



Learning for life!

Meridian Update

Term 3

**Thursday 3rd January to Friday
15th February**

Term 4

**Monday 25th February to Friday
5th April**

www.meridianschool.co.uk



**Meridian Community Primary
School & Nursery**



@MeridianCPS

**Friday
4th**

**January
2019**

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely break at Christmas. It was lovely to see all the children back yesterday – keen and enthusiastic to get on with their learning.

Reading with your children and Curriculum Chats

Don't forget that our Curriculum Chats are starting this week from 2.30pm (see dates in letter and on the school website) and if you would like to come along and read with your child and find out how to help with reading at home, then you can come along at 2pm before the chat. We look forward to seeing lots of you over the coming days!

Parent Coffee Morning – 24th January

At our next Coffee Morning, Miss Passingham will be there to talk about reading at Meridian – she will be sharing some of the new books we have bought for the children to enjoy as well answering any questions you might have with supporting reading at home. Everyone is welcome to come along to hear from Miss Passingham, as well as the chance to chat with other parents. Coffee/tea and biscuits available from 8.45am in the Annexe before the 9am start. We look forward to seeing you on 24th January

Year 3 and Year 4 Swimming

Thank you to all the parents and carers of children in Year 4 for your support with swimming lessons. I really appreciate how tricky it can be to organise dropping children off at the pool in the mornings – but as always you have all been great at making arrangements to support each other with this. Year 3 swimming lessons start next week – I know the children are really excited about it! The children love going swimming and it is such an important life skill for them to either learn to swim or improve their skills – so thank you all for supporting the school with this.

Emergency contact numbers

As you will know from previous newsletters, it is vitally important that the school has at least two up to date emergency contact numbers for your child. If we can't get hold of you and there is an emergency, then we have to be able to contact someone else. If you would like to check who your emergency contacts are or wish to change or update this information, then please do come into the school office or give them a call. Thank you for your help with this.

Best wishes

Claire Westcott

Claire Westcott
(Headteacher)



TERM DATES 2018/2019

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

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

NUT FREE SCHOOL

We have several children at Meridian who have a life-threatening allergy to nuts so please can you ensure that any packed lunches do not contain nuts or nut butters to help keep these children safe. Thank you

Forest School Update

Mr Legate continues to ensure that our Forest School Area is an engaging and exciting place for children to learn outdoors all year round. Our brand new purpose built shelters for Forest School are finished and ready to use and I know the children will enjoy exploring these newly developed areas.

Forest School and PE starts on Monday 7th January. Timetables for when you child needs their outdoor clothes can be found on www.meridianschool.co.uk on the homepage or under the Parents tab.



CLASS+

Collaboratively working with families to build confidence and to enable them to take the next step

Parent/Carer Coffee and Chat

CLASS+ invites **parents and carers** of children/young people with Autism/Social Communication difficulties to join us for coffee, chat, advice - the chance to forge new support networks and friendships
No need to book – just come along



Focus

We will spend part of the session exploring how too many words can impact on the child with Autism.
Parents/carers will also have the opportunity to talk to each other and members of the CLASS+ Team

Thursday 14th February 2019
9.00 - 10:30am
Meridian Community Primary School,
Peacehaven.

Part of Communication, Learning and Autism Support Service

Stuart Gallimore
Director of Children's
Services

H Floor, South Block, County Hall, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UE
Tel: 01273 336887
Email: CLASS@eastsussex.gov.uk



Keeping children safe at Meridian – absence policy

If your child is absent from school, please don't forget to let us know by calling to speak with a member of the office team or **leave a message on our absence line**. In order to ensure children are safe, if your child is absent and we have not heard from you by **9.30am**, then we will call you. If we are unable to speak with you, we will then start to **call your emergency contacts** to find out if your child is safe. If we cannot get hold of any of your emergency contacts or you have not given us any contact numbers, then someone from the school will **visit your home** to check that your child is safe. If there is no-one home or no answer, then we may make the decision to **call the police** and ask for a safeguarding check. Please help us to ensure we know your children are safe and let us know when your child is absent from school and please make sure we have at least two emergency contact details that we can call. Thank you for your help with this.

Medical conditions and allergies

If your child has a medical condition (including asthma) or an allergy, please make sure we know about this. This includes updating us with any changes to your child's condition. You can make an appointment to speak with either Miss Miles (Acting SENCo) or Mr Philips (First Aid Co-ordinator) via the school office.

Letters have been sent out to all parents of children with asthma asking for an update – please complete this and return to school as soon as possible.

Car Park

A reminder that the school car park is for **staff only throughout the day**. *If you are coming into school for a meeting, dropping off PE kit or dinner money etc, please park in the streets around the school and walk through to the main office.*

The car park is only available to parents in the case of an emergency. Please do not park on the entrance into the school near the barrier as this obstructs the car park for other users and prevents emergency vehicles having access to the school.

Communicating with us

Your children are the most important part of our school. We all want the same thing (staff and parents/carers) – we want your children to be happy, safe and learning in school. Everyone understands at Meridian, that very occasionally something might happen in school which concerns or worries you and we always want to help. It is really important that you communicate with us when you have a concern or a worry. We can only help you when you talk to us . . .

However, over the last few months, the way in which a few parents have communicated with us has been difficult and at times unacceptable. Everyone works really hard in school and wants to do their best for your children but when we are being shouted at, threatened, or personal comments are made, it makes our jobs much harder to do. We all understand that your children are your priority and of course we know that emotions can run high, but it is important that parents/carers consider how they communicate with us.

Please can remind parents/carers that the class teacher is usually the best person to help with any concerns. You can ask teachers to call you or make an appointment to see them via the school office – you can pop in, call the office or send an e-mail to office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk

If once you have spoken with the teacher you would still like to speak to a member of the leadership team, you are again welcome to make an appointment or request a phone call. **Please be aware, that Mr Doody and Ms Westcott are not always immediately available and we will get back to you as soon as we can. We cannot always guarantee that you will get a response the same day but please understand we will address your concerns at the earliest opportunity.**

It is important to let you know, that if we feel that any parent/carer's behaviour towards staff is unacceptable, including being shouted at (in person or over the phone), appropriate action will be taken.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

OPAL

We are looking forward to our Outdoor Play and Learning Open Afternoon on Tuesday 15th January. Mr Doody spoke to the children about this in assembly today, so children may be asking to bring in donations of old toys, cardboard boxes etc to play with at play time and lunch time!

More information about this will be sent out in a separate OPAL letter next week.

