



# Learning for life!

## Meridian Update

### Term 6

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June to  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

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



**Meridian Community Primary  
School & Nursery**



**@MeridianCPS**

**Friday  
29<sup>th</sup>  
June  
2018**

Dear Parents/Carers

### Parent Council

We had another really positive Parent Council meeting this week. It is a great way to get feedback from parents and hear your views so thank you if you have approached the Parent Councillors to share your thoughts. At the meeting I shared proposals for changing Home Learning in September – which parents were positive about. We also spoke about how we are planning to develop our Behaviour Policy in September too. All part of our drive to make Meridian the best it can be! If you are interested in joining our Parent Council, please do speak with either me or one of the Parent Councillors.

### Summer Sizzler

Don't forget our Summer Sizzler on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June – our fabulous PTFA do amazing fundraising for the school and this our last event before we break up for the summer holidays. I look forward to seeing lots of you there.

### Sun Safety

As the hot weather seems to be lasting, it is always a good idea to send your child into school with a sunhat. Our playgrounds do not have much shade so when the children are playing outside at play time and lunch time they are exposed to the sun – so a sunhat will really help keep them safe. Please make sure you put their name in their hat so that we can return any that are lost to their rightful owner.

If you wish to send your child into school with sun cream you are welcome to. Please ensure that it has your child's name on it and practise with them at home to apply it independently – adults in school are not able to apply any sun cream directly but they can support by making sure it is all rubbed in and no areas have been missed! (Please note, in our Nursery adults are able to apply sun cream with parents' permission)

Have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you next week!

Best wishes

*Claire Westcott*

Claire Westcott  
(Headteacher)



## TERM DATES 2017/2018

### 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***

## TERM DATES 2018/2019

### Term 1

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

**INSET days Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – school closed for  
staff training.**

***Children back to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>  
September***

### October break

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October

**PLEASE NOTE NOT ALL INSET DAYS HAVE  
BEEN SET FOR 2018/2019**

## Important Dates

02.07 – 06.07 Year 6 residential trip to Isle of Wight

06.07 Year 1 Assembly to parents – 9am

09.07 – 13.07 Year 6 transition week

13.07 Reception Assembly to parents 9am

13.07 PTFA Summer Sizzler – 3.30pm – 6.30pm

17.07 Parent Open Afternoon – 1.45pm

**Watch out for important dates for 2018/2019 in the  
next newsletter**

## Record Breakers!

Congratulations to Ronnianne, Freya, Jasmine and Alix – these super speedy girls not only won their Year 3 Relay race at Districts Sports, they actually broke the District Sports record for this event.

**What an amazing achievement!**

**We are all so proud of them.**



## Have you downloaded the app?

The best way to stay informed on the latest goings on in our busy school is by downloading our app. Over 600 of you now regularly receive newsletters and notifications straight to your phone or tablet. Year 6 families you'll be keen to keep up to date as the children embark on their journey to the Isle of Wight soon. The app will have a gallery of photos which will be updated daily with all their exciting adventures.



**Remember you need to search for School  
Jotter from your app store then search for  
Meridian Primary once downloaded.**



## Water Bottles

It is really important that everyone stays hydrated throughout the day, so we encourage parents to send children into school with a named water bottle. They can have access to these in class.

Water fountains are available at play times and lunch times, as well as drinking water given out in the lunch hall.

Please make sure that all water bottles are filled with water only.

**No fruit squashes please.**





### Parent Coffee Morning

We had another positive Coffee Morning last week where Mr Legate spoke about Forest School and showed parents around our fabulous Forest School area. The parents were really positive about what we are doing to support children's outdoor learning and were impressed with the developments Mr Legate has made. Our next coffee morning will be after the summer holidays – look out for the date in our next newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you and hopefully welcoming some new parents too!



### School Nurse Drop in

Our next school nurse drop in is on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** from 8.45am. If you have any concerns that you would like to speak to the school nurse team, please come along on the above date. If you come to the school's main office and ask to speak with the school nurse, the office team will support you with this.



### Goodbye and Good Luck!

We have got a few people to say goodbye and good luck to this year:

- Mrs Davies left at the end of term 5 to spend more time with her family
- Mrs Lovell is leaving at the end of next week to move to Florida with her family
- Miss Vessey is leaving at the end of this term to start teacher training at university
- Miss Bridgman is leaving to teach at Saltdean Primary to further her career
- Mr Bulmer is leaving to travel and explore the world
- Mr Richards is leaving to travel and work in Spain for a year (but he is coming back to Meridian in September 2019!)
- Miss Howell is leaving to travel around the world for six months (but she is coming back to Meridian in March 2019!)



**Such exciting opportunities for everyone and we wish them all the best!**

### Welcome to Meridian!

We have been busy recruiting the last few months and we are delighted to welcome 6 new teachers to Meridian who will start in September:

Mrs Rachel Reffell; Miss Jess Appleton; Mr Andrew Dixon; Mr Ted Baynham; Miss Kirsty Moffatt and Miss Ellen Yates

**I know that they are all excited to be joining us at Meridian and you will get the chance to meet them properly in September**

We are currently in the process of recruiting Teaching Assistants for September and I will let you know more about this as soon as I can.

I know lots of you already know Mrs Jacqui Dray but she has recently been appointed as a permanent member of the school office as Attendance and Admissions Officer – great news!



## Attendance

Excellent attendance at school is so important so that children do not miss the vital teaching and learning that takes place every day in class and do not fall behind.




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: 1B and 3B – 99.5%

Week 2: 2T – 98.7%

Week 3: 2HS – 99.1%

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?					
190 days	180 days	178 days	163 days	161 days	143 days
100%	95%	94%	86%	85%	75%
Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	
					
Only 1-2 day missed per term		Between 3-8 days missed per term		More than 9 days missed per term	

*Don't forget – if your child is off school you need to send in a written note on the day they return so that we can consider changing the registration code to an authorised absence. Please note a reason of "ill" or "unwell" is not acceptable.*

There is still lots of learning happening in this last term and it is important that children are in school every day.



### Meet our Attendance Team!



**Mrs Erridge, Miss Maslen, Mrs Sawyerr, Mrs Dray**


Our Attendance Team are here to support you if you are worried about your child's attendance.

**Miss Danni Maslen – Attendance Lead** – Miss Maslen oversees the work of the team and can meet with parents to discuss any letters sent out or offer advice/support

**Mrs Rose Sawyerr – Learning Mentor** – Mrs Sawyerr may contact you to invite you in for an informal chat if your child's attendance starts to fall below 95%. She can offer support and guidance as well as set targets for improving attendance. In some cases, she may work with children to support them with coming into school

**Mrs Claire Erridge – Education Welfare Officer** – Mrs Erridge works one day a week and she will contact you to invite you in for a meeting if your child's attendance falls below 92%. You can also make an appointment to see her if you would like any advice or support.

**Mrs Jacqui Dray – Attendance and Admissions Officer** – Mrs Dray makes the phone calls if your child is absent and we have not heard from you. She updates registration codes once written notes have been received and she can support you with making appointments to speak with Miss Maslen, Mrs Sawyerr and Mrs Erridge. She can also advise about school policy, such as what evidence to bring in to support medical and dental appointments.



## SUMMER SIZZLER

### Your PTFA needs you!

Don't forget our Summer Sizzler this year is on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July from 3.15pm – 6.30pm**

If you would like a stall or are able to help on the day, please do get in touch with Nicky Packham (PTFA Chair) or Louise Clarkson (PTFA Vice Chair).

We have got lots planned so we need as much help as possible – so please do let us know you are able to help.

#### How have this year's fundraising events supported the children at Meridian?

- Every class had £100 to go towards the cost of a coach to help support with price of school trip
- Every class had £10 to go towards Christmas gifts made by the children for the Christmas Fair
- Year 6 autograph books and end of year treat
- Support for the cost of the coach for the Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight
- Sheds to support our ongoing OPAL developments
- Support for the cost of the coach to take over 50 children to District Sports

*A huge thank you to all the parents, teachers and friends of Meridian who give up their time to help support the wonderful children at Meridian!*

#### Non-School Uniform Day

On **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July** children are able to come into school in their own clothes if they bring a donation in to support the **Summer Sizzler**. We need the following year groups to bring in the following items:

- Nursery (we know you don't wear school uniform but we didn't want to miss you out!), Reception and Year 1: **Cakes** for the cake stall
- Years 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6: **Bottles/gifts** for our tombolas (no chocolate please!)

Thank you for all your support with this!



#### OPAL

We had a really positive meeting of the OPAL working party last week with Michael and Kurti from OPAL. They were really impressed with the progress we are making towards developing our play opportunities for the children – which was great to hear.

Our next stage in our OPAL development is to provide the children with more resources to play with. Thanks to the PTFA, we have now been able to purchase some new, large sheds so that we can storage these resources. Once these are in place, we can start collect new and exciting resources to support the children's independent play.

Watch this space for future developments and ideas!



## **Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery Attendance Policy**

Following attendance letters being sent out last week to parents where their child's overall attendance this year was below 95%, we have had feedback that some parents did not know about changes to our Attendance Policy that were introduced in September. This information was shared at the beginning of the year and regular reminders are put in our newsletters. However, in light of this feedback, here are two extracts taken from our Attendance Policy:

### **For Parents/Carers**

- To be fully supportive of the School with regard to attendance and punctuality
- To ensure their child attends every day, on time and is prepared for the day
- To support the School and their child (ren) by not requesting authorised absence for holidays during term time and minimising where possible dental appointments and medical appointments during the school day and term time.
- To follow the School procedures for dealing with attendance through making contact with the School/School on the first day of absence and ensuring that they send a signed letter to the School/School/School when their child returns.
- To contact the School immediately if they have concerns or if there are issues preventing full time attendance
- To sign and adhere to the Home School Agreement with regard to attendance & punctuality

### **Where there is a significant pattern of absence the school will:**

- Start intervention at 95% letter being sent home to parents/carers informing of the cause for concern and the negative impact on their child(ren) learning
- After 3 separate periods of absence the school will contact the parent/carer to discuss reasons why and may invite them to the school for a meeting
- If no contact is made a letter will be sent to the parents advising them that any future absences will require them to produce medical evidence and failure to do so will result in the absences been unauthorised
- If attendance continues to be a concern a referral will be made to the Education Welfare Officer who will offer support and guidance, but may also refer to the LA to issue a Penalty Notice or consideration of legal proceedings

**For the full attendance policy, please visit the school website.**

### **End of year reports**

Later on in the term you will receive your child's end of year report. Included in this report will be a copy of your child's registration certificate for the year. Please look through this carefully and if you see an unauthorised absence (an 'O' code) for any illness your child had this year, please do come in and speak with Jacqui Dray in the school office who can advise you as to whether sending in written confirmation would allow this code to be changed to an 'I' code (authorised illness)

**If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the attendance team.**



## News from the Governing Body

Springtime for Governors requires a focus on the finances of the school and we have received the end of financial year accounts and agreed a budget for the year ahead. These are difficult times for Local Authorities and schools who are working within financial constraints. Therefore, we spend a lot of time asking questions, scrutinising figures and ensuring the best value for money for spending at Meridian.

We are delighted to have received and celebrated a highly positive report from our external school advisor – showing that the children at Meridian are receiving a good quality of education in a dynamic and forward-thinking school. The report on the Nursery shows excellent provision for our youngest in the school which is why, I am sure, this is proving a popular choice of provision by local parents.

I have responsibility for Safeguarding in the school and this requires me to audit and monitor the work of all staff in the school relating to keeping children safe. I can report that there are no concerns regarding this area of Governor monitoring.

I really enjoyed coming into school recently to meet with Mr Legate to hear about all of the great work in Forest School and OPAL (Outdoor play and learning). I am delighted that Meridian is prioritising the importance of these areas in the school wider curriculum.

Nationally there are a shortage of school Governors and Meridian is no exception to this. Do let us know if you can think of anyone that would like to fulfil an all-important role of support and challenge at the school. Just ask if you have any questions but rest assured it has its rewards and I would not still be a Governor if this was not the case – in various schools I have been a Governor for over 25 years.

Finally, our clerk, Barbara, is in the process of updating our Governor page on the web site so do go and have a look and see how it is progressing.

If you would like to get in touch with me to find out more about becoming a governor, please do e-mail at [janthony@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:janthony@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk) Please note this email account is for non-urgent correspondence to the governing body. If you wish to contact me for more urgent matters please do so in the usual way via [office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Janet Anthony  
Chair of Governors



## Free School Meals

If you are a parent/carer of a child in Year 2, don't forget that from September school lunches will no longer be free unless you are eligible and apply for Free School Meals.

Please pop into the school office where a member of the office team will be able to advise you as to whether you can apply for Free School Meals from September.

Alternatively visit our school website <http://www.meridianschool.co.uk/about-us/pupil-premium>