

**Brindishe Lee Newsletter**

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**Friday 10 September 2010**

**Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Colleagues,**

I hope that everyone enjoyed a restful summer. I am pleased that the new term has started so well in our two schools. Now that the federation is formally established our new website

[www.brindisheschools.org](http://www.brindisheschools.org) is available for quick access to information about Brindishe Lee and Brindishe Green. If there are things that you'd like to see on our websites please let me know by emailing me on [vickipaterson@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:vickipaterson@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk) or [vickipaterson@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:vickipaterson@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk) or talk to Diane Spalding our associate headteacher.

This week Lewisham published the results of each schools' performance in national tests in summer 2010. I know you will all be pleased to see that both schools in the federation have done extremely well again this year.

Brindishe Lee is once again the highest performing school in numbers of children who reach the national expectation in English and maths.

Brindishe Green results show the most progress and improvement in Lewisham– going from 49% reaching level 4 in both subjects in 2007 to 90% reaching level 4 in both subjects in 2010.

National Test results	2009		2010	
	Brindishe Green	Brindishe Lee	Brindishe Green	Brindishe Lee
Subject and level (4 is average, 5 is above average)				
English Level 4+	83%	100%	90%	100%
Maths: Level 4+	92%	100%	96%	100%
English & Maths Level 4+	83%	100%	90%	100%
English Level 5	29%	59%	23%	67%
Maths Level 5	35%	48%	46%	63%
English & Maths Level 5	18%	38%	19%	57%

A great start for the Brindishe federation. The first meeting of our new federated governing body will be on November 16 at 6pm at Brindishe Lee observers are welcome to attend to see how we get on in our first formal meeting together.

Brindishe Green will be having an 'at home' evening on Thursday 30 September so that parents, staff and governors can meet informally and get to know each other – and parents and carers can tour the school if they haven't already done so. People from both schools are warmly invited so do come along. Please take this opportunity to visit our partner school. Dinner is provided courtesy of Brindishe Green's chef Stuart who won the Lewisham School Kitchen of the Year Award in 2010. You are in for a treat so don't eat before you go! Drop in anytime between 6 and 8pm.

At Brindishe Lee our parents' association - PHAB (partnership of home and Brindishe) are planning a joint schools' social event for both communities this term – watch this newsletter for more details.

I look forward to meeting new parents and children this term and to seeing each and both schools go from strength to strength ... and we are all really looking forward to working with Trinity School when it returns home to its amazing new building in Taunton Road at the end of this term. It was so lovely to hear in the summer holiday that the school had its' best results ever for the second year in a row with 52% achieving 5 A\*-C grades with English and Maths – above the Lewisham average and in the top 10% of similar schools. Well done to Richard Peers and his staff and pupils – they must feel so very proud.  
My best wishes to all families,

Vicki Paterson

**Executive Headteacher Brindishe School**

**Dear parents, carers, friends and colleagues,**

We have had a excellent start to our new school year, the children are very calm, keen and excited about their learning and enjoying their new classes.

### **Collaborative String Orchestra**

This term our collaborative of schools (including Brindishe Lee, Brindishe Green, All Saints, John Ball, St Margarets and St Winifreds) is running a children's string orchestra. This is open to all string players (violin, viola, cello) who attend one of these schools. It will be held on Wednesdays, 4pm, at John Ball School. If you are interested and have not already received a letter from school for your child, please pick one up from the school office and let Ms Achenbach know (contact details below). The start date will be announced shortly. Gerlinde Achenbach will be supporting Daniel Smith from the Lewisham Music Service in leading this group.

### **Sing Up!**

Brindishe Lee is going for gold - in fact we are aiming to become a gold standard school for singing this year. Our plan, in conjunction with Brindishe Green, is to develop our singing skills on a daily basis - within each classroom, within key stages, across the whole school, across the federation, and across the wider school communities. We have made a pledge with the national group Sing Up (a Youth Music initiative at [www.singup.org](http://www.singup.org)) to make singing an integral part of our daily learning at Brindishe. Singing is an aerobic activity that boosts oxygenation in the bloodstream, increasing mental alertness. Experts believe that the variety of skills needed for singing, including coordination

and listening, help develop the brain. Learning song lyrics can improve mental agility and reading skills. But the best thing about singing together is that it is great fun: as Howard Goodall, composer, and the government's singing ambassador, says, 'When children are singing they are taking in information and training the brain but they don't think they are, they think they are just having fun.' We want to gain the Sing Up Gold Award by the end of this academic year, and we very much hope that you will support your child through encouraging their singing, and perhaps by joining the...

### **Brindishe Community Choir**

The launch of our Federation's brand new choir is finally here! Rehearsals will begin on Monday, 20th September at 6.45pm. It is open to all adults who are friends, parents/carers, staff or ex pupils of Brindishe Green and Brindishe Lee. (Please note the choir is not for children: they can join one of our 2 school choirs which meet during the school day - further details from the school office.)

The rehearsal will last about an hour, and we're hoping to start with some songs that lots of us may already know - 'Lean on me', 'Moon River' and 'Rhythm of Life'! So if you would like to meet new people, sing in a group and have a relaxing and enjoyable Monday evening, please come along! The choir will be led by Eadaoin Kelly (Brindishe Green) and Gerlinde Achenbach (Brindishe Lee). If you have any questions, give Ms Achenbach a call on 0208 318 4626, email her at [gerlindeachenbach@brindishe.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:gerlindeachenbach@brindishe.lewisham.sch.uk) or catch her in the Nursery at 3.30pm Tues to Fri.

### **Clubs**

Clubs and music tuition is due to start again from the 20 September. Letters will be sent out next week.

### **Please help!**

Executive Headteacher Vicki Paterson

Associate Headteacher Diane Spalding

Would parents/carers please ensure that their children (including little ones), don't play with the equipment set up for outdoor learning in nursery and reception before school- this is set up in particular ways for the children's learning. We appreciate your cooperation.

We have fruit peelings and chewing gum being dropped outside the classroom doors and walkways during drop off and collection times. Please use the bins provided.

### **Transition to secondary school**

This week information about secondary transfer and application forms have been sent home for children in year 6. If any families are unclear about the process I am very happy to help. Or you can find out more details on [www.lewisham.gov.uk/secondarieschools](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/secondarieschools)

### **Attendance -are you top?**

Top attendance this week for Year 1 at 98%.- well done!

Please make every effort to ensure your child/ren are at school on every possible occasion.

Very best wishes to all our families and for those that celebrate it, Happy Eid.

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**Best wishes to all families,**

**Diane Spalding**

