

Dear Parents and Carers

As part of our mini learning topic "All about me", all the children have created self-portraits and these were put on display this week around the school. We will take photographs of these to share with you in our Year Group end of term celebration newsletters. They look amazing!

New pick up arrangements for Reception

Next week will start our new pick up arrangements for Reception children. Please collect your children in the usual place but at the new time of 2.50pm. Thank you to everyone for all your ideas and suggestions about minimising the congestion in this part of the school. We will continue to monitor the situation and make any adjustments or changes should we feel this is needed. Thank you for your support and understanding about this change.

Curriculum learning – Buildings and Structures

I have seen some fantastic work coming along around the school as children are getting stuck into their latest learning topics. Nursery and Reception are learning about homes. Year 1 and 2 are learning about important local buildings, including Brighton Pavilion. Year 3 and 4 are becoming castle experts, including some stories about dragons! Years 5 and 6 are enjoying finding out about the Romans and their legacy through buildings and structures around the country, including Fishbourne Palace. We had hoped to be able to visit some important buildings to support with the children's learning but it is not possible at the moment. However, fingers crossed we will be able to do some visits in the Spring Terms because we know how much the children love these opportunities.

Anti-social behaviour outside of school

I am becoming increasingly concerned about reports of some of our older children getting involved in fights and threatening behaviour towards each other outside of school. The knock on effect is that children are feeling unsafe at school as they are worried that this behaviour will continue on the playground. We do not tolerate aggressive or threatening behaviour in school and if this happens, parents will be contacted and appropriate consequences will be put in place to support children in understanding why this behaviour is unacceptable.

If your child is threatened or beaten up in the park by others, the advice is to call the police as this is dangerous behaviour. We are in contact with the local police about how they can support us in school, including chatting with children and parents about these anti-social incidents. However, we would urge parents to call the police directly to report these out of school incidents

I do hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Have a good weekend!

Best wishes

(Headteacher)

C. Westcott

strength kindness honesty

responsibility

TERM DATES 2020/2021

Term 1

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September INSET days

Children back to school from Monday 7th September.

End of term 1 Thursday 22nd October

Friday 23rd October school closed for staff
training INSET day

Term 2

Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December

Term 3

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February

Term 4

Monday 22nd February – Thursday 1st April

Term 5

Monday 19th April – Friday 28th May

Term 6

Monday 7th June – Friday 23rd July

PLEASE NOTE NOT ALL INSET DAYS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED YET

Remote Learning

Please make sure you are familiar with Google Classroom as this is how we will offer remote learning should a Year Group bubble have to close due to a positive COVID-19 test outcome. If you are struggling with this, please do e-mail your child's class teacher

Remote Learning Letter
Introduction to Google Classroom
Looking at the activities

Thank you to Mr. Doody for all his hard work in putting this together.

IMPORTANT DATES

19.10 Parents Evening (R, 1, 2, 3) 3.30pm – 6pm

20.10 Parents Evening (4, 5, 6) 3.30pm – 6pm

21.10 Parents Evening (R, 1, 2, 3) 4.30pm - 7pm

22.10 Parents Evening (4, 5, 6) 4.30pm – 7pm

Information about these virtual Parents' Evenings has been sent out this week.

Christmas Performances cannot happen in the usual way this year. Decisions about how we can celebrate Christmas with children and families will be made this term and shared with parents/carers in term 2.

Looking after our Mental Health

Looking after our mental health is so important, but even more so during the uncertain times of this global pandemic.

In school we have increased the support available to help children with their mental health, including Mrs. Ebeling increasing her days to 4, introducing our new Behaviour Support Assistant, Mrs Kirton and 1 day a week support for some children through our involvement in the Mental Health Support Teams. All of this in addition to our school counsellor and support from outside agencies, such as ESBAS and Early Help Keywork.

The teachers and Teaching Assistants at Meridian are also amazing at caring for and supporting all the children in their classes – we are so lucky to have such a kind and supportive team to keep your children safe and happy in school.

However, mental health doesn't just need supporting in school, parents and carers can support at home too. If you would like to find out more about how to do this, MindEd for families has got some great advice.

There are also some useful links here