



Friday 29th January 2021

Dear parents, carers, governors, staff and friends,

As we approach the end of the fourth week of term, it is important for us all to recognise how well everyone is doing. We have been speaking to parents and carers over the last few weeks, who have naturally been worrying about their child/ren but take it from us, you are all doing an amazing job.

If on a particular day it is a struggle to stick to the timetable set and to complete all the tasks, it is important that you try and support your child as best you can, but please do not worry. Read a book, put on BBC Bitesize or throw a ball in the park: your child will not be disadvantaged in any way. Use these moments as a chance to take stock, recharge and start again. On these days, try to just focus on the one main assignment set so that the teacher can give feedback to move the child on in their learning.

Next week, the schools will be providing lots of opportunities for children and families to look after their wellbeing as we all recognise Children's Mental Health Week. What better way to support each other moving into week 5.

I have also had the opportunity to talk to some parents and carers this week who have raised their thoughts and concerns around the online learning offer. As always, we appreciate these comments and will always ensure these are discussed and then used a tool for improvement if we feel we need to change our offer.

Heading into the weekend, please may I also take this as an opportunity to remind you that even though the rates of infection are dropping slightly, it is our duty to do all we can to keep everyone safe. We have done so well to keep the Key Worker Provision open throughout January and hope to continue to do so whilst we remain in lockdown.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Rachel Waite

Executive Head
Brindishe Schools

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

Children's Mental Health Week 2021

Next week is **Children's Mental Health Week** focusing on a very special theme: **Express Yourself!**

A range of video teaching sessions will be uploaded to the BG Shared Students page, exploring expression through poetry, art and dance. In addition to this, children across the school will be completing a whole host of activities to support their mental health and wellbeing. We are inviting the children to take part in a creative challenge and during our LIVE zoom sessions the children can express themselves through their attire!



Lewisham Sumdog Competition

The results of Sumdog's Lewisham competition are in! Across Lewisham, just over 500 students took part, answering an amazing 126,298 questions between them. Although we missed out on top spot, classes from **Brindishe Green dominated the top ten** - visit the Brindishe Shared Student page on Itslearning to view the table. There were also many daily winners – check out your class Announcement page today to see if your class was one of the daily winners. Huge congratulations to you all. Thank you everyone for taking part. Mr Phipps

Exciting news – Bug Club

At Brindishe Green, we are very excited to share that we now have a **whole school subscription to 'Bug Club'**. This is a great website where your child/ren can access **an eBook selected by their teacher suited for their current reading ability**.

They will also be able to complete different activities linked to the book to develop their skills in phonics and comprehension. Your child/ren will be able to log in to their account **using the same log-in details as those used to access Itslearning**.

More information on when and where to log-in as well as how it will work for your class will be shared by your teacher on ItsLearning very soon. Happy reading!



The Virtual School Library

Last week we let you know that The Oak National Academy and the National Literacy Trust have come together to launch their Virtual School Library to keep children reading during lockdown. Every week, a popular children's author will become 'Author of the Week' and provide a free book or audiobook and exclusive videos and activities aimed at primary school children: <https://library.thenational.academy/>

The Author of the Week this week is, **Nizrana Farook**. You can read or listen to ['The Girl Who Stole an Elephant'](#) completely free. Watch an exclusive video about Nizrana's new book, 'The Boy Who Met a Whale' and discover her top three children's books and read an interview all about reading.

Big Book Swap

Next week, we are inviting families to come to school to collect a **whiteboard and pen, 2 reading books and exercise book** (the ones the children do their learning in), and **return their old reading books**. We have split families across three days, depending on the first letter of their surname to ensure everyone is able to socially distance:

A-G – Monday 10.30 – 12.00

H-P – Tuesday 12.00 – 1.30

Q – Z – Wednesday 11.00 – 12.30

Please note:

- Parents/carers coming on site **must wear a mask**, unless exempt.
- **Only one parent/carer** should come through the gate.
- **One family** will be able to visit the year group table at a time.
- **Each child must sanitise their hands** before touching and selecting the books they would like.
- Please **follow the lead from the member of staff by the gate**, and the one way system – when leaving you will be asked to go down the steps, up the ramp and keep to the right.
- Please encourage your child to **choose quickly** so that other families can come to the table.

As always, on the day, if you have any questions about key worker provision, devices or anything else, please email info@brindishegreen.lewisham.sch.uk. Staff who will be working at the table are there to support the children in choosing a book and are unlikely to know the answer to your question. Thank you.

Live Interaction Sessions – This week the teachers and support staff really enjoyed seeing their classes come together for the first time over Zoom. **This will continue next week and we would really like all the children in the class to attend the session.**

On your child's Announcements Page on Itslearning, the teacher will write a message to remind you of the day and time of their session. They will also attach a Zoom link that will allow you to access the session. **These live sessions will be designed so they are suitable for the year group, are an opportunity for the children to see their friends and will allow the teacher to observe their class.**

The sessions will not detract from the daily learning that is set and uploaded every day.

Reception – Monday and Friday at 1.30pm

Year 1 – Monday and Wednesday at 1.00pm

Year 2 – Wednesday and Friday at 10am

Year 3 – Tuesday and Friday at 11am

Year 4 – Wednesday at 9.30 am and Friday at 10am

Year 5 – Monday and Thursday at 9.30am

Year 6 – Monday and Friday at 9.30am

When your child attends their Zoom session we must stress the importance of **safeguarding** them and others in the group. Therefore, please ensure that your child is ready for their session at least 5 minutes before it is due to begin and talk through with them the following safeguarding measures;

- the microphone is kept on **mute** throughout the session, unless the teacher turns it off
- an **adult should always be present** in the room whilst the session takes place
- ensure that there is **no one else visible on screen** – only the child and parent/carer should be visible
- **turn off all background noise** (TV, radio, music etc), in case the teacher asks your child to speak
- **the session must not be recorded**

Wish you all a very peaceful and relaxing weekend.
Best wishes,

The Brindishe Green Senior Leadership Team

A message from the Brindishe Friends Group (BFG)

Fancy running a half marathon and raising money for the school?

The Vitality Big Half takes place on **25th April**. We've been given a number of spaces and still have a couple unfilled (we can request more).

Taking part costs £10 and you will need to raise a minimum amount of money for the school. If you would like to take part do let us know by emailing: bfgsocials@gmail.com.

Don't worry if you've never done something like this before, we've set up a Facebook group to help anyone interested get race ready, full of top tips and support. Go to FB and search for BFG - Vitality Big Half and request to join.

The next BFG meeting will take place w/c 8th Feb where we'll be discussing exciting fundraising ideas for Easter. We'd love to hear yours, so why not join us? Drop us an email and we'll send you a link.

Finally, we are all desperate for a bit of light relief and are planning to hold a fun quiz night. We need a **kind volunteer with experience of hosting Zoom quizzes** to help us out. If that's you please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you.

You can find out more about what else we're up to on twitter (@bfgthiergreen) and also Facebook - search 'Brindishe Friends Group'.