

Learning for life!

Meridian Newsletter

Term 5

Monday 15th April to Friday

26th May

Term 6

Monday 5th June – Friday

21st July

www.meridianschool.co.uk



**Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery**



@MeridianCPS

Thursday

28th

March

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the Easter break and spending time together with family and friends. I know I am! I was reflecting recently with some colleagues about how I have been the Headteacher at Meridian for over 13 years now – I actually can't believe it's been that long! I am so proud to continue to work with everyone, including the local community to make Meridian the best school it can be. We have come a long way in the past 13 years and I feel very lucky to have such a positive and hard-working staff team, a great Governing Body and supportive parents/carers at Meridian – and of course the wonderful children too! I'm looking forward to the summer terms and all the exciting learning we are going to do together 😊

New Chair of Governors

We have a new Chair of Governors – Barbara Gerding. You may recognise that name as she used to be our Clerk to Governors. Barbara knows our school really well and it is great that she is continuing to support me and the Leadership team in ensuring the best for all the children at Meridian. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Barbara to her new role on the Governing Body.

Learning for the Summer terms

The teachers have been incredibly busy planning some exciting learning journeys for the children in the Summer terms. Our over-arching theme for the summer is "Arts, Culture, Music and Literature". Nursery and Reception will be learning about Bear stories and will have an author visiting them. Year 1 and Year 2 will be learning about Toys past and present, including a wonderful trip to Brighton Toy museum. Years 3 and 4 will be learning about life in Ancient Greece, with a history workshop coming to school to bring the learning alive. Years 5 and 6 will be learning about Africa Then and Now and will also be having a history workshop in school.

Easter Assembly

Thank you to Jez, our local vicar, who led a whole school assembly about Easter. The children really enjoyed hearing from him about the importance of Easter for Christians around the world.

I hope you have a wonderful break and look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 15th April!

C. Westcott

**Claire Westcott
Headteacher**

strength

respect

kindness

honesty

responsibility



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TERM DATES 2023/2024

Term 5

Monday 15th April – Friday 24th May

Term 6

Monday 3rd June to Tuesday 23rd July

**All INSET days are now in place for
23/24**

TERM DATES 2024/2025

Term 1

Monday 2nd September – Friday 25th
October

INSET DAY – Monday 2nd September

INSET DAY – Tuesday 3rd September

Term 2

Monday 4th November – Friday 20th
December

KEY DATES

15.04 Children back to school
04.05 Brighton Children's Parade
06.05 **BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY**
13.05 KS2 Year 6 SATs week
17.05 PTFA Disco
21.05 am – KS2 Sports Day
pm – Reception and KS1 Sports Day
23.05 Reserve Sports Day
24.05 End of term 5

03.06 Children back to school
24.06 Y6 to PGL on Isle of Wight
26.06 New Reception Parent Meeting
05.07 PTFA Summer Sizzler
09.07 Reception Musical Performance to
Parents/Carers – 9am in school hall
10.07 Year 1 Musical Performance to
Parents/Carers – 9am in school hall
11.07 Year 2 Musical Performance to
Parents/Carers – 9am in school hall
15.07 Year 3 Musical Performance to
Parents/Carers – 9am in school hall
16.07 Year 4 Musical Performance to
Parents/Carers – 9am in school hall
17.07 Year 5 Musical Performance to
Parents/Carers – 9am in school hall
22.07 Year 6 Musical Performance to
Parents/Carers – 9am in school hall
23.07 End of term 6

02.09 School closed for INSET for staff
03.09 School closed for INSET for staff
04.09 **Children start back to school**

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE Safeguarding at Meridian

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

Mrs. Lucy Newth

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ms. Claire Westcott

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr. Matt Doody

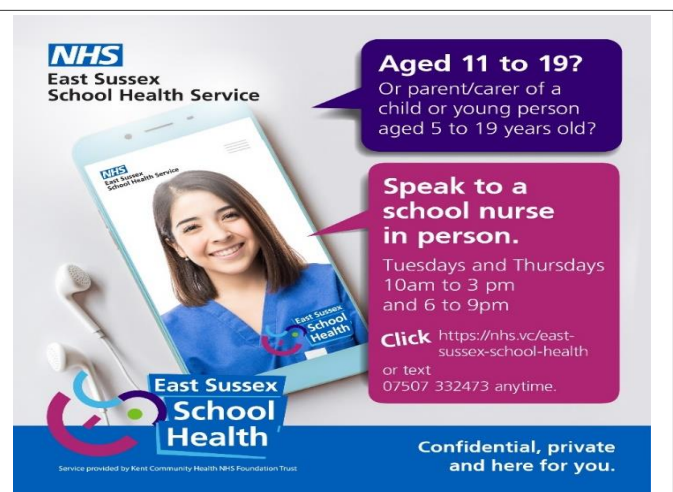
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss. Laura Miles

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

During the school holidays, please contact:
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 [here](https://www.nspcc.org.uk).



NHS
East Sussex
School Health Service

Aged 11 to 19?
Or parent/carer of a child or young person aged 5 to 19 years old?

Speak to a school nurse in person.
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10am to 3 pm
and 6 to 9pm

Click <https://nhs.uk/east-sussex-school-health>
or text 07507 332473 anytime.

East Sussex School Health

Confidential, private and here for you.

Service provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

PARENT COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to those parents who attended our Parent Coffee morning all about low mood – we hope you found it useful.

Our next Coffee Morning date is on **Friday 26th April**. We are lucky enough to have the School Health Service coming in to lead this session

Our wonderful Behaviour and Pastoral Support Assistants, Mrs. Kirton and Mrs. Harmer, will also be there.

It will take place in our Annexe/Music Room at 9am.

Everyone is welcome!



Happy Eid

To any Meridian families observing Ramadan at the moment, we know that Eid ul-Fitr will take place during the Easter holidays. When this special day arrives, everyone at Meridian wishes you a very Happy Eid!

PARENT FORUM

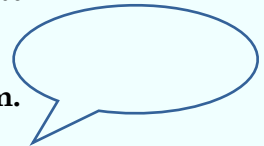
Unfortunately no-one attended our last Parent Forum.

However, we will re-arrange this for next term with the same theme of coming to find out how we teach Personal, Social, Health Education at Meridian, including what we teach in terms of relationships and sex education – which is coming up for all children in term 6.

We will try a different time to see if this supports more parents to attend.

Friday 10th May at 9am.

parents
forum



Good Luck and Goodbye!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss. Sanderson good luck as she leaves Meridian today to pursue an alternative path.

We all wish her well and thank her for all her hard work during the last four terms.



LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

Our Global Studies

We will be kicking off the summer term with our two week Global study in every year group.

Nursery will be learning about the United Kingdom, in particular Peacehaven. Reception will be learning about Kenya. Year 1 will be learning about the North and South Poles. Year 2 will be learning about Australia. Year 3 will be learning about Italy. Year 4 will be learning about the United States of America. Year 5 will be learning about Russia. Year 6 will be learning about India.

I will share the displays of their lovely work after Easter.



LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

Reception Visit the Farm!

Our Reception children had a wonderful time visiting Washbrook Farm this week to finish off their learning about looking after plants and animals. They enjoyed meeting lots of animals and even having a tractor ride! A big thank you to Ms. Treglown and Miss. Cranfield for organising such a wonderful trip and thank you also to the parents and grandparents who came along to support the children.



The Farm visits our Nursery!

Our children in the Nursery also had the chance to meet some farm animals when they came to visit this week. The children enjoyed meeting the animals and learning about them. Thank you to Nadia for organising this wonderful experience!



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MERIDIAN

Outdoor Education

As you will all know, at Meridian we love learning outside, particularly during our Forest School sessions. We are so lucky to have Mr. Legate leading and teaching our bespoke outdoor curriculum. Not only does it offer the children the chance to apply their knowledge and skills from other subjects, such as science and geography, it is also a great opportunity for their personal development, through Forest School skills and character skills, such as resilience, perseverance and working as part of a team. We have tweaked our Forest School days for next term for our Key Stage Two children. For information, please visit our [Forest School](#) page on our website.



PLAY AT MERIDIAN

Wonderful Playtimes!

For the first time this year, the weather meant that a couple of times this week the green flag has come out so children did not have to change into their wellies! They were so excited!! However, unfortunately this did not last long as the rain arrived again . . . Fingers crossed when we get back after the Easter break the weather will start to improve – but it's still important for children to have their wellies in school every day, should the field become too wet again.

Our wonderful playtimes will be celebrated again next term, when we welcome visiting schools to come and see our Platinum award winning Outdoor Play and Learning provision. Keep sending in those loose parts!



End of Term Governors' "Thank You!"

Already we are in the last week of term 4, how time flies, and we have met as a full governing board 5 times this academic year. Our discussions always include all aspects of school life, and the head teacher and senior staff update us with written and verbal reports. Many of us are also on the **school's brilliant School Jotter App**, so we understand what goes on day-to-day.

Recently, we **said goodbye to long-serving governors** on the Meridian board, and we thank them for their generous support given to the school. We also **welcomed new governors**, who each bring recognized skills to help support and oversee the school. Details of the Governor Team and our fantastic Clerk can be found on the school's website.

As governors we visit the school regularly, where we speak to leaders and staff, observe teaching, meet with pupils, and take part in coffee mornings and other school activities. This term, we informed ourselves about **Maths, Phonics and Reading, PSHE and Science teaching**, and looked at **behaviour and attitudes** of our pupils, and the support for our children with **special educational needs**. We are assured and impressed by the very high standards of teaching and learning at the school, supported by the very highest behaviour expectations and systems in place for all pupils to achieve "being their best". We would like to thank all staff for giving up their time during these governor visits.

We are always **very impressed with the brilliant opportunities our School Leaders provide for children at Meridian**, also outside of their classroom learning, such as the fantastic playtimes, the Forest School area, the day trips, summer camp, and meeting with many specialist visitors invited into school.

Of course, we most of all value the teamwork that goes on **between the school, Meridian's excellent leaders and all staff**, and you as **parents and carers**.

We would therefore **like to thank all our parents and carers** for following our **well-considered and carefully crafted school policies, designed to keep all our pupils safe, and enabling all children and staff to thrive at Meridian**.

Wishing all our families **a Happy Easter Break!**

Best wishes,
Barbara Gerding, Chair of Governors

ATTENDANCE AT MERIDIAN

Good attendance at school is so important so that children do not miss out on their learning. Did you know that when teachers plan their lessons, each lesson builds on the previous one? So if a child misses 1 or 2 lessons a week, they will find the work much harder as they will be developing gaps in their knowledge.

If you are worried about your child's attendance or would like some support with this, please do make an appointment with one of our Pastoral Team, Mrs. Kirton or Mrs. Harmer.

Whole School Attendance

94.0% (our target is 96%)

Best Attendance this term

Week 1: 1M - 98% 😊

Week 2: 3YM – 99% 😊 😊

Week 3: 3YM – 98.7% 😊

Week 4: RC and 1M – 98% 😊

Week 5: 1M – 99.3% 😊 😊

Week 6: 5H – 97% 😊

The class with the best attendance all term is: 1M with 97.2% - CONGRATULATIONS!!



PTFA AT MERIDIAN

PTFA Social Event

We are sorry we had to cancel our previous PTFA Social Event – our Quiz Master (Mr. Strange) was unfortunately unwell.

However, we have re-organised this exciting event for **Friday 26th April**. It's our first social event and we are excited to try something new for the parents, teachers and friends of Meridian. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

For more information, please do visit our Facebook Page "Friends of Meridian School"

Tickets will be available to purchase soon - **£20 per team** – teams between 2 – 6 people. The winning team takes home £60 Burger and Bird vouchers!