

Friday 15 May 2020

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 school. 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 the children and yourselves 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

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 and opinions before proceeding. Please take a moment to complete the online survey, as it will very much help and inform Brindishe Schools to 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 – [Brindishe Lee](#)

Book Swap

This week we have had more sunshine, which was very welcome for the Brindishe Schools book swap. It was great to see some of you come along and swap books with your children, whilst maintaining safe social distancing! It was also a good excuse for some of our teachers and teaching assistants to escape the four walls and offer their support.

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.

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/>

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/my services/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>

If you need any additional support with completing the application, please email us at info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk. Given the current circumstances, even if you think you do not qualify - please try.

Should you find you are not eligible for the government scheme, but are experiencing hardship, please contact us on info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk

For those **entitled to Free School Meals**, you should now be receiving your vouchers from Edenred, the Government provider of FSM. IF you experience any problems with the voucher or are finding it difficult either to get to the supermarkets/food bank or to provide for your child/ren, please get in touch on info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk

CHILDCARE FOR CRITICAL WORKERS

Brindishe Green continues to remain open next week for the childcare provision of critical workers, where there is no alternative childcare available. The provision runs from 7.45am – 6pm. Please contact info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk if you feel you need this provision.

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) 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) 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) 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) runs a specialist helpline on 0800 999 5428 or email 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) for support and advice on managing your feelings and behaviour

Best wishes to you and your family,

James Baguley
Headteacher