



Learning for life!

Meridian Update

Term 1

**Wednesday 6th September
to Friday 20th October**

Term 2

**Monday 30th October to
Wednesday 20th December**

www.meridianschool.co.uk



Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery



@MeridianCPS

**Friday
20th
October
2017**

Dear Parents and Carers

Holidays during term time

I am receiving an increasing number of requests for holidays during term time and I understand that some of you may be disappointed when your request is not authorised. It is school policy not to authorise any requests for holidays during term time. Every request for leave of absence is considered on an individual basis and only those requests that are deemed to have exceptional circumstances will be authorised. Absence during term time for a holiday is not considered an exceptional circumstance.

Goodbye and Good Luck!

As you will all be aware, Mrs Dollings is leaving Meridian today. She has been Deputy Headteacher with us since September 2011 and has been instrumental in making the school such a great place for the children to learn and enjoy. Mrs Dollings has worked so hard during her time with us and I know she has built up positive relationships with so many children and parents. We have all really enjoyed working with her and know that she will be a fabulous Headteacher at Bluebell Meadow Primary School. So I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future and I am sure she will keep in touch to let us know how she is getting on. Good luck Mrs Dollings!

New Deputy Headteacher

This week the governors and I interviewed four really strong candidates to recruit for a new Deputy Headteacher. We really put them through their paces with a lesson observation, interview with the School Council, a practical written task and a surprise assembly! As well as a lengthy interview. I am delighted to tell you that Mr Doody has been successfully appointed as the new Deputy Headteacher at Meridian. He will take up post after half term. Congratulations Mr Doody!

I hope you have a lovely break and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 30th October.

Best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott
(Headteacher)



TERM DATES 2017/2018

Term 1

Monday 4th September – Friday 20th October

**INSET days on Monday 4th September and
Tuesday 5th September – school closed for staff
training.**

***Children back to school on Wednesday 6th
September***

Autumn break

Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October

Term 2

Monday 30th October – Wednesday 20th
December

**INSET day Friday 24th November – school
closed for staff training**

Christmas break

Thursday 21st December to Monday 1st January

Term 3

Tuesday 2nd January – Friday 9th February

**INSET day Tuesday 2nd January – school closed
for staff training**

***Children back to school on Wednesday 3rd
January***

February break

Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February

Term 4

Monday 19th February – Thursday 29th March

Spring break

Friday 30th March – Friday 13th April

Term 5

Monday 16th April – Friday 25th May

May break

Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June

Term 6

Monday 4th June – Friday 20th July

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

Important Dates

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)

Times Table Rock Stars

Wow! What an incredible start to our Times Tables Rock Stars journey. As a whole school we are currently 4th place when you compare us to schools within a 30 mile radius. Well done everybody. Due to overwhelming demand for the lunchtime club we are going to alternate it for Years 5 and 6 first week after half term then Years 3 and 4 the following week and so on.

Quickest Speed (number of seconds per question)

1st Jack McMahon – 1.46

2nd Abby Williams – 1.63

3rd Freya Melbourne – 1.75

Coins accumulated

1st Jack McMahon – 90,685

2nd Laila Bradford-Grant – 28,175

3rd Zac Simpson – 26,104

Outdoor Play and Learning

This week we trialled a new way of running our lunchtimes and the children have absolutely loved it! We have also had some really positive comments from parents too – thank you so much for this great feedback. It has been amazing to see our youngest children mixing with our oldest children, playing together and supporting each other. The atmosphere has been so lovely and the children have really had some very happy lunchtimes together. As a result, we have decided that after half term we will allow the children to mix together every lunchtime and once we get some more equipment, we can look at doing the same at play time too. Our working party will continue to work with OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to develop this positive practice – how exciting!



PTFA News

We had a really positive PTFA meeting this week. Thank you to those parents who were able to support at the disco last week – your help is always needed and appreciated.

Our next meeting is 22nd November at 7pm where we will be planning our Christmas Fair!

If you would like to come along, you are very welcome to join us



School Nurse

Our School Nurse service has been reduced to one drop in a term. The following dates are when the School Nurse (Sam) will be available for parents to come and along and answer any queries.

Tuesday 14th November
Tuesday 16th January
Tuesday 13th March
Tuesday 15th May
Tuesday 3rd July



If you want to see Sam, please come along to the school office from 8.35am.

Thank you!

Forest School

Due to the popularity of our Forest School provision, we have appointed a qualified teacher, Mr Chris Legate, to lead Forest School. He will be working four days a week and so we are able to offer this outdoor learning opportunity to more year groups.

Here is when your children will be doing Forest School:

Mondays: Miss East's class (RE), Miss Haley's class (RH) and Ms Baldrian's class (1NB)

Tuesdays: Miss Pulleine's class (4P), Miss Miles' class (3M) and Miss Bridgman's class (1EB)

Wednesdays: Ms Treglown's class (2T), Miss Howell's class (3H), Mr Bulmer's class (3B)

Thursdays: Mr Richards' class (4R), Mrs Halls/Mrs Price's class (2HP) and Miss Adams' class (1A)

Children will need a pair of wellies and a coat for these sessions. If you would like your child to change into old clothes, you are welcome to send these in for them to wear at Forest School!

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!
Week 3 - 2HP 100%
Week 4 – 3M 99.2%
Week 5 – 3M 100%
Week 6 – 5P 98%

I wonder if any class will have 100% next term

The first week back after the October break, children will be awarded attendance certificates in assembly. Excellent attendance will be for children achieving 97% - 99% attendance in the term. 100% attendance certificates will be given to children who have been in school every day!

The class with the best attendance all term was 5P with 98.2% - **AMAZING!**

Nasal flu vaccinations

Nasal flu vaccinations for children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 is on Wednesday 15th November.

Consent forms have gone out today – please check book bags!

Please can they be returned by 8th November so that the office can inform the NHS staff.



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!

The Meridian App

Our mobile app continues to be a popular way of receiving the latest information on things happening in school. We've now hit 350 downloads! At the recent parent coffee morning it was requested for the school term dates to be available for the whole year. These can now be found under the **Links** section. We welcome your feedback as the app is specifically for you as parents and carers to remain updated on life at Meridian so please let Mr Doody know of anything else you would like included. Search for **Meridian CPS** in the App Store or Google play.



Keeping our children safe

I am sure you will all agree that keeping our children safe at Meridian is incredibly important.

I would like to remind parents that if you wish to speak with a member of the Leadership Team and they are not around outside, you **MUST NOT** walk through the school building to come to the Office. You need to access the school office via the main school entrance

In order to keep the children safe at all times, we have to know exactly which adults are in the building. All adults (including staff members) have to sign in at the office.

It is **NOT APPROPRIATE** to walk into school demanding to meet with someone – it is not keeping our children safe.

From next term onwards we will expect parents of children Year 1 upwards to drop children off at the door and not come into the school building. There will be adults on the door to support children and help them if needed.

For Reception children we would encourage you to do the same, unless your child is still struggling to settle in. Please speak with a member of the Reception Team if you need any advice about this.

For Nursery children, we continue to support parents in settling children in but expect all parents to leave via the gated entrance/exit

The governors have requested that if any parent enters the school building other than via the main school entrance that I need to write to them to remind them that this is a breach of our safeguarding practices.

Thank you for your support with keeping every child at Meridian safe.

School Photographs

Children will be having school photographs taken on **Monday 30th October**. They will have both individual and sibling photographs taken. Please remember that it is an expectation that children with long hair still have their hair tied up for school photographs – no glamorous and elaborate hairstyles please!





Halloween Menu
Tuesday 31st October

Spooky Eyeballs With Worms
(Meatballs & Spaghetti)

Or

Zombie Fingers in a Bun with New Potatoes
(Veggie Hot dog)

Medley Of Bugs
(Mixed Vegetables)

////

Goey Toffee Apple Squares

*Special
menu*

caterlink
feeding the imagination

PTFA NEWS

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association for Meridian School

Welcome back to the new term, and to all new parents a very warm welcome to our school and the PTFA! We are currently busy planning our Winter Fair which will be held in the school car park from 5-7pm on Friday 1 December 2017. It's a lovely event but we need your help for it to go ahead. We are looking for the following:

- ❖ **Helpers to run games/BBQ/tea coffee on night**
- ❖ **Helpers to set up on Friday 1st during day**
- ❖ **Someone famous to judge our Christmas cake competition (anyone know of anyone?!)**
- ❖ **Local business to have stalls to sell their goods (£10 per stall and bring your own table)**
- ❖ **Food vendors (such as popcorn/candy floss/churros/crepes/roasted chestnuts etc.)**
- ❖ **Choirs or organisations to perform on the evening**

If anyone has any ideas, local contacts or can help in any way please contact Nicky (details overleaf). These events raise well needed funds for the school but the PTFA really can't run these events without you!

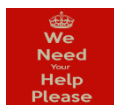
I look forward to hearing from you,

Kind Regards,

Nicky (Chair of the PTFA)



What is the PTFA? The Parents Teachers and Friends Association of Meridian School is a fundraising committee run by parents of children in the school and some of the staff.



Why do we need a PTFA? We work together to help raise money for the school, through a variety of events, to enhance and add to the children's experiences at Meridian School.



Who can join? Anyone who has an interest in helping to support Meridian School can join. This can be parents, grandparents or carers of children at the school. Teachers and local community members are also welcome.



How can I be involved in the PTFA? There are many different ways you can help with the PTA, whether you have lots of time to offer or not. You can do things like running a stall at the summer fair, baking for a cake sale or helping out at a school disco. You could attend meetings (usually held once every 2 months) and you can always support PTA events by simply turning up.



What has the PTFA done so far? We subsidise school trips for every year group, we run the Summer Sizzler, Christmas Fair, and school discos. We have also raised money for playground markings, new equipment and the school entrance aquarium among others things!

What do I do if I want to know more?

There are lots of ways you can help and we would love to hear from you! Even if you only have an hour once a year to spare, we can find a way for you to be involved.

We would love for some parents to come to our meetings to help us come up with some ideas of what we could buy for the school and also help us think of more ways to fundraise. We always need volunteers for our events and this year would really like to become a registered charity so that we can apply for match funding. It can double everything we raise so if you think you can help please get in touch!

If you are interested in knowing more and what to have a chat, please call or text Nicky Packham (Chair of the PTFA) on 07799074921 or email nickyb.brown@btinternet.com. You can also find us on Facebook (just search for friends of Meridian School) Or simply fill out the slip at the bottom of the page/write a note and hand it into the school and we will be in touch.

PTFA Intention of Interest

Name of Parent/Guardian/Carer: _____

Name of Child _____ Year Group _____

Contact Number _____