



# Learning for life!

## Meridian Update

### **Term 1**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September  
to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Term 2**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

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



**Meridian Community Primary  
School and Nursery**



**@MeridianCPS**

**Friday  
22<sup>nd</sup>**

**September  
2017**

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first electronic only newsletter! As part of our aim to save money and reduce the amount of paper we used in school, our newsletters will now only be available via our website and app. If you would like a paper copy, please pop into the school office to collect one. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Don't forget to download our app!**

We are no longer using a text messaging service to communicate with parents as this was costing the school a lot of money. However we are still able to send you messages via our Meridian App. So if you would like us to keep in touch with you in this way, please sign up for the app at the App Store or Google play.

### **Harvest Assembly**

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October we will be having a Harvest celebration assembly for the whole school. As part of this assembly we will be talking about charity and thinking about others less fortunate than ourselves. We would like to donate food to a local charity as part of this assembly, so please send in packets or tins of food to school the week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> October so that we can make a Harvest display in school. Thank you for your support this important learning opportunity about helping others.

### **Attendance reminders**

Hopefully you will have read our attendance letter that went out this week. Please remember that it is an expectation that parents call into school every day when your child is off school and the day that your child returns you will need to send in a written note explaining why they were off. If we do not receive a written note, then the absence will be unauthorised. If there are more than 3 unauthorised absences you will be asked to attend a meeting at the school to explain the reasons. If your child is still off school after 3 consecutive days, a telephone call is required to give us an update of your child's illness. If they are still off after 5 consecutive days we would expect them to have seen a doctor. For illnesses of this length we will ask to see medical evidence, either in the form of a certificate or a photocopy of the prescription or label off a bottle. If your child has medical appointment of any kind please bring in either the appointment card or a letter to confirm this. For morning or afternoon appointments we expect the child to be in school for the other half of the day. If you need to take your child out of school to accompany you to an appointment, this will be an unauthorised absence.

Best wishes

*C. Westcott*

Claire Westcott  
(Headteacher)



## **TERM DATES 2017/2018**

### **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***

### **Autumn break**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

### **Term 2**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>  
December

**INSET day Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – school  
closed for staff training**

### **Christmas break**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January

### **Term 3**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
**INSET day Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – school closed  
for staff training**

***Children back to school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
January***

### **February break**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

### **Term 4**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

### **Spring break**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April

### **Term 5**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May

### **May break**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June

### **Term 6**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July

***Please note not all INSET days for 2017/2018  
have been set***

## **Important Dates**

- 02.10 Reception Curriculum Chat @ 2.30pm
- 03.10 Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm
- 05.10 Parent Coffee Morning 9am in Annexe –  
everyone welcome!  
Parents Evening 5.30pm – 7pm
- 06.10 Harvest Festival Assembly – all donations of  
tins and packets of food are welcome from  
02.10
- 13.10 PTFA Fancy Dress Disco
- 24.11 INSET day – school closed for staff training
- 01.12 Christmas Fair
- 07.12 Parent Open Afternoon – come along and  
celebrate your children's learning! Everyone  
welcome!

## **Christmas Celebrations**

### **11.12**

- 9.15am: Years 3 and 4 Christmas Celebration to whole  
school and parents with babies and toddlers
- 1.30pm: Years 3 and 4 Christmas Celebration (adults  
only please)

### **12.12**

- 9.15am: Years 3 and 4 Christmas Celebration (adults  
only please)
- 1.30pm: Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production to whole  
school and parents with babies and toddlers

### **13.12**

- 9.15am: Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production (adults  
only please)
- 1.30pm: Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production (adults  
only please)

### **14.12**

- 9.15am: Reception Christmas Production to whole  
school and parents with babies and toddlers
- 1.30pm: Reception Christmas Production (adults only  
please)

### **15.12**

- 9.15am: Years 5 and 6 Christmas Celebration to whole  
school and parents with babies and toddlers
- 1.30pm: Years 5 and 6 Christmas Celebration (adults  
only please)

### **18.12**

- 9.15am: Years 5 and 6 Christmas Celebration (adults  
only please)

### **19.12**

- am: Nursery Christmas Sing Along (time to be  
confirmed)
- pm: Nursery Christmas Sing Along (time to be  
confirmed)

## **No dogs please!**

A reminder from EMCOR that no  
dogs are to be brought on site  
please. Please dogs  
outside of the school  
grounds if walking  
your children into  
school. Thank you



### School Uniform

Please remember that as part of our school uniform expectations, children need to wear stud earrings only. No other jewellery should be worn in school.

All long hair needs to be tied up and no extreme haircuts please. Hair should also be its natural colour – **we are starting to see some dyed hair or non-natural coloured braiding.**

School colours are grey, white and royal blue – no black trousers/skirts/pinafores/shorts please.

**Please see our website for more details**

### After School Clubs

Our After School Clubs programme started this week and the children have really enjoyed the activities on offer. As this is obviously a new venture, there have been a few teething problems – thank you for bearing with us and thank you for the feedback some of you have given us. We will use the next few weeks to iron out any issues and learn from these experiences.

*One thing that would help with the smooth running of clubs is if your child has been offered a place and you have decided not to take this up, please can you inform the office so that this place can be offered to other children on the waiting list.*

Thank you!

## PTFA News

Our PTFA is a small but committed team of parents and staff, led by one of our parents, Nicky Packham, who organises fundraising events throughout the year. All parents/carers are welcome to attend meetings and help us with these events. If you are unable to attend meetings, you are also very welcome to volunteer to support these events on the day.

Our next meeting and AGM is 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm at school and if you would like to find out more about how you can help, please do come along!

### Future Events:

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Fancy Dress Disco

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Christmas Fair



### Jeans for Genes

It was great to see so many children taking part in our Jeans for Genes charity event today. Thank you so much sending in your donations. We made £296 which we will be sending off next week. Mrs Dollings spoke to the children about the reason they were wearing jeans in assembly this morning. For more information please go to [www.jeansforgenesday.org](http://www.jeansforgenesday.org)

### Attendance Stars!

Well done to the following classes for the best attendance of the week:

Week 1: RH 100% - wow! What a great start to Reception – keep it up!

Week 2: RH & 3B 100% - an amazing achievement!

**I wonder if any class will have 100% next week?**



## PRIVACY NOTICE

Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery processes personal information about its pupils and is a 'data controller' for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. We collect information from you and may receive information about your child from their previous school.

We hold and use your child's information to support their teaching and learning, monitor and report on their progress, provide them with pastoral care and to assess how well the school is doing.

The information we hold includes you and your child's contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information<sup>1</sup>, ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information.

We will not give information about you to anyone outside the school without your permission unless the law and our policies permit it. We are required by law to pass some of your information to East Sussex County Council and to the Department for Education (DfE).

DfE may also share pupil level personal data that we supply to them, with third parties. This will only take place where legislation allows it to do so and it is in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

For more information on how this sharing process works, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-pupil-database-apply-for-a-data-extract>

### YOU CAN ASK TO SEE THE INFORMATION WE HOLD ABOUT YOU

#### **Meridian Community Primary School**

If you want to see a copy of the information we hold and share about you then please contact Michelle Hunt, School Business Manager.

#### **East Sussex County Council**

If you need to know more about how East Sussex County Council stores and uses your information please see their website:

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/dataprotection](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/dataprotection)

If you are unable to access this website, please contact:

Information Governance Officer

Children's Services

**East Sussex County Council**

County Hall

St Anne's Crescent

Lewes

BN7 1UE

☎ 01273 335645

✉ [CS.DPA@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:CS.DPA@eastsussex.gov.uk)

🌐 [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk)

#### **Department for Education**

If you need to know more about how the DfE collects and uses your information please see their website:

<https://www.gov.uk/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data>

## Nursery

The Nursery children are really loving learning about transport. They have been mending holes in the road, selling bus tickets and going to the moon in a cardboard box rocket!



## Reception Children

All the children have now joined us in Reception and they are clearly enjoying themselves in school. It has been lovely to see so many happy and smiling children playing and settling in. Thank you to the Reception team for supporting everyone with this smooth transition.

In order to continue with supporting children with their settling in period, please can parents not bring buggies and pushchairs into the classrooms and bay area. We encourage children to be as independent as possible in school and these buggies and pushchairs are blocking children from hanging up their coats and putting their belongings in their drawers. It is also good to try and say goodbye to them at the classroom door rather than follow them in. The teachers are there to support you with this!

Thank you for your support!

### Healthy Snacks and Drinks

As part of us promoting healthy eating, it was great to see children bringing in fruit and vegetables for their snack. Nursery provide their own snacks and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can have a free piece of fruit.

Just a reminder that children should bring in a water bottle to keep hydrated through the day – **water only please, no squash or juice!**

Thank you!

### Coats in school

As the weather is starting to get colder and wetter, please make sure your child wears a coat to school. We had lots of children last week getting cold and damp during play time and lunchtime. We try to get the children outside for fresh air as often as possible, so if the air is damp or there is light drizzle, they will need to have a coat

Thank you!

## Celebrate reading at our Book Fair!



The Book Fair will be arriving in school soon, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy.

**WHEN:** 3pm – 3:45pm Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

**WHERE:** Annexe

There are **over 200 titles** for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from **only £2.99**, there's sure to be a book for everyone. If you can't make it to our Book Fair, try our **discounted Gift Vouchers** available at [bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents](http://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents). They're a great way to ensure your child doesn't miss out.

Don't forget that every book you buy will help us to get free books for our school library and reading areas. If we sell £300 of books we can spend £75 on books for the school, and if we sell £400 of books we can spend £160 on books for the school!

**We would really appreciate volunteers to help with setting up and running of the Book Fair, so if you can spare time to help us, please let me know by contacting the school office or your child's class teacher.**

Finally, you will receive a raffle ticket for every purchase made at the Book fair which will give you the opportunity to win £25 of free books! The winning ticket will be drawn on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October before the cases are collected so that the winner can choose their books straight away!

If you have any questions about the Book Fair, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.  
Yours sincerely

Mrs Louise Dollings  
English Lead & Deputy Head Teacher



### The Meridian App

Our app continues to be a popular way of keeping up to date with all the exciting things happening in school. Over 260 of you are now regularly using it with 25,000 hits in September alone. If there is anything you would like included please let Mr Doody know! Search for **Meridian CPS** in the App Store or Google Play.

