



# Learning for life!

## Meridian Update

### Term 2

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November to Friday  
20<sup>th</sup> December**

### Term 3

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday  
14<sup>th</sup> February**

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



**Meridian Community Primary  
School & Nursery**



**@MeridianCPS**

**Monday**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

**December**

**2019**

Dear Parents and Carers

### **PTFA Christmas Fair**

Don't forget it's our fabulous Christmas Fair on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 4.30pm – 6.30pm. The car park is closed all day on Friday whilst the PTFA are setting up and getting everything ready, this includes access to the disabled car parking spaces. I know that at our PTFA meeting last week everyone was worried about having to cancel this popular family event due to lack of help – but luckily lots more volunteers have come forward to help so it looks like we are good to go! Fingers crossed that the weather stays dry . . .

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

It's non-school uniform day on Friday (Christmas jumpers would be great but are optional!) Please can the children bring in the following for the Christmas Fair in exchange for not wearing school uniform:

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: chocolate (packets, tins, boxes, bars) for the chocolate tombola

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: gifts and bottles for the tombola

***This is a change from usual as the PTFA decided not to have a cake stall this year as we always have so many cakes left over.***

### **General Election Day**

Don't forget that on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, the school hall and Annexe room are being used as a Polling Station so children will need to bring in a packed lunch from home, unless you have ordered a packed lunch from the school kitchen.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fair and all the performances over the next few weeks.

Best wishes

*Claire Westcott*

Claire Westcott  
Headteacher

strength

respect

responsibility

kindness

honesty



**TERM DATES  
2019/2020**

**Term 2**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20<sup>th</sup>  
December

**Christmas break**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

**Term 3**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**February break**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup>  
February

**Term 4**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

**Easter break**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

**Term 5**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**May break**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

**Term 6**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

**PLEASE NOTE NOT ALL INSET DAYS HAVE  
BEEN ALLOCATED YET**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- 04.12 Christmas Lunch – only if pre ordered  
06.12 Christmas jumper day for donations to  
Christmas Fair – Nursery, R, 1 & 2:  
chocolate. Years 3, 4, 5 & 6: gifts and  
bottles  
Christmas Fair – 4.30pm – 6.30pm  
11.12 9.15am Reception Christmas Performance  
to whole school and parents with  
babies/toddlers  
2.00pm Reception Christmas Performance  
to adults only  
12.12 No Caterlink cooked lunches as hall used  
for Polling Station for General Election  
13.12 9.15am Years 3 and 4 Christmas  
Performance to whole school and parents  
with babies/toddlers  
2.00pm Years 3 and 4 Christmas  
Performance to adults only  
16.12 9.15am Years 3 and 4 Christmas  
Performance to adults only  
2.00pm Years 1 and 2 Christmas  
Performance to whole school and parents  
with babies/toddlers  
17.12 9.15am Years 1 and 2 Christmas  
Performance to adults only  
2.00pm Years 1 and 2 Christmas  
Performance to adults only  
18.12 9.15am Years 5 and 6 Christmas  
Performance to whole school and parents  
with babies/toddlers  
2.00pm Years 5 and 6 Christmas  
Performance to adults only  
19.12 9.15am Years 5 and 6 Christmas  
Performance to adults only

**Meridian Office Team**

Unfortunately, Mrs Hunt (our School  
Business Manager) is currently off work  
unwell. The Office Team (Ms Gambetta and  
Mrs Dray) are really stretched at the  
moment, especially at this busy time of  
year.

We are all helping out as much as we can  
but please bear with us over the next few  
weeks. Thank you for patience and  
understanding.

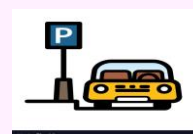
**Parking Around School**

It is a busy time of year with lots of performances happening most days next week and some the following week.

If you are driving to school to see one of these performances, please consider our neighbours and park considerately.

Our neighbours are very understanding about the increase in traffic during these times, but I have been hearing reports about people parking on grass verges, across driveways and on the corners of junctions. I am sure you will agree that this is unnecessary and disrespectful of the people who live around our school.




If there is no room to park close to the school, please park further away and walk.



## 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*

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.***

For more information about our attendance policy and procedures, please visit our website <http://www.meridianschool.co.uk/about-us/policies>

## Best Attendance this term:

Week 1 – 5J – 97.8% - AMAZING!

Week 2 – 2T – 98.4% - FANTASTIC!

Week 3 – 5Y – 98.8% - FANTASTIC!

Week 4 – 4B – 98.6% - WONDERFUL!

The class with the best attendance so far this term is 5Y – I wonder if they will keep this up!

Attendance for Term 2		
RR – 91.5%	3PS – 97.0%	6R – 95.0%
RE – 95.8%	3De – 93.8%	6H – 93.0%
1HS – 97.1%	4B – 96.2%	
1A – 92.2%	4M – 95.7%	
2T – 96.8%	5J – 94.6%	
2M – 95.6%	5Y – 97.5%	
3Du – 94.6%	5P – 97.4%	

Whole school attendance so far for Term 2 is 95.2%. This is lower attendance than this time last year, so the Attendance Team will be holding Attendance drop ins for key classes to see how we can support children to have great attendance. Letters have been sent out to parents/carers about this matter

Thank you for your support with attendance!



## **Taking Photographs and Videos of children during school events**

It is that exciting time of the year again when the children will be celebrating the coming of Christmas in school and I am already hearing some wonderful singing happening all around the school!

I appreciate that you will all want to create memories of your children's time at school by taking videos and photographs of the Christmas performances and I want to support you all in doing this – I know my mum has still got photographs of me in a Nativity play! However, I am sure you will appreciate that I have a duty of care to all the children in the school and this includes requesting that images of the children taken during these performances are not put online please. If you wish to put an image of your own child/children online, that is your decision. However, please do not post any photographs and videos that contain images of children other than your own online.

There are many reasons why schools all around the country request that no children's images are not posted on social media. Here are a few examples:

- Incidents of strangers approaching children and knowing their name and which school they attend because they have seen images of children in their school uniform on Facebook and were able to trace their name through parents' posts
- Children in foster care whose identity and location needs protecting
- Children who have been adopted whose location needs protecting
- Families who have been placed in a refuge due to ongoing abuse whose location needs protecting
- Parents who simply don't wish their children to have a digital footprint

Our Policy for the Use of Images of children is available on our school website. I will be sending out our policy agreement for parents to read and sign again this week prior to issuing tickets for our performances.

If I feel that any children are being placed at risk by images being posted on Facebook (or other sites), I may have to make the difficult decision to not allow school events to be filmed or photographed by parents. Other schools, both locally and nationally, have a no image policy and this is not something I want to do as it would be penalising the vast majority of parents who support and respect Meridian school policy.

If you see any images of school events on Facebook that have your child in without your permission you can either approach the person directly to ask them to take it down or you can contact the school and we will ask.

I would like to thank all the many, many parents/carers who support us in keeping the children safe at Meridian by not posting images on Facebook or any other social media site. I will do everything I can to ensure that you can create these wonderful memories, but I do hope you understand the school's position on keeping the children safe.

**Thank you for helping me keep all the children at Meridian safe.**

For the full policy on Pupil Images see: <https://www.meridianschool.co.uk/about-us/policies>

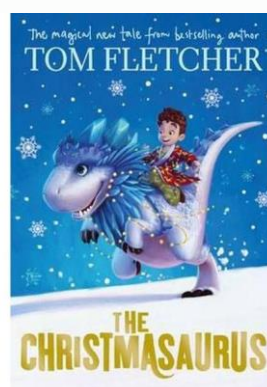
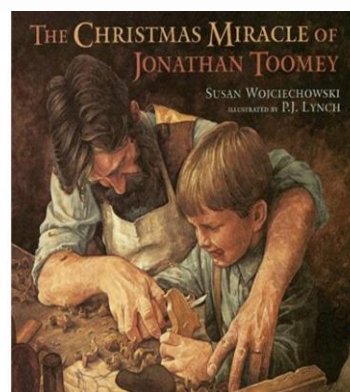
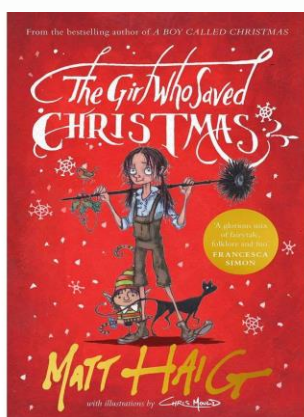
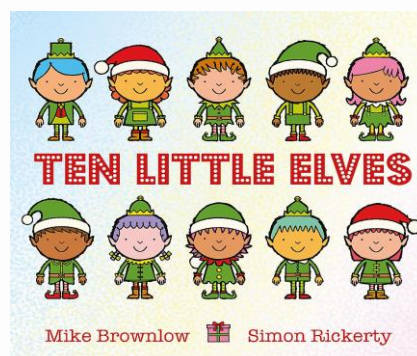
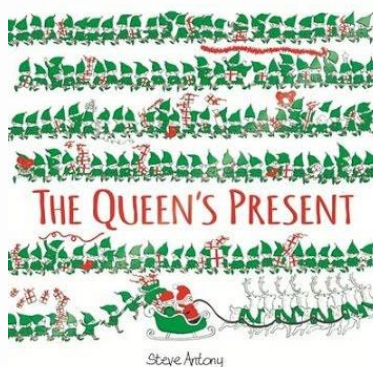




## Reading

As Christmas is approaching, here are some great books that you might like to share, read or give to your children to enjoy!

We know that if children are confident readers and enjoy a wide variety of books, then it can support them throughout their lives.



### Ideas for supporting reading at home with your child

<https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners/primary-parents/learn-at-home/help-your-child-to-enjoy-reading/top-10-tips-to-help-children-enjoy-reading.html>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>



**Thank you for your support with our wonderful PLATINUM playtimes!**

### **Wellies and coats in school**

As the weather starts to get wetter and colder, it is really important that children have coats in school. The children love going out to play in all weathers and unless it is absolutely pouring with rain or dangerously icy, we let the children outside at break time and lunchtimes – so please make sure they have a coat in school every day.

We now use the field all year round so when it is wet and soggy, it is really important that children have the right footwear in school so that their school shoes don't get ruined. We do allow children to go on the field at the moment in their school shoes, however as it starts to get muddier, children will need to change into their Forest School shoes or wellies. Children will only be able to access the mud kitchen at break time and lunch time in the wetter months if they have wellies in school. So please can you send your child into school with a pair of wellies or Forest School shoes so that they can enjoy their playtimes. Thank you.

*If you have any old wellies that your children have grown out of and you would like to donate them to school to use as spares, please do drop them off at the school office. Thank you.*

### **Christmas Trees**

Once Christmas is over and you are taking down your decorations, if you would you would like to bring your old Christmas tree into school for the children to use in Forest School and during play times, please do bring them in on the first day back and put them on the playground near the shed. Mr Legate and Mr Philips will check through them before allowing the children to get creative! They loved these last year and the ideas that they came up with were amazing.



### **Loose Parts**

Don't forget to keep on bringing in any spare items for the children to enjoy. I will share some photographs very soon of the children loving their play times at Meridian!

### **Sickness and Diarrhoea**

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea that has been caused by a **virus** – the advice is to keep your child off school for **48 hours** to avoid the virus spreading around school.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea that has been brought on by **other reasons** and you feel that they are well enough to come to school and **not infectious**, you are welcome to send them in.

Thank you for your support with this

### **Christmas Performances**




The children and staff have been hard at work preparing their festive shows to entertain you next week. Letters regarding tickets have been sent out but if you require further information please come and speak with the office.





## When children are ill . . .

As a school we completely understand that there are times when children are ill and they need to stay off school. We appreciate that sometimes this is a hard decision to make and as a school we can support you with this. Some parents ask us to try and see if their child is well enough to be in school and call them if they start to feel unwell – we are always happy to do this. There are some illnesses which are contagious, such as chickenpox and impetigo, when children clearly need to be off school. There are some illnesses which can spread if not carefully managed, such as sickness and diarrhoea (see advice in this newsletter.) There are times when you need to take your child straight to the doctor, such if there is an unusual rash or your child's has had a high temperature for a couple of days. If you are not sure whether to keep your child off school, you are very welcome to come in and discuss this with us or refer to the chart below for some simple advice.

		
<b>Send me to school if . . .</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I have a runny nose or just a cough, but no other symptoms</li><li>• I haven't taken any fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours and I haven't had a fever during that time</li></ul>	<b>Keep me at home if . . .</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine</li><li>• I am throwing up or have diarrhoea</li><li>• My eyes are pink and crusty</li></ul>	<b>Call the doctor if . . .</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days</li><li>• I've been throwing up or have diarrhoea for more than two days</li><li>• I've had sniffles for more than a week and they aren't getting better</li><li>• I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (call 999 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler)</li></ul>

If your child is absent from school regularly with illness, Mrs Erridge may be in contact to see how we can support you and your child and you may be asked for medical evidence to authorise further illnesses. As a school we are also able to make referrals to the school nursing service for advice and support in case there are underlying health issues that are causing regular bouts of illness.

You know your children best, but we are happy to help if we can.

### Open Afternoon

Thank you to all who attended our Open Afternoon on Thursday – it was so lovely to see so many of you taking the time to come into school to spend time with your children. The school had a wonderful atmosphere with everyone coming along to celebrate their child's successes over the last two terms. We had some really positive feedback on the quality of learning that has taken place and how responsible our Year 6 helpers were as they greeted you at the front door – well done Year 6. There will be another opportunity for you to celebrate your children's learning at our next Open Afternoon in term 4

### Named Clothing

Please can you name all your children's uniform, including coats, hats, gloves and scarves so that we can return any lost items to your children.

PE kit should also be named to help us keep everyone's belonging safe.