



Learning for life!

Meridian Update

Term 1

Wednesday 1st September

Term 2

**Monday 2nd November to
Friday 18th December**

www.meridianschool.co.uk



Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery



@MeridianCPS

**Thursday
16th
September
2021**

Dear Parents and Carers

WELCOME BACK!

It has been so wonderful seeing all the children settle straight back in to school life since they returned on the 3rd September – it's like we've never been away! They all look so smart in their school uniforms – thank you to you all for making sure your children are in the right colours – grey, white and royal blue.

Welcome also to our new Reception children, who have started school so confidently and are enjoying making new friends and learning new things. We can't wait until all the children are in school next week.

Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings this term will be back in school – see the Important Dates section for dates of these. I continue to be cautious about having large groups of people in school, especially when local COVID-19 cases continue to be high. So, this term we will be having Parents' Evenings in classrooms (apart from Year 2 who will be in the hall.) This will support us all in keeping safe by limiting the numbers everyone will come into contact with. Mr. Doody and I will be available to ensure you know where to go to find your child's teacher and classroom. Letters will be sent out soon.

Swimming Lessons

The children have loved starting their swimming lessons in Year 4 this week. Thank you to all for getting your children to school in time for the coach. Please remember, if you have not yet paid towards the cost of the travel, to do this as soon as possible via ParentPay.

We are really looking forward to having a positive year at Meridian with lots of exciting learning opportunities as well as supporting children to make the best progress they can this year.

Best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott
(Headteacher)



TERM DATES 2021/2022

Term 1

Wednesday 1st September – school closed for staff training INSET

Thursday 2nd September – school closed for staff training INSET

Friday 3rd September – children back to school

Friday 22nd October – end of term 1

Term 2

Monday 1st November – Friday 17th December

Monday 6th December – school closed for staff training INSET

Term 3

Tuesday 4th January – Friday 11th February

Term 4

Monday 21st February – Friday 1st April

Term 5

Tuesday 19th April – Friday 27th May

Term 6

Monday 6th June – Friday 22nd July

PLEASE NOTE NOT ALL INSET DAYS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED YET

IMPORTANT DATES

- 01.09** Term 1 starts – School closed for children for staff training
- 02.09** School closed for children for staff training
- 03.09** **Children start back to school**
- 15.09** 4PS Swimming starts
- 16.09** 4Y Swimming starts
- 17.09** Recorded Curriculum Information Chats available for parents
- 05.10** Parent Council meeting 9.15am.
- 11.10** Book Fair in school for a week
- 13.10** Parents Evening (in school)
- 14.10** Parents Evening (in school)
- 18.10** Harvest Assembly this week
- 19.10** Reception 2022 Intake Parent Open Day
- 22.10** **End of term 1**
- 01.11** Term 2 begins
- 12.11** School photographer for individual photos
- 16.11** Flu Vaccination
- 06.12** School closed for children for staff training
- 09.12** Parent Council Meeting 9.15am
- 13.12** Reception Christmas Performances
- 14.12** Years 1 and 2 Christmas Performances
- 15.12** Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performances
- 16.12** Years 5 and 6 Christmas Performances
(Christmas Performance times to be confirmed)
- 17.12** **End of term 2**

THIS SECTION WILL BE UPDATED WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OVER THE TERM, SO KEEP CHECKING EACH NEWSLETTER!

Contact details

At the start of each new curriculum year, we ask that parents update any contact details that may have changed over the summer holidays. These may include new addresses, telephone/mobile telephone numbers as well as contacts that we would call if your child is unwell or needs collecting from School. **Please ensure that we have at details of at least two emergency contacts.** Please pass all changes, in writing, to the School Office.

Thank you

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or are worried about a child, please contact one of our safeguarding leads.

Miss Laura Miles: Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Matt Doody: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ms Claire Westcott: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Forest School and PE kits

When children have **Forest school**, children can wear their Forest School kit all day. It would be good to have a change of shoes for Forest school (such as old trainers or wellies) which the children can leave in school.

If children have **PE** in the **morning**, they can wear their PE kit (tracksuits if the weather is cold please) to school. They will need to bring in their school uniform to change into for the afternoon and then bring their PE kit home.

If children have **PE** in the **afternoon**, they need to wear their school uniform to school and change into their PE kit in the afternoon and go home in this too.

We currently have many children wearing their school shoes for PE. This is not safe as they do not have good enough grip for when running outside on the field. Please all children have a pair of trainers or plimsolls to change in to for all PE lessons.

Please make sure that whatever kits children are wearing to school that they have a warm coat to go out to play in when the weather starts to get colder.



What to do if you have a worry or concern

At the beginning of a new school year it is always useful to remind everyone about what to do if you have concern. In the first instance, please ask to speak with your child's class teacher. You can make a telephone appointment to speak to them after school or e-mail the year group e-mail address. This is the most useful way to communicate your concerns as the class teacher/s know your child the best and so will be able to answer any questions and support you and your child through any issues you may have.

Next, if you are not satisfied you can make an appointment to speak with the Phase Leader (see below for more information about who they are).

After this stage you are welcome to make an appointment to speak with Ms Westcott. If she is unavailable, then please speak with Mr Doody (Deputy Headteacher). You can also meet with Ms Miles (Assistant Headteacher) or Miss Roberts (Assistant Headteacher) if Mr Doody is unavailable.

Finally, if you still wish to take the matter further you can put your concerns in writing or e-mail to the Chair of Governors (Mr. Chris Bonner) and hand/send it to the school office who will forward this on.

Please come and speak with us.

We are here to help.

Our Leadership Team

Headteacher: **Ms Claire Westcott**

Deputy Headteacher (Assessment Leader, Pupil Premium Lead and Maths Leader): **Mr Matt Doody**

Assistant Headteacher (Safeguarding Leader, Attendance and SENCo): **Miss Laura Miles**

Assistant Headteacher (English, Curriculum and Learning Attitudes): **Miss Alex Roberts**

School Business Manager (Finance, Personnel, Health and Safety, GDPR): **Miss Gaydree Wrigley**

Early Years Phase Leader and Nursery Class Teacher: **Miss Kaitlin Duffy**

Years 1 and 2 Phase Leader and Year 2 Teacher: **Mrs Charlotte Mackay**

Years 3 and 4 Phase Leader Year 4 Teacher: **Mrs Hayley Passingham-Smith**

Years 5 and 6 Phase Leader and Year 6 Teacher: **Miss Kathryn Howell**

Our Staff Team

Nursery

Teacher: Kaitlin Duffy

TAs: Sarah Defalco, Teresa Edgeler, Teresa Sargeant, Rosie Collis

Reception

Teachers: Mrs. White and Ms. Treglown

TAs: Mrs Savage, Miss. Weston, Mr. Coffey, Mrs Skucovt

Year 1

Teachers: Miss. East and Mrs. Halls/Mrs. Sagar

TAs: Mrs. McHenery, Mrs. Ford

Year 2

Teachers: Mrs Mackay and Miss Platt

TAs: Miss Smith

Year 3

Teachers: Miss Butcher and Miss Zarate

TAs: Miss Richardson and Mrs. James

Year 4

Teachers: Mrs Passingham-Smith and Miss. Yates

TAs: Miss Her and Mrs Roe

Year 5

Teachers: Miss Moffat, Miss Pulleine, Miss Broadbent

TAs: Mrs Aicken, Mrs. Boote, Mrs. Barry, Mrs Smith

Year 6

Teachers: Miss Roberts/Mrs Sanders and Miss Howell

TAs: Mrs Staples and Mrs McLeod

Forest School Teacher: Mr Legate

PE teacher: Mr Strange

Music teacher: Mr Mole

Speech and Language TA: Mr Lopes

ASD/Physical TA: Mr Phillips

Behaviour and Pastoral Support Assistants: Mrs Kirton and Mrs Harmer

Education Welfare Officer: Claire Erridge

Deputy SENCo: Mrs Ebeling

Office Team: Miss Wrigley (School Business Manager), Miss Gambetta (Secretary), Mrs Dray (Admissions and Attendance), Mrs Wiles (Finance Assistant)

How parents and carers can get involved at Meridian!

Parent Coffee Morning

During the year, we hold parent coffee mornings where all parents are welcome to come along, meet other parents and find out more about Meridian. Babies and toddlers welcome! We obviously have not been able to run these for a while but we plan to reintroduce these this year. Keep an eye out for upcoming dates.

Parent Council

We have a Parent Council that meets six times a year. Information about the parent councillors is available on the website. This is an opportunity for parents to hear about the strategic development of learning at Meridian, share views from parents on a range of topics and hear the school perspective on any changes and developments. It is a great way for the school to hear parents' views and thoughts as well as answer any questions you might have about Meridian. If you would like to become involved in the Parent Council, please do speak to one of the councillors or e-mail Ms Westcott office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk

Parent Governors

On every governing body there are parent governors who represent the parent body at Meridian. Our current parent governors are Ed Dunn and Nicky Packham. Their role is to support the school in achieving its strategic targets and discuss the impact of the school improvement plan on improving and developing the learning outcomes for all children.

PTFA

We have an active PTFA who organise fundraising events across the year. Anyone is welcome to come along to PTFA meetings or to volunteer to support our events. The more the merrier! Look out for dates in the newsletter

Volunteer readers

We have a fantastic group of parents and grandparents who volunteer in school to hear readers in different year groups. We are so grateful for their support and commitment to helping the children with their reading – and children love reading with them too! We are hoping to be able to reintroduce this in school. If you are interested in volunteering for an afternoon, we would love you to join us. Please speak with Mr Doody or e-mail him via the school office office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk

Learning at Meridian

Here are some of the different ways you can find out about the learning at Meridian:

Parents' Evening

We hold Parents' Evening twice a year. At these meetings you will have the opportunity to find out how your child is getting on in school, both academically and socially. You will be able to find out about the progress they are making and how you can help at home. You will also be able to have a look at your children's books.

Curriculum Information for parents

At the beginning of terms 1, 3 and 5 teachers record information to share with parents about the term ahead. In these recordings, the teachers explain what all the children will be learning about and the different subjects they will be taught. They will also share P.E. and Forest School information.

Reports

You will receive three reports over the year. In the Autumn and Spring terms you will get a report which tells you about the learning in reading, writing and maths, your child's behaviour and attitudes in school and targets that you can support with at home. In the Summer term you will get a more detailed report about all the subjects, end of year teacher assessments as well as comments about their behaviour, attitudes and personal development.

Website

Our website has lots of general information about the learning that takes place at Meridian, including information sheets to support you with helping your child learn at home.

There are also opportunities to **celebrate** children's learning in our weekly Celebration Assemblies, Christmas Productions, Year Group Assemblies and via the school website, twitter/Facebook feeds.

Loose Parts

Keep those donations coming in for our OPAL playtimes! **All donations will be safety checked by the staff to ensure suitability for the children to use.** Here are suggestions of what we will be asking for:

Cardboard boxes

Cuddly Toys

Fabrics - all shapes and sizes

Metal pots, pans, trays etc. Especially catering sizes

Old clothes, jackets, overalls, hats, bags

Old household appliances, hoovers, fax machines, microwaves etc

Phones

Small Children's Bike Wheels, wheels

Sofa and chair cushions

Suitcases - all sizes

Tubes of all kinds

Carpet samples

Carpet squares

Guttering

Hoses

Brief cases

Buggies, push chairs



So if you are having a clear out, please think of us! The donation area is just behind the shed on the playground – please put your items in there ready for our safety inspect

If you want to find out more about OPAL, please visit their website

<http://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>



Thank you for your support with our wonderful playtimes!






It has been amazing to see all the children enjoying their playtimes with each other again.



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 signed 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 – 3Z and 5P – for the first day back on Friday 3rd – 100% A GREAT START

Week 2 – 5B – 98.9% - FANTASTIC!

The class with the best attendance so far this term is: 5P – well done!

Attendance so far in term 1		
RW –	3B – 95.7%	6RS – 97.4%
RT –	4PS – 96.9%	6H – 98.1%
1HS – 94.5%	4M – 95.7%	
1E – 97.8%	4Y – 93.8%	
2M – 96.8%	5B – 98.5%	
2P – 88.3%	5P – 98.8%	
3Z – 97.2%	5M – 96.8%	

Whole school attendance since we returned to school on the 3rd September is currently 96.2% - which is a great start just above our target of 96% - which is fantastic.

Thank you to everyone for your support with attendance

ATTENDANCE
 **MATTERS**
 every school day counts.