Learning for life!

Meridian Update

Term 2
Monday 29th October to Wednesday 19th December
Term 3
Thursday 3rd January to Friday 15th February

www.meridianschool.co.uk

Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery

@MeridianCPS

Friday 30th November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Ofsted

Since my last newsletter we had an Ofsted inspection on 20th November! As Meridian was judged as good in our last inspection in December 2014, it was a short one-day visit with one inspector. Thank you to all the parents/carers who took the time to complete the Parent View and to all the children that completed the online questionnaire. It was an intense day as the inspector spent time with me and Mr Doody, showing him around the school and demonstrating the great work that the teachers and teaching assistants do at Meridian. He also spent time with members of the leadership team, met with governors and spoke with parents. As well as speaking to different adults he spoke to the children too, in a meeting, in classrooms and out on the playground. As always, they were fantastic and they were all keen to speak to the inspector and tell him everything they loved about Meridian – the children were clearly proud of their school and I was incredibly proud of them. The final report will be written in a letter which will be shared with parents/carers as soon as it is released in the next couple of weeks.

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.

PTFA Christmas Fair

It's our Christmas Fair next week! So don't forget to put this date in your diary! Our great team of PTFA volunteers are busy getting everything organised and if there are any other parents/carers that are able to come along on Friday to help set up, run a stall or help clear up, please do let the PTFA know. On Friday 7th it is a non-school uniform day (Christmas Jumpers if you fancy getting festive!) All we ask in return for wearing non-school uniform is a donation for our tombolas and stalls: Nursery and Reception – cakes; Years 1 and 2 – chocolate (packets, tins or boxes please); Years 3 ,4 , 5 and 6 – bottles and gifts. **We look forward to seeing you all on Friday 7th December, 5pm – 7pm.**

Best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott
(Headteacher)

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
Spring break
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

06.12 Parent Open Afternoon **1.45pm**
07.12 **Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance to whole school and parents with toddlers/babies 2pm**
PTFA Christmas Fair **5pm – 7pm**
10.12 Years 5 and 6 Christmas Performance to parents – **9.15am** and **2.00pm**
11.12 **Nursery Christmas Songs 9.30am**
Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance to whole school and parents with toddlers/babies 2pm
12.12 Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performance to parents – **9.15am** and **2.00pm**
13.12 **Reception Performance to whole school and parents with toddlers/babies 9.15am**
Years 1 and 2 Performance to whole school and parents with toddlers/babies 2pm
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**

OPAL
Outdoor Play and Learning

Mr Legate and our wonderful team of Teaching Assistants spent the day on Wednesday building a messy kitchen outside on our field as part of our Outdoor Play and Learning provision. It looks amazing! A huge thank you to everyone that helped get this organised and installed.

For children to access the field all year round, they are welcome to leave their wellies in school on their class welly racks.

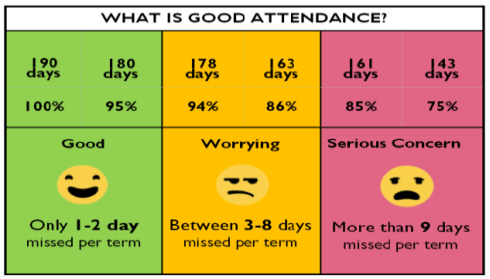
It was too windy on Wednesday to put up the sheds, but we will do this as soon as possible so that we can start collecting and storing loose parts for the children to play with.

You may have noticed a flag pole on the field – if the flag is green, the children can go on the field; if the flag is chequered yellow and green, the children can go on the field if they have wellies; if the flag is red, the children can't go on the field.

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!**
Week 4 – 1HS Blue Tang Class **– 100% - AMAZING!**
Week 5 – 4D Narwhal Class **– 97.1% - GREAT!**

The class with the best attendance so far this term is 1HS Blue Tang class – *I wonder if they can keep this up or will another class beat them?*

Attendance so far this term		
RR – 92.5%	**3M – 94.9%**	**6R – 96.8%**
RE – 91.7%	**3Mo – 97.1%**	**6J – 95.7%**
1HS – 98.1%	**4D – 97.7%**	
1A – 96.7%	**4M – 97.7%**	
2T – 95.9%	**4P – 95.8%**	
2D – 95.4%	**5Y – 95.3%**	
2M – 96.3%	**5P – 95.1%**	

Whole school attendance for Term 2 is currently <u>95.7%</u> - only a few more weeks to go . . . This is a great improvement on Term 2 in 2017 2018 when attendance for this term was 94.3%. Thank you to everyone for your support with attendance

ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every school day counts.

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. *A particular thank you to all the parents/carers of children in Miss Miles' class for their support and understanding whilst Miss Miles is released from class to do this important work.*

Meridian Office Team

Unfortunately, Mrs Ware (our Secretary/Bursar) is currently off work unwell. The Office Team (Mrs Hunt and Mrs Dray) are really stretched at the moment, especially at this busy time of year.
We have got a temporary member of staff to support us but please bear with us over the next few weeks. Thank you for patience and understanding

When children are ill . . .

As a school we completely understand that there are times when children are ill and they need to stay off school. We appreciate that sometimes this is a hard decision to make and as a school we can support you with this. Some parents ask us to try and see if their child is well enough to be in school and call them if they start to feel unwell – we are always happy to do this. There are some illnesses which are contagious, such as chickenpox and impetigo, when children clearly need to be off school. There are some illnesses which can spread if not carefully managed, such as sickness and diarrhoea (see advice later on in this newsletter.) There are times when you need to take your child straight to the doctor, such if there is an unusual rash or your child's has had a high temperature for a couple of days. If you are not sure whether to keep your child off school, you are very welcome to come in and discuss this with us or refer to the chart below for some simple advice.

Send me to school if . . . • I have a runny nose or just a cough, but no other symptoms • I haven't taken any fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours and I haven't had a fever during that time	Keep me at home if . . . • I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine • I am throwing up or have diarrhoea • My eyes are pink and crusty	Call the doctor if . . . • I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days • I've been throwing up or have diarrhoea for more than two days • I've had sniffles for more than a week and they aren't getting better • I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (call 999 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler)

If your child is absent from school regularly with illness, Mrs Erridge may be in contact to see how we can support you and your child and you may be asked for medical evidence to authorise further illnesses. As a school we are also able to make referrals to the school nursing service for advice and support in case there are underlying health issues that are causing regular bouts of illness.

You know your children best, but we are happy to help if we can.

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/about-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.

Christmas at Meridian

The children are getting really excited in the lead up to Christmas. Christmas lunch is on 5th December. Our Christmas Fair is on the 7th, where teachers will be selling the Christmas gifts that all children have been making over the last few weeks. There are our Christmas performances which are always great to get you in the Christmas spirit. A local vicar is coming in to do a Christmas assembly with the whole school. And our term ends with our usual pantomime on the last day of term – which is enjoyed by the children and the adults!

Marissa and Lucy showing their sewing skills for the Christmas Fair! (Never too old for a Headteacher's sticker!)

Sickness and Diarrhoea

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea that has been caused by a **virus** – the advice is to keep your child off school for **48 hours** to avoid the virus spreading around school.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea that has been brought on by **other reasons** and you feel that they are well enough to come to school and **not infectious**, you are welcome to send them in.

Thank you for your support with this

Christmas Fair
Friday 7th December
5pm – 7pm

BBQ and refreshments

Cakes, chocolate and sweets

Handmade gifts

Santa's Grotto

Tombola and raffle

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!