



Brindishe Federation Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2026

Welcome Back

Dear Brindishe Families,

We are delighted to welcome you and your children back to Brindishe Schools for the new academic year! We hope you had a restful and an enjoyable summer break.

Staff across all three schools came together on Wednesday for a full day of professional development. This was an invaluable opportunity for our teams to prepare for the year ahead. We focused on our school development priorities, including further development of oracy and maths mastery in EYFS, implementing a new behaviour policy, a comprehensive curriculum audit and OPAL Playground. Our **Big 5** — Compassion, Confidence, Curiosity, Commitment and Collaboration will underpin all that we do, helping every child to thrive academically and personally at Brindishe Schools. We will be sharing these priorities with parents/carers over the next week and this newsletter.

Staff also enjoyed a bespoke session from Selina Brown, a Happiness Facilitator for 'Laughology', where we reflected on creativity and innovation in school, as well as prioritising our well-being and happiness in the workplace.

The schools all look fabulous, and we'd like to extend a huge thank you to our premises teams who worked tirelessly over the summer to prepare our buildings and grounds.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming 'Meet the Teacher' events. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to:

- Meet your child's class teacher and year group team
- Learn about the curriculum and expectations for the year ahead
- Ask any questions you may have
- Find out how you can support your child's learning at home

Details about dates and times have been shared separately – please contact the school office if you are not sure when your year group meeting is. .

We understand that the return to school can be an exciting but sometimes challenging time for children and families. Our staff are here to support your child's wellbeing and to ensure a smooth transition back into school routines. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need any additional support.

We're looking forward to another wonderful year of learning, growth and achievement together. Thank you for your continued support and partnership – it makes all the difference to our school communities.

Warm regards,

Ms Waite, Ms Porter, Ms Matthews and Ms Bannister

Building Belonging: Parent and Carer Voice Survey

In Lewisham, we have high aspirations for all children and young people and are committed to developing a more inclusive education system where every child feels valued, supported and able to thrive.

As part of this work, Lewisham are seeking feedback from parents and carers whose child has experienced a suspension, permanent exclusion, managed move, alternative provision placement, or other period away from school.

We know that exclusion can be a difficult experience for children, young people and families.

Through this survey, Lewisham want to better understand families' experiences, including:

- Whether they felt informed and supported throughout the process
- Whether they felt listened to and involved in decision-making
- How well their child's needs were understood
- What support worked well
- What could have been done differently
- What inclusion looks and feels like for children, young people and families



The feedback gathered will help improve communication, strengthen support for families, and ensure that parent and carer voices help shape future inclusion practice across Lewisham.

The survey should take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and confidential. There are no right or wrong answers, and we welcome both positive and challenging experiences.

Follow the link or use the QR code below



Parent and Carer Exclusion Experience Survey

EPEC Being a Parent Course

The Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) Being a Parent Course is a well-established parenting programme delivered by Parent Group Leaders trained in partnership with South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and Lewisham.

Through a safe, welcoming, and supportive group environment, parents are encouraged to share experiences, learn from one another, and develop strategies to manage everyday parenting challenges.

Topics covered include: Looking after yourself as a parent, Recognising and managing your child's feelings, Understanding children's behaviour, Developing positive and effective discipline strategies.

What makes EPEC different?

The course begins with an informal Introduction Session (Coffee Morning), giving parents the opportunity to meet facilitators, learn more about the programme, and decide whether it is right for them.

Who can attend? Parents and carers living in Lewisham with children aged 2 to 11 years.

Next Course

Mondays, 14 September to 16 November

10.00am to 12.00 noon

No session on 26 October due to Half Term.

Best Start Family Hub - Ladywell

30 Rushey Mead

London SE4 1JJ

How to book

Parents can book a place [via our website](#) or by emailing:

EPEC.FamilyHubs@lewisham.gov.uk



Online Safety Bulletin - Digital Footprints

When we go online, we create a digital footprint, which is a record of what we do online. This can be by visiting websites, sharing photos, liking or commenting on other people's posts or playing games.

It is important that children are aware of the digital footprint that they are creating and the lasting effect it can have. Childline provides further information about digital footprints, including advice on how to protect our privacy online: Click on the image below.



Family First

Family First was founded in 2017 with a simple mission: to empower parents and schools with the necessary resources to improve the well-being of children and young adults across the UK. By promoting a happier and healthier family lifestyle, Family First has achieved remarkable success since its inception. This success has attracted the attention and support of esteemed organisations such as Public Health England's Change4Life, Mumsnet, Argos, ASDA, Sainsbury's and many more, as well as prominent sports entities and leading family brands in the UK. Through these partnerships, Family First has been able to expand its reach to even more parents, encouraging them to reduce screen time, engage in physical activities, and adopt healthier eating habits.



[Magazines of Family First can be found here](#)



Is your child in Year 5?

Important dates for secondary school admissions

Schools open for visits: **September/October 2026 (please check on school websites for up to date open day/evening information)**

Applications open (apply online): **Tuesday 1 September 2026**

Closing date for applications: **Saturday 31 October 2026 (we recommend that you submit your online application by Friday 23 October 2026)**

Closing date for supplementary forms (if required) to be returned to the school directly: **Saturday 31 October 2026**

Further advice and guidance from Brindishe Schools to follow



Applying to start secondary school in September 2026

Information about applying for a secondary school place, including how to apply, deciding which schools to apply for, admissions criteria and more.



Rights Respecting Article

Article 29 (goals of education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

How can education support you to develop your personality, talents and abilities?

Support health and wellbeing
Understanding human rights
Provide a safe space
Treating you as an individual
Learning about different careers
Providing access to music, art and sports
Giving you a voice
Encourage friendships
Trips
Residentials
Outdoor learning
Clubs



This week in our welcome back to school assemblies, we have been reminding our children about the value of education and asking them to set goals and targets for the year ahead. What do they want to get better at? Improve? How could they help others?

Article 29 talks about developing talents, but what is talent? Take a look at this [Sport Scotland video](#) discussing the role of talent in sport and work with your child at home to discuss some top tips for how to develop a talent.

Key Federation Dates

- Half Term - Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October
- INSET DAY - Friday 27th November 2026

Brindishe Schools Governing Body

Governing Body meetings are regular and meet every half term. Parents/carers are more than welcome to attend our meetings as 'observers'. This means you can sit and observe the meeting but will be unable to speak/comment and would need to leave the meeting during confidential items.

If you would like to know more about the governing body or you would like to attend one of our meetings, please email Rachel Waite - rawaite@brindisheschools.org. An email to confirm attendance at the meeting will need to be received before a parent/carer can join the meeting.

Our first meeting for 2026/2027 will be held on Thursday 15th October at Brindishe Green School - 6pm.

Brindishe Schools Federation

Priorities 2026-2027

Securing the Best Practice, Achieving the Best Outcomes

Creating an Education without Boundaries



Brindishe
Federation

1

Building Capacity, Strengthening Accountability

- Teachers and staff will resume in meeting regularly in groups to share ideas and work on making things better for your children.
- As always, all our teachers and staff will have personal goals that link to our school's priorities.
- We will provide coaching, training and support to help all our staff become even better at what they do.

2

Diversity by Design: Every Voice, Every Story

- We will regularly check our curriculum to ensure all children can see people like themselves in the stories, examples and topics we cover.
- Children will learn best when they can get hands-on and creative which is one of our main aims.
- We will continue to plan our lessons so that children with special educational needs (SEND) or those who need extra help can continue to access the same exciting learning as everyone else.

3

Creating Meaningful Learning Experiences

- We will focus on developing children's speaking and listening skills (oracy) alongside their reading and writing.
- We will continue to strengthen Maths Mastery in EYFS so children spend more time really understanding number concepts.

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Excellence Without Exception

- We will use our new tracking system called INSIGHT to strengthen how we monitor all children in their learning. This will help us quickly spot if any child or group of children needs extra support.
- We are still very committed to closing any gaps in achievement, so vulnerable children make just as much progress as their classmates.

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Every Child Seen, Heard and Valued

- We will introduce a new behaviour policy called 'Promoting Good Relationships'.
- We're continuing to expand our range of clubs, trips and special activities we offer children.
- We've carefully planned our after-school clubs, lunchtime activities and special events so they complement what children are learning in class.



Brindishe Schools Federation

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Engage, Enrich, Belong

- We will work hard to make sure children attend school regularly, aiming for at least 96% attendance across the school.
- If a child misses more than 10% of school (roughly one day every two weeks), we will work closely with you and your child to understand what's making it difficult for them to attend.

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Every Child, Every Layer, Every Day

- We will continue to plan our lessons so that all children can access the same high-quality learning, whatever their needs.
- The government is introducing changes to how schools support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We're preparing for these changes

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Protecting Pupils in Every Space

- As we do every year, we're providing annual updated training for all our staff on safeguarding issues that happen outside of family life and in the digital world.
- We will further strengthen our leadership and systems in place to protect children when they're using technology at school.
- We will introduce a mobile phone policy that restricts when children can use phones at Brindishe Schools

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Playful Minds, Happy Learners

- We're introducing OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), which transforms playtimes into richer, more exciting experiences for children.
- We're creating even more opportunities for children to take on leadership roles and have their voices heard.
- We will continue with our 'Let's Go Zero' campaign, which means making our schools even more environmentally friendly and work towards becoming carbon neutral.

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Beyond the Four Walls

- In our Early Years, we're focusing on 'oracy' – which simply means helping children become confident speakers and good listeners.
- We're expanding our outdoor learning and educational visits because children learn so much from hands-on experiences outside the classroom.
- We will help children understand why what they're learning matters and how it relates to their lives and the world around them by creating real-life experiences.

Worried your child is ill?

Healthier Together is a new website for parents, providing information from local healthcare professionals about what to do and where to go for help when your child is unwell.

Urgent Treatment Centre

Pharmacist?

GP?

A&E?

NHS 111?



Scan the QR code
to find out more

Find us online at:
healthiertogether.nhs.uk