

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

**Monday
11th
March
2019**

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been a busy couple of weeks since we have returned to school after half-term – I hope you managed to enjoy some of the good weather that we had!

Parent Council

We had a really positive Parent Council meeting on 28th February – thank you to those of you who sent in your questions and comments via our Parent Council representatives. Minutes of this meeting will be available on the website very soon. Our next meeting is 16th May so if there is anything you would like to know more about or ask a question about Meridian, please do speak with one of the council or send these in via office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk

World Book Day

It was great to see all the children in their pyjamas last week to celebrate World Book Day. The children enjoyed this celebration of reading and they were all keen to talk about their favourite books. Thank you for all your support with this event!

Red Nose Day

It's Red Nose Day for Comic Relief this Friday. To raise money for this important charity, children are able to come into school on Friday 15th March wearing all things red for a £1 donation. Teachers will spend time with the children talking about this event and how their donations will help others both nationally and internationally.

OPAL

A huge thank you to everyone for their donations of items for the children to play with at break time and lunchtime. They are loving everything and it is great to see their happy and smiling faces! This initiative in school has been such a success and the OPAL team (Ms Westcott, Mr Doody, Mr Legate, Mrs Sawyerr, Mr Philips and Mrs Pellatt) are meeting this week to start to plan the next stage. We are planning to build a large sandpit for the children to enjoy using money that the PTFA have raised to support this. I will update you with more OPAL news soon

Best wishes

Claire Westcott

Claire Westcott
(Headteacher)



TERM DATES 2018/2019

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

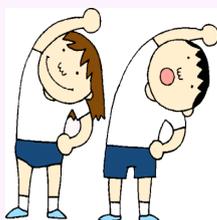
Monday 8th July – school closed for staff training INSET day

Our final INSET day has been booked in for Monday 8th July

P.E. Kits

It is really important that all children have P.E. kits in school – shorts, t-shirt, tracksuit, trainers/plimsolls. There are increasing numbers of children without their P.E. kits in school.

Please help us to ensure that they are able to fully take part in this lesson!



Helping your child at home

Don't forget that we have a really useful page on our website to support you helping your child at home. There is a document for each year group from Reception to Year 6 that gives examples and suggestions to support reading, writing and maths at home.

www.meridianschool.co.uk/parents

IMPORTANT DATES

- 28.03** Parent Coffee Morning – 9am in the Annexe
02.04 Parent Open Afternoon – 1.45pm
05.04 End of term 4
- 23.04** Back to school for term 5
02.05 Parent Coffee Morning – “Open for Parents” Welcome session led by Juliette Moxom-Farrer 9am in the Annexe
09.05 “Open for Parents” – Self Esteem and Anxiety led by Juliette Moxom Farrer 9am in the Annexe
PTFA meeting 7pm in the Annexe
17.05 PTFA Disco
21.05 Reception and KS1 Sports Morning (times to be confirmed)
22.05 KS2 Sports Morning (times to be confirmed)
23.05 “Open for Parents” – Dealing with Disobedience led by Juliette Moxom Farrer 9am in the Annexe
24.05 End of term 5
- 06.06** “Open for Parents” – Managing Fighting and Aggression led by Juliette Moxom Farrer 9am in the Annexe
07.06 Year 5 Assembly to Parents 9am in the hall
14.06 Year 4 Assembly to Parents 9am in the hall
20.06 Parent Coffee Morning “Open for Parents” – Parent Drop in session by Juliette Moxom Farrer 9am in the Annexe
21.06 Year 3 Assembly to Parents 9am in the hall
27.06 Year 6 Production to Parents – times to be confirmed
05.07 Year 2 Assembly to Parents 9am in the hall
08.07 **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING**
12.07 Year 1 Assembly to Parents 9am in the hall
PTFA Summer Sizzler 3pm onwards
19.07 Reception Assembly to Parents 9am in the hall
23.07 End of term 6

School Break ins

Unfortunately we have had a further break in at school and more criminal damage to the school, including broken skylights and play equipment being vandalized or thrown into neighbour's gardens. EMCOR are working hard to prevent further break ins and they are working closely with the police. We have also had reports from local residents about young people trespassing on the grounds in the evenings.

It is obviously really upsetting but all incidents have been reported to the Police and they are continuing to investigate.

If you have any information about any of these break ins, please do contact Sussex Police on 101.

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 – 4H – 100% - FANTASTIC!

Week 2 – 4P – 99.6% - AMAZING!

The classes with the best attendance so far this term are: 4H and 4M – well done!

Attendance in Term 4 so far		
RR – 95.3%	3M – 92.2%	6R – 97.2%
RE – 97.1%	3Mo – 97.7%	6J – 97.3%
1HS – 95.4%	4H – 98.3%	
1A – 97.5%	4M – 98.3%	
2T – 93.2%	4P – 97.2%	
2D – 96.1%	5Y – 97.9%	
2M – 94.6%	5P – 95.2%	

Whole school attendance for Term 4 so far is 96.3% - which is a huge improvement on the same time last year. Whole school attendance this academic year so far is 95.6% - which is just below our target of 96% - which is fantastic and I am sure we will continue to improve over the spring and summer months.

Thank you to everyone for your support with attendance



Loose Parts

Keep those donations coming in for our OPAL playtimes! **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

So if you are having a clear out, please think of us! The donation area is just behind the shed on the playground – please put your items in there ready for our safety inspection.

If you want to find out more about OPAL, please visit their website

<http://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>

Thank you for your support with our playtimes!



Online Safety

At school we talk a lot to the children about keeping safe online. We reinforce the message regularly about not sharing personal information online, blocking people who send nasty messages and speaking to an adult if something has upset them.

Recently we have had some issues, particularly with the older children in Years 5 and 6, sending nasty and unkind messages either via online games (such as Fortnite) or via messaging apps (such as WhatsApp) when they are not in school.

Unfortunately, the upset caused by this is starting to spill into school and whilst we will always support children who are feeling upset or angry, it is very hard for us to deal with issues that are happening outside of school.

If you would like any advice or suggestions on how to support your child with keeping themselves safe, including understanding what cyberbullying is, there are some great resources on these websites:

www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



ZIP IT

Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.



BLOCK IT

Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.



FLAG IT

Flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.



Open for Parents

"Being a parent is not always easy.
You are not alone if you find it difficult sometimes.
But it's OK. You can talk to us."



"There is no such thing as a perfect parent and we all need a little help and support at times. Every child is different and at every stage we are faced with new challenges and situations to handle."

I am delighted to say that Open for Parents are going to be running some really useful parenting workshops at Meridian over the next few months. You will see that I have added the information into Key Dates above and these will be added to the school website calendar too.

Open for Parents provide information, advice and support for parents and carers who want to support their child's development and wellbeing, who may be experiencing some difficulty with managing their child's behaviour or who simply want some tips and strategies for dealing with common childhood and teen issues.

Open for Parents want everyone in a parenting role in East Sussex to feel supported and ensure that East Sussex is a great place to grow up.

Open for Parents offers a variety of support through the Triple P programme: talks, one-off groups, longer courses, brief one-to-one support and online courses and this support is going to be available at Meridian in the summer terms.

Open for Parents aim to provide practical positive ways to manage some of the challenges you may encounter. They can also signpost parents to other appropriate services and work in partnership with other agencies to support families.

Open for parents is funded by East Sussex County Council and the NHS Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group. Triple P delivery is supported by [Triple P UK](#).

Our trained Parenting Practitioner is Juliette Moxom-Farrer who is really excited about leading these sessions at Meridian and she is keen to meet as many parents as possible. Here are the dates and more information about the sessions Juliette has planned:

2nd May – Welcome Session: Come along to meet Juliette and find out more about Open for Parents and Triple P. This session starts at 9am in the Annexe – we look forward to seeing you there!

9th May – Session 1: Self Esteem and Anxiety – come to this session to help your child cope with their anxiety and reduce their fears. 9am – 11am in the Annexe.

23rd May – Session 2: Dealing with disobedience - Do you find your child sometimes doesn't listen or follow your instructions? Come to this two hour discussion group and gain simple yet effective strategies. 9am – 11am in the Annexe

6th June – Session 3: Managing fighting and aggression - All children have disagreements or arguments at times. Come to this two hour discussion group to gain simple and effective strategies to help your child get on better with others. 9am – 11am in the Annexe.

20th June – Drop in session: Come along and speak to Juliette to find out more about Open for Parents or about any issues or questions you have relating to parenting your child. 9am – 11am in the Annexe.

We need to ensure that there are enough parents/carers attending these sessions so to avoid disappointment please make sure that you book yourself on to these sessions.

Please book this session either via the school office office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk or via the school website.

If you want to find out more, please do visit www.openforparents.org.uk