

Thursday 17th December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Friends,

A Message from Rachel Waite, Executive Head

Writing to you in September seems like such a long time ago and here we are, finishing off the Autumn term... and what a term it has been. Since March, we have all made many significant changes in our lives: in the way we live; in the way we socialise and in our day to day living. It hasn't been easy but I know one thing for sure, opening the school gates to welcome all of our children and families back in September was all we could wish for.

Since then, every single member of staff has adapted, creating an environment that has been second to none. Every morning, we haven't known what the day will bring us: a phone call; a new piece of guidance; a change to procedure, but the support from the teams in each of the three schools has astounded me. No words can express how grateful and lucky I am to have such a great team of colleagues around me who do all they can to make a difference to our children and families. There have been times when we haven't been sure which direction to go, but those strings have pulled together and we have got through it. My heartfelt thanks go to you all.

Alongside the staff, we know as parents and carers, you have had to adapt to change – a once open and accessible school may seem a distant memory, but your support has been instrumental in keeping us all as safe as possible and ensuring the children can come to school each day. Thank you.

And to the children, who have made these challenging times extremely rewarding and worthwhile. Your boundless energy, personalities, kindness and spirit make our three schools very special places to be. We praise you for adapting so quickly to a new way of learning and look forward to seeing what else you are capable of in the New Year.

So with a few days left, I wish you all a wonderful time over the festive period. Whatever the few weeks may bring, take the time to enjoy it as a family. Snuggle up, watch your child's performances and enjoy those precious moments together.

Best wishes,

Rachel

Brindishe Schools Executive Head

Staffing at Brindishe Green - Goodbyes

As with the end of every term, we sadly have to say goodbye to a couple of members of staff who are moving on. We are very sad to say farewell to Clair Taylor, a much valued member of staff who has taught Year 1 and 2 at Brindishe Green since 2017. Ms Taylor has always given 110% to the school and supported many of our youngest children as they began their learning journey. This year she has stepped in to teach Olive class and has done a wonderful job since September. She is an excellent teacher who will be missed by everyone. We wish her all the very best as she takes on a new teaching role closer to her home.

We say goodbye to Metin Gozde who has been working in Walnut class this year. Mr Metin moved over to Brindishe Green from Brindishe Lee in September but has recently secured a new post as a sports coach in another local Lewisham school. We wish him well in his new job.

We also say goodbye to Lami Makinde and Deborah Iremiren, two of our agency Teaching Assistants who joined the team in September. We thank them both for all their hard work and dedication to our children during their short time with us.

And finally, as you know, we officially say goodbye to our headteacher, Gerlinde Achenbach who resigned from her post as of January 2021. Ms Achenbach was the headteacher at Brindishe Green for two years and always put the interests of the children, families, staff and community at the forefront of everything she did. The staff and governors would like to thank her and wish her all the very best for the future.

Staffing at Brindishe Green – Welcome!

In January, Nelajini Kugathasan who is a trainee teacher in Chestnut 2, will be moving to Brindishe Lee for half a term to continue with her training. Daisy Birchenough will support Susan Jackson and the children in Reception during this time.

In the new term we will welcome teacher Ikram Ajami from Brindishe Manor who will join the Year 6 team. The children in Ash class have met with her already and she is very excited to get to know them better and support them with their learning.

Kieran Richardson, a trainee teacher from Brindishe Lee, will join Walnut class in January for his teaching placement and is looking forward to working closely with Jenny Wilson and the Year 5 children.

This week at Brindishe Green

Yesterday, children across the school had a wonderful day, from being welcomed at the school gate by Frosty the Snowman, to watching Jack and the Beanstalk, to enjoying a delicious Christmas meal. So much hard work went into making the day lovely for the children and we thank all of the staff and The BFG for making it possible.

We would also like to thank everyone who was involved in helping us to put the Free School Meal food hampers together – The BFG for collecting the food and organising extra treats, Good Hope who donated Gingerbread Men, The Co-Op who donated bags of crisps, families who very generously donated games and chocolate, and staff who contributed treats.



Yesterday we raised **£371.14** during our Festive Jumper Day for The Mizen Foundation (#jumpersforJimmy). The AFRIL Foodbank are coming this afternoon to collect the breakfast cereal and we are sure they are going to be delighted with how many boxes have been donated. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously.

It is at times like this when we feel very lucky to live and work in such a kind and caring community.

Christmas/Winter Performances

From today, Thursday 17th, you will be able to watch your child's performance on Itslearning from the comfort of your own home. **There are 4 performances that you can watch – Early Years, Year 1 & 2, Years 3 & 4, and Years 5 & 6. Also, we have something a little special that the whole school has worked on together.**

We kindly ask that any photographs or videos uploaded onto Itslearning remain **private**, and you keep them for **family/personal use**. These images are not to be shared or put up on any social networking/media sites.

Look out for an email today with more information. Thank you and we hope you enjoy the show!

Friday 18th December – Early Closure

School will be closing early on the last day of term. Please make sure that you know what time your child must be collected from school on this day. All children must be collected from school by 2pm at the latest. We thank everyone for their support.

Surnames A-G	Surnames H-P	Surnames Q-Z
1.30 – 1.40	1.40 – 1.50	1.50 – 2.00

Returning to School in January

All children will return to school on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**, after the Christmas break. We will continue with the same drop off and collection arrangements that we have had in place since September. The children should continue to come to school in their sports kits on their PE day and they should only bring into school what they need – their reading book, a water bottle and their lunchbox.

London – Tier 3 (Very High Risk)

As we are sure you all know, London is now in Tier 3. For more information on the restrictions we must now follow, please click here - [Tier 3 poster](#).

Reporting COVID over Xmas

Over the Christmas break, it is very important that you continue to follow the guidelines and get your child tested for Covid 19 if they show one of the main symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough, loss of smell/taste). If your child develops symptoms and tests positive for Coronavirus over the Christmas break, it is very important that you contact the school immediately via email (info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk), so that we can inform Lewisham, Public Health England, staff who have been in close contact with your child, and all the children who are in their bubble.

Please carefully read the attached letter for more information.

Travel over the Christmas Break – If any members of your household are travelling out of the UK over the Christmas Break, please ensure you email the school (info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk) so we can ensure that you and your family are clear about the procedures and restrictions that may need to be followed. We will ask you to let us know the following information:

- Where you/your household member is going
- The return date to the UK
- Who is in your household

Weduc – our new communication system

We will now be using Weduc as our way of communicating all key messages, dates, newsletters and information on the exciting events that are going on in school. Over the next term we will be introducing different features of the app but for now we will be focusing on the **newsfeed and calendar**.

EYFS closure for cleaning – Friday 22nd January

On Friday 22nd January we will again close our Nursery and Reception classes in order for the carpets to be cleaned and the classrooms to be fogged. School will finish for these children at 1pm. There will be no afternoon Nursery session.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday, a merry Christmas if you celebrate, and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

From all of the staff at Brindishe Green

Important Dates

Christmas Performances available online – Thursday 17th December

End of term – Friday 18th December – early finish

INSET Day (no children in school) – Monday 4th January

Start of Spring Term – Tuesday 5th January

EYFS Early Closure – Friday 22nd January



A message from the Brindishe Friends Group (BFG)

What an amazing few weeks we have had. Through our festive trail, Guess the Baubles and raffle, we have raised **an amazing £1,253.89**. A huge thank you to all the families that participated in the activities - we hope you enjoyed them all!

If you and your child won a prize for the festive trail, Guess the Baubles or in the raffle, you will have received a text message from the school. Come to the main office to collect your prize.

An extra special thank you goes to all the people who helped in the organising, donated prizes and gave up their time to help. This has been an incredibly hard year and we are so happy to have had such great feedback.

Good Hope have been fantastic with their support of 300 hot chocolates, raffle prizes and donations from tree sales. Bryan & Keegan donated the popcorn for the popcorn and pantomime day as well - what a great community we have.

We will meet again in the new year but in the meantime do get in touch if you have a brilliant idea that you think could help raise money for the school. The more people who get involved the more we can achieve.

Email us: bfgsocials@gmail.com.

Tweet us @bfgthiergreen

Message us on Facebook - search for 'Brindishe Friends Group'.

Here's to an amazing 2021!

The BFG (The Brindishe Friends Group)

