



Brindishe Manor Newsletter

Friday 27th November 2020

Headteacher: Kate Porter



Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

This week our teachers have been busy meeting all of our parents and carers virtually! I know the staff have really enjoyed getting to speak to you all and being able to answer the questions that you had ready for them. Thank you for all of your positive feedback about the meetings. We know a few people have emailed us because they were unable to connect to the meeting with technical difficulties. Staff will be in touch with these families in due course if they have not managed to get to them already.

Closing bubbles due to Covid positive test results

As you will be aware, this week we have had to close two of our bubbles due to positive Covid tests within those bubbles. I wanted to just explain to all of our families how we are working within school to cover classes when we have staff absence (either due to bubble closure or illness) in this increasingly challenging time for all schools.

Each teacher has a set amount of time outside of the classroom to prepare, plan and assess the children's learning, which has always been in place. This year, Ms Cosin, Miss Hockham, Mrs Guest, Ms Dougan and I cover classes so that teachers can have this protected time. We try our very best to cover set classes each week and remain in designated bubbles. However, sometimes if teachers have had to go through Covid testing themselves, complete isolation or have ill health, we have no choice but to make further changes to our weekly timetable.

Every time we move any member of staff to another bubble, we record their movements on a central log, which means that should a bubble need to close, we can easily trace who has been where and therefore protect any other children and staff in any other bubbles by adding them to those who have to self-isolate.

I wanted to reassure you that we are doing all that we can to cause as little disruption to the children as possible, in what sometimes feels like a very challenging juggling act. We are making sure the children continue to have the outstanding teaching, the fabulous opportunities and exciting experiences that they have always had at Brindishe Manor. All of the staff would like to say a big thank you to all of our families for your continued support.

Winter performances

For many of our families who have been part of the Brindishe Manor community for a number of years, you will know that our winter performances are always a wonderful end to our Autumn term!

This year the performances will be run slightly differently. Like everything else at the moment ... they will be recorded and placed online for your viewing pleasure. In the last week of term, you will have your child's class performance posted on *Itslearning* so that you can sit with your child and family and enjoy watching their performances together. We will send more information over the next few weeks.



Primary School Applications for 2021

This week we have added a short video to the school website to support new parents and carers to make a decision about their school application process for September 2021.

The application process for primary places for 2021 is now open.

- Applications are already open (apply online) - Tuesday 1st September 2020

<https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>

- Closing date for applications is Friday 15th January 2021

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-primary-school>

Virtual Nursery and Reception Admissions meetings

As we are currently unable to carry out tours for parents and carers of our Nursery, Reception and the rest of the school, we would like to invite parents and carers who are looking for school places for September 2021 to an online presentation on one of the following dates.

Tuesday 1st December at 4:30pm

Tuesday 8th December at 4:30pm

The sessions will talk more about the ethos of our school, what the learning experience looks like in Nursery and Reception and how the children make the transition into Reception. We will share plenty of images of how our classrooms look and the types of activities the children will have on offer throughout the day.

If you would like to be booked on to one of the presentation meetings, which will be led by Kate Porter (Head) and Jenny Guest (EYFS and Y1 Lead) then please call or email the school office who will send you the details for joining: info@brindishemanor.lewisham.sch.uk

Crisis at Christmas

Every year we collect loose change for the charity 'Crisis', which supports homeless people during the winter period. Your donations can support homeless people with food, shelter and companionship.



**Crisis
at Christmas**

We are asking all children to wear either a Christmas jumper, something festive or an outfit of their choice on **Wednesday 16th December**, which is the same day as our Christmas lunch. We are inviting children to bring in a donation on the day to put in to the collection buckets which will be available as they come in to school.

Dates for your diary...

Tues 1 st Dec	Online Nursery and Reception 2021 presentation
Tue 8 th Dec	Online Nursery and Reception 2021 presentation
Tue 15 th Dec	Online Winter performances available on <i>Itslearning</i>
Wed 16 th Dec -	Christmas lunch for all
Wed 16 th Dec -	Dress Festive Day
Fri 18 th Dec -	Last day of term

The 2020 Exercise Challenge

A big thank you from the PSFA to everyone who is getting stuck into the exercise challenge - as you can see we are doing really well!

Just a reminder of how to take part:

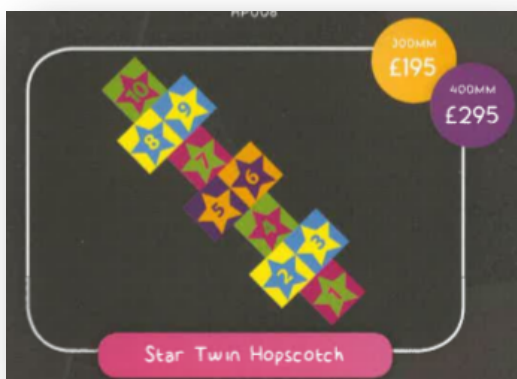
Step 1: Let the PSFA know (via the class contact, email or Facebook) how many miles your family covered over the week (so if you went for a 2 mile walk that would be 8 miles for a family of 4). It will all help add up to 2020 miles (or beyond) by the end of the year.

Step 2: Share the link to tell family/friends what your family, and the school community are up! Hopefully, you'll inspire others to get outside and/or feel like donating to support the school community

We have already raised £1137

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BM2020collectiveexerciseshallenge?invite=true>

We thought it would be good to show you the kinds of play equipment we would like to purchase for the school playground so that all children have an enjoyable play experience.



Trim Trail example:





Photos of children in promotional material

In order for you to see more of what goes on in the classrooms and around school and to celebrate the learning experiences that your children are having, we are going to start including more photographs in our weekly newsletter and on our online platform *Itslearning*. We are also in the process of updating our website with more images of what goes on every day at Brindishe Manor. We have all of your consents for photography already and the way in which we use it, but please do email us or call if you have any further questions.

Covid-19 Survey on Rapid Testing

Rapid testing is coming to Lewisham soon. This is good news as more testing helps stop the spread of the virus and prevent the need for further restrictions. [Take part in this three-minute survey](#) so we can better target the COVID-19 rapid testing when it comes to Lewisham. Tell us whether you'd take a test and if not, why?

The link to the survey is <https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/corporate-policy-and-governance/covid-19-rapid-test-su>

We wish you all a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Kate Porter and the Brindishe Manor team