

3 April 2020

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

I hope you are all keeping well and looking after each other while school is closed and we are all asked to stay at home. I can't tell you how much we miss seeing our children and families every day! I know that lots of people are trying to find fun and different ways to keep themselves busy at home. I wonder if anyone has taken up a new hobby or begun to learn a new skill? Now is your chance!

Staff at all three Brindishe schools have been supporting the childcare provision for key workers at Brindishe Green over the past few weeks and this will continue over the Easter break and into next term. I know you will want to join me in thanking them for their dedication and support for such a worthwhile cause.

Home Learning

We are confident that most families have now managed to log on and access the learning set by class teachers over the past two weeks. We have had a very positive response from our families about the 'itslearning' platform and the learning that their children are enjoying. Please continue to contact us on info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk if you have any questions and we will do our best to help you quickly.

The Easter holiday starts next Monday 6 April so there will be no home learning from 6 – 20 April. Online learning will begin again from 21 April. Please note that Monday 20th April is an INSET day and will be used by staff to begin to prepare online resources for next half term.

Over the holiday period you might like to explore some of the online resources on our 'itslearning' homepage, including ways to relax or to exercise. If you've not already done so, you must try out Mr Williamson's fitness videos to help keep everyone in shape! Find them at the bottom of our 'itslearning' homepage.

Childcare for key workers

Over Easter the childcare provision will continue to run at Brindishe Green. It is for key workers where there is no alternative childcare available and runs from 7.45am – 6pm. Please contact us on info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk if you think you may qualify for this care.

Coronavirus – support for children

We know that some children may well be feeling worried about the coronavirus and want to know more about how to help keep their family safe and well.

The government have produced some helpful guidance which you can access here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/cco-childrens-guide-to-coronavirus.pdf> (this guidance is also on our 'itslearning' homepage)

Of course, the guidance we gave to children when they were at school still applies and is the best way to help stop the coronavirus spreading:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash your hands: **CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT.**

Government guidance for everyone on coronavirus

The most common symptoms of coronavirus are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres away (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Do not meet others, even friends or family

Please remember you can spread the virus even if you do not have symptoms.

To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Stay at home. Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do.

Free School Meals...

Please follow the link below and make an application for Free School Meals. If a decision comes back and you are entitled to free school meals, you will receive vouchers to support your shopping bills for your children:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>

If you need any additional support with completing the application, please email us at info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk. Given the current circumstances, even if you think you don't qualify - please try.

Should you find you are not eligible for the government scheme but are experiencing hardship, please contact us on info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk

Email scam...

The DfE have informed us that there is an email scam circulating which asks families to send their bank details if they are entitled to free school meals. Do not respond to these emails and delete them immediately.

Keeping safe...

While school is closed, should you have any safeguarding concerns, please call Lewisham Social Care on 0208 314 8666, the Lewisham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0208 314 6000, or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

We wish you all the very best over the holiday and hope you stay well. For those of you who have been unwell, we wish you a quick and full recovery. We will be in touch again soon, once term begins.

For those of you celebrating, I hope you have a very happy Easter, and best wishes to everyone in the Brindishe Green community,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher