

Learning for life!

Meridian Newsletter

Term 1

**Friday 1st September –
Friday 20th October**

Term 2

**Monday 30th October –
Friday 15th December**

www.meridianschool.co.uk



Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery



@MeridianCPS

**Monday
9th
October
2023**

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had another busy couple of weeks since the last newsletter. You may have heard from your children that we were assessed for our OPAL playtimes and we have retained our Platinum Award – which is amazing news! There is more information about this later in the newsletter. We will be hosting other schools to come and see our playtimes and lunchtimes in the near future to celebrate and share our good practice.

School Uniform

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support our school uniform policy – grey, white and royal blue. We are still seeing a few children in black and trainers that are not all black. If this is your child, please can you ensure that they are wearing the correct school uniform every day. Thank you.

Specialist Provision

Our Specialist Provision refurbishment is nearly finished and we are looking forward to welcoming new children to Meridian over the coming year. This provision is for children with Education Health Care Plans with a primary diagnosis of autism who are not able to access full-time education in a mainstream school. Admissions is through the Local Authority and not the school. More information will be available on our school website very soon. It's a really exciting addition to our school that supports our local children to attend a local school wherever possible.

Book Fair

The Book Fair is at Meridian again this week! Do come along and support the school and buy some books for your family. The Book Fair company donates books to the school based on the number of books we sell. It is in the hall after school this week Monday – Thursday and will also be open during Parents' Evening.

Take care and best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott
Headteacher

strength

respect



kindness

honesty

responsibility

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TERM DATES 2023/2024

Term 1

Friday 1st September – Friday 20th October
01.09 and 04.09 – school closed for staff training
CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 5TH
SEPTEMBER
20.10 – school closed for staff training

Term 2

Monday 30th October – Friday 15th December

Term 3

Tuesday 2nd January – Friday 9th February

Term 4

Monday 19th February – Thursday 28th March

Term 5

Monday 15th April – Friday 24th May

Term 6

Monday 3rd June to Tuesday 23rd July

Please note that not all INSET days have been set for 2023/2024

KEY DATES TERM 1

- 10.10** Parents Evening (3.30 – 6.00)
- 12.10** Parents Evening (4.00 – 7.00)
- 13.10** Parent Coffee Morning – 9am in the Annexe Music Room
School Photographs in school
- 20.10** School closed for staff training

TERM 2

- 07.11** New Reception 2024 parents Open Day – 9.30am and 1.30pm
- 17.11** PTFA School Disco
- 01.12** Christmas Fair
- 08.12** Parent Forum 2pm in Annexe Music Room
- 11.12** Reception Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15 and 1.20
- 12.12** Years 1 and 2 Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15, 10.45, 1.20
- 13.12** Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15, 10.45, 1.20
- 14.12** Years 5 and 6 Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15, 10.45, 1.20

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE Safeguarding at Meridian

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child that attends Meridian, please do contact one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs. Lucy Newth

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ms. Claire Westcott

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr. Matt Doody

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss. Laura Miles

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

During the school holidays, please contact:

Single Point of Advice (SPOA) on 01323 464222

If you have an immediate or emergency concern about a child's safety, please call 999. The NSPCC has advice about this on their website [here](#).

NHS
East Sussex
School Health Service



Aged 11 to 19?

Or parent/carer of a child or young person aged 5 to 19 years old?

Speak to a school nurse in person.

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10am to 3 pm
and 6 to 9 pm

Click <https://nhs.uk/east-sussex-school-health>
or text
07507 332473 anytime.

**East Sussex
School Health**

Service provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

**Confidential, private
and here for you.**

MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

PARENT COFFEE MORNING

Our wonderful Pastoral Team, Mrs. Kirton and Mrs. Harmer organise termly informal coffee mornings to discuss all things parenting!

The first meeting of the year is on **Friday 13th October at 9am** in the Annexe Music Room.

The theme of this meeting is **"Separation Anxiety"** as well as an opportunity to meet other parents and carers in a supportive and welcoming environment.

We look forward to seeing you there!



PARENT FORUM

We had a really positive parent forum on Friday – it was lovely to see some new faces join us. Thank you to those parents who were able to come along.

At this meeting, the parents had the chance to meet Mrs. Newth, our new Inclusion Leader/SENCo and find out about how we support children with additional and special needs.

There were some great conversations and opportunities for parents to ask questions and feedback about their experiences of Meridian.

parents
forum

At the meeting we also discussed future topics that we can have at our future meetings.

Our next meeting will be Friday 8th December at 2pm in the Annexe/Music Room.

Update on theft and damage at Meridian

Following the break in at Meridian last weekend, the police have been in contact with the school and they will be completing their investigation into this criminal activity very soon. Luckily we were able to recover most of the bikes as they had been abandoned around the local community. Mr. Legate and Mr. Strange were able to drive around and collect them. But all the work in Forest School that was broken and vandalised cannot be repair, along with the spades and other equipment that was broken. Hopefully the police will be able to identify who did this and it won't happen again.



YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS IN SCHOOL

This term the teachers have been working very hard to get to know your children and ensure they are settling in well and making progress.

In addition to this:

Additional Needs Plan Meetings

If your child is on our SEND register and is receiving additional support in school to meet their needs, teachers have written an Additional Needs Plan for your child. You will have all been invited to a meeting to discuss this and for you to be involved in the process. Thank you to those parents/carers who were able to attend this meeting

Parents' Evening

Our parents' evenings are a really important way for you to find out about the progress your child has made in school so far. You will have the opportunity to talk with the teacher as well as receive a mini-report highlighting their achievements and next steps

MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

PTFA

We had a really great first PTFA meeting of the year on Thursday 5th October. It was lovely to see some new faces who are starting to build up the committee as previous parents have moved on as their children have now started at secondary school.

Last year the PTFA fundraising supported the school in different ways, including:

- Funding the coach travel for the Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight
- Purchasing resources to revamp and promote reading areas in all the classrooms
- Buying a new fish tank (with new fish!) for our office area – the children LOVE our new fish!!

We are very lucky to have such a friendly and supportive PTFA team – if you would like to join us for our next meeting, please do contact the PTFA via their Facebook page.



Upcoming Events:
17.11 – School Disco
01.12 – Christmas Fair



Communication in school

We are in the process of developing a new policy to support everyone involved with Meridian to manage **effective and efficient communication** between the school and parents as well as from parents to the school. We are always keen to ensure our communications that we send to you are supportive and informative.

Recently we have noticed an increasing number of parents who are expecting an immediate response from the school either via e-mail, telephone or demanding instant meetings. We are always happy to help and respond to your concerns or questions, but please remember we are **not a 24/7 service** and so cannot operate to this expectation.

Teachers are **not available** to communicate during the school day from **8.35am to 3.15pm**. They also often have meetings after school and the leadership team have meetings and other commitments throughout the day which means they are not immediately available. **It may take us up to 3 school days to respond to you depending on our availability.**

If you have an emergency, please do contact the school office in the first instance.

As you know, we are always happy to help and support you and we will always endeavour to do our best to respond to you as soon as we are available to do so. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Harvest Festival

On Thursday 19th October, our local vicar will be leading our Harvest Festival assembly. If you are able to donate some food for our Harvest Assembly, we will be able to display this and then donate to local charities. Tins, packets and other non-perishable items only please. Please send these into school with your children next week.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be taking individual and sibling photographs on Friday 13th October.



LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

Our first whole school celebration of learning has been displayed around the school – and the children's work is amazing! Thank you to all the children for their enthusiasm, hard work and perseverance to produce such wonderful writing and artwork. And thank you to the teachers for taking such pride and care to display the children's work.



Anthony Browne
By Year 2



Philip Pullman
By Year 6



Raymond Briggs
By Year 4



Nadia Shereen
By Year 1



Shaun Tan
By Year 5



Valeria Bloom
By Year 3



Julia Donaldson
By Nursery



Rachel Bright
By Reception

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MERIDIAN

In class assemblies the last two weeks, the children have been learning about perspective and how this can help if we are worried about things or if we are avoiding trying new things. If we try new things that are perhaps outside of our comfort zone, then we develop new knowledge, skills and experiences to deal with new situations. Perspective doesn't necessarily make a situation any easier, it just helps you to deal with it.

Here are some Perspective hats that 6B and 1M made to help them think about ways to keep perspective when trying some new or overwhelming.



PLAY AT MERIDIAN

We are delighted to announce that, following our recent re-assessment from OPAL, we have maintained our **Platinum Award**! Such wonderful news as it celebrates the fantastic play opportunities the children have at Meridian. Kurti, our assessor, could not believe the difference in our outdoor environment since he last visited a few years ago. He praised us for all the different play resources we had available and he was blown away with some of the **creative and co-operative play** he saw. As part of this assessment, Kurti also went through all our policies, risk assessments and other paperwork to ensure that not only are the children having such fun outside, this risk-benefit approach is also managed in a **safe** way for everyone. A **HUGE thank you** goes to the OPAL team in school who work so hard to ensure the children have the best playtimes possible. **Special thanks** must go to **Mr. Legate** who leads OPAL – his passion and commitment to the children is amazing.



ATTENDANCE AT MERIDIAN

Good attendance at school is so important so that children do not miss out on their learning. Did you know that when teachers plan their lessons, each lesson builds on the previous one? So if a child misses 1 or 2 lessons a week, they will find the work much harder as they will be developing gaps in their knowledge.

If you are worried about your child's attendance or would like some support with this, please do make an appointment with one of our Pastoral Team, Mrs. Kirton or Mrs. Harmer.

Whole School Attendance
94.6% (our target is 96%)

Best Attendance this term

Week 1: 5BPS and 3YM – both 99.1% 😊

Week 2: 5H – 99.3% 😊

Week 3: 3YM – 100% 😊 😊 😊

Week 4: 3YM – 98.2%

Week 5: 3YM – 98% 😊

Good Attendance means...

Being in school at least 97% of the time or 184 to 190 days

Remember

Your education is important - don't miss out!

Did you know?
A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is 94.7%



Well done

A good attendance gives you the best chance for success

I'm concerned

A poor attendance gives you less chance of success

Seriously worried

Very poor attendance has a serious impact and reduces life chances

There are **365** days in a calendar year

175 are not spent at school

*So there's plenty of time for shopping, holidays and appointments!

Did you know?
When pupils attend school they:

- ✓ Can achieve their full potential
- ✓ Have better career prospects
- ✓ Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- ✓ Grow in confidence
- ✓ Keep up with work and homework
- ✓ Make new friends