

20 July 2020

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,  
This is our last newsletter for this school year.

**A message from Rachel Waite:**

*As we enter the last few days of this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our Brindishe Community for all the support during what has been an indescribable year. As leaders, we have needed to make decisions that have stretched our values and beliefs, but we have always kept the staff and children at the forefront. September will see us return with our recovery curriculum, taking each and every child's experiences and ensuring we do what is best. We will get back on track, we will get back to what we truly believe is the best for our children – it may take time, but we are all committed and will ensure we get there together. Summer is now a time to leave 'Itslearning' and continue to enjoy time together. Keep reading, keep laughing, hold on to one moment that you did as a family together and enjoy.*

**A big thank you.....**

*.....to each and every member of staff. It is time for you take a long deep breath and relax. Move that laptop away, turn the 'zoom' app off and enjoy some quiet. Our huge thank you to you all.*

**Good luck**

*I would like to say a fond farewell to number of our staff across the three schools. We wish you all the very best and good luck for the next stage of your career.*

*And our Year 6 – we really hope you enjoyed your last day at school and, although it wasn't a traditional goodbye, you were able to finish your primary years together and look forward to the future ahead of you. We really do wish you all the very best.*

**Welcome**

*We also welcome a number of new staff including Maxine Sebire who will be joining the Federation as the Head of Brindishe Lee. Maxine has spent the day visiting all three schools and is very much looking forward to joining us in September as we start the new academic year.*

*Have a wonderful summer, please keep yourselves and those around you safe and we will be in touch at the start of September.*

Rachel Waite  
Executive Head

**Farewell to Year 6**

We had a very special day on Friday when our Year 6 children came back to school to take part in their class leaving ceremony. In the sunshine, each child had their photograph taken and received a special certificate with a personalised message from their class teacher and a gift. It was lovely to see the children again and to celebrate their

achievements with them before they head off to their secondary schools. We wish them all much luck for Year 7 and beyond.

We are very excited to see lots of our children at the transition days today and tomorrow. These are taking place in the playground and children will get to say goodbye to their current teacher and meet their new teacher for September.

### **End of year reports**

Reports are being handed to parents and carers on our transition days (today and tomorrow, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July). Reports will only be posted to school leavers who do not collect them from school.

**If your child is unable to attend their transition session, you will be able to collect their report from the main school entrance this Wednesday morning, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, between 10am and 12pm.**

All other uncollected reports will be distributed in September.

### **Itslearning**

Our online learning offer finishes at the end of term tomorrow, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July. In September we are anticipating being back in school and experiencing normal classroom learning every day. However, should we need to use our online learning in similar circumstances again, we are looking to develop new features on the Itslearning platform to support this.

### **September**

As you will be aware, following current government guidance, we are expecting to have all children back in school from September. We are currently looking at how we will manage large numbers of children on site every day, including arrangements for staggered drop-off and collection, classroom set-up, handwashing and hygiene, lunch and play times and keeping year group bubbles separate from each other. We will write to you in September with details of our final arrangements. Please note that children return to school on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. We are holding INSET days on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> September to prepare for full re-opening.

### **Attendance from September**

The Department for Education has instructed schools that attendance will be compulsory. If a child is absent for any reason, then parents/carers should phone the school office to note the absence and give a reason. We appreciate that this is a very difficult time for some and we will work with families to support full attendance from September.

If you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please email [info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk)

If any parents or carers are planning on travelling abroad during the summer holiday, please check the quarantine arrangements for your return to the UK. Families need to leave enough time to complete any quarantine requirements before the start of the school term.

### **Supporting children's emotional wellbeing**

We have really enjoyed welcoming back children in Reception and Nursery, Year 1, Year 6, the vulnerable and the key worker children and are very excited to have all children back in September.

We realise that, for many, this will be an important transition having not been in school since March. To add to this we recognise that all families have had different experiences during the lockdown period and some of you may have found the time especially challenging.

In order to support your child, we have set up a new email address in order to sensitively support your child returning to school. If you feel there is anything that you would like the school to know about your family or about your experience during lockdown, please contact us via the following email address:

[recovery@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:recovery@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk) . All emails will be treated confidentially.

Although the school will be closed over the summer period, we will continue to closely monitor this email inbox and address any concerns and queries raised when we return in September.

### **Rocks and Pebbles – Breakfast Club and After School Club**

Our Breakfast Club and After School Club provider, Rocks and Pebbles, is hoping to be up and running to support families in the autumn term.

They are keen to get an idea of how many families might need their service. Please contact them on 0755 434 0540 or email them at: [rocksandpebbles1@aol.co.uk](mailto:rocksandpebbles1@aol.co.uk)

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

This year, to promote our love of reading, we invite all the children to send in photographs of their favourite reading places at home. This could be inside or outside, somewhere you have been reading over the last few weeks or a special reading den you create over the summer holidays. Send in your photo to your new class teacher in September, during the first week of term, and you will be entered into a prize draw to win a free book!

### **School Dinner Money**

You may have recently received a text asking you to pay your child's dinner money. This will be for meals that your child had before school closure and lockdown.

**Please pay the outstanding balance on Arbor** or phone the school office on 0208 852 7245 if you have any questions.

### **Free School Meals over the summer holiday**

If your child is registered for free school meals you will be entitled to support over the summer holidays. One voucher per child to the value of £90 will be sent to eligible families on 27 July. This will cover the whole of the summer holiday. Please note you will not then be sent a voucher each week. Please call the school office on 0208 852 7245 if you would like more information.

Should you find yourself in need of further support over the holiday, you can call this helpline which is linked to the Lewisham Foodbank service: 0808 208 2138.

### **Sportacus Holiday Club at Brindishe Lee**

In order to support families with childcare over the summer holidays, a holiday club will be run by Sportacus at Brindishe Lee. If you are interested in the holiday club, please see the flyer below.

### **Diary Dates:**

#### **End of Summer Term 2020**

**21 July** End of term for remaining children in the key worker provision

**22 July** 10am – 12pm End of year report collection from the main entrance (for those who have not attended transition sessions)

#### **Autumn Term 2020**

**2, 3 and 4 Sept** INSET Days (staff only)

**7 Sept** Children return to school

### **And finally...**

At the end of a very unusual school year, we have all been reflecting on the extraordinary circumstances in which we have found ourselves. I want to thank each and every family for their huge support, messages of thanks and encouragement. They have helped to spur us on, especially when everything seemed very uncertain.

I want to say a particular thank you to Grant from Sportacus who has supported so many of our children with such care and dedication during lockdown and right through the summer term. Grant has impressed us all and has become a treasured colleague!

All our staff have been just incredible over the past months, supporting key worker children in school during such a precarious time in lockdown and, since then, teaching the children who have returned to school with such generosity of spirit as well as supporting all children with online learning and phone calls home. It is to **all** the Brindishe Green staff and senior leaders that I owe the greatest thanks.

We were most touched to hear one parent describe Brindishe Green as 'the heart of the community' and to say that our school 'has helped keep the local community together' during this most challenging of times. We are so grateful to you all and, like you, we are looking forward to seeing everyone back in September, learning and being together. As we always say at Brindishe, 'together we're more'.

With best wishes to all families for a lovely summer break,

Gerlinde Achenbach  
Headteacher



# FOOTBALL - MULTISPORTS - DANCE



During the past 14 weeks, Sportacus coaches have been entrusted by schools across London and Kent to provide sports sessions, PE classes, learning mentors, classroom assistance and lunch time support for vulnerable, and key worker children and more recently children who have returned to school.

We have worked closely with senior leadership teams from different trusts covering 12 schools and are highly experienced in working under the unprecedented conditions of the past few months. It is our message to you that we will exceed expectations when it comes to your childrens safety while in our care and while the threat of COVID 19 is still present. Separate play/eating areas, capped group numbers, one way systems, regular hand washing and encouraged social distancing are just a few of the measures we will be taking to ensure the risk of infection is as low as it can be.

Harry Harding  
Managing Director

9:30-3:30  
Every Day

## DATES

WEEK 1: Mon 27 - Fri 31 July    WEEK 2: Mon 3 - Fri 7 Aug  
WEEK 3: Mon 10 - Fri 14 Aug    WEEK 4: Mon 17 - Fri 21 Aug  
WEEK 5: Mon 24 - Fri 28 Aug

## LOCATIONS

DARRICK WOOD JR SCHOOL, LOVIBONDS AVENUE, ORPINGTON, KENT BR6 8ER  
OR

BRINDISHE LEE SCHOOL, WANTAGE ROAD, LEE, LONDON SE12 8NA

10% OFF any  
full week booking  
of 2 or more  
use: SIBLING10

## PRICES

FULL WEEK BOOKING    £90  
INDIVIDUAL DAY BOOKING    £25  
Online booking fee applies

Dance & Theatre  
on Thursday  
& Friday  
EVERY WEEK!

# WWW.SPORTACUS.CO.UK

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