



# Learning for life!

## Meridian Update

### Term 4

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

### Term 5

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

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



**Meridian Community Primary School & Nursery**



**@MeridianCPS**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Parent Council Meeting**

We had a really positive Parent Council Meeting this week, with 2 new members joining us: Laura Brown (who has children in Year 5 and Year 6) and Louella Murray (who has children in Year 1 and Year 3). At the meeting we discussed different issues that parents have raised, including congestion at the end of the day by the Reception outdoor area and inconsiderate parking around the school. Our next meeting will be in term 5 and so if you have any questions you like to ask, please do contact/speak with one of the members of the Parent Council. More information can be found on the school website.

### **Healthy Snacks in school (Reception to Year 6)**

One of our responsibilities as a school is to support children in making healthy choices. We are planning a healthy living week in July for children to learn, amongst other things, about healthy eating and keeping active. As part of this, we will be revisiting our policies that are linked to children's health and one of the changes we are planning to make is that from September 2017, children will no longer be able to bring in cereal bars for a snack at break time. Research has shown that most cereal bars have a high content of sugar and obviously this not a healthy choice. So from September, children may bring in either a portion of fruit (fresh or dried) or vegetables. We discussed this at our Parent Council meeting and everyone agreed that this was a great way forward to support the children in making health choices. We currently provide free fruit/vegetables for Reception snack table and children in Years 1 and 2 are also able to take a piece of free fruit/vegetables at break time. So if you would like to start supporting us in this transition away from cereal bars, you are welcome to start sending your children in with fruit/vegetable choices in the summer terms.

I hope you have a lovely Easter break and I look forward to seeing the children back on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

Best wishes

*Claire Westcott*

Claire Westcott  
(Headteacher)



### Easter break

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April

### Term 5

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May

**(Bank Holiday – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May)**

**INSET DAY on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – school closed for staff training.**

### May break

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

### Term 6

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

**INSET DAYS on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July and Friday**

**21<sup>st</sup> July – school closed for staff training**

### Term 1

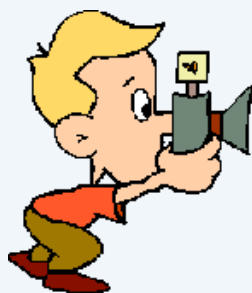
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

**INSET days on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – school closed for staff training. Children back to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

### Class Photographs

Class photographs are taking place on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April**. We are using a different company this year (the same company that produced the wonderful new signage around school) and this year we are going back to having a traditional whole class photograph, rather than the separate group montage we have had in the past. *Please remember that girls still need their hair tied back for these photographs.*

For Nursery children, we would like to have a Nursery class photograph so if you would like your child to be in this photograph but they do not normally attend the Thursday morning session, you are welcome to bring them in for the class photograph at 9am and then take them home afterwards. Please speak with Kaitlin for more information about this.



### 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!**

### Important Dates

- 18.04 Year 5 Curriculum Chat @2.30pm
- 19.04 Year 6 Curriculum Chat @2.30pm
- 20.04 Year 3 Curriculum Chat @2.30pm
- 21.04 Year 4 Curriculum Chat @2.30pm
- 24.04 Reception Curriculum Chat @2.30pm
- 25.04 Year 1 Curriculum Chat @2.30pm
- 26.04 Year 2 Curriculum Chat @2.30pm
- 03.05 Parent Coffee Morning @9am
- 04.05 Annexe and Hall used for Polling Day
- 06.05 Brighton Children's Parade
- 12.05 PTFA Disco
- 25.05 Year 5 Assembly to Parents @9am
- 26.05 School closed for staff training
- 16.06 Year 1 Assembly to Parents @9am
- 19.06 Year 6 Residential all week
- 22.06 Parent Coffee Morning @9am
- 23.06 Reception Assembly to Parents @9am
- 28.06 Reception/KS1 Sports Afternoon @1.30pm
- 29.06 KS2 Sports Afternoon @ 1.30pm
- 30.06 Year 3 Assembly to Parents @9am
- 07.07 Year 2 Assembly to Parents @9am
- Curriculum Open Afternoon from 1.45pm
- 10.07 Healthy Living Week
- 14.07 Year 4 Assembly to Parents @9am
- 18.07 Year 6 Production to whole school and parents with babies/toddlers @9am
- Year 6 Production to Parents @6pm
- 20.07 School closed for staff training
- 21.07 School closed for staff training
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- 04.09 School closed for staff training
- 05.09 School closed for staff training
- 06.09 Children back to school

### School Uniform

If you are planning to buy school uniform over the Easter holidays, please can I remind you that trousers, shorts, skirts and pinafores need to be grey – not black. We are starting to see some black creeping in and obviously this is not our school uniform policy.

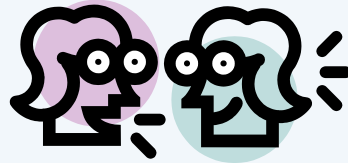
If you are thinking about summer school uniform, please remember that children can wear plain black, white or brown sensible sandals with a back strap in the summer. Socks must also be worn to protect their feet. No wedges, jellies or flip flops please

Thank you for your support with this

## It's good to talk!

If you have any queries or questions about the school, then please do come and ask. The leadership team are available before and after school – please come and ask! Teachers are also available on the playground after school. We have an open door policy and would rather you spoke with us than air your views on Facebook or listen to rumours.

**Please remember if you air your views on Facebook or other social media they are no longer private and often these comments can be read by people other than your friends. If negative comments about the school or members of staff are seen and shared with the school you will be asked to take these posts down and if they are abusive or threatening the school will report these to Facebook.**



If you wish to make an appointment to see Ms. Westcott, please speak with someone in the office. If she is not available, Mrs. Dollings, Miss. Maslen or Mr. Doody are happy for you to make appointments to see them.

## ParentPay

At the moment, parents can use the ParentPay system for making payments for school meals. After half-term we will be introducing this more widely across the school so that parents/carers will be able to pay for trips and uniform online as well. The system will be live at school from 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017, and from this date we will be working towards no longer accepting cash and cheque payments, making the school a cash-free environment.

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and you can do this using a debit or credit card, or in cash through PayPoint stores. We will still be accepting cash and cheque payments in school, for a period of time, and these payments will also be recorded in your ParentPay online account, which will give you a record of all payments you have made to the school regardless of which method you use.

For all KS1 and Nursery pupils without a ParentPay account, we will send you an activation letter containing your activation username and password to setup your ParentPay account. During the activation process you will be guided through changing your username and password to something more memorable; if you have more than one child at a ParentPay school/s you can also add children to a single account providing one login for all children at ParentPay schools.

Please do not hesitate to ring, or pop in and see our Business Manager, Michelle Hunt, who will be pleased to offer you any help or assistance, or deal with any queries on this.

We hope you will support us in achieving our goal to become a cashless school – your support in using ParentPay will help the school enormously!





### A message from Janet Anthony (Chair of Governors)

"The Governing Body is coming to the end of our second term as a fully constituted board and we have been working hard to both support and challenge the school leadership team.

Our work this term has built on the start we made in term three and has included Governor monitoring of areas of the school plan such as safeguarding, attainment and pupil engagement. Governors have been in school meeting with members of staff, pupils in school council and the parent council. We have undergone training as individuals and as a group and recently Mrs Dollings trained us in the use and interpretation of school data in the context of the national picture.

Next term we will be supporting the senior leadership team through the difficult time of managing the school budget and will be further monitoring the great work being done in the school"



#### Keeping hydrated!

As the warmer weather hopefully starts to appear, it is important that the children keep hydrated. All children are welcome to bring in a named bottle filled with water to keep in the classroom so that they can have a drink of water throughout the day. Please can parents not fill these water bottles with squash – water is the best drink to keep hydrated.

If your child does not have a water bottle in school, there are water fountains in school to have a quick drink.



#### Polling Day

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May the Annexe and school hall are being used as a polling station for the local elections.

This means that children will need to bring in a packed lunch that day as the kitchen and hall will be unavailable all day.

A letter with more information about this will be sent next term.

#### Comic Relief Red Nose Day

We had a great day last Friday for Comic Relief Red Nose Day – thank you to everyone that took part and helped us raise £315.10 for this great charity.



#### Active Kids vouchers

We are collecting Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's again this year. It is great way for us to get free equipment and resources for school. So please do send these in if you shop in Sainsbury's – you could also get friends and family to collect them too!

