

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

**Monday
29th
April**

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and had a good Easter break – although that might feel like a long time ago now! The children have settled back into school really well and have enjoyed the start to term with a two week mini-study all about places and countries around the world! We will be putting up displays next week to celebrate the children's work and I will make sure I include some photographs of these displays in my next newsletter. More information about the theme and topics children will be learning about for the rest of the summer terms is included further down in this newsletter!

Local Elections

Just to inform you, our Music Room (Annexe Room) is being used for polling at the local elections this week. There is no disruption to the children, other than their music lessons taking place in their classrooms on this day.

Children's Parade

We are getting closer and closer to the big day when we are taking part in the opening event of the Brighton Festival – The Children's Parade. The children taking part, led by Mrs. Beeching, Miss. Wilson and Mr. Mole, have been working hard over the past few months to put costumes together – our theme is "Travelling the World" – steam punk style!! The whole school team are currently in the process of putting the final touches to our amazing structure and we are looking forward to showing this off to everyone on Saturday. If you would like to come along and support us in the crowds, we would love to see you! The event starts at 10.30am on Saturday 4th May and goes from Jubilee Street to Madeira Drive. For more information visit the [Brighton Festival website](#)

Parent Questionnaires

We will be sending out our Parent Questionnaires a bit earlier this year as we are currently in the process of preparing for Ofsted as it is likely that we will be inspected this year. Your feedback is a really important part of this process. One of the things we changed in light of last year's questionnaire was the layout of my newsletters to include information about

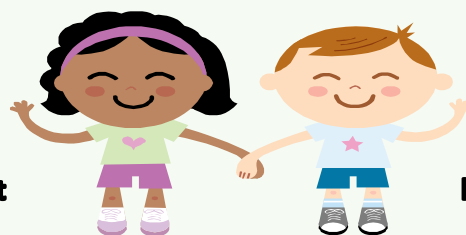
children's learning and personal development as some comments highlighted that parents were unsure of how we support these areas in school.

I hope this information has been useful.

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
22.05 **2pm Nursery 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

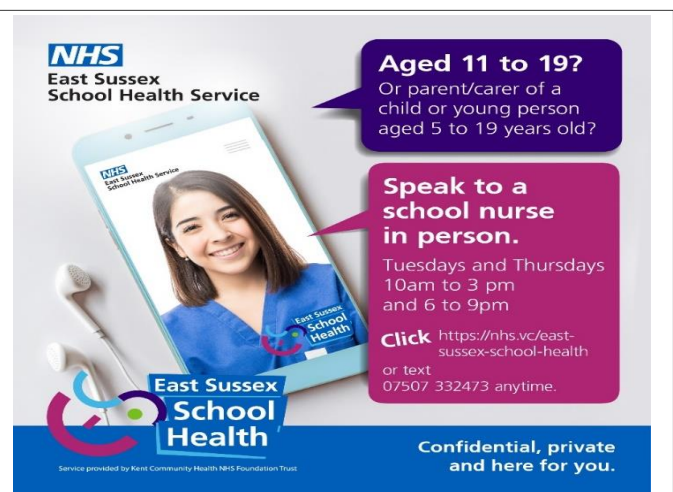
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

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

Unfortunately, our last Parent Coffee Morning had to be cancelled due to staff availability from the Schools Health Team.

Our next Coffee Morning is on Friday **17th May at 9am** in the Music Room.

Mrs. Harmer and Mrs. Kirton will be leading this as an open session for you to come along and find out what we can do to support you with your child at home and signpost you to services and ideas.

Look forward to seeing you then!

PARENT FORUM

We have rearranged our previous Parent Forum meeting as no-one was able to attend last time. Our new time is:

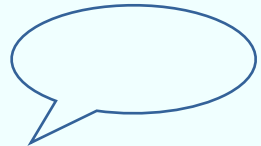
Friday 10th May at 9am.

Our theme is how we teach PSHE, including relationship and sex education – which is taught in term 6.

Mrs. Mackay will be presenting this great opportunity for you to find out more about the learning at Meridian.

parents
forum

I will also be available to answer any questions!



MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

Following a discussion at our Governors meeting last week, we have decided to continue to allow children to bring smart phones into school for the time being.

However, from September 2024, **our policy will be changing** to only allow children in Year 5 and Year 6 to bring in mobile phones if they are walking to and from school independently.

If you are dropping off and picking up your child, this will mean that your child must not bring their mobile phone into school.

We will be updating our permissions form to reflect these changes.

We would also encourage parents/carers of current Year 4 children moving into Year 5 in September to only provide their children with a simple mobile phone that allows calls/texts to avoid any inappropriate behaviour before and/or after school.

Our expectations remain the same:

- all mobile phones must be switched off and put away in a bag or pocket as soon as entering school grounds (this includes waiting at the front of the school for the gates to open) at the start of the day
- all mobile phones must be switched off and handed into the school office throughout the school day
- all mobile phones must be switched off and put away in a bag or pocket whilst leaving the school grounds at the end of the day

If these expectations are not adhered to, then the school may make the decision to **remove** a child's **privilege** to bring their mobile phone into school on temporary basis or in extreme circumstances on a permanent basis.

The Governors will review this policy every 6 months or sooner if a serious safeguarding breach occurs.

LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

Our theme and topics for the summer terms

Our overarching theme for the summer terms is **“Art, Culture, Music and Literature”** and this runs through the topics children will be learning about over the coming weeks.

In **Nursery and Reception**, children will be learning about **Teddy Bears** – why they are important, teddies from the past and present, famous bears and some great Teddy bear stories, including, of course, Goldilocks and the Three Bears. A famous author will be visiting to share her stories about bears.

In **Year One and Year Two**, children will be learning about **Toys** – toys from the past and the present day. They will learn about what children long ago played with and toys from around the world too. They will be visiting Brighton Toy Museum to enhance their knowledge and understanding – which I know they will love!

In **Year Three and Year Four**, children will be learning about life in Ancient Greece, including culture, art, music and literature from this ancient civilization. The team have organised a history workshop to support and bring their learning to life!

In **Year Five and Year Six**, children will be learning about life in Africa, past and present, including the Benin Civilization, and about the legacy of art, culture, music and literature over time. We obviously can't visit Africa(!), so the team have organised a history workshop too to embed children's knowledge and understanding of African history.

If you want to find out more about what your children are learning for the next two terms, you can visit our website for more information.

Reading for Pleasure!

At Meridian, we know that reading for pleasure is so important and we encourage children in lots of different ways to enjoy reading. Every classroom has a reading area with lots of books for children to access and children have the chance to enjoy reading in their library sessions. We visit Peacehaven Library three times a year and celebrate World Book Day in school, with competitions and book swaps. All children should be reading regularly at home, ideally every day and we give stickers and praise. Here are some of our “Get Caught Reading” photos that parents kindly sent to us. You are always welcome to send these to our English Leader, Miss. Young, via the office email.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MERIDIAN

Our Assemblies

Every day we have assemblies at Meridian, which include children from Year 1 to Year 6 (and on Friday assemblies, Reception children come along too!)

On Mondays, it's my assembly to the whole school where together we learn about our whole school values, links to our PSHE themes and share stories that support everyone to get along and try their best at school.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, children either have a singing assembly with Mr. Mole - it is lovely to hear them enjoying learning and singing a variety of songs together, including our very own Meridian song (written by Mr. Mole!) or a Brilliant School assembly where children learn about positive thinking, resilience and perseverance.

On Wednesdays, our assemblies are themed around stories around the world, including festivals and days of importance - these are led by one of our Assistant Headteachers - Mrs. Newth, Mr. Barcock or Miss. Young.

On Fridays, our assemblies are led by our Deputy Headteacher, Mr. Doody, who speaks to the children about brilliant behavior and great playtimes. It's a chance to celebrate all the wonderful things that have happened that week - a great way to end the week!

PLAY AT MERIDIAN

Wonderful Playtimes!

As we are a Platinum Award school for OPAL, we are holding another Open Morning for other schools to come along and see best practice. We are always very excited to share our wonderful playtimes and the children love showing off their creative and inspiring ideas and skills.

We are still in need of loose parts, so if you having a spring clean, please do consider us for taking on any unwanted items - particularly wheeled suitcases, buggies, costumes etc.



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

93.8% (our target is 96%)

Best Attendance this term

Week 1: 6M - 98% 😊

Week 2: 2T - 98.3% 😊😊

The class with the best attendance so far this term is: 2T with 97.1% - CONGRATULATIONS!!



PTFA AT MERIDIAN

PTFA Social Event

We had a wonderful evening on Friday at the PTFA Quiz Night! A huge thank you to all the parents who came along to support this event – it was a really lovely atmosphere and actually quite competitive at points!! **Thank you particularly to the PTFA team** for all their hard work putting this event together – it was a great night! And obviously a big thank you to Tom Strange for putting together the quiz and hosting the event with such style – he was fabulous!!

