



The Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale Federation

Friday 14th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another fantastic start to the term and we are so happy to have the children back in school, getting on with their learning; thank you to all parents for ensuring that your child/ren is/are in school every day. All the children are excited to know who will win the attendance cup at the end of this term, 6A won it last term, well done once again.

It was great to see so many of you on parents' forum last week and one of the things that was discussed was the new executive headteacher, Mickey Kelly, who will be starting in January 2021. Please see a message from him below.

Dear Parents,

I am writing to introduce myself as your new Executive Head teacher, Mickey Kelly. I am looking forward to working with Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Cobblah, Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale schools, after the Christmas break. I have worked with Redriff Primary School in Rotherhithe since the year 2000. I am also Executive Head at Galleywall School in Bermondsey, and Director of Primary Improvement for the City of London Academies Trust. I am proud to say all our primary schools are now designated Outstanding and all the children have a superb offer from great teams of teachers and support staff.

I feel myself privileged to have been chosen to work with your schools at this crucial time in their history. I have lived in Lewisham for thirty-five years and both my children have gone to Lewisham primary and secondary schools. I am from Belfast originally and many, many years ago I worked with the Irish Community in Deptford. As part of this project I visited Grinling Gibbons School. It was my experiences there, so many years ago, that lead me to become a teacher. I am honoured to return.

I know we have some work to do. Our Heads of School and staff are committed to making ours the best schools in this area; to ensuring that each and every one of our children leaves with the skills knowledge and character to make a success of their lives. More than ever we need children and young people to be leaders in our country and our community. We want all our children to be confident, competent, and compassionate; our staff teams will redouble their effort to make sure we hold your belief and continue to command your confidence.

Please google my present schools or ask anyone from Bermondsey and Rotherhithe if they know me. I am sure they may have something to say! As proud as I am to be Irish, the majority of my life has been spent in Lewisham, I live in walking distance to both schools. This is my town, and this is my place. I am going nowhere until both our schools are in the place that we would all wish them to be. They have each been outstanding before and will be again. We need your partnership, your trust, and your support to make this happen.

I look forward to meeting you and to meeting your children soon. Roll on 2021 and life after lockdown!



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Best Wishes,

Mickey Kelly

[Upcoming events for our children](#)

We sent a letter out about the children doing a performance this term. I would like to clarify what was written in the letter. If you inform us that you do not want your child to take part in the performance for religious reasons then we will also ensure that they do not take part in the other activities related to Christmas for the same religious reasons.

We will have our usual Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner, arts and craft sessions and class parties.

[Reminder of End of day arrangements and after school activities](#)

Finishing times for the end of the day are as follows:

Reception, Year 1 and 2– finish at 2:55pm

Years 3 and 4– finish at 3:05

Years 5 and 6– finish at 3:15pm

We encourage you to maintain social distancing and to wear a face shield/mask where this is not possible while you are waiting to pick up your child at the gate. Please do not come into school unless it is necessary.

After school clubs will start after half term, please ensure you pick your child up on time.

[Free School Meals](#)

If you have not made an application for FSM, please do as we will be giving out vouchers in the future. Please come and see us if you need support with this application.



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Curriculum

Our children have engaged in all aspects of the curriculum including art, PE, and music.

In Music, Link learning (piano and guitar lesson) continues to be a success. We have moved from having lessons in 1 day a week to two days in a week. This is due to the amount of applications we received from you. Giving our children a chance to be exposed to different types of instruments, provides them a better chance for the future to choose various paths in music should they wish to pursue that so thank you to all parents and carers for allowing this to happen. We are very proud of all our children who are learning an instrument.

In history and on Armistice Day/ Remembrance Day (November 11th), we as a whole school observed a minute silence and paid our respects to all of those who have lost their lives during a war. In the build up to this, each class learnt about the history of the poppy and what it represents today. We also created poppies and made poppy wreaths which have been displayed around the school. **Lest we forget.**



Reminder of Expectations relating to attendance and punctuality

Thank you to all the parents who ensured that their children came to school every day and achieved 100% attendance: well done. We want all our children to maximise the time they are with us, so it is vital your child arrives at school on time. School starts at 08:45am. The main gate closes at 09:00am. All children should arrive at school before this time.

Attendance is essential. We appreciate that children are unwell from time to time and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absences. Please think carefully about keeping your child out of school. Research shows that pupils who achieve the best results are also those children who have the highest school attendance. As a minimum all children should aim for at least 97% attendance.

Thank you all so much for your continuous support, we appreciate it greatly.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Cobblah