



Friday 15th January 2021

Dear parents, carers, governors, staff and friends,

It has been another busy week at school, and at home, for all of our staff and families. We know that everyone is working tirelessly, while trying to remain as positive and up beat as possible. We hope that everyone in our school community is keeping safe and looking after themselves, and to those of you who are unwell, we wish you a speedy recovery.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken the time to send in messages of support and thanks over the past two weeks. We have been inundated with emails thanking the teaching staff, office staff, IT staff, and Senior Leadership Team for all they have done to support, provide up to date information and ensure families have what they need in order to be able to support their child/ren at home. The teaching staff particularly have been very touched by the emails they have received thanking them for the online learning they have been working so hard to prepare, upload and respond to. Thank you to everyone who has emailed.

If you have emailed the school and expected to receive a reply, please bear with us. We have been getting lots of emails and calls and we have tried to make sure that we have answered everyone who has had a question. However, if you think your email has been missed or forgotten about (i.e there has been no reply within 72 hours), please send it again. We definitely have not ignored it on purpose.

If you have any questions or queries during this time, please can we ask that you use the following email addresses so that the right person can get back to you:

info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk – queries about online learning, accessing devices, Free School Meals, login details, concerns, general questions.

support@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk – if you need technical support with Itslearning or Weduc

Critical/Key Worker Schooling Update

Over the past two weeks we have had an increasing number of families asking for their child/ren to attend school rather than remain at home. After the initial announcement, **following advice from the local authority**, we offered places to households that had two critical workers or were classed as vulnerable according to the criteria set out by the Government. **This is to keep the school as safe as possible for everyone**, by providing for those who are in real need of the care provided in school.

We are aware that the Government has advised that only one parent/carer has to be a key worker, but until we knew what the uptake would be for Keyworkers, and had offered spaces to all our vulnerable children, we have needed to remain with our initial criteria. Safety must come first and our aim has to be keeping the size of bubbles manageable so that Critical Worker provision can remain open as for long as possible.

We want to work with all our families, therefore applications to school can be made if there is just one critical worker at home and you feel you really need to use the provision; **at present you will be placed on a waiting list**. If safe to do so, we will allocate children on a needs basis, to start during the week beginning 25th January 2021. The school will be in touch closer to the time if we are able to offer a place.

Please remember that the message from the government and scientists is that everyone is safest at home unless it is **really impossible** to do so.

ItsLearning: Assignments

Well done to all our children who have been logging in to Itslearning every day and uploading their daily assignments. **Assignments must be uploaded by 3.15pm. It is very important that every child completes and uploads each daily assignment on time so that the teacher can try to respond to it before 4.30pm on the same day.** Other learning should be uploaded to the child's Share and Celebrate folder. We want to be able to see and praise all your child's hard work.

Share and Celebrate

All classes now have a 'Share and Celebrate' folder in the **Resources tab of ItsLearning**. Children can upload work, photographs and videos of what they have been doing during the week so the **teacher and the other children in the class** can see and celebrate the fantastic effort everyone is making. During the fortnightly 'Teacher and Child Catch Up' video calls, references will be made to work uploaded and selected pieces will be recognised in a weekly praise video.

The BG Students Page

If your child has finished their home learning and is looking for something different and exciting to do, we encourage you to visit the **BG – Shared Students Room on Itslearning**. Here you will find assemblies by members of the Senior Leadership team (Mondays and Fridays), activities to do at home, information on e-safety, useful website links, choirs, virtual tours and even parent/carer workshops to give you ideas about how to support your children.



Teacher/Child Video Catch Up Calls

Teachers were delighted to see so many children during their video catch up this week. It was wonderful to hear the children talk about their learning and how they have been engaging in the activities that have been set. There will be another opportunity to book a Teacher/Child Video catch up on **27th/28th January from 1.00-3.30pm**. Look out for more information next week.

Free School Meals – Vouchers

The National Free School Meals voucher scheme will **relaunch on Monday 18th** and be run by the original government supplier, **Edenred**. Parents/Carers of children entitled to Free School Meals should receive the eCode and instructions on how to use the voucher within 4 days. **These £15 supermarket vouchers will be sent weekly, up to the week commencing 8th February**. Families will be able to use the vouchers to buy food for their child as soon as they receive it. Vouchers can not be used to buy age-restricted items, such as alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets.

If you think you might be entitled to free school meals for your child, please use this link to view the criteria and to apply ([apply for free school meals](#)). If you are successful, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

Please note that Free School Meals, is different to Universal Free School Meals which all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children automatically receive, but only when they are in school.

Best wishes to you all – and your families,

The Brindishe Green Senior Leadership Team

A message from the Brindishe Friends Group (BFG)

A very Happy New Year to parents, carers, pupils and staff!

Before Christmas we told you that we had raised an amazing £1,253.89 through the festive trail, Guess the Baubles and the raffle. As well as this, an **additional £100 was made from Christmas trees sold through Good Hope**. A massive thank you to Tommy and the team at Good Hope for all their support and generosity.

We are planning to hold **our first meeting of 2021 on Tuesday 19th January at 8pm**. There's lots of future fund raising ideas to discuss including places in the Vitality Big Half Marathon and a virtual quiz. It will be on Zoom so please let us know if you would like to receive the link to attend.

Email us: bfgsocials@gmail.com.

To find out how the money we have raised for the school is being spent and to learn more about what we have planned (including leaving gifts for Year 6's), please follow us on our social media channels.

We're on twitter [@bfghithergreen](https://twitter.com/bfghithergreen) and on Facebook - search for 'Brindishe Friends Group'.