



Learning for life!

Meridian Update

Term 1

**Monday 3rd September to
Friday 19th October**

Term 2

**Monday 29th October to
Wednesday 19th December**

www.meridianschool.co.uk



**Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery**



@MeridianCPS

**Friday
7th**

**September
2018**

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely summer holiday. It was great to see all the children on Wednesday excited to be back at school and ready to learn!

School Uniform

It is always useful at the beginning of the year to remind everyone again about school uniform. Our colours are **grey** (trousers, skirts, pinafores, shorts), **white** (polo shirts, shirts, blouses) **royal blue** (jumpers or cardigans). Grey or black tights or white socks with skirts, pinafores or dresses. Grey or black socks with trousers or shorts. **Plain black** sensible shoes or trainers (no converse trainers or other trainers with white logos etc please). **Jewellery:** The only jewellery allowed in school is plain stud earrings and a watch. No wrist bands please. **Hair:** All long hair needs to be tied back. All hair should be of **natural colour**. Extreme haircuts, such as mohicans and shaved patterns/images, and dyed hair, are not considered appropriate for school. **Thank you for your support with our school uniform policy.**

Home Learning

This year we are having a real focus on children **reading more**, both at home and at school. So the children's home learning this year will be based around children reading regularly at home. ***It's been proven that children who read for pleasure are more likely to be successful and happy throughout their lives (OECD).*** Children who are read to at home or read for pleasure have a wider vocabulary and so their writing improves too! You will be able to find out more about how you can support with reading at home at one of our Curriculum Chats (see important dates for when these are taking place).

To support children with their **maths** knowledge we have bought "Maths is fun!" booklets for all the children which you will be receiving soon. Again, more information about this at our Curriculum Chats. Finally, we have also bought a new subscription for an online resource for practising maths, spelling and reading which children can access at home called **Sumdog** – more information and login details to follow soon.

Jeans for Genes

Every year we support this national charity fundraising event to raise awareness about children and families living with genetic disorders. Their motto is "Wear jeans change lives". So on **Friday 21st September** children can wear jeans to school for a donation of £1 – you are obviously welcome to donate more if you wish to. Children will need to wear the rest of their school uniform – the only change is a pair of jeans. This then makes it really clear what the day is about – it is not a non-school uniform day. For more information please visit www.jeansforgenesday.org

Best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott
(Headteacher)



TERM DATES 2018/2019

Term 1

Monday 4th September – Friday 20th October

INSET days on Monday 4th September and Tuesday 5th September – school closed for staff training.

Children back to school on Wednesday 6th September

Autumn break

Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October

Term 2

Monday 30th October – Wednesday 20th December

INSET day Friday 24th November – school closed for staff training

Christmas break

Thursday 21st December to Monday 1st January

Term 3

Tuesday 2nd January – Friday 9th February

INSET day Tuesday 2nd January – school closed for staff training

Children back to school on Wednesday 3rd January

February break

Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February

Term 4

Monday 19th February – Thursday 29th March

Spring break

Friday 30th March – Friday 13th April

Term 5

Monday 16th April – Friday 25th May

May break

Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June

Term 6

Monday 4th June – Friday 20th July

Please note not all INSET days for 2017/2018 have been set

Important Dates

10.09 Year 6 – Read with your child followed by Curriculum Chat **2pm**

11.09 Year 5 – Read with your child followed by Curriculum Chat **2pm**

12.09 Year 4 – Read with your child followed by Curriculum Chat **2pm**

13.09 Year 3 – Read with your child followed by Curriculum Chat **2pm**

14.09 Year 2 – Read with your child followed by Curriculum Chat **2pm**

17.09 Year 1 – Read with your child followed by Curriculum Chat **2pm**

21.09 Jeans for Genes Day – children can wear jeans (with the rest of their school uniform) for a £1 donation to this charity event

25.09 PTFA meeting **7pm**

27.09 Parent Council **9am**

04.10 Parent Coffee Morning – **9am** in the Annexe

12.10 PTFA Fancy Dress Disco

19.10 INSET DAY – school closed for training

20.10 INSET DAY – school closed for training

October break

30.10 Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6.00pm

01.11 Parents Evening 4.30pm – 7.00pm

12.11 Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day

15.11 Parent Coffee Morning – **9am** in the Annexe

06.12 Parent Open Afternoon **1.45pm**

07.12 PTFA Christmas Fair

10.12 Years 5 and 6 Christmas Performance to parents – **9.15am** and **2.00pm**

12.12 Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performance to parents – **9.15am** and **2.00pm**

14.12 Years 1 and 2 Christmas Performance to parents – **9.15am** and **2.00pm**

17.12 Reception Performance to parents – **9.15am** and **2.00pm**

Medical Forms

Please can parents of children who will need regular medication (including inhalers) update their Medical Consent Forms. These can be found in the information rack in the School Office Foyer, and completed forms need to be returned to the School Office.

Data Sheets

At the start of each new curriculum year, we ask that parents update any contact details that may have changed over the summer holidays. These may include new addresses, telephone/mobile telephone numbers as well as contacts that we would call if your child is unwell or needs collecting from School. **Please ensure that we have at details of at least two emergency contacts.** Please pass all changes, in writing, to the School Office.

Behaviour at Meridian

You might have heard your children come home excited about some changes to the way we manage behaviour at Meridian. We firmly believe behaviour at our school is excellent. Children at Meridian continuously display our school values and this has been confirmed by visitors and members of the public on trips. That doesn't mean we aren't always striving to improve and make it even better. We listened to feedback from parents, children and staff and we have adjusted our behaviour policy to reflect these improvements. We've listed some of the key changes below.

3 clear, simple rules



Children come to school to enjoy, achieve and learn. We know that when children are clear in what is expected of them they understand what is right and wrong. Therefore we have 3 rules that we expect of both adults and children at all times. They are: Ready, Respectful, Safe. This way no matter where the children are or who is addressing the child we are all using the consistent message for what outstanding behaviour looks like.

Recognising 'Above & Beyond' behaviour

What is staying the same?

The school will continue to use coins for rewarding effort and fish for behaviour. Once a class reaches 100 coins they will vote for a coin treat and at the end of each week class fish are counted up and the winner will be announced in assembly and rewarded with a NEW trophy to keep for the week and an extra 10 minutes playtime. Also staying the same will be commendation. We adore sharing with our parent and carer community the achievements of the children during these assemblies and wouldn't change these for the world.



What's even better?

Research suggests you get more of the behaviour you notice the most. So it makes sense to focus on those who relentlessly display a positive attitude to learning. Keep your eyes on the post as teachers have a stack of positive postcards ready to send home when children go above and beyond what is expected of them. In addition when teachers feel appropriate they might give a phone call home to let you know just how hard your child has been trying!

We all make mistakes...

At Meridian we are all 'Learning For Life' which means we can't get it right all the time. However if a child is purposefully attempting to disrupt others and their own learning then it is important we have a clear system in place for sanctioning poor choices. They are;




1. Reminder – a discreet signal to the child about our 3 rules.
2. Caution – a clear verbal caution delivered privately that their choices are disrupting learning
3. Last Chance – speaking to the child giving them one more chance to engage
4. Time Out – a short period of time spent outside the classroom or away from the playground and a chance to breathe and reflect on why their behaviour is not following our school rules.
5. Repair – the opportunity to discuss with their teacher why the behaviour was not acceptable and then time given for the child to catch up on any learning missed.

Our behaviour policy can be found on our website - [About Us / Policies / Behaviour Policy.](#)

Attendance

Excellent attendance at school is so important so that children do not miss the vital teaching and learning that takes place every day in class and do not fall behind.

Each week we celebrate the class with the best attendance and they earn coins for their treasure chest on the class behaviour board.

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?					
190 days	180 days	178 days	163 days	161 days	143 days
100%	95%	94%	86%	85%	75%
Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	
					
Only 1-2 day missed per term		Between 3-8 days missed per term		More than 9 days missed per term	

Don't forget – if your child is off school you need to send in a written note on the day they return so that we can consider changing the registration code to an authorised absence. Please note a reason of "ill" or "unwell" is not acceptable.

For more information about our attendance policy and procedures, please visit our website <http://www.meridianschool.co.uk/about-us/policies>

Our Attendance Team!

Our Attendance Team are here to support you if you are worried about your child's attendance.

Miss Danni Maslen – Attendance Lead – Miss Maslen oversees the work of the team and can meet with parents to discuss any letters sent out or offer advice/support

Mrs Rose Sawyerr – Learning Mentor – Mrs Sawyerr may contact you to invite you in for an informal chat if your child's attendance starts to fall below 95%. She can offer support and guidance as well as set targets for improving attendance. In some cases, she may work with children to support them with coming into school

Mrs Claire Erridge – Education Welfare Officer – Mrs Erridge works one day a week and she will contact you to invite you in for a meeting if your child's attendance falls below 92%. You can also make an appointment to see her if you would like any advice or support.

Mrs Jacqui Dray – Attendance and Admissions Officer – Mrs Dray makes the phone calls if your child is absent and we have not heard from you. She updates registration codes once written notes have been received and she can support you with making appointments to speak with Miss Maslen, Mrs Sawyerr and Mrs Erridge. She can also advise about school policy, such as what evidence to bring in to support medical and dental appointments.

If you have any concerns or worries about getting your child into school regularly and on time, please do make an appointment to meet with any of the team and we can look at different ways that we can support you and your child with coming to school. Please come and speak with us sooner rather than later! **We are here to help.**



What to do if you have a worry or concern

At the beginning of a new school year it is always useful to remind everyone about what to do if you have concern. In the first instance, please speak with your child's class teacher. You can make an appointment to see them after school, ask for them to call you when they are available or e-mail the office (who will then forward the message on). This is the most useful way to communicate your concerns as the class teacher/s know your child the best and so will be able to answer any questions and support you and your child through any issues you may have.

Next, if you are not satisfied you can make an appointment to speak with the Phase Leader (see below for more information about who they are).

After this stage you are welcome to make an appointment to speak with Ms Westcott. If she is unavailable, then please speak with Mr Doody (Deputy Headteacher). You can also meet with Ms Maslen (Assistant Headteacher) if Mr Doody is unavailable.

Finally, if you still wish to take the matter further you can put your concerns in writing or e-mail to the Chair of Governors (Mrs Janet Anthony) and hand/send it to the school office who will forward this on.

Please come and speak with us.
We are here to help.

Our Leadership Team

Headteacher: **Ms Claire Westcott**

Deputy Headteacher (Assessment Leader, Pupil Premium Lead and Maths Leader): **Mr Matt Doody**

Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion Leader, Attendance and SENCo): **Ms Danni Maslen**

Early Years Phase Leader, Maths Team and Nursery Class Teacher: **Miss Kaitlin Duffy**

Key Stage One Leader, English Team and Year 2 Teacher: **Ms Nicola Treglown**

Lower Key Stage Two Year 3/4 Phase Leader, English Team and Year 3 Teacher: **Miss Laura Miles**

Upper Key Stage Two Year 5/6 Phase Leader, Maths Team and Year 6 Teacher: **Miss Alex Roberts**

English Leader and Year 5 Teacher: **Miss Hayley Passingham**

PlayPE

Jamie and his team have already started their fun-packed after school programme of activities, but there are still spaces available for those that are interested. Sign-up forms for the clubs are available in the School Office Foyer and PlayPE will also be sending out reminder letters to all parent in book bags. You can also catch Jamie at the end of each day if you need to chat to him or ask him about spaces. He is based in the Annexe.

General Data Protection Regulations

As you may be aware, the Data Protection Regulations changed on 25th May 2018. As part of this, all schools must inform parents and carers about the types of personal data we hold about each pupil and how the school intends to use the data, as well as the legal basis for processing the data and who the data may be forward to. In order to comply with this, each pupil has been given a paper copy of our School Privacy Notice (also called a Fair Processing Notice. A copy of this can also be found on our website.

Ms Maslen

Unfortunately Ms Maslen is unwell at the moment and is currently off work for a few weeks. We are keeping in touch with her and will let you know when she returns. In the meantime, Mr Doody will be leading attendance and Ms Westcott will be leading safeguarding. For SEND support and advice, please speak to the class teacher in the first instance and if you wish to make an appointment to speak with Ms Westcott, you are welcome to do so.

Thank you for support and understanding.

How parents can get involved at Meridian!

Parent Coffee Morning

During the year, we hold parent coffee mornings where all parents are welcome to come along, meet other parents and find out more about Meridian. Babies and toddlers welcome! These coffee mornings are run by Mrs Sawyerr (our Learning Mentor) and are proving more and more popular!

Parent Council

We have a Parent Council that meets six times a year. Information about the parent councillors is available on the website. This is an opportunity for parents to hear about the strategic development of learning at Meridian, share views from parents on a range of topics and hear the school perspective on any changes and developments. At recent meetings we have discussed the Home Learning, discussed SEND policy and practice and even enjoyed a tour of the school! If you would like to become involved in the Parent Council, please do speak to one of the councillors or e-mail Ms Westcott office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk

Parent Governors

On every governing body there are parent governors who represent the parent body at Meridian. Our current parent governors are Ed Dunn and Dez Glidden. Their role is to support the school in achieving its strategic targets and discuss the impact of the school improvement plan on improving and developing the learning outcomes for all children.

PTFA

We have an active PTFA who organise fundraising events across the year. Anyone is welcome to come along to PTFA meetings or to volunteer to support our events. The more the merrier! Look out for dates in the newsletter

Learning at Meridian

Here are some of the different ways you can find out about the learning at Meridian:

Parents' Evening

We hold Parents' Evening twice a year. At these meetings you will have the opportunity to find out how your child is getting on in school, both academically and socially. You will be able to find out about the progress they are making and how you can help at home. You will also be able to have a look at your children's books.

Curriculum Open Afternoons

We have these three times a year at the end of terms 2, 4 and 6. Parents are invited to come along and celebrate the children's learning at the end of the current learning topic. You can come along for the afternoon and spend time in your children's classrooms and find out what they have learnt, have a look at the work on display and even join in with some fun activities! The children's English and Maths books (Learning Journey books for Reception children) will also be available for you to see (in addition to Parents' Evening). So that means you will have 5 opportunities throughout the year to have a look at the progress your children have made in their books.

Curriculum Chats

At the beginning of terms 1, 3 and 5 you are invited to hear about the upcoming learning opportunities that have been planned for the children in their year groups. These meetings take place in the afternoons just before the end of the school day so that you are then able to collect your children on time! At these meetings the teachers share the topic (or Learning Journey) that the children will be learning about and the different subjects they will be taught. They will also explain P.E. days. If you are unable to attend, the notes from the presentation and topic information will be sent home and this information will be sent home and also uploaded onto the school website. If you have any questions about the planned learning, you are always welcome to contact the class teacher.

Reports

In response to the Parent Questionnaire, we are currently in the process of updating how we report to parents and the information that we share with you about the progress your children are making in school. We will update you about this very soon.

Website

Our website has lots of general information about the learning that takes place at Meridian, including information sheets to support you with helping your child learn at home.

There are also opportunities to **celebrate** children's learning in our weekly Commendation Assemblies, Christmas Productions, Year Group Assemblies and via the school website twitter/Facebook feeds.