



Brindishe  
Manor

# Newsletter

Friday 11th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## What has been happening this week?

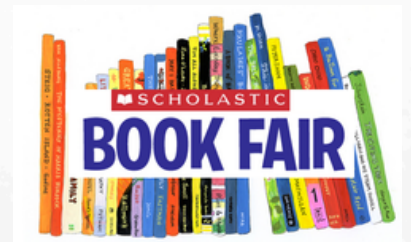
Some of our Year 6 children enjoyed sessions from the *Bikeability* team at Lewisham this week. Many of the children built their confidence in the school playground first before going onto the road to learn how to cycle safely. I know the children all really enjoyed the sessions. The instructors could not have been more pleased with the outcomes that the children achieved by the end of the week.

This afternoon we had our pre-loved sale in school. Thank you to the PSFA who organised this event and for all of those who contributed to make the event a success!

## What is happening next week?

Next week our Scholastic book fair will be open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It will be located in Lee Hall, which is where our Year 4 children are based.

Please remember to bring cash to the book fair!



## Communication with parents and carers

All of our staff have been very busy settling the children into their new classes, classrooms and new routines over the past weeks. We know it can be more challenging for children at the start of an academic year when everything feels new and different. Thank you for your support with this. We have had lots of conversations on the phone, in person or have parents and carers on our lists and we are working very hard to hear from you all. However, I do ask that you do not ask to speak to the teacher at drop-off in the morning. Teachers often do not have TAs at this time because they are running interventions and they can not speak to parents whilst supervising and teaching the class. The senior leadership team are available most days on the gate.

Following the success of open classrooms last year, we have our first one on Tuesday 22nd October. The children will be looking forward to showing you their learning after school and hearing how they have started the year. You will be able to see their new classroom and look at a selection of their books.

This year, our first teacher/ parent open meetings will take place on Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th December. We have moved them back in the term so that we can share with you end-of-term assessment information and next steps for the Spring term. You will of course have another opportunity to meet with teachers in March 2025 and several more open classrooms. Parents will also be sent their child's end of year report in July 2025.

**Open Classroom**  
**Tuesday 22nd October**  
**3:15pm**

Add the date to your diary...the children would love to show you their classroom and learning.

## Celebrating Diversity at Brindishe Schools

Over the past year the Federation Equalities and Diversity Team have been working on updating our Protected Characteristics postcard, to make it more child and family friendly.

We have started to share our poster with the children and it will continue to be used across the schools as part of our learning and in promoting positive relationships.

Please have a look yourself so that you can support your child at home.

Everyone is valued and should be given the same opportunities. Everyone should feel confident and supported, whether male or female, and however they identify.

Families are made up in different ways and of different people. There are also lots of different ways to have children and become parents, if you want to.

Everyone has the right to their own religion, faith and belief, as long as it does not stop others enjoying their Rights.

We Welcome and Celebrate Diversity at Brindishe Schools

Everyone should be given the opportunity to safely learn and try new things, no matter what age they are.

People have different strengths and they all do things in different ways. Our community encourages, enables and empowers everyone by tackling barriers and bias.

Families and communities should be made up of people who look after each other. They should keep each other safe.

When the time is right, everyone is free to choose who they love and to choose the right person for them, if they want to be in a relationship.

Our families come from all over the world and we are happy to know people of different races, cultures and nationalities.

### Attendance Information - Fixed penalty notices

You may have heard in the press over recent months that there are changes to how fixed penalty notices will be served. From 19th August 2024 the Government has introduced the following national threshold:

There will now be one single national threshold for attendance. Children who amount 10 sessions (a session is a morning or an afternoon) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks will automatically qualify for a fixed penalty notice.

Fines are £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, or £160 per parent, per child if paid after 21 days. For example, a 5-day holiday in term time (term time leave) or 5 days of unauthorised absence due to irregular school attendance, would meet the national threshold.

Please be aware that the 10-school week period can span different terms or school years and school holidays e.g July and September absences.

<b>Overall school attendance this week:</b>	<b>95%</b>	
<b>Top 5 classes with attendance over 95%:</b>	<b>Yousafzai</b>	<b>98%</b>
	<b>Adeola</b>	<b>98%</b>
	<b>Jeffers</b>	<b>98%</b>
	<b>Pankhurst</b>	<b>98%</b>
	<b>Attenborough</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>A huge well done to Yousafzai class who had 100% attendance this week</b>		
<b>Top classes with all children in on time</b>	<b>Kusama, Asher-Smith and Escher</b> <b>Huge well done to them all 🎉</b>	



## Dropping children off at school

A reminder that parents/carers should be dropping children at the gate in the morning except for those in Early Years and Year 1. If your child is late, you should bring them into the office, sign them in and they will then be taken to class by a school adult.

## Medicines in school

Your child's well-being, health and safety are very important to us. You can help us by keeping us well-informed about your child's needs.

If your child needs to take medication during the school day, please contact the school office to ensure that we are able to accept this responsibility. We only give medicine such as antibiotics if the GP has prescribed that it must be taken four times a day with meals.

You will need to complete an administering medicine request and instruction form. Without this, school staff cannot administer any kind of medication to your child. Please do not send your child in with medicine in their bag to take themselves!



## School uniform

At Brindishe Schools we allow the children the choice of what they wear to school. Our only requirement is that children should be dressed sensibly for the day, taking into account the activities timetabled for their class as well as the weather.

For reasons of practicality and health and safety, there are certain types of clothing and footwear that are NOT permitted in school. These include 'onesies', sleeveless tops, such as summer vests which expose the child's shoulders to the sun, and tops which expose the child's middle. Children should also not be wearing false nails or crocs shoes.



## Key Dates

**11th, 14th, 15th, 16th Oct** - Book Fair

**Tuesday 22nd October** - Open Classroom after school.

**Wednesday 23rd October** - Swanage meeting for Year 5 parents/carers

**Thursday 24th October** - PSFA Hallowe'en cake sale.

**Monday 28th October - Friday 1st**

**November** - Half term - look out for the PSFA Halloween trail info in a future newsletter.

**Monday 4th November - Friday 8th**

**November** - DT week.

**Thursday 7th November** - Rec - Y6 Flu immunisations

**w/b 11th November** - Anti-bullying week

**Tuesday 26th November** - Reception and Year 6 Height and weight check



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to share that Brindishe Manor is participating in the **Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)** programme. This is a national initiative which aims to further enhance inclusivity within schools.



As part of the project, we will hold regular meetings for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The first meeting will be held on:

**Wednesday 23rd October**

**8.45-9.45am.**

A representative from Lewisham Drumbeat Service will attend to introduce PINS and we will be planning how the sessions will run for the academic year, and what parent and carers would like meetings to focus on. Over the course of the year, we hope to welcome neurodivergent young people as guest speakers, as well as external professionals and colleagues from Lewisham services.

Please try to join us and encourage other parent and carers to come along too.

We look forward to seeing you.

Gemma Caller - Inclusion Lead  
and Brindishe Manor Team

A safe place for you to:

- Discuss well-being concerns and the needs of your child
- Learn about strategies to improve well-being
- Share and listen to experiences
- Connect with others and discuss ideas
- Learn about options for support



All are welcome.

You can drop in to the meeting, but you can also indicate your attendance by sending an email to

[info-BM@brindisheschools.org](mailto:info-BM@brindisheschools.org)



Brindishe  
Federation

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## Secondary School Applications Deadline

Secondary School closing date for applications is fast approaching: **Thursday 31st October 2024**. We strongly advise that you submit your online application by **Thursday 24th October**. When you start your application, the system will identify your home local authority from your postcode and your application will be sent electronically to your council when you submit. Make sure your home address and postcode are correct, especially if you have made an online application for your children before.

All guidance can be found on the Lewisham website. Alternatively please ask a Senior Leader if you need further support.

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-secondary-school>

## Black History Lewisham 365 Events

### Black History Harvest

Sunday 13 October 2024, 11am-6pm

Black Gate next to, 75 Firhill RD, Bellingham, SE6 3SE

Coco Collective presents a Black History Harvest focused on #ReclaimingNarratives for Lewisham's Black community. Activities include stone painting for children, permaculture tours, gardening, and a harvest cooked into Ital soup. **Free tickets are available via Eventbrite.**

### The Little Mermaid – Spontaneous Productions

Saturday 28 September – Sunday 27 October 2024

Sydenham Centre, Lewisham

This new adaptation of The Little Mermaid by Jamaican playwright Lavern Archer reimagines the story with Caribbean culture, music, and dance. The production is aimed at families and celebrates Black culture. [Tickets are available now.](#)



## Greece Day - Thursday 17th October

Greece Day for all Brindishe Schools is booked for **Thursday 17th October**. Radish, our catering company will be serving the children some dishes from Greece, including Chicken Gyros in pitta, Spanakopita and Milopita (Greek Style Apple Spice Cake).

If your child would like to have the Greece Day Menu, they should inform their teachers Thursday morning during the register.



# Panto Competition

Pantomime returns to Catford's Broadway Theatre this Christmas with a spellbinding new production of Sleeping Beauty. To celebrate, Joy Productions, the team behind the show is holding a writing and drawing competition. Children are invited to either write a story (max 200 words) about Sleeping Beauty awakening from her slumber or design a costume for Nanny Nora the Panto Dame.

There will be one winner and two runners up for each competition. All will receive invites to a special ceremony at the theatre to see their work displayed. Entries close on Monday 4 November.

Please contact Helen White, Head of Outreach at Joy Productions, on [helenwhiteoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:helenwhiteoutreach@gmail.com) for more details.



**Young Thinkers Philosophy Club**

The Philosophy Foundation sessions offer children a fun and engaging space to explore big ideas through open discussions, stories, and activities. Led by an experienced philosopher, each session encourages creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills—valuable tools for learning and life.

Guided by an experienced philosopher, children are encouraged to explore big ideas through thought-provoking questions and collaborative discussions. These sessions help them develop important skills, such as critical thinking, clear communication, and the ability to form and evaluate their own arguments—valuable tools that will benefit them across all areas of learning and life.

Sessions will run on the second Tuesday of the month at Manor House Library, starting October 8th

3:45pm - 4:45pm - Ages 5 - 7 £8 per child  
5:00pm - 6:00pm - Ages 8 - 11 £8 per child

Scan the QR code to book tickets, find out more details including dates and what subjects will be covered. Details can also be found at [www.mhlilibrary.co.uk](http://www.mhlilibrary.co.uk)

Proudly supported by V22 Communities a registered CIO Charity (1180229)

## Young Thinkers Philosophy Club

The Philosophy Foundation sessions offer a unique and enriching experience for children, where open discussions explore philosophical themes in an engaging, fun environment. Using a range of stimulating materials, including picture books, activities, and poems, each session encourages both creativity and critical thinking.

Guided by an experienced philosopher, children are encouraged to explore big ideas through thought-provoking questions and collaborative discussions. These sessions help them develop important skills, such as critical thinking, clear communication, and the ability to form and evaluate their own arguments—valuable tools that will benefit them across all areas of learning and life.

Full details can be found here - [Buy tickets - Young Thinkers Philosophy Club - Manor House Library \(tickettailor.com\)](http://www.tickettailor.com)



# Online Safety Bulletin

If your child has played or seen any online games from the past few years, they've probably noticed that almost every title of this kind has some kind of chat functionality. Whether allowing players to send text messages to one another or letting them use their mics to chat together on voice if your child is on a multiplayer game, chances are they can talk to fellow gamers, one way or another.

Sadly, such a function comes with its fair share of risks - as is to be expected with a feature intended to connect gamers from around the world and it is immensely important for parents and educators to understand these concerns and help young players address them. That's why The National College has put together this free guide and podcasts, breaking down the most prevalent issues associated with in-game chat and letting you know how to keep youngsters as safe as possible if or when they're exposed to this feature.

Parents/carers can register for free - [click image](#)



# Rights Respecting - Article of the Week

## Article 6 (life, survival and development)

Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

### *What are all the things that you need to survive and to develop?*

Good health – physical and mental

Education

Healthy food

Clean water

Somewhere safe to live

People to look after you

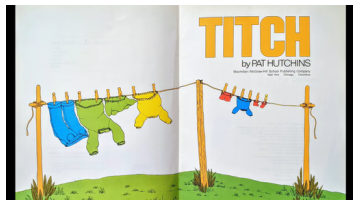
A name and an identity so you can be registered for healthcare and education

Protection so you are safe from abuse and neglect

A good standard of living

Time and space to relax and play

Knowledge of your rights



### Share the story about Titch with your child at home

Can you think of three things that you can do now that you couldn't do when you were younger?

Perhaps you can create a timeline showing what you could do when you were different ages – remember though, that everybody develops at different speeds.

## Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival celebrates the time of year when crops have been gathered from the field and people can reflect and show gratitude for the food that they have.

It dates back a long time in British history, to when people relied on crops for food and farmers would give thanks for a good harvest.

At Brindishe Schools your child will learn about harvest time, and collect food for those in need in your local community. They will have a special assembly too. Look out for Harvest Festival Donation information in your schools individual newsletter.



## Brindishe Schools Governing Body

Governing Body meetings are regular and meet every half term. Parents/carers are more than welcome to attend our meetings as 'observers'. If you would like to know more about the governing body or you would like to attend one of our meetings, please email Rachel Waite - [rawaite@brindisheschools.org](mailto:rawaite@brindisheschools.org). **Our first meeting for 2024/2025 is Thursday 24th October at Brindishe Green School - 6pm.**

## Key Federation Dates

- **Governing Body Meeting - Thursday 24th October**
- **October Half Term - Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November**
- **Secondary School Application Deadline - Thursday 31st October**
- **INSET DAY - Friday 29th November**