

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and are looking forward to the weekend. Fingers crossed the weather starts to improve soon so that spring will start to appear!

Teachers Strike Days

A separate letter has gone out today to explain about the planned strike days next week on Wednesday and Thursday. Please do read through this as it explains our plans should these proposed strikes go ahead.

Online Safety

I am sure you will have seen the first of our new Online Safety Newsletters which was sent out today. Our aim of these newsletters is to support and help parents, carers and children to understanding how to keep safe online and to prevent cyberbullying. We will be updating our website too with useful guides and information to support you with monitoring and helping your children at home.

Red Nose Day

Don't forget next Friday 17th March is Comic Relief Red Nose Day. To support this charity event, children are invited to wear something red to school for a £1 donation to Comic Relief. We look forward to seeing lots of red next week!

School Uniform

Thank you so much to everyone for your support following my letter last week about our school uniform policy, including ensuring hair that is long enough to be tied back, is tied back. It was lovely to see a real improvement this week in children's school uniform. I have asked teachers to speak with parents where there continues to be issues around correct school uniform. Don't forget to contact our wonderful PTFA if you would like information about second-hand uniform items!



TERM DATES 2022/2023

<u>Term 4</u> Monday 20th February – Friday 31st March

<u>Term 5</u>

Monday 17th April – Friday 26th May 01.05 – School closed for May Bank Holiday 08.05 – School closed for King's Coronation Bank Holiday

<u>Term 6</u> Monday 5th June – Friday 21st July

PLEASE NOTE NOT ALL INSET DAYS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED YET

Safeguarding at Meridian

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child that attends Meridian, please do contact one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Miss. Laura Miles Designated Safeguarding Lead Ms. Claire Westcott Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Mr. Matt Doody Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

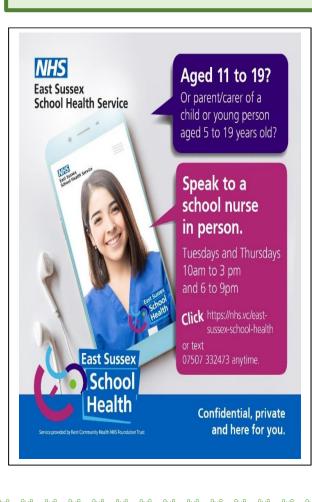
You can also call Single Point of Advice (SPOA) on 01323 464222

If you have an immediate or emergency concern about a child's safety, please call 999. The NSPCC has advice about this on their website <u>here.</u>

IMPORTANT DATES

15.03	Teacher Strike Day – school closed to all children
16.03	Teacher Strike Day – school closed to all children
17.03	Comic Relief Day – wear something red!
31.03	End of term 4
28.04	PTFA Social Event TBC
01.05	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	School Closed for Bank Holiday for
	King's Coronation
09.05	KS2 SATs start
12.05	PTFA Disco
	R, Y1, Y2: 4.15pm – 5.15pm
	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6: 5.45pm – 7.00pm
26.05	End of term 5
26.06	Year 6 go to PGL
	Year 6 return from PGL
07.07	PTFA Summer Sizzler

21.07 End of term 6



Healthy snacks and water in school

If you would like your child to have a snack at play time, please remember that this needs to be a portion of **fruit or vegetables**

Also, please can children bring water to school in their water bottle – **no juice or squash please**

Thank you for your support with this.

Contact Details

Please inform the school office of any changes in contact details (address, mobile number, email)

This is really important in case we need to contact you in an emergency.

Online bullying

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the level of **online bullying** that is taking place outside of school, mainly through group chats on **WhatsApp** but other messaging/social media services.

This is particularly noticeable in our **Year 6 children**, where I have seen and heard some truly **shocking language and behaviour** that is impacting on many children's mental health and in turn is spilling into school or making children worried about coming in to school.

The last two weeks, in particular, we have had to spend a disproportionate amount of time supporting children who have been distressed and upset by things that are being said and done online when the children are at home.

These have included:

- Threats of violence
- Abusive language
- Inciting hate
- Inciting self-harm/suicide
- Using images of staff
- Taking photographs/selfies in school uniform and posting these
- Name calling and shaming

The amount of time that we are spending in school dealing with this is unacceptable and I will be raising this matter with the Governing Body next week as a matter of urgency.

If your child has a mobile phone and is accessing WhatsApp (which has an age recommendation of 16) please can **parents/carers support the school** by monitoring what is being said and shared outside of school so that this can be dealt with at home. We simply do not have the capacity to manage this behaviour in school.

If your child is the victim of any abusive, threatening or hate incidents online, you need to screenshot it, report it and block the person. Then you need to consider calling the police, particularly if there is a threat of violence and/or hate (such as racist or homophobic abuse)

That being said, we obviously want you to inform us if your child has been involved in any bullying online so that we can keep an eye on them and make sure they feel safe in school. So please contact the school in the usual way. However, we will not be able to get involved in addressing this behaviour as it is happening when the children are not in school.

We will be introducing new online safety teaching resources next term to educate and support all children in an age appropriate way and our new online safety newsletter and app will hopefully help you at home too. Thank you for your support with this.



Well done to **RT** for having the highest attendance so far this term at **96.7% - AMAZING!**

Our **whole school** attendance is currently very low at **93.0%** but hopefully as the weather improves and the coughs and colds disappear, our attendance will improve too

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Please help us to ensure that your child has good attendance

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Please keep those donations coming in – the children really love exploring and getting creative with new things!



5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

ur child need additional help with an online bullying issue, me specialist organisations that you could reach out to. or on 0800 1111 or online at

vailable on 0845 225 5787 co.uk/cyberbullying.html or b as a guide to the signs of bullying at buse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and on 0808 800 5000 ina/ an



www.nationalonlinesafety.com

💓 @natonlinesafety

AnationalOnlineSafety

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