

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Monday 8th March, all Brindishe Lee children will return to school full-time and the staff are really excited to be welcoming them back. It feels like it has been a long time since all our classrooms were filled with laughter and learning. Since the announcement last Monday, the staff have been busy preparing the school so that it is as safe as possible for everyone, and so that the children are as comfortable and happy as they were the last time they were in class.

As a school, we aim to fill the children with confidence and to offer reassurance so that they do not feel like that they have missed out or have fallen behind in any way. We aim to build on the skills and knowledge they learnt before Christmas and when they were learning at home. We believe that our children are remarkably resilient, brave and enthusiastic, and therefore they are in a great place to make huge strides in their education, friendships and confidence. For those children who may be a little apprehensive about returning, we want to reassure you that we will gently support them, listen to their worries and build them up again. We know that as a school community, we achieve great things for our children when we work together and trust each other. And our children look to us all for reassurance and encouragement.

What parents/carers/after school clubs/childminders need to do to keep everyone safe?

For us to keep our year group bubbles open and the children in school, we ask that you please work with us by following the following necessary guidelines:

- **All parents and carers must wear a mask or visor when dropping off/collecting their child/ren.** If you are medically exempt from wearing a mask, we ask you to please wear a visor.
- Only one parent/carer should drop off/collect.
- Please ensure you bring and collect your child/ren from school at the **allocated time and not before**. Ensure whoever is collecting your child knows what time they should come and the expectations. Please refer to the attached document with information regarding times/allocated gates.
- **Children should come to school with only essential items** – waterproof/warm coat, a labelled bottle of water and their packed lunch.
- On your child's PE day, they should come to school dressed in a **suitable PE kit**.
- It is important that your child comes to school **dressed appropriately** for the day ahead as they will be using outdoor spaces in all weathers. Please ensure they have a waterproof coat and suitable footwear. Windows in classrooms will be open so children should wear layers to keep warm.
- If **any member of your household** becomes unwell, you must not send your child/ren to school. You must take a Covid-19 test. Your child/ren can only return to school if the result is negative.
- If your child becomes unwell when they are in school, they will be asked to sit in the isolation room and you will be asked to collect them immediately. You will be asked to get your child tested for Covid-19.

What are we doing in school to keep everyone safe?

- **Year groups will form bubbles where children can learn and play together in classrooms and the playground.** Staff will work in only one bubble, if possible. Some staff may need to cross bubbles and in this case they will wear a mask when indoors.
- **Staff will wear a mask** in all communal areas, including out in the playground and at the beginning and end of the day.

- Children and staff will **wash and/or sanitise their hands** when they are moving from one space to another.
- **Classroom and corridor windows and doors will be open all day** to ensure good ventilation.
- **Communal areas will be cleaned throughout the day.** This is in addition to the clean that is done at the end of the day and staff cleaning desktops in the classrooms.
- If a child or member of staff tests **positive for Covid-19**, we will send their bubble home, following guidance from Public Health England. You will be asked to collect your child immediately.
- Staff will test themselves twice a week using the Lateral Flow Tests.

What if you or your child tests positive for Covid-19?

If your child, or a member of your household (including parents and carers), becomes unwell or receives a positive COVID-19 test result, your child/ren must not come to school.

If your **child receives a positive Covid19 test**, either because they developed symptoms, or because you had them tested as a member of the household received a positive test, you will need to phone the school office immediately on **020 8318 4626** (Monday to Friday) or by emailing info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk (Saturday/Sunday).

You will be asked to give the following information:

- Name of child and year group/class
- Date they were last in school
- Date they became unwell
- Date of Covid-19 test

What we will do if a member of staff or child tests positive for Covid 19?

If we receive news that a child in school or member of staff has tested positive for Covid-19, we will immediately contact Public Health England and follow their lead. If PHE inform us that we must close a bubble, we will text the parents/carers of this bubble to tell them they must collect their child immediately. It will be safe for all other children and staff to be in school, including siblings of the children sent home.

We will then **email parents and carers of children in the bubble with further information** including when the children will be able to return to school and what to do if their child becomes unwell.

The class teachers will upload learning the next day onto *Itslearning*, in the same way as they did during the national lockdown. One assignment will be set each day that should be uploaded by 3pm.

An **email will be sent to the school community** to inform them that there has been a positive case in school and that we have taken necessary precautions.

And finally...

If you have any questions or queries during this time, please ring or email (info@brindishelee.lewisham.sch.uk) the school office and your email will be forwarded to the correct person. If you have not received a response within 48 hours, please email again. Please note, that sometimes emails from school might go to your Junk Inbox.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 8th March and hope that you and your family are as excited about returning to school as we are about seeing you.

Best wishes,

The Brindishe Lee Senior Leadership Team.