

Brindishe Lee's Newsletter

Friday 20th January 2023

Dear families, governors, staff and friends,

It's been a cold, wet and windy week again but that hasn't dampened spirits in school. The staff at school have been so impressed with the energy and enthusiasm for learning that the children have returned to school with this year so far.

A few highlights this week at school include children immersing themselves in their learning about biographies, science experiments, letter writing, yoga, timelines as well as challenging equations. A busy but productive week for all!

This week we have noticed a rise in the number of children and staff feeling unwell. There are a number of bugs that seem to be about this winter, including heavy colds, sore throats and upset stomachs. It is really important that you do not send your child to school if they are unwell. This is to make sure we can stop the spread as much as possible and to keep everyone safe and well. Please refer to a NHS guidance listed below.

Please also refer to the information listed below with regards to health and sleeping tips, online safety, information from Lewisham, NEU strike information as well as key dates for your diaries.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend! Stay safe and well everyone.

Kind regards,
Ms Sebire & the Brindishe Lee Team.

Key School Dates & Events:

- Monday 23rd January – Open Door/sharing learning opportunity, 3.30pm – 4.00pm
- Tuesday 24th January – Young Voices Concert at The O2 - BL choir
- Thursday 2nd February 2023 - Year 2 trip to The Tower of London
- Monday 6th February - Mental Health Awareness Week (More information to follow)
- Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February - Half term holiday
- Thursday 23rd February - Open Door/sharing learning opportunity, 3.30pm – 4.00pm
- Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April - Easter holiday
- Monday 17th April – Children return to school (Summer Term)
- Monday 17 April - Primary offer day - (You will get an email in the evening telling you where your child has been offered a place)

**More details & events to follow.*

Health Check Reminders

HEAD LICE - Please check your child's hair this weekend and continue to do so on a regular basis. Head lice causes children great discomfort and embarrassment. Treatments to get rid of head lice are available to buy from pharmacies, supermarkets and online. You don't usually need to see your GP. Please refer to the link for more information - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

STOMACH UPSET - Please refer to the NHS guidance for more information.
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>



STREP A - You may be aware from the media that the UK is seeing a high number of Group A strep cases this year. The bacteria usually cause a mild infection which can lead to sore (strep) throats, impetigo or scarlet fever, that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but can be very infectious. Symptoms to look out for include:

- a sore throat
- headache, and fever
- a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

As with all infections, good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. We are encouraging the children to do this in school, by reinforcing how to wash hands correctly, with soap for 20 seconds; by using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and by keeping away from others when feeling unwell. This will help to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

If you suspect your child has scarlet fever, contact NHS 111 or your GP. Early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

In VERY rare circumstances, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause serious illness - called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

If you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement and contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

If your child experiences any of the following, please call 999 or go to A&E:

- your child is having difficulty breathing - you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

If you require any further information, UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

If you are concerned about sending your child into school, please do email [info@](mailto:info@brindishefederation.org) or contact our FASWO Clare Doran on 07943 041970.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

Holocaust Memorial Day is on Friday 27 January.

Ordinary People

The theme for this year is Ordinary People. Ordinary people were involved in all aspects of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups, and in the genocides that took place in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The theme, set by the Holocaust Memorial Trust, prompts us to consider how ordinary people, such as ourselves, can perhaps play a bigger part than we might imagine in challenging prejudice today.

How Lewisham are marking the day

A number of Lewisham Schools have taken part in online workshops hosted by the Holocaust Educational Trust. Teaching resources and other materials can be found on the [Holocaust Memorial Trust website](#).



The Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan, will be lighting a candle in the council chamber on the 27 January to remember those whose lives were lost as a result of genocide, and the millions affected by genocide since the end of WWII.

Lewisham's Holocaust Memorial Day Committee will be hosting a local community event on the 29 January at 3.00pm. They will have a number of speakers from across many faiths in the borough, including contribution from the Catford and Bromley Synagogue, Lewisham Islamic Centre, St Laurence Church, as well as holocaust survivors and their families. Due to the sensitive nature of this event, Lewisham are asking all guests to RSVP by emailing civicevents@lewisham.gov.uk, further details will be shared once you get in touch.

Residents can also light a candle and sit in a moment of silent reflection at the Hither Green Crematorium Chapel on Sunday 29 January.

Rights Respecting at Brindishe Schools - Article of the Week

Article 7 – birth registration, name, nationality, care

Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name and nationality, and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents.

Article 8 – Protection and Preservation of Identity

Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect that right, and prevent the child's name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.

At Brindishe Schools, we always discuss things that help to make us all unique and wonderful people! We always talk about different countries around the world. People have the right to belong to a country - this is called their nationality and children and staff respect all nationalities.

Names are important to us too. We make sure that we pronounce people's names correctly to respect the right to a name and identity. Here is a story, 'Your Name is a Song' by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow.



Brindishe Weekly Online Safety Bulletin

BBC Own it keyboard and App

Did you know BBC Own It has a keyboard and app?



Download the app on your child's phone to access the special keyboard, which will offer advice as they type and intervenes for example, if they're sharing their mobile number, the app will tell your child to 'think safe' before they send the message.

Find out more here: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/takecontrol/own-it-app>

BBC Own it also has a dedicated area for you with video guides on useful topics such as '*the transition from primary to secondary school*' and '*supporting children with social media apps*' and links to other useful sites.

Click below to access: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/parents>



NEU UPDATE

The National Education Union (NEU) have announced that their members will be striking in the coming months. Across all three schools, a number of our staff are NEU members and will be striking on the following days:

- *Wednesday 1st February 2023*
- *Thursday 2nd March 2023*
- *Wednesday 15th March 2023*
- *Thursday 16th March 2023*

**Please note that this list only contains dates that apply to our school*

We are currently reviewing plans for these days and will update parents and carers once we have a clearer understanding about how the schools' operations will be affected. At present, we cannot answer any further questions but parents/carers need to be aware that children **MAY NOT** be able to attend school on the above days.

Key Federation Dates

- **Half Term - Monday 13th Feb – Friday 17th Feb**
- **Easter Holidays – Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April**
- **Monday 17th April – Children return to school for Summer Term**
- **Primary offer day - Monday 17 April 2023 (you will get an email in the evening telling you where your child has been offered a place)**

Governing Body Dates

If you would like to attend a Brindishe Federation Governing Body meeting as an observer, please email our Chair, Liz Murphy - lizcmurphy@gmail.com

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| Spring 1 | Brindishe Lee | Tuesday 7 th February 2023, 6pm |
| Spring 2 | Brindishe Green | Thursday 23 rd March 2023, 6pm |
| Summer 1 | Brindishe Manor | Tuesday 23 rd May 2023, 6pm |
| Summer 2 | Brindishe Lee | Thursday 13 th July 2023, 6pm |

School Street:

As you are aware, Brindishe Lee Primary School is part of Lewisham School Street scheme. Please see listed below further information about School Street as well as reminders.

- **What is a School Street?** A School Street is a street where a school is located, which has temporary restrictions on motorised traffic at school drop off and pick up times.
- **What times will the School Street be in operation?** The School Street will be in force every day in term time, from 8.30am – 9.30am and from 2.45-3.45pm
- **I am a blue badge holder, what does this mean for me?** Blue badge holders are still allowed to drive into our School Street, to drop their child/children off. For the safety of our other children and parents/carers, we do ask you to be very mindful of driving through and parking in our School Street.
- **What happens to the residents of the School Street?** The residents of the School Street will still get full access in and out of their properties, when the School Street is in operation. We work with the council and the residents to make sure everyone understands the safety procedures.
- **Can we walk on the road in the School Street?** A School Street is NOT a Play Street. In a Play Street, children are encouraged to play and walk on the road. This is not advisable on a School Street. As mentioned above, certain drivers will still be allowed to visit our street with their vehicle. Please keep an eye on your child at all times.
- **I have to drive my child to school, what do I do now?** As a school, we have always encouraged families to do the school run on foot, cycle or scoot. Travelling actively has many benefits for our children: It makes them happier, healthier and sets them up for a great day of learning in school. Many of our children are currently travelling actively, and we want to see this number rise! We cannot do this without your help and support.
- **If you must drive to school, we** ask our parents to park away from school, in a 10-minute walking radius. We remind you to drive and park sensibly, with consideration to all of our neighbours. Please don't block pavements or driveways. Remember to switch off your engine when you are stationary.
- **For more information about School Street,** please refer to the Lewisham Local Authority website: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/parking/schoolstreets/schools-streets-programme-streets-outside-schools>

Thank you for your support with this matter.

