

# Learning for life!

## Meridian Newsletter

### Term 1

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September –  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

### Term 2

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October –  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

[www.meridianschool.co.uk](http://www.meridianschool.co.uk)



Meridian Community Primary  
School and Nursery



@MeridianCPS

**Friday  
22<sup>nd</sup>**

**September  
2023**

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and you have settled back into the routine of school! We have had another busy couple of weeks and it has been lovely to welcome our new Reception children who are now enjoying being in school full time.

### **School Uniform**

Thank you for ensuring your children are in the right school uniform. There still a few children who are not wearing plain black trainers or grey school trousers/shorts/skirts/pinafores. Please help us to create a whole school sense of belonging by supporting our school uniform policy and expectations.

### **Thank you and good luck!**

A huge thank you to Mrs. Lauren James, one of our Teaching Assistants, for all her hard work and support over the years. Mrs. James left Meridian last week to pursue a new career and I know you will join me in wishing her good luck and all the best for the future!

### **WhatsApp Groups**

I know that lots of you have class or year group WhatsApp Groups – which are a great way to share information about what is going on in school. I would like to remind parents and carers, that in the past some upset has been caused due negative comments written about the school, other people (including staff) and even children at Meridian. There have also been a few occasions when group chats have incited and resulted in multiple and identical complaints – which can be frustrating and time consuming for the school to deal with effectively. Please can you remember, that whilst you may have put in restrictions and security measures on your WhatsApp group, once something is in writing, it can easily be screenshot to be shared with others and the school. If you have a concern then please contact the school in the usual way.

**strength**

**kindness**

Take care and best wishes

*C. Westcott*

Claire Westcott  
Headteacher

**respect**

**honesty**

**responsibility**



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## TERM DATES 2023/2024

### Term 1

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
**01.09 and 04.09 – school closed for staff training**  
**CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**20.10 – school closed for staff training**

### Term 2

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

### Term 3

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

### Term 4

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Term 5

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

### Term 6

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

**Please note that not all INSET days have been set for 2023/2024**

## KEY DATES

### TERM 1

- 06.10** Parent Forum – 2pm in the Annexe Music Room
- 10.10** Parents Evening (3.30 – 6.00)
- 12.10** Parents Evening (4.00 – 7.00)
- 13.10** Parent Coffee Morning – 9am in the Annexe Music Room
- 20.10** School closed for staff training

### TERM 2

- 07.11** New Reception 2024 parents Open Day – 9.30am and 1.30pm
- 11.12** Reception Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15 and 1.20
- 12.12** Years 1 and 2 Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15, 10.45, 1.20
- 13.12** Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15, 10.45, 1.20
- 14.12** Years 5 and 6 Christmas Performance to parents – 9.15, 10.45, 1.20

## 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](#).

**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 9 pm

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

**East Sussex  
School Health**

Service provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

**Confidential, private  
and here for you.**

# MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

## PARENT COFFEE MORNING

Our wonderful Pastoral Team, Mrs. Kirton and Mrs. Harmer organise termly informal coffee mornings to discuss all things parenting!

The first meeting of the year is on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 9am** in the Annexe Music Room.

The theme of this meeting is **"Separation Anxiety"** as well as an opportunity to meet other parents and carers in a supportive and welcoming environment.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## PARENT FORUM

Our next Parent Forum is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm in the Annexe Music Room.

This is an informal meeting once a term where parents/carers can come along and find out more about the wonderful things that happen at Meridian.

Each meeting will have a theme, suggested by you and then an opportunity to meet with me and ask any questions you might have.

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, I thought parents and carers might like the chance to meet with Mrs. Lucy Newth our new Inclusion Leader and SENCo



If you have any suggestions for future Parent Forums, please do let me know so that we make sure these meetings are useful.

## Parking around school

We have received a few complaints from neighbours about cars being parked inconsiderately around school during drop off and pick up times.

Please can I ask you to remember to park your car in a suitable place, not on kerbs, corners or in front of people's drive ways.

Thank you for your support with this.



## Water Bottles

Please remember to send your child into school with a named water bottle. Children should not be bringing in squash or flavoured water in school please.

## Year Group Emails

If you would like to make contact with your child's class teacher, you are very welcome to use our Year Group Emails. However, please remember that teachers are teaching all day and then have marking, planning, meetings and other school related work to complete after school. So please do not expect an immediate response. They will aim to respond to you within 3 working days. If your query is an emergency or you are informing the school of a change of pick up arrangements, please contact the school office. Thank you for your support with this.

Nursery – [YearN@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:YearN@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Reception – [YearR@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:YearR@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Year 1 – [Year1@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:Year1@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Year 2 – [Year2@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:Year2@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Year 3 – [Year3@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:Year3@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Year 4 – [Year4@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:Year4@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Year 5 – [Year5@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:Year5@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Year 6 – [Year6@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:Year6@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Office – [office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)



# MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

## 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 Mrs. Newth (Assistant Headteacher), Mr. Barcock (Assistant Headteacher) or Miss. Young (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 (Miss. Kathryn Donkin) and hand/send it to the school office who will forward this on.

**Please can I remind everyone that we do not tolerate aggressive behaviour towards staff. This is completely unacceptable and inappropriate and does not support the school.**

## 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): **Mrs. Lucy Newth**

Maternity Cover Assistant Headteacher (English and Curriculum): **Miss. Karen Young**

Assistant Headteacher (Maths and Curriculum): **Mr Jon Barcock**

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

Early Years Phase Leader and Nursery Class Teacher: **Miss. Nadia Pentland**

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

Years 3 and 4 Phase Leader and Year 4 Teacher: **Mrs. Lauren Martin**

Years 5 and 6 Phase Leader and Year 6 Teacher: **Mrs Kathryn Middleton**

### Contact details

At the start of each new academic 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

### School Photographs

The school photographer will be taking individual and sibling photographs on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.



# LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

For the first 2 weeks of term, all the children have been learning about an author – reading and responding to their books. Next week there will be a celebration of their learning as we will be displaying their wonderful work around the school. You will have the opportunity to see this work when you visit the school for Parents Evening. The authors the children have been finding out about are: Julia Donaldson (N), Rachel Bright (R), Nadia Shireen (Y1), Anthony Brown (Y2), Valerie Bloom (Y3), Raymond Briggs (Y4), Shaun Tan (Y5), Philip Pullman (Y6)

Look at this amazing work from Year 6 already! Aahan has produced some wonderful writing in response to reading Clockwork by Philip Pullman; Mathilda has done some amazing maths work all about rounding; Scarlett has shown her geographical skills by labelling key information on a world map – getting ready for learning about the Windrush Generation. What a fantastic start to the year!

Friday 15th of September 2023  
LO: To use effective vocabulary

Nick shouted out in alarm. The once-  
frozen statue was coming to life, straighten-  
ing up, and lowering its hands. Then,  
it turned to face him. Nick's heart  
skipped a beat. The frightening  
stone man was advancing towards  
him, raising his sword, and pointing  
it straight at him with his heart. He turned  
and ran. He sprinted away as fast as he  
could, thudding footsteps thudding  
behind him. Where could he hide! Then Nick  
had an idea. He yanked open the train  
door and darted inside. There were rows  
and rows of cushioned seats and marble  
tables. Nick tore through numerous

18.09.23  
10: To round any integer

- 1.23456 → 1.00000 ✓
- 1.33456 → 1.00000 ✓
- 1.43456 → 1.00000 ✓
- 1.53456 → 2.00000 ✓
- 1.63456 → 2.00000 ✓
- 1.73456 → 2.00000 ✓
- 1.83456 → 2.00000 ✓
- 1.93456 → 2.00000 ✓

- 383.50 ✓  
384.99 ✓  
375.00 ✓  
376.40 ✓  
379.99 ✓  
380.99 ✓

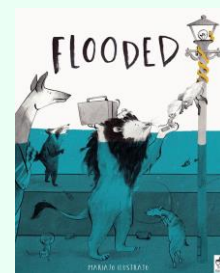
Round to the nearest	10	100	1000	10000	100000	1000000
3147283	3150000	3147000	3147000	3147000	3147000	3147000
6547	7000	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500
1456988	1457000	1456900	1456900	1456900	1456900	1456900
900371	900000	900300	900300	900300	900300	900300

I am completed



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MERIDIAN

In my whole school assembly this week, I shared a lovely story all about working together as a team. The children were great in understanding how as a team we can make sure Meridian is a brilliant, happy and safe place for everyone. The book is called “Flooded” by Mariajo Ilustrajo. I love a good picture book and have got shelves full in my office!



In Miss. Young’s whole school assembly, she talked the children about feeling worried and how it’s ok to feel nervous about new things - it’s a normal human emotion!

In class assemblies last week, children were thinking positively about school and what they enjoyed - their responses were lovely and such a great thing to think about.

Our PSHE lessons (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) are centred around the same theme for this term. The children have started learning about “Being Me in My World”, including rights and responsibilities, rewards and consequences, being a good citizen - all at an age appropriate level.

## PLAY AT MERIDIAN

Our OPAL playtimes continue to be really popular and our wonderful team of Teaching Assistants ensure the children are playing together. Did you know that playing is an important part of children's development? So at Meridian we are committed to ensuring the children have the opportunity for high quality play through the wonderful resources we have available. It has been particularly lovely to see our older children playing with and looking after our new Reception children to make them feel welcome and understand our rules outside.



We have got our OPAL assessment coming up on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October where a member of the OPAL company visit the school to re-assess us for our good practice. Mr. Legate has been working incredibly hard to ensure that everything continues to be in place and we are keeping everything crossed that we maintain our Platinum Award!

## 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**  
95.5% (our target is 96%)

**Best Attendance this term**

Week 1: 5BPS and 3YM – both 99.1% 😊

Week 2: 5H – 99.3% 😊

Week 3: 3YM – 100% 😊😊😊

### Good Attendance means...

Being in school at least 97% of the time or 184 to 190 days

#### Remember

Your education is important - don't miss out!

**Did you know?**  
A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is 94.7%



**Well done**

A good attendance gives you the best chance for success

**I'm concerned**

A poor attendance gives you less chance of success

**Seriously worried**

Very poor attendance has a serious impact and reduces life chances

There are **365** days in a calendar year

**175** are not spent at school!

\*So there's plenty of time for shopping, holidays and appointments!

**Did you know?**  
When pupils attend school they:

- ✓ Can achieve their full potential
- ✓ Have better career prospects
- ✓ Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- ✓ Grow in confidence
- ✓ Keep up with work and homework
- ✓ Make new friends