



Learning for life!

Meridian Update

Term 3

**Wednesday 6th January to
Friday 10th February**

Term 4

**Monday 22nd February to
Thursday 24th March**

www.meridianschool.co.uk



**Meridian Community Primary
School & Nursery**



@MeridianCPS

**Friday
27th
January
2017**

Dear Parents and Carers

Learning about life in the past

The children in KS2 are really enjoying learning about life in the 20th Century. Year 3 are learning about 1950s, Year 4 are learning about 1960s, Year 6 are learning about 1970s and Year 5 are learning about 1980s. It was great to see so many of them dressed up to represent their decade last Friday – the costumes and outfits they were wearing were amazing! Thank you so much for supporting us with this – the children loved it. As part of this day, Year 3 learnt some different dances from the 1950s taught to them by one of the parents and Year 5 have been perfecting their version of Michael Jackson's Thriller dance – fantastic learning opportunities for everyone. Miss Mile's parents and my mum also visited Year 3 to talk about life in the 1950s and the children had thought of some really interesting questions to ask them. Some of staff have even been brave enough to share some photographs of themselves if they were around in these decades – which then made some of us feel very old! Thank you to everyone that took part.

Swimming lessons

You may be aware that at Meridian the children in Years 3 and 4 go swimming. In order to ensure our children have these swimming lessons we have to rely on the support of the parents to drop children off at the pool in the morning and contribute towards the cost of the lessons. The school also supports parents by subsidising the cost of these lessons and paying for the transport back to school. I went to watch the swimming lessons this week and I have to say that the lessons I observed were excellent and the children absolutely loved it! It was wonderful to see the children learning different swimming skills and techniques and being physically active for an hour. I am sure that you will agree that as we live so close to the sea, it is vitally important for the children to learn to swim and so I would like to thank all the parents for their support for these lessons – both in terms of helping the school be able to afford to offer these (especially in these difficult times of school budget cuts) and by making arrangements to drop off at the pool in the morning. We couldn't do it without you! A huge thank you as well to Mrs Skippings who gives up her own time to be at the pool early to support parents and who joins in to teach the children to swim.

I look forward to seeing you all at parents' evenings next week where you can find out about how your children are progressing with their learning.

Best wishes

Claire Westcott

Claire Westcott
(Head teacher)



Term 3

Tuesday 3rd January – Friday 10th February

February break

Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February

Term 4

Monday 20th February – Friday 31st March

INSET DAY on Monday 20th February – school closed for staff training. Children back to school on Tuesday 21st February

Easter break

Monday 3rd April – Monday 17th April

Term 5

Tuesday 18th April – Friday 26th May

(Bank Holiday – Monday 1st May)

INSET DAY on Friday 26th May – school closed for staff training.

May break

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

Term 6

Monday 5th June – Friday 21st July

INSET DAYS on Thursday 20th July and Friday 21st July – school closed for staff training

Important Dates

- 31.01** Parents' Evening
- 02.02** Parents' Evening
- 20.02** INSET day – school closed for children
- 22.02** Parent Coffee Morning at 9am
- 27.02** Book Week
- 15.03** Parent Workshop on Early Years Reading (Nursery and Reception) at 9am
- 16.03** Parent Workshop on KS1 Fractions (Years 1 and 2) at 2.15pm
- 17.03** Parent Workshop on Early Years Maths (Nursery and Reception) at 9am
Parent Workshop on KS2 Fractions (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) at 2.15pm
- 20.03** Maths Day
- 21.03** Parent Workshop on KS1 Reading (Years 1 and 2) at 8.45am
- 24.03** Open Afternoon for Parents
- 30.03** Parent Workshop on KS2 Reading (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) at 8.45am

History comes to life!



Meridian Nursery

Our nursery is proving to be really popular and the number of children attending the available sessions is growing. In fact we now have a waiting list for some sessions! I am very proud of the achievements of our 2, 3 and 4 year olds that attend our nursery – some of the older children are even starting to learn some of their phonics – amazing! Kaitlin Duffy and her team (Toni Gambetta, Teresa Edgler and Sarah Defalco) are working incredibly hard to ensure the children are happy and enjoying learning through play. Thank you to all those parents that have passed on the positive news about how great our nursery is!

Chinese New Year in the Nursery



Keeping your child safe

We are getting an increasing number of children in Year 5 and Year 6 who are getting angry and upset in school about comments made to them or about them when they are not in school via text messages and/or Social Media. **Did you know that most social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Pinterest, Musical.ly) state that the minimum age is 13 years old and for Youtube the minimum age for your own account is 18 years old?** So our children at Meridian should not be accessing these. *Did you know that Instagram have stated that 55% of reviewers reported seeing content that might be unsuitable for children aged 8 – 12 years old, including risk of seeing sexual content, violence/hatred and bullying?*

If you are allowing your child to use any social media app or online resource then you need to monitor them closely to ensure they are using them appropriately, especially if they have their own mobile phone.

Over the next few months we will be supporting children to understand about how to keep safe online and how to deal with cyberbullying.

If you want to find out more about how to keep your child safe these websites are really helpful:

www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/deal-with-it

www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/online-bullying

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444865/Advice for parents on cyberbullying.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444865/Advice_for_parents_on_cyberbullying.pdf)

Attendance

Each week we celebrate the class with the best attendance and they earn coins for their treasure chest on the class behaviour board.

Well done to the following classes so far this term:

Week 1: Clownfish Class (4P) – 99.2%

Week 2: Starfish Class (1A) – 100%

Week 3: Pufferfish Class (5P) – 98.5%

We will be giving out certificates to children for excellent attendance this term (97% - 99%) and 100% attendance at the beginning of term 4.

School Nurse Drop Ins

Our school nurse (Sam) is available every Tuesday morning from 8.45am for parents to drop in and chat with her about any concerns you might have about your child. Please come to the school office to sign in and Sam will meet with you. This wonderful service is no longer provided free of charge and is something that school has purchased to support parents, so please do come along and meet with her if you have any worries at all.

She is really lovely and be able to offer health support, advice or signpost you to services you can access.



School Lunches

Our new cook Ed has been working really hard with her team to improve the quality and range of school lunches at Meridian and I have say that they look (and taste!) delicious. This week the children had the chance to have a Chinese meal to celebrate Chinese New Year and they all really enjoyed it. The catering team had even decorated the serving area with Chinese dragons, lanterns and Happy New Year signs! More special menu days will be added to encourage more children to try something new. Learning about healthy eating is such an important part of children's education and our healthy meals are a great way to support children's understanding of making healthy choices. In addition to the vegetables included in the hot meal selection, there is also a salad bar for additional healthy choices and a fruit option for dessert. So do encourage your children to try one of our school lunches, especially if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 because they are free! If your child has any particular food allergies, Ed can speak with you about how she can support you with this. Ask the office for her contact details if you would like to do this.

CATs Club

Don't forget that CATs club offer a play scheme over half term to support parents and they will also be open on Monday 20th February for our INSET day if you need any child care that day.

For more information:

Tel: 01273 588762

Mob: 07951878939

Email: catsafterschool@aol.com

www.catsclubafterschool.co.uk



Thank you and good luck!

Mrs Jenny Sanders, our Business Manager, is retiring this term and her last day is on Friday 10th February. She has worked at Meridian for 8 years making sure that budget is not overspent, that the school is clean, safe and well maintained and the children have all the resources and equipment they need for their learning. She is also brilliant at looking after poorly children and giving out stickers! She has worked incredibly hard during her time at Meridian and has been passionate about getting it right for the children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Sanders for everything she has done to support me, the governors and staff during her time at Meridian. We will miss you! Enjoy your retirement – we look forward to hearing all about it!

