

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and keeping safe.

Reopening on Monday 8th March

I am sure that most of you are now aware from the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, that all schools are reopening to children on Monday 8th March. For primary schools, this means that all children can return on this date. Mr Doody and I will be working closely over the next two weeks to put plans together to support everyone (children, parents and staff) to settle back into the school routines and expectations. Once we have finalised the plans and risk assessments that need to be completed and shared these with Governors, I will write to you all to share how we will support children coming back to school and keeping them all safe and happy. I know that we are all really looking forward to seeing all the children back in school, enjoying themselves and learning lots.

Thank you

Thank you so much to those parents and carers who took the time to share such positive comments about Meridian on Facebook as part of The Argus campaign to thank teachers. It was so lovely to read how much you have appreciated the teachers' hard work and support in engaging children with online lessons. I got quite emotional reading these and felt very proud of the amazing team at Meridian who have worked so hard to teach all the children both in school and home and know that the praise you shared was truly well-deserved. So thank you again for your kind words.

Free School Meal Vouchers

The vouchers for this week and next week have been ordered through Edenred and they should be delivered on Wednesday 24th February. Please do not contact the school about vouchers until Thursday 25th February if you have not received these.

Take care and best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott Headteacher



TERM DATES 2020/2021

Term 4

Monday 22nd February – Thursday 1st
April

Term 5

Monday 19th April – Friday 28th May Monday 19th April – school closed for staff training Tuesday 20th April – school closed for staff training Children back to school on

Term 6

Wednesday 21st April

Monday 7th June – Friday 23rd July

FINAL TWO INSET DAYS ARE: Monday 19th April Tuesday 20th April

Mental Health and Well-being Resources

<u>DfE Mental Health resources for</u> <u>children, parents, carers and school</u> <u>staff</u>

Place 2 Be

BBC Bitesize

Every Mind Matters

Anna Freud Advice

SEND Support

IMPORTANT DATES

08.03.21 All children return to school

01.04.21 End of term 4

16.04.21 New Reception school allocations to

parents

19.04.21 School Closed for Staff Training

20.04.21 School Closed for Staff Training

21.04.21 Children back to school for term 5

Supporting Children's Mental Health

When you start to talk to children about coming back to school, some might feel nervous or worried about this.

These are normal feelings and not necessarily a sign of poor mental health. However it is important to talk to your children and help them understand that these feelings are all part of being a human being and that we can learn ways to manage these sometimes uncomfortable feelings.

We have got some useful resources in school to help support parents with supporting talking about feelings and developing strategies to help children to recognise and name their feelings and know how to support themselves. Over the next few weeks, we will be developing a section of our website to support mental health and emotional well-being.

Some suggestions to prepare children for coming back to school are:

- Talk about what they are excited about coming back to school
- Talk about any worries they may have about coming back to school
- Remind them of all the adults in school that they can speak to
- Get out their uniform and start planning for PE lessons and Forest School lessons
- Have a countdown calendar to show how many days before coming to school with lots of smiley faces on

If you need any more support or your child is feeling really worried, please do email their class teacher who will be able to reassure your child about what will be the same and what will be different about school when they return.

We are here to help support everyone returning to school on 8th March