



Brindishe Federation Newsletter

Friday 5th September 2025



Welcome Back

Rachel Waite, Executive Headteacher

Welcome back to all our Brindishe families. The holidays are behind us and the classrooms and corridors are buzzing with excited children (and staff) beginning the new year, 2025-2026. As with any new year, we have been revisiting our vision and values and reminding ourselves of how we nurture a culture of mutual respect; how we celebrate our rich and diverse community that surrounds us; how we nurture inquisitiveness to become the best learners we can be and ensure we feel empowered to contribute to making a difference.

During the Staff INSET days, we were lucky enough to hear Dean Beadle talk about 'Getting It Right for Autistic Learners in Primary School'. It was a humorous and thought-provoking session looking at several areas including:

- making communication more accessible for autistic students in the classroom
- supporting autistic play - ways to support autistic learners through anxiety.

If you would like to know more, you can follow Dean in Instagram - @deanbeadlespeaker. Staff also undertook asthma training and some further professional development focused on 'Relationally Safe Schools'.

The new year is a good time to welcome our new children, families and staff to the Federation. All children and staff across the federation have settled back into school life and daily routines and already we have seen some fantastic learning.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead and working closely with parents/carers. We hope to see many of you at our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in all Brindishe Schools over the next week.

Have a lovely weekend, Rachel Waite



Meet the Teacher

As you are aware, at the start of each academic year we endeavour to share as much information with you as possible in our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. So once again, starting this week and next, we would like to invite parents/carers into school to meet the leadership team and the year group teaching staff for your child/ren. During this meeting, a member of the senior leadership team will provide you with some key information and reminders, including information about our federation and school priorities, current online platforms, best channels of communication, attendance, our school website and school meals. You will then hear about the year ahead from the teaching team, including themes, key texts that will be studied, PE dates, trips and visits already planned, any statutory testing and most importantly how you can best support at home.

As a result of your survey feedback, we will also continue to provide you with an 'End of Year Expectations' booklets for every year group so you as parents/carers know how to best support your child at home and work collaboratively with school. These will be available to you during the meeting and be sent to you electronically after. There will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have. All meetings will be held on school site. Please look out for communication from your child's school for dates and times

Advice and support for Lewisham parents whose children are starting secondary school in September 2026

Lewisham is holding its annual transfer to secondary school event and they are asking schools to encourage parents to attend. It is an informal event for parents to ask questions about the admissions process and to meet staff, parents and students from our secondary schools.

Parents can book a place at one of the school talks, to understand the application process. This will help you to be aware of the timetable and closing date for submitting your application. Each session will start with a short presentation about the process, and a Q&A with our Admissions team.

The school talks will commence on Tuesday 22nd September at:

- 1) 5pm - 5.45pm**
- 2) 6pm - 6.45pm**
- 3) 7pm - 7.45pm**

Below is the link to the Eventbrite page to book tickets for the event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/starting-secondary-school-in-2026-tickets-1412472105089?aff=oddtcreator>

After each school talk, parents will have the opportunity to meet a representative from each Lewisham secondary school and also members of the SEN and Free School Meals Teams to find out more about them and ask questions. The school uniform shops will also be in attendance.

About this event

*****PLEASE NOT BOOK ALL THREE SESSIONS - THESE ARE REPEAT SESSIONS & PARENTS ONLY NEED TO BOOK ONTO ONE TIME SLOT*****

This is an informal event for parents who are just about to start the application process for their Year 6 child to start secondary school. Parents are asked to leave their children at home for this event if they are able to do so, as spaces are limited and we want to let as many parents as possible have the opportunity to attend.



The Engagement Programme

Over the next few weeks, there will be an opportunity to meet with Shivon (School Engagement Lead) for The Engagement Programme, who will be visiting all Brindishe Schools after school this term. This programme has been created to meet the emotional wellbeing needs as well as to improve the mental health outcomes for black and mixed heritage students in particular.

The aim is for the schools, parents/carers to work with the NHS South East London and voluntary sector organisations such as Black Thrive and the Social Inclusion Recovery Group (S.I.R.G), to agree with what new emotional wellbeing offers should be made available to support Black and mixed heritage children.

NHS South East London will pay for and coordinate the roll out of new offers agreed by schools and parents/carers, saving schools from needing to buy their own mental health support in this area.

Shivon will be running engagement sessions at all 3 Brindishe schools this school term, to roll out the programme. Look out for further information from your child's school.

Families in London urged to prioritise vaccine catch-ups

Vaccine catch-ups before children go back to school

Parents in London are being urged to ensure children are up to date with routine vaccinations before the new school term begins.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is calling on families to make sure children are protected as latest data shows continued high levels of measles cases in some parts of the country, prompting fears of more outbreaks and a further surge in cases once children return to the classroom.

Please see News Release attached to this newsletter for further information.



News Release

TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 2025

Families in London urged to prioritise vaccine catch-ups before children go back to school

Parents in London are being urged to use the summer holidays to get children up to date with routine vaccinations before the new school term begins.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is calling on families to make sure children are protected as latest data shows continued high levels of measles cases in some parts of the country, prompting fears of more outbreaks and a further surge in cases once children return to the classroom.

Regions with the lowest rates of vaccine uptake are of particular concern, including in London, where the average uptake of two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine by age 5 is 71%, dropping as low as 57.2% in some boroughs. This means many thousands of children are unprotected against these diseases, and the risk of outbreaks occurring while measles is circulating around the country remains high.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that 95% uptake is needed to stop outbreaks occurring and protect the population.

The most recent measles data shows there have been 674 laboratory confirmed cases reported in England since 1 January, with 145 notified between 3 and 31 July 2025. Almost half of all cases (48%) have been seen in London (322/674), with 16% in the North West (111/674), and 10% in the East of England (65/674).

There have been 96 laboratory confirmed measles cases with symptom onset date in the 4 weeks since 30 June 2025. London saw the highest number of cases, accounting for 64% of cases (61/96) during this period, especially in boroughs of low vaccine uptake.

As there has been a rise in measles cases globally, including Europe, over the last year, there are concerns that anyone unvaccinated going on holiday abroad could

Stack-tember 2025

Throughout September 2025, the British Nutrition Foundation will be helping children and young people to:

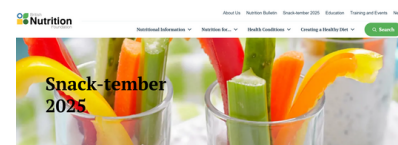
- Explore better snacking
- Try new snacks
- Make their own healthy snacks

The aim is to help children and young people choose and make snacks that have:

- MORE vegetables and fruit
- MORE wholegrains, beans and pulses
- LESS saturated fat, salt and sugars

A range of downloadable resources are available for those teaching, or working with, children and young people aged 5-16 years. These will include, activity ideas, recipes, posters and lots more to help children and young people explore their current snacking choices, and learn about, make and try new snack options.

Register now for the latest updates from the British Nutrition Foundation at [Snack-tember 2025](#).



It's Snack-tember!

Use our activity ideas, recipes, posters and other amazing materials to help children and young people explore their current snacking choices, and learn about, make and try new snack options.

[Register Here!](#)



Key Federation Dates

- **October Half Term - Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025**
- **Friday 28th November - INSET DAY - Schools closed to all children.**
- **Secondary Application Deadline - Friday 31 October 2025** (*we recommend that you submit your online application by Friday 24 October 2025*)
- **End of Autumn Term - Friday 19th December 2025**

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'. This means you can sit and observe the meeting but will be unable to speak/comment and would need to leave the meeting during confidential items.

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. An email to confirm attendance at the meeting will need to be received before a parent/carers can join the meeting.

Our first meeting for 2025/2026 will be held on Thursday 16th October 2025 at Brindishe Green School - 6pm.