

Dear Parents/Carers

Parent Coffee Morning

We had our termly coffee morning this week and it was great to see some new faces, as well as some of our regulars. At the meeting, Caterlink came along to speak to everyone about school lunches and answered parents' questions. Thank you to Mrs Sawyerr for organising this Coffee Morning. At our next Coffee Morning in term 3, Miss Passingham (our English Leader) will coming along to speak to parents about reading in school and how you can help with reading at home. Look out for the date in future newsletters and on our website.

Start of school

Please can I remind parents that children should not be left unattended at the school gates in the morning. We cannot guarantee their safety outside of the school grounds. We open the gates and doors at the same time to minimise queues and waiting. So please can I remind parents that children walking on their own to school should not be arriving at school before 8.35am. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe.

Belongings going missing

We are getting increasing numbers of children bringing in things from home, including decorating their book bags with lots of keyrings. Unfortunately some of these precious things are going missing. I will be speaking to all the children in assembly about not taking things that do not belong to them. But I would also advise parents/carers to discourage children from bringing things from home in case they get lost, broken or go missing. Thank you for your support with this matter.

PTFA Christmas Fair

Plans are well under way for our PTFA Christmas Fair. If you are able to help, please do contact Nicky Packham or Louise Clarkson for more details. **We look forward to seeing you all on Friday 7th December, 5pm – 7pm.** See more details later on in the newsletter

It has been great to see so many children taking part in different events this week – Odd Sock Day on Monday as part of Anti-Bullying week and today for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone for making these days such a success.

Best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott (Headteacher)



responsibility

TERM DATES 2018/2019

Term 2

Monday 29th October – Wednesday 19th December

Christmas break

Thursday 20th December to Wednesday 2nd January

Term 3

Thursday 3rd January – Friday 15th February **February break**

Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February **Term 4**

Monday 25th February – Friday 5th April

<u>Spring break</u>

Monday 8th April – Monday 22nd April

Term 5

Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 24th May

May break

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Term 6

Monday 3rd June – Tuesday 23rd July

Please note not all INSET days for 2018/2019 have been set

Important Dates

- 22.11 Parent Council meeting 9am
- 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**

Miss Maslen Update

Unfortunately Miss Maslen continues to be unwell and so has not yet returned to work. Miss Miles and Ms Westcott are continuing to support SEND policies and practices. Mr Doody is supporting attendance. Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding whilst everyone covers for Miss Maslen's absence.

OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning

I am pleased to let you know that our Outdoor Play and Learning continues to develop. We have recently bought some new sheds to storage our outdoor equipment and resources – <u>thank you to the PTFA for all their fundraising to purchase these sheds</u>

Our plans were slowed down slightly whilst we negotiated changes to the school grounds with EMCOR as part of our PFI contract – but these issues have now been resolved and we are now in a position to move forward with the next stage.

We were disappointed that we had to cancel the **OPAL parent day**, but we will plan a new date for the Spring – watch out for key dates in the future.

Over the coming weeks we will be putting up more sheds, collecting new 'loose parts' for children to play with and starting to plan and build a messy outdoor kitchen and sandpit. EXCITING!

As part of children's playtimes, we have purchased **welly racks** for all classes. Children are encouraged to **bring in wellies** so that they can play on the field all year and then **leave them on the welly racks**. We want the children to use the **field all the time** but children will need wellies and waterproof coats if the weather is wet.

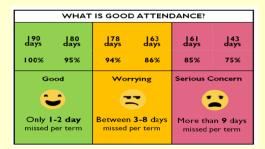
The children really love our playtimes and I know they will enjoy them even more when our new plans start to appear!



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



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. <u>Please note a reason of "ill" or "unwell" is not acceptable.</u>

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

Best Attendance this term:

Week 1 – 4M Starfish Class and 6R Turtle Class – both 100% - AMAZING!

Week 2 – 3Mo Dogfish Class and 4D Narwhal Class – both 100% - AMAZING!

Week 3 – 3Mo Dogfish Class – 100% - FANTASTIC TWO WEEKS RUNNING!

The class with the best attendance so far this term is 3Mo Dogfish class – I wonder if they can keep this up or will another class beat them?

Attendance so far this term		
RR – 93.3%	3M – 98.2%	6R - 98.2%
RE – 90.7%	3Mo – 98.9%	6J – 96.9%
1HS - 98.4%	4D – 98.2%	
1A - 97.6%	4M – 98.3%	
2T – 96.4%	4P – 93.9%	
2D – 95.0%	5Y - 96.4%	
2M – 96.2%	5P - 96.1%	

Whole school attendance for Term 1 was <u>97.2%</u> - this is such an amazing achievement – thank you to everyone for supporting us with improving attendance at Meridian.



Parent Council

Our next Parent Council meeting is on Thursday 22nd November at 9am.

The Parent Council are small but committed group that meet six times a year to hear about school developments and raise any questions/comments/suggestions that parents would like to know more about.

You can speak directly with the parent councillors, who you can see on our website. Or you can send in your questions/comments via the school office office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk – please make it clear that any e-mails you send are for the Parent Council.

If you are a parent/carer and you would like to get involved with our Parent Council, you are very welcome to come along to a meeting to find out more.

Reading

As you know, this year we are encouraging and challenging children to read as often as possible and it has been really great to hear that so many children are reading regularly at home with parents, siblings, grandparents and friends – as well as reading independently when they are ready.



It is so important that children are reading regularly both at home and at school - It's been proven that children who read for pleasure are more likely to be successful and happy throughout their lives (OECD).

Teachers are regularly checking children's reading diaries and giving out gold coins for children that are reading lots – so please encourage and support us in developing a love of reading with your child. Here are some examples of questions you might like to ask when reading with your child or supporting them with writing a response to their book in their reading diary.



Understanding a book	Inferring and interpreting
What does mean?	How did feel when happened? How do you know?
What extra information did the picture add?	What is the purpose of?
What happened when?	Have we read something like this before?
What did do/ask?	What does feel/think? How can you tell?
Which word told you that?	What do you think might do now?
What did you find out about?	How do you think this chapter might end?
Can you summarise what happened in the last chapter/paragraph?	Which words tell you how was feeling?
What do you think might have happened if?	
Identifying and commenting	Explaining
What is the purpose of?	Find 3 words that tell you
Why is in bold/italics?	What is the main idea of the story?
Why have they presented it this way?	Does the author like? How do you know?
Why does the author use? (E.g. speech marks, interesting vocabulary, etc.)	Did anything surprise you in the story?
Why did the author change the story?	What did you like/dislike?
Why did the author change the story?	What did you like/dislike? Why do you think said that?
Why did the author change the story? Is this fiction or non-fiction?	

Loose Parts

In term 3 we will be asking for regular donations for our OPAL playtime. **All donations will be safety checked by the staff to ensure suitability for the children to use.** Here are suggestions of what we will be asking for:

Cardboard boxes

Cuddly Toys

Fabrics - all shapes and sizes

Metal pots, pans, trays etc. Especially catering sizes

Old clothes, jackets, overalls, hats, bags

Old household appliances, hoovers, fax machines, microwaves etc

Phones

Small Children's Bike Wheels, wheels

Sofa and chair cushions

Suitcases - all sizes

Tubes of all kinds

Carpet samples

Carpet squares

Guttering

Hoses

Brief cases

Buggies, push chairs





If you want to find out more about play at Meridian, check out our Play Policy on our website

http://www.meridianschool.co.uk/abo ut-us/policies

So if you are having a clear out, please think of us! We will have donation bins available after Christmas for you to put any items which will then be checked by staff.

If you want to find out more about OPAL, please visit their website http://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/

We will start to take photographs over the coming weeks to show you OPAL in action and then a new date for an OPAL parent day will be planned in the Spring.

Year 5 and 6 Parents

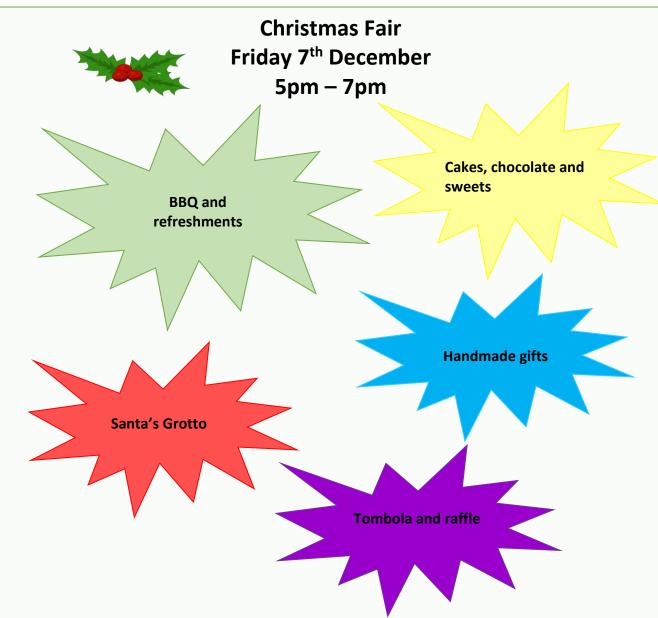
It is great to see our Year 5 and 6 children growing up and developing their independence, including bringing themselves to and from school.

Please could you remind your children about keeping safe before and after school. They should not be arriving until just before 8.35am as there will not be any adult supervision and they should wait sensibly, including not running up and down the slope area by the Annexe room. I will speak all the children about this in assembly next week.

Also, reminding them about road safety and not crossing the road whilst looking at or talking on their mobile phones.

Once they get to school and the gates have opened they need to go straight to their classrooms rather play on the playground.

Thank you for your support with this matter



In order to be prepared for the Winter Fair, children are able to wear non-school uniform on the day. Christmas jumpers would be amazing! If your child would like to come in non-school uniform, they will need to bring in a donation for the fair:

Nursery and Reception: Cakes for the cake stall
Years 1, 2, and 3: Chocolates for Chocolate Tombola (packets, boxes or tins please)

Years 4, 5 and 6: Bottles/Gifts for Tombola

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH THIS!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

