

Brindishe Federation Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026



Holiday Vouchers

London Borough of Lewisham will use an allocation of the 'Household Support Fund' to once again support families with FSM eligible children by providing vouchers for the February half term holiday, 2026. The available funding means Lewisham can assist these families at a rate of £15 per eligible child for this holiday. Vouchers will be sent out to Brindishe Families on Thursday 12th February.

Please note that the Household Support Fund is set to end in March 2026.

Lewisham's New Executive Director

This week Lewisham has a new Executive Director for Children and Young People. Sara Rahman (previously our Director of Families Quality and Commissioning) was appointed to the role following Pinaki Ghoshal's retirement. In a message to school leaders, she wrote;

'Our shared priorities remain clear: ensuring inclusive, high-quality education; strengthening our work around attendance, reducing exclusion, safeguarding, and wellbeing; and continuing to create environments where every child can thrive. I am looking forward to getting out to visit schools and settings as I settle into my new role and to hearing about successes, opportunities and pressures so that we can continue to work together in a coordinated and effective way'.

We look forward to welcoming her to Brindishe Schools soon.



Feb Half Term at Lewisham Leisure Centres

The Better run Leisure Centre's are running a range of activities this February Half Term.

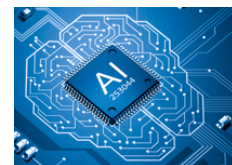
Activities on offer

- Kids swim for £1
- Additional Swim for All's (family swims)
- Soft play sessions
- Swimming lesson Crash Courses
- Junior classes
- Additional Junior Gym sessions
- SEND holiday camp at Alex Yee Ladywell Arena, run in partnership with Access Sport
- Kids Football Camp at Bellingham Leisure & Lifestyle Centre
- Inflatable sessions at Wavelengths Leisure Centre

To find out more about what's on offer please contact your nearest leisure centre for more information. <https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/lewisham>

Online Safety Bulletin

AI Chatbots and companions



A simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available, many are rated as 18+ so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them. Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are Character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

What are the risks?

- Over reliance on AI companions, for example they may replace ‘real life’ friendships or over reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

Sharing REAL course for Parents

Sharing REAL with Parents



This fun 4 week course aims to build your confidence in how you can support early literacy within your home and help your children’s learning and development in communication and language.

- Meet other parents and carers.
- Share ideas to support your child’s early learning.
- Take home FREE resources each week.



To book go to:
[lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk/
events/parenting-course](http://lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk/events/parenting-course)
scan the QR code
email [family.hub.bookings
@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:family.hub.bookings@lewisham.gov.uk)
or call 07720 152902



Wednesdays 14th January - 4th February 2026
9.30am - 11.30am
Corbett Community Library
103 Torridon Rd, SE6 1RQ

Wednesdays 18th February - 11th March 2026
1.00pm - 3.00pm
Evelyn Family Hub
231 Grove Street, SE8 3PZ

Fridays 6th - 27th March 2026
1.00pm - 3.00pm
Bellingham Family Hub
109 Randlesdown Road, SE6 3HB

lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk



**NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
BUREAU**



**Raising Early
Achievement
in Literacy**

Rights Respecting Article - Safer Internet

Safer Internet Day is marked on 7th February every year and we recognised this national day in Brindishe Schools this week.

We all have a right to feel safe and secure and that means safe online as well as in the real world. Safer Internet Day is an annual event that promotes the safe, responsible and positive use of the internet. There are a large number of articles that link with being online. These articles have a particular focus on Article 19, the right to protection from harm, Article 17, the right to reliable information and Article 34, protection from exploitation.



The internet can be a great place but needs to be used carefully. Please use these activities to start the conversation about internet issues that matter to you, what changes you would like to see and how we can make it a more positive and rights respecting place!

Discuss these questions with your children at home.

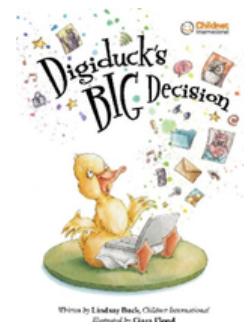
What do you feel are some of the great things about the internet and life online?

What don't you like about the internet and life online?

Read 'Digiduck's Big Decision' - there is an online version.

Discuss the lessons from the story about friendship and respect online at home over half term.

Your child's right to be safe and protected is always important, including when they use computers, phones and the internet. Can you think of three top tips for staying safe online?



Key Federation Dates

- February Half Term - Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026
- Shine on Saturdays for selected Year 5 children - Saturday 31st Jan, 7th Feb, 28th Feb, 7th March and 14th March) Celebration Event)
- Easter Holidays - Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

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 third meeting for 2025/2026 will be held on Thursday 19th February 2026 at Brindishe Manor School - 6pm.

Pick up your FREE World Book Day books at Downham Library

Downham Library will become a pop-up book exchange which means children can swap their World Book Day tokens for their choice of World Book Day books from 12 February - 14 March.

And don't miss an afternoon of fun family activities on World Book Day (Thursday 5th March) at Downham Library from 3.30pm:

At 4pm join poet and performer Arji Manuelpillai for a high-energy poetry workshop for ages 7-12. Through games, movement, sound and storytelling, children will create their own bold, funny, and surprising poems. No pressure, no boring worksheets — just imagination, confidence, and the joy of playing with words.

Get stuck into some fun book related crafts, show off your World Book Day costumes with our selfie frame, discover new ways to read with an exciting selection of graphic novels, picture books, dyslexia friendly books and audiobooks to borrow. And try out Libby, the library reading app. Plus choose your free WBD book!



**WORLD BOOK DAY**
5 March 2026



Choose your £1 book for free!

Children, families & educators: This token is for single-use only and entitles children (under 16) to ONE FREE World Book Day 2026 book or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating bookstores only, subject to stock availability.

Find your nearest participating bookseller at worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/participating-retailers/

Full terms and conditions: worldbookday.com/terms-conditions

Retailers: Full terms and conditions: worldbookday.com/booksellers/

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To enter and for full terms and conditions go to worldbookday.com/yoto-competition.

One entry per person. Winners will be notified shortly after 15 March 2026.

Prize promotion runs from 12 February to 15 March 2026.



WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026