



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 & Nursery**



@MeridianCPS

**Wednesday
19th
December
2018**

Dear Parents and Carers

Christmas Performances

I have to say, I thought that the Christmas performances this year were brilliant! Our Nursery children singing songs, Reception children singing and decorating a Christmas tree, Years 1 and 2 telling us a Christmas story and Years 3 and 4/Years 5 and 6 singing Christmas songs from around the world – they were all wonderful! The children, as always, were so well behaved and joined in everything with lots of smiles and waves! Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the children and thank you to all those that told us how much they enjoyed the performances.

Reading and Curriculum Chats

Don't forget that if you would like to come along and find out about the exciting learning taking place in the Spring terms, then the teachers will be sharing this with parents at our Curriculum Chats. These now start at 2pm so that you can also have the opportunity to read with your child and find out about ways that you can support your child developing a love of reading. We have purchased lots of new books this year and I'm sure the children will enjoy the chance to share a story or two with you! Dates are available in this newsletter and on the website.

PTFA Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone that organised and supported our Christmas Fair. We raised an amazing £887, which go towards supporting the children's play times and the cost of coaches for our big trips. We were so lucky with the weather – so it was great to see so many of you coming along to support this fundraising event.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

See you on Thursday 3rd January.

Best wishes

Claire 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

03.01 – children back to school

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

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

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

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

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

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

14.01 – Reception: Read with your child followed by Curriculum Chat **2pm**

15.01 – Outdoor Play and Learning afternoon – *more details in soon*

17.01 – PTFA AGM – 7pm in the Annexe – everyone welcome!

24.01 – Parent Coffee Morning 9am in the Annexe room – everyone welcome!

05.02 – Parents Evening – 3.30pm – 6pm

07.02 – Parents Evening – 4.30pm – 7pm

15.02 – End of term 3

25.02 – Children back to school

02.04 – Parent Open Afternoon – 1.45pm

05.04 – End of term 4

Lost Property

Our lost property pile has been getting bigger and bigger, with some really lovely items of clothing and shoes. Please can you make sure that you label all your children's belongings so we can return them easily if they get lost.

Meridian Choir

Our Meridian Choir performed at the Meridian Centre last week and they were amazing! They even sang a Christmas carol in Latin! It is great that the children had this opportunity to perform outside of school – thank you so much to Mr Mole and Miss Pulleine for giving up their time to support the children doing this. The choir also sang to the whole school this week and everyone was really impressed. Well done to the choir!

OPAL

Mr Legate has been busy putting up the sheds to store more play things for the children. Look out for more information about our play open afternoon in the new year.



Meridian Football Team

“Congratulations to our Year 5 & 6 football team who managed to come third this year in our local tournaments across Peacehaven and Newhaven. They achieved a total of 10 points and were only beaten to second place by goal difference. The overall winners were Peacehaven Heights who won 4 of their 5 matches – their only loss was to Meridian!

The top goal scorer for the team with 4 goals was Kamron in Year 6 with the goal of the season going to Rezwan in Year 5 for his long range goal against Harbour Primary in match 1.




The whole football squad has been outstanding, demonstrating our school values and brilliant sportsmanship in all their matches. Well done to everyone!”

Mr Lewis – Sports Coach

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

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>

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!**
Week 6 – 1HS Blue Tang Class – **98% - FANTASTIC!**
Week 7 – 6R Turtle Class – **98.9% - BRILLIANT**

The classes with the best attendance this term is 1HS Blue Tang class and 6R Turtle class – well done to both these classes!

Attendance for Term 2		
RR – 92.1%	3M – 95.5%	6R – 97.8%
RE – 92.7%	3Mo – 96.7%	6J – 96.0%
1HS – 97.8%	4D – 96.1%	
1A – 96.6%	4M – 96.4%	
2T – 95.3%	4P – 94.8%	
2D – 94.1%	5Y – 95.1%	
2M – 96.8%	5P – 95.1%	

Whole school attendance for Term 2 is 95.5%. 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



Taking Photographs and Videos of children during school events

It has come to my attention that unfortunately there are a few parents who are choosing not to follow our school policy about taking photographs and videos of children during school events and are posting images/recordings of children on Facebook. I understand there have been some attempts to blur out children's faces in these photographs and videos, however some of these children are still recognisable and parents/carers do not want these posted on Facebook without their permission. It really saddens me that, despite all the requests and reminders at all school events that parents are invited to, a small minority are choosing to ignore the school. I appreciate that you will all want to create memories of your children's time at school and I want to support you all in doing this – I know my mum has still got photographs of me in a Nativity play! However, I have a duty of care to all the children in the school and if I feel that any children are being placed at risk by images being posted on Facebook, I may have to make the difficult decision to not allow school events to be filmed or photographed by parents. Other schools, both locally and nationally, have a no image policy and this is not something I want to do as it would be penalising the vast majority of parents who support and respect Meridian school policy.

There are many reasons why schools all around the country request that no children's images are not posted on social media. Here are a few examples:

- Incidents of strangers approaching children and knowing their name and which school they attend because they have seen images of children in their school uniform on Facebook and were able to trace their name through parents' posts
- Children in foster care whose identity and location needs protecting
- Children who have been adopted whose location needs protecting
- Families who have been placed in a refuge due to ongoing abuse whose location needs protecting
- Parents who simply don't wish their children to have a digital footprint

Our Policy for the Use of Images of children is available on our school website. After Christmas, I will be sending out our policy agreement for parents to read and sign again.

If you see any images of school events on Facebook that have your child in without your permission you can either approach the person directly to ask them to take it down or you can contact the school and we will ask.

I would like to thank all the many, many parents/carers who support us in keeping the children safe at Meridian by not posting images on Facebook or any other social media site. I will do everything I can to ensure that you can create these wonderful memories, but I do hope you understand the school's position on keeping the children safe.

Pantomime

We rounded off the term with a fantastic theatre group and their performance of Treasure Island. The children loved it and were joining in with all the booing, cheering and shouts of "behind you!"

It was lovely to see everyone (children and adults!) enjoying themselves so much on the last day of term.



All the staff at Meridian wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!