

# Learning for life!

## Meridian Newsletter

### Term 2

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October –  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

### Term 3

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January –  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

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



Meridian Community Primary  
School and Nursery



@MeridianCPS

**Friday  
8<sup>th</sup>**

**December  
2023**

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sorry it has taken me so long to write another newsletter! This term has whizzed by and I can't actually believe it is nearly the end of term already.

### Christmas Performances

We are looking forward to seeing you next week for our Christmas Performances. Please remember the following:

- **No pushchairs or buggies** can be accommodated in the hall or school entrance – please leave these just outside the school office.
- Please remember to **bring your tickets** for the performance.
- **Photographs and recordings** are permitted during the performances but these **must not be shared** on social media or via messaging apps, such as WhatsApp – we have children in all performances who cannot have their images shared.
- Please **remain seated** throughout the performance or if you wish to stand, please do so at the back of the hall. We have to keep **all aisles free** (side and centre) in case an emergency exit is required.
- Please **park considerably** around the school and show respect to our neighbours by not parking in front of drive ways, on kerbs or corners of roads

**Help us keep everyone happy and safe by following these expectations.**

### Collection

At the end of every performance we will have a collection bucket – half of the proceeds will go to the school and half will go to charity.

### Pantomime

We have got a theatre group visiting us on the last day of term to perform a pantomime to the whole school. We received a very generous donation to the school and have used this money to pay for this Christmassy tradition so that it is free for all children.

Take care and best wishes

*C. Westcott*

Claire Westcott  
Headteacher

**strength**

**respect**

**kindness**

**honesty**

**responsibility**



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## TERM DATES 2023/2024

### Term 2

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

### Term 3

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – school closed to children  
for staff training**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – children back to school**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February – school closed to children  
for staff training**

### Term 4

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Term 5

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

### Term 6

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

**All INSET days are now in place**

## KEY DATES

### TERM 2

**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

**Nursery Christmas Performance  
2.20pm**

**13.12** Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15, 10.45, 1.20

**Nursery Christmas Performance  
2.20pm**

**14.12** Years 5 and 6 Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15, 10.45, 1.20

### END OF TERM 2

### TERM 3

**02.01** School closed to children for staff training

**03.01** Children back to school

## 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 9pm

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 last Parent coffee morning on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December proved really popular with support and discussion about helping children when they are feeling anxious.

We had some really positive feedback from those that attended.

"Great to have an opportunity to talk and share experiences with other parents and staff"

"Awesome!"

"Just want to say thank you. It was helpful"

"Very welcoming and friendly"

Our next Coffee Morning on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January will be looking at sleep.

More information to follow soon!



## Our Forest School fox!

You may have noticed a fox walking around our site the last few weeks. He/she is obviously very confident and not scared by people, in particular children. However, we have sought advice from a wildlife expert who has told us that under no circumstances should the fox be approached by adults or children as he/she could feel scared or threatened. This could then result in the fox biting or hurting someone.

I spoke to the children last week about keeping safe around this fox.



## PARENT FORUM

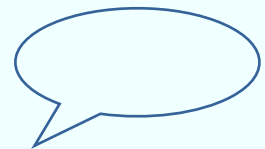
We had a really positive Parent Forum today which was led by Mr. Barcock, our fantastic maths lead.

He shared how we teach maths at Meridian and answered questions about calculation methods and reasoning.

Thank you to those parents that attended – it was lovely to see you!

At the meeting we discussed future Parent Forum meetings and what parents would like to hear about.

parents  
forum



Our next meeting will be announced in the new year. If you have any ideas about what you would like to find out about at Meridian, please do let us know!

## Our super choir!

Next week, our school choir is off to sing at Glyndebourne again!



Another wonderful opportunity for our music-loving children to experience singing with other schools and the Glyndebourne singers.

Back in September, the choir were joined by a professional opera singer, Sean Kerr who is a tenor from the Glyndebourne Opera Chorus, to practise the songs they will be singing next week.

The children had the opportunity to ask Sean questions and he treated them to a solo singing performance – he has an amazing voice! Sean was really impressed by the choir's rehearsal and said that he had been visiting lots of other choirs at other schools – but Meridian's children were already 'ahead of the pack' in learning the songs for the show. He praised their enthusiasm and said they sounded fantastic!

A huge thank you to Mr. Mole for organising this – I can't wait to see the choir perform next week!



# MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

## School Disco

We had a wonderful school disco at the beginning of November. It was lovely to see the older children dancing and singing to their favourite songs and our younger children enjoying musical statues with a twist!

Thank you to the PTFA team for organising this great event and to all the volunteers, staff and parents, who came along to support this fundraising event.

There will be another school disco in May – watch this space for more details!



## Christmas Fair

Another fabulous fundraising event was our annual Christmas Fair on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Thank you again to our amazing PTFA team who put the whole event together during the day – organising the tombolas, putting the stalls and lights up, setting up the BBQ, decorating Santa's Grotto and much more besides!

Thank you to all the parent, friends and teacher volunteers for giving up their time to make this event such a success.

The PTFA are just finalising the amount raised from the Fair and we will be able to let you know how this will be spent really soon!

# LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

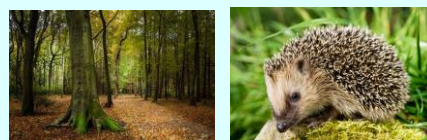
## Curriculum Topics for the Spring Term

The teachers have been busy over the last couple of weeks planning for the Spring Terms. Our curriculum theme for terms 3 and 4 is "Environmental Issues and Citizenship".

Nursery and Reception will be learning about how to look after animals and plants



Year 1 and Year 2 will be learning about why our woodlands are so important for wildlife and plants



Year 3 and Year 4 will be learning about why the Amazon Rainforest needs to be protected



Year 5 and Year 6 will be learning about climate change, looking particularly at protecting polar regions of the world



**I look forward to sharing some children's work later on in the spring terms.**

# LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

## Important People Study

As part of our curriculum, we have planned for children to learn about important people through a two week mini-study. Here are the people the children will find out about: **Nursery** – all about me!; **Reception** – David Attenborough; **Year 1** – Mae Jemison; **Year 2** – Amelia Earhart; **Year 3** – Mahatma Gandhi; **Year 4** – Stephen Hawking; **Year 5** – Frida Kahlo; **Year 6** – Emmeline Pankhurst. The children love learning about new people and their importance, legacy and impact.



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MERIDIAN

## PSHE Lessons

As part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons this term, the children have been learning about **celebrating difference**.

This includes learning about:

- making friends and families in Nursery and Reception;
- similarities and differences in each other and challenging negative stereotypes in Year 1 and Year 2;
- giving and receiving compliments and judging by appearance in Year 3 and Year 4;
- rumours and name-calling, and inclusion/exclusion in Year 5 and Year 6.



All children have learnt about bullying in an age appropriate way and how to respond to this should it happen to them.

In our recent Pupil Voice session, all children were allocated to different subjects to meet with subject leaders so we could hear about what they have been learning in different subjects. Here is what some children said about PSHE:

**"The lessons on peer pressure have really helped me" - Year 5**

**"You must always tell a grown up if someone is being unkind to you" - Year 2**

**"I like listening to the chime bar and doing the breathing" - Year 1**



# PLAY AT MERIDIAN

## WELLIES AND COATS

It has been great to see all the children in their wellies and coats in the last few weeks. Thank you to everyone for supporting us with ensuring the children can get outside, run off some energy and enjoy some fresh air in all weathers!

We are always looking for donations for our playtimes, so please do think of us over the next few weeks if you are having a clear out.



Thank you for your support with our wonderful playtimes!

## ATTENDANCE AT MERIDIAN

Good attendance at school is so important so that children do not miss out on their learning.

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: 5H – 98.3% 😊

Week 2: 3YM – 98.4% 😊

Week 3: 5H – 98.3% 😊

Week 4: 2T – 98.3% 😊

Week 5: 2T – 98.3% 😊 😊

Week 6: 3YM – 96.8% 😊

