

Brindishe Green School

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6 July 2018



Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends.

Farewell to Dame Vicki, our inspirational Executive Head

At this point in the term and with Dame Vicki's imminent departure, it feels only right to acknowledge and celebrate her immense contribution to Brindishe Green and to our federation of Brindishe Schools.

As you know, Dame Vicki came to what was then Hither Green School in 2007, at the request of the then Director of Children & Young People's Services for Lewisham, Fankie Sulke. Dame Vicki recruited me to the role of Associate Headteacher and together, with a hugely talented team of teachers, support staff and governors, (many of whom worked at Brindishe Lee - known then as Brindishe School), we set about transforming a failing school into the wonderful, vibrant, successful school we see today. If you ask her, Dame Vicki says that she did not do this on her own, but equally, it would not have been possible without her strategic vision and relentless determination to ensure that all Brindishe Green children would achieve at the highest levels across the curriculum. Her ability to turn vision into reality and a strong set of values that children should feel empowered, trusted, included, valued, recognized as individuals and challenged, made this possible.

Dame Vicki was the driving force behind the success of Brindishe Lee as their Headteacher for 17 years, then moving on to develop Brindishe Green from 2007 and in 2011 Brindishe Manor. By 2013 all three were rated by Ofsted as outstanding and it was for this reason she received her Damehood. She has been working on behalf of young children and as a teacher and Headteacher in primary schools in and around London for 40 years, 28 of them in Lewisham. Dame Vicki has kept our 3 schools at the forefront of national strategy, maximized opportunities to engage in leading practice and kept us all one step ahead, often many steps ahead, of other schools in and around London.

She has been influential on the national platform and worked tirelessly behind the scenes for the benefit of all of our children.

Dame Vicki, as you know, will leave us at the end of this term but will continue to be trustee for Challenge Partners and will no doubt keep in touch with us.

She leaves a legacy which I feel confident will continue for many years to come as there is no other federation of schools that work so openly, harmoniously, collaboratively and successfully as the Brindishe Schools.

I'm sure would be delighted to see any of our families who would like to pop in to say goodbye. She is normally with us on a Tuesday and Thursday each week.

We wish Dame Vicki a happy and healthy future as she moves on to other things and thank her wholeheartedly for all she has done for Brindishe Schools, for Brindishe Green, for our community and most importantly, for our children.



This week at Brindishe Green

On Monday, Year 4 performed for their parents and carers the most wonderful adaptation of Romeo & Juliet. The children were so professional, well-rehearsed, clearly spoken and impressive: it was breathtaking! They worked collaboratively to design the scenery, make the props and organize the costumes so that it was flawless. Huge thanks to all the adults who supported them in this and particularly to the three Year 4 teachers: Mrs Bowen, Ms Sullivan and Mr Williamson. A special mention must also go to Michael Sullivan who supported the team to ensure the sound and lighting were perfect.

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Also on Monday, Year 1 children took part in a

special tri-school athletics competition which I'm pleased to tell you they won! Thank you to all the Year 1 staff from BG, BL and BM who helped to organize this event and to the many parents and carers who came to support on the day.

On Wednesday, Year 5 children attended a special secondary transition day at Sedgehill School.

We also heard this week that Brindishe Green actually came 1st in our most recent outdoor athletic competition which meant that the team took part in the London Games on Thursday. Well done to all those children and huge thanks to Mr Lewis for getting so many children to the London Games this year - 5 different teams in total!

Today, a team of Year 5 and 6 children attended the Lewisham Safety Conference with the Jimmy Mizen Foundation to discuss changes that would make Lewisham safer for everyone.

Finally, Reception children had their sports day today. It was a really lovely morning and the children listened well and tried their best in everything. Thank you to the many BG staff who made the event so successful and to the many parents and carers who came along to support.

Next week at Brindishe Green

10th July - Year 2 to London Zoo

12th July - Nursery Family Picnic at Manor House Gardens (please note Nursery will be closed on Thurs).

12th July - Hearing and Vision checks for Reception

13th July - Reception sponsored walk and family picnic at Manor House Gardens

13th July - Reports to parents and carers

Future Diary Dates

16th/17th/18th - Learning Outside the Classroom

17th July - Year 6 production at 6.00pm

18th July - Year 6 production at 2.00pm

19th July - Year 6 Prom

20th July - End of term

5th September - Children return to school

Fantastic attendance last week!

Well done to Palm (again) and Cedar for 100% attendance this week as well as Ash and Chestnut 3 (again) and to Beech, Bamboo (4th week) and Chestnut 2 for top punctuality.

Headteacher - Sarah Gorbutt



Lost Property

Please remember to keep checking lost property and collecting up any mislaid sweatshirts, jackets and hats. Our collection is growing and will need to be claimed. Any unclaimed clothes will be recycled over the holidays

Books please!

If you have any books at home that belong to Brindishe Green, please make sure you return these before the end of term so that we can check them in ready for their new classes.

Your Safety First

Please make sure your children leave with you at the end of the day and are not playing in the play area (next to the garden). Be safe when dropping off and picking up children on Beacon Road at the beginning and end of the day too. Thank you!

This week we are looking at Article 2 (non-discrimination)



On Saturday 7th, London is a sea of rainbows and smiles as Pride in London takes place for the 46th year. Many of our families and members of staff will be attending events taking place across the capital...including the world famous parade. Please click here for more information: <https://prideinlondon.org/>

As a school that is passionate about equality and diversity, Brindishe Green want to wish everyone a very Happy Pride!

It's also Lewisham People's Day so whichever you are attending have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Sarah Gorbutt
Headteacher

Executive Head - Vicki Paterson DBE