



# Learning for life!

## Meridian Update

### **Term 4**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Term 5**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

[www.meridianschool.co.uk](http://www.meridianschool.co.uk)



**Meridian Community Primary School & Nursery**



**@MeridianCPS**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a really busy term and the children have enjoyed all the different learning opportunities – cricket coaching, trips to Brighton Museum, a storyteller, World Book Day and music performances from each class. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work and enthusiasm!

### **Parent Open Afternoon**

It was lovely to see so many of you coming along to our popular Parent Open Afternoon this week. The children really love the chance to share their work with you all. Look out for our next Parent Open Afternoon in the Important Dates section of this letter and on our school website.

### **Parenting Workshops**

Don't forget to sign up for our Parenting Workshops that are starting next term. You can do this by popping into the school office or via our website - <http://www.meridianschool.co.uk/parents/support-for-parents>. We need a minimum of 6 parents to attend each workshop otherwise they will be cancelled – so please do read all about the different workshops in this newsletter or come along to the welcome session with Juliette on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

### **After School Clubs**

Our creative and active After School Clubs, run by PlayPE, are very popular and a new timetable of activities is in place for our Summer Term. If you wish to book a place or need any further information on any of the after school activities, then please refer to the letter that was sent out last week, have a look in the carousel outside the School Office, or contact Jamie at PlayPE ([jamie@plaype.co.uk](mailto:jamie@plaype.co.uk)).

### **Forest School and PE timetables**

Not sure when your child has Forest School or PE? Check out the timetables on our school website <http://www.meridianschool.co.uk/parents/forest-school> or <http://www.meridianschool.co.uk/parents/pe>. It is really important that the children have the right PE kit in school so that they can fully participate their PE lessons – thank you.

I hope you have a wonderful Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Best wishes

*Claire Westcott*

Claire Westcott  
(Headteacher)



## TERM DATES 2018/2019

### Term 4

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

### Spring break

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

### Term 5

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

### May break

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

### Term 6

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – school closed for staff training INSET day

**Our final INSET day has been booked in for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PARENTPAY

A letter has been sent out explaining that after the Easter holidays, Caterlink will no longer be accepting Parentpay payments for School Dinners. This means that when we return on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, pupils will be required to pay for their meals by either cash or cheque. Please can you provide either a small purse/wallet or envelope which is clearly marked with your child's name and class with the money inside, or if you wish to pay by cheque then please make cheques payable to "Caterlink". You can still pay in advance for meals, and the kitchen will keep the money and deducted the cost of a meal each time a meal is taken.

If you have a credit on Parentpay then please can you ensure that this is used, transferred into any other parentpay accounts that are still in operation (ie in other Schools) or credited back into your own payment methods. Please contact Parentpay directly for any further help or assistance with this.  
(<https://www.parentpay.com/parent-account-faqs/>)

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 23.04** Back to school for term 5
- 25.04** Reading & Curriculum Chat Y6 – from 2pm
- 26.04** Reading & Curriculum Chat Y5 – from 2pm
- 29.04** Reading & Curriculum Chat Y3 – from 2pm
- 30.04** Reading & Curriculum Chat Y1 – from 2pm
- 01.05** Reading & Curriculum Chat Y4 – from 2pm
- 02.05** Parent Coffee Morning – “Open for Parents”  
Welcome session led by Juliette Moxom-Farrer 9am in the Annexe
- 02.05** Reading & Curriculum Chat Y2 – from 2pm
- 03.05** Reading & Curriculum Chat R – from 2pm
- 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




### Times Table Rockstars

**WE DID IT!** We are now Number 1 school across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove!  
Well done to all of you who enjoy practising your times tables.  
**KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK EVERYONE!**

## 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!

Week 3 – 6R – 99.7% - AMAZING!

Week 4 – 2M & 1HS – 100% - FANTASTIC!

Week 5 – 3Mo – 99.6% - AMAZING!

Week 6 – 1A – 99% - SUPER!

The class with the best attendance this term is: 4H – well done!

Attendance in Term 4		
RR – 95.8%	3M – 94.8%	6R – 98.1%
RE – 97.0%	3Mo – 97.1%	6J – 96.8%
1HS – 95.8%	4H – 97.6%	
1A – 96.0%	4M – 97.0%	
2T – 95.6%	4P – 97.1%	
2D – 94.9%	5Y – 97.2%	
2M – 96.6%	5P – 95.3%	

Whole school attendance for Term 4 is 96.4% - which is a huge improvement on the same time last year. Whole school attendance this academic year so far is 95.9% - which is just below our target of 96% - which is fantastic and I am sure we will continue to improve over the summer months.

**Thank you to everyone for your support with attendance**





## OPAL



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 need:

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



**The children had a wonderful time with all the cardboard boxes you donated – who knew so much fun could be had with cardboard boxes!**

**Thank you for your support with our amazing playtimes!**

## Online Safety

Did you know that according to Internet Matters ([www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)): Pre-school children (0 – 5 year olds) are online for an average of 71 minutes a day? Over 65% of parents are most concerned about their 6 – 10 year olds viewing inappropriate content online? 62% of 11 year olds have a Facebook profile despite the minimum age of 13? If you want to find out more about how to keep your children safe online, Internet Matters is another great website with resources, facts and information about this very important issue.

We are noticing an increase in the number of issues coming into school following inappropriate behaviour online – please help us to minimise the impact of these issues impacting children's learning and behaviour by supporting your children to understand how to keep safe online.

Lots of experts are recommending reducing the time children spend online, particularly social media or online gaming, to support good mental health. For more information go to: <https://www.nhs.uk/news/pregnancy-and-child/more-sleep-and-limiting-screen-time-may-improve-childrens-mental-abilities/> or <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/health-impacts-screen-time-guide-clinicians-parents>



## 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](https://www.triplep.org.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:

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

**9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**23<sup>rd</sup> 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

**6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](https://www.openforparents.org.uk)