



# Learning for life!

## Meridian Update

### Term 3

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

### Term 4

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February to  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

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



**Meridian Community Primary  
School & Nursery**



**@MeridianCPS**

**Friday  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
March  
2018**

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, what an interesting week we have had! Thank you to everyone for their support during these extreme weather conditions. We have tried to keep school open as much as possible, whilst also considering the safety of everyone: children, parents and staff. Fingers crossed it starts to warm up soon and Spring will arrive!

### **World Book Day – new date Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Due to the extremely cold weather, we have rearranged our World Book Day learning events, including dressing up in magical costumes to support our Harry Potter/Magical Theme. Our new date is Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March – looking forward to seeing everyone looking magical!



### **Book Fair**

Don't forget we have organised for Scholastic Book Fair to visit the school on 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March so parents can buy books that week. The Book Fair will be based in the Annexe both before and after school – we get free books as commission from the sales which will be putting in our library.

### **PTFA meeting**

We had to cancel our PTFA meeting this week due to the closure of the school. We will let everyone know the new date via our app. Look forward to seeing everyone soon to plan our next fundraising events.

### **School Uniform**

We are delighted to announce that we are partnering with Intersport UK who will be our new uniform provider from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Our new online shop will be launching soon on our Website, but in the meantime if you have any uniform needs then please speak to the School Office who will be able to advise you.

Best wishes

*Claire Westcott*

Claire Westcott  
(Headteacher)



## TERM DATES

2017/2018

### 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

**INSET day Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – school closed for staff training**

**Children back to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

## Important Dates

**08.03** World Book Day 2018 – Harry Potter Theme  
\*\*\*NEW DATE\*\*\*

**13.03** Parent Council meeting @9am

**19.03 – 22.03** Book Fair in the Annexe

**22.03** Parent Coffee Morning 9.00am in Annexe

**23.03** Spring Disco – letter to come out soon

**27.03** Parent Open Afternoon 1.45pm

### Coats in School

As the weather continues to be cold, please can you ensure that your children have a suitable coat in school. We have some children coming into school in cardigans or hoodies which are not warm enough for when they are outside on the playground for an hour at lunchtime. We want to help ensure that your children don't get ill, so please help us by ensuring they have warm enough coats for outside.

Thank you for your help with this.



## Attendance

Well done to everyone that managed to brave the cold and snowy weather this week to come into school – thank you!

As you know, improving attendance at Meridian is one of our school priorities this year. **Our target is 96% attendance** by July 2018, which is in line with the national average. Our current attendance figures are **93.8%**, which means we are still a long way off from our target. Our Education Welfare Officer, Mrs Erridge, is continuing to meet with parents to discuss attendance concerns and letters will continue to be sent out to parents about attendance too.

*Please don't forget to send in a letter when your child returns to school following an absence from school otherwise the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. For extended periods of unauthorised absence where no explanations from parents are given may lead to a Penalty Notice or legal action being taken against parents.* A Penalty Notice is a fine imposed where a parent fails to ensure that their child is in education or has an unacceptable period of unauthorised absences – this is not just for unauthorised holidays, this is for any unauthorised absences

Here are our current attendance figures from the beginning of September to the end of last week:

Reception – 92.8%

Year 1 – 92.6%

Year 2 – 94.2%

Year 3 – 95.2%

Year 4 – 94.1%

Year 5 – 94.8%

Year 6 – 92.6%

Well done to Year 3 for the highest attendance so far this year!

Following some comments from parents, if the school sends your child home due to illness, then the session will be authorised. However, if your child is then off the next day, normal procedures apply.

For more information, please see our **Attendance Policy** on our website

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

### Absence from school

If your child is off school, please can you remember to call the office and leave a message on the absence line. If we don't hear from you and your child is absent, then the office team call you to find out where your child is. **If you do not answer, the office team will then work down the emergency contact list until they can speak to someone in person about your child's absence. If we cannot get hold of anyone we will contact the police and/or do a home visit. So please help us know where your child is and call the office.**

Also, don't forget that once your child returns to school, you will need to send in a written note to confirm the reason for your child's absence.

**Thank you for your support with this**



### Helping your child at home

Don't forget that we have a really useful page on our website to support you helping your child at home. There is a document for each year group from Reception to Year 6 that gives examples and suggestions to support reading, writing and maths at home.

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

### Parent workshops

We have not run any parent workshops yet this year as in previous years they were not always well attended. Is there a workshop that you would like us to organise? Please speak to either your child's class teacher or a Parent Councillor to share your ideas. We would love to hear your suggestions.

### Online Safety Updates

Online safety continues to be something that we focus on in school to support children in understanding how to use the internet, social media and apps safely.

As part of keeping children safe, we are going to be talking to the children next week about acceptable use of ICT equipment and the internet in school. Children will be given copies of the Acceptable Use agreement to take home to read with you. Both you and your child will need to sign a copy and return it to school for our records.

For more information please go to our policies page on the website where you can find copies of our Online Policy and our Acceptable Use policies for different age groups.

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

There are some useful websites that you can access to find out more about supporting online safety at home.

Please visit

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

for more information



#### ZIP IT

Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.



#### BLOCK IT

Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.



#### FLAG IT

Flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

## The Meridian App

Over 500 of you are now using our app to keep up to date with the latest events. Please do continue to spread the word. Keeping you informed about school is so important and our app is proving to be a real success with enabling us to communicate with you all. Thank you for your feedback!





## Forest School

Everyone wrapped up really warm this week for Forest School – we made sure everyone was wearing the warm clothes you provided, including hats, gloves and scarves. The children enjoyed learning in the snow and sitting by the fire afterwards. We have had lots of positive comments about our Forest School learning – thank you to Mr Legate who has been developing the area to support everyone's learning. He has big plans ahead, so watch this space for future developments . .



## Nursery

Our Nursery children have been enjoying learning about the senses as part of our Human Body topic. They worked together to help each other during a sensory walk – well done Nursery!

**What amazing learning!**



## Outdoor Play and Learning

Michael Follett, OPAL director, visited Meridian last week to see how our Outdoor Play and Learning is coming along. He was really impressed with our lunchtime play activities and how much the children are enjoying playing together on the playgrounds and field.

Mr Legate, our Forest School teacher, is now leading on this area of school development and, just like in our Forest School area, he has got big plans!

The next main stage in our development is to create a really huge storage shed so that we can start to build up the resources that the children can access during lunchtimes.

Mr Legate is currently drawing up plans to develop the outside areas so that we can start to plan ahead for these too.

In the summer term we are hoping to organise opportunities for parents to learn more about how we are developing play at Meridian.

Research shows that play contributes to children's physical and emotional health and wellbeing and we are so pleased to be developing this practice at Meridian.



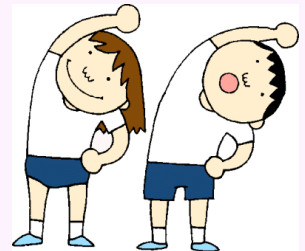
### Healthy snacks in school

If you would like your child to have a snack at play time, please remember that this needs to be either **fruit, vegetables or a healthy cereal bar (no chocolate please)** – Ritz biscuits, Pepperami, sweet biscuits, yoghurt tubes and crisps are not considered a healthy snack. Thank you for your support with 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!



### PLAY

#### Positive Learning Active Youth

We are excited to be working with PLAY after Easter who will be supporting and leading all the After School Clubs at Meridian. You will have received a letter about this today. If you have any questions, please do contact our PLAY lead, Jamie or visit their website [www.plaype.co.uk](http://www.plaype.co.uk)



Members of the PLAY team met with our School Council and asked them what clubs they would like and Basketball and Football were really popular and so these have been included.

PLAY will be offering: KS1 Gymnastics; Forest School Advanced (Y5 & Y6); Basketball; Choir and Musical Theatre; Football; Cooking; Dance; Arts and Crafts; KS2 Gymnastics; Lego Club.