

12th June 2020

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

#BlackLivesMatter

'Together we're more' is the Brindishe Federation value that underpins our ethos and is so true for today's world. The unlawful killing of George Floyd is a stark reminder that we must tackle racism, violence and work together as one. With 'rights and respect' at the heart of our teaching, we strive to ensure that everyone feels valued, secure and is treated with fairness and respect. We are all different yet we are all equal. We are proud to be who we are, and we stand together as one community. As educators, we will give our children the tools to challenge injustice and identify solutions, so they are better equipped to make a difference to their world - for themselves and for others.

"You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but ... history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own." Michelle Obama.

A Statement from the Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan

The Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan has published a statement on behalf of Lewisham Council in response to the killing of George Floyd in the United States. You can read the full statement here: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/black-lives-matter-in-lewisham>

A Statement from School Leaders in Lewisham

As Lewisham Leaders, we stand united with the family, and friends, of George Floyd, who was unlawfully killed last week, in Minnesota, USA.

We are committed to tackle and challenge racism, address inequality and call out discrimination.

As educators we cannot remain silent.

The murder of George Floyd must prompt careful reflection about racism in Britain today, and the extent to which it shapes our values, politics and economic life.

Our community needs and deserves to feel safe in the belief that its leaders condemn all acts of racism and violence and moreover that they believe racism is an abhorrence that we as Lewisham Leaders reject.

Lewisham Leaders have a duty to address systemic racism in our society and we uphold this in our united condemnation of the unlawful murder of an innocent black man George Floyd.

This week at Brindishe Green

We have welcomed back many of our Year 6 children this week. They have had a very successful few days in their new 'bubbles' and tell us they are enjoying being back at school. Thank you to all the staff involved for making this possible.

Following the survey for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children earlier this week, we are pleased to let you know that we are looking forward to seeing the first round (week 1) of our EYFS children on Monday.

Then on 22nd June we will be joined by our Year 1s and by week 2 of our EYFS children. The response to returning has been very positive and we are able to offer a week on / week off timetable for EYFS and Year 1 'bubble' staff and children to accommodate everyone who has requested a return.

Please remember that children should not come to school if they (or any member of your household) are displaying symptoms of COVID-19:

- *high temperature*
- *persistent dry cough*
- *loss of taste or smell*

You should follow government guidance on self-isolation and testing and you must let the school know as soon as possible.

You can book a test online if your child or any member of your household is displaying symptoms: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Children returning to Year 6

If you are still deciding whether to send your child back into Year 6, please inform the school office at info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk or call 0208 852 7245 with your final decision **before Friday 19th June**. We will try and accommodate all children, however once the 'bubble' capacity has been reached, we will be unable to admit any more.

Children returning to Nursery, Reception and Year 1

If you are still deciding whether to send your Nursery, Reception or Year 1 child back, please inform the school office at info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk or call 0208 852 7245 with your final your decision **before Friday 26th June**. We will try and accommodate all children, however once the 'bubble' capacity has been reached, we will be unable to admit any more.

Social Distancing

We are working hard as a school to remind children about keeping apart and have put in necessary measures to ensure this happens within school. Thank you to all our parents and carers for also respecting this and following the rules both inside and outside the school gates. It is imperative we all follow the guidance to protect others around us.

Staffing news

Before school closure we were planning a special farewell to Esther Yeboah, nursery nurse in Year 1, who has worked at our school for 20 years and was due to retire at Easter. Sadly, we were unable to say thank you and goodbye properly at the time but we hope that, before too long, we will be able to welcome Ms Yeboah back to school and give her the very special send-off that she deserves after 20 years of such dedicated service to our Brindishe Green children!

Some of you have been asking how to pass on your own messages of thanks to Ms Yeboah. Please email info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk with your message and we will make sure she gets it.

Sadly, next Wednesday we are also saying goodbye to Jade Padmore, teaching assistant in Reception, who is moving onto pastures new. We want to thank her for all she has done to support our EYFS children over the past few years and wish her all the best for the future.

Its Learning – uploading learning, and feedback

Thank you to all of you who have been uploading learning onto ItsLearning.

Some parents and carers have asked questions about uploading learning and feedback. When a teacher sets an assignment, the children can answer the questions / complete the task and attach files for this assignment. This learning is only visible to the teacher. The teacher may give individual feedback through a message on ItsLearning, or they may give group feedback. There is also a shared folder where teachers may ask children to upload files. These uploads are visible to all staff and children in that class. Individual feedback cannot be sent via Its Learning for these uploads to the shared folder, but the teacher may give general feedback to the group with a message.

We know you will understand that feedback from teachers may not be immediate as our teachers are also working in school with children during the day.

School Meals – important information

If your child is coming to school and you are not entitled to free school meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals, you will be charged for lunches. Please ensure you make your payments through the Arbor portal.

Free School Meals (FSM)

For those entitled to Free School Meals, you will continue to receive your vouchers from Edenred, the Government provider of FSM. From Monday 15th June, if your child attends school either in the provision or in one of the returning year groups, your Edenred vouchers will be cancelled as your child will be receiving a meal at school. Any siblings not returning to school will continue to receive the voucher.

Please follow the link below to make an application for Free School Meals:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-mealsand-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 do not qualify - please try.

Should you find you are not eligible for the government scheme, but are experiencing hardship, please contact Sue Murphy in the school office on 0208 852 7245 or email info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk

Childcare for Critical Workers

If you are a critical worker and have no alternative childcare available, our provision runs from 9am – 3.15pm with wrap around care run by Sportacus, and paid for by parents and carers, from 8am – 5pm. Please contact info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk if you feel you need this provision.

With very best wishes,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher

Rachel Waite
Executive Head