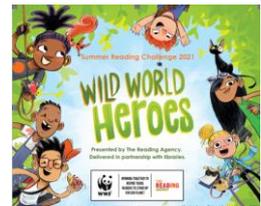
If your circumstances change and you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals please see the attached leaflet on how to complete the application form on the Lewisham Council Website.

Reports

If you have any comments to make, please email them to response@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk including your child's name and class. Any reports not collected by end of term will be kept in the office to be collected after the summer holiday.

Summer Library Challenge

This year's Summer Library challenge is called Wild World Heroes. Our local libraries have teamed up with WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) for a very special nature-themed challenge that will inspire children to stand up for the planet! The challenge is open for all families to take part online from **Saturday 10th July**. The children will be able to borrow books from all of Lewisham's libraries through click and collect, a lucky dip, or by reading e-books online. Not only will they be able to access amazing books, they will also be able to play games online, earn rewards and learn how they can make a difference to the environment too. Don't forget to share all of the new books they discover with their new teacher in September! Follow this link for more information: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



Summer Activity Camp at Brindishe Lee

It's not too late to book an exciting activity over the summer holiday! Sportacus will be running an Activity Camp for 4 of the weeks over the summer. Please take a look at the flier attached or contact harry@sportacus.co.uk

Nursery Place for September 2021

If your child turns 3 by 31st August this year, they are eligible to start in the Brindishe Green Nursery in September – please apply as soon as possible to ensure your child will have a space. Nursery places at Brindishe Green are part-time during term time – children are offered either morning or afternoon sessions Monday – Friday. Please email info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk if you would like more information or to request an application form.

Radish

Don't forget that our new catering company, Radish will be joining us from September. Visit the [school website](#) to find out information about: new look menus, the launch days and three-week trial menu and not forgetting the new fruit slushy machine!

Important Dates

Please look on the Weduc Calendar for key dates and information regarding your child's class

Wednesday 1st September	INSET day
Thursday 2nd September	Start of Term 1
Thursday 2nd September	Radish school dinner trial day (price £2.45)
Friday 3rd September	Radish school dinner trial day (price £2.45)

*For next year's term dates, [click here](#) to visit the term dates page on the school website

A message from the Brindishe Friends Group (BFG)

Food parcels - Thank you to all the families who collected one of our food parcels for over the summer holidays. Uptake was impressive. And a big thanks to everyone who donated to make these happen, particularly the folk at Natoora and the Found Hope Store - you were amazing. Any leftover fresh produce was given to Lewisham Donation Hub.

Farewell to Year 6 - Thank you to all the BFG parent helpers who have children in that year. Without you the long list of what we've achieved this year would not be possible.

Next meeting - we hope to hold our next meeting in the first few weeks of September. If you want to get involved please do get in touch. We have managed to do some amazing things this year and it's all down to the parents, carers and teachers who have got involved. We want to represent the school community in its entirety in everything we do - we can only do that by getting as wide and diverse collection of people to join us as possible. Drop us an email: bfgsocials@gmail.com Follow us on Twitter @bfgthiergreen and connect with us via Facebook (search 'Brindishe Friends Group').

PCR testing

If you or your child is showing any symptoms of COVID-19, you must isolate as a family and book a PCR test on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

WHEN SHOULD I HAVE A PCR TEST?

- **If you currently have symptoms** that may indicate COVID-19, this is the test you should have to diagnose the infection.
- **If a lateral flow test is positive.** The purpose of the PCR test is to confirm the diagnosis, since it is a more accurate test than the lateral flow test.

WHEN SHOULD I HAVE A LATERAL FLOW TEST?

- You should only have this test **if you don't have any symptoms** and have been invited to take one as part of an exercise to identify infected people without symptoms.

Travelling Abroad Over the Summer

If you are travelling abroad over the summer, please ensure that you email info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk informing the school of where you are going and your return date. This is important information to ensure that children follow any isolation rules that may be enforced.