

Learning for life!

Meridian Newsletter

Term 1

**Wednesday 3rd September –
Friday 24th October**

Term 2

**Monday 3rd November –
Friday 19th December**

www.meridianschool.co.uk



Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery



@MeridianCPS

**Friday
24th**

**October
2025**

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and are looking forward to the half-term break. We have had such a busy term and the children are all really ready for the holiday!

New P.E. kit arrangements

Thank you so much for ensuring your children are in the right P.E. kit when they come into school on their P.E. days. Just a reminder, they should be coming into school in their tracksuit bottoms, royal blue school jumper and P.E. trainers. They are very welcome to wear their royal blue shorts underneath or bring them in separately in case they get hot or Mr. Strange asks them to change.

Winter OPAL - wellies and coats

It's that time of year again! Please can you make sure your children wear a coat every day to school after half-term and have a pair of wellies in school. We go outside in all weathers, including the rain and cold, so it is important that children are dressed appropriately. Thank you for your support with this.

Sandra Wiles

Our wonderful Finance Assistant, Sandra Wiles, retired this week. She initially came to Meridian to support us for one term and ended up staying 5 years! We will miss Sandra – she has been a great member of our team. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for her retirement – spending more time with her family and friends. Enjoy!

Reception children

Well done to our Reception children for completing their first term at school. We have loved seeing them settle so well in to school life and enjoying learning and playing together. I think they might be very tired now!

I hope you have a lovely half term!

Take care and best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott
Headteacher

strength

kindness

respect

honesty

responsibility



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TERM DATES 2025/2026

Term 2

INSET DAY – Monday 3rd November
Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

Term 3

Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February
INSET DAY – Monday 5th January
Children back to school on Tuesday 6th January

Term 4

Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Term 5

Tuesday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

Term 6

Monday 1st June – Wednesday 22nd July
INSET DAY – Wednesday 22nd July

**Please note all INSET days have been set
for 2025/2026**

KEY DATES

- 03.11** School closed for INSET for staff
- 06.11** New Reception 2025 Open Day – 9.30am and 1.30pm
- 21.11** Individual Photographs
- 28.11** PTFA Christmas Fair 4 – 8
- 10.12** Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day
- 15.12** Reception Christmas Performance – 9.15am and 1.30pm
- 16.12** Years 1 and 2 Christmas Performance – 9.15am, 10.45am and 1.30pm
- 17.12** Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performance – 9.15am, 10.45am and 1.30pm
- 18.12** Years 5 and 6 Christmas Performance – 10.00am and 1.45pm at Ascension Church in Peacehaven.
- 19.12** End of term 2
- 05.01** School closed for INSET for staff
- 06.01** Children 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:

Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs. Helen Mapp

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
Ms. Claire Westcott, Mrs. Lucy Newth,
Mr. Jon Barcock, Miss. Ciara Smiles, Miss. Nadia Pentland, Miss. Laura Miles

**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 9pm

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

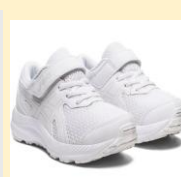
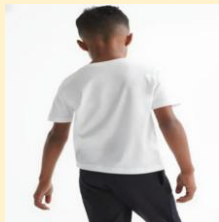
**Confidential, private
and here for you.**

MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

P.E. Kit

Thank you to everyone for sending your children in for P.E. this term wearing the correct kit – we really appreciate it.

Just to remind everyone, our current expectations are that children come to school wearing plain dark tracksuit bottoms (navy, grey, or black), a white round-neck t-shirt, **their school jumper** (no hoodies please), and trainers (not plimsolls, please).



They will need their royal blue P.E. shorts in their bags to change into if Mr. Strange decides this is the most appropriate for the lesson. They are also welcome to wear their royal blue P.E. shorts under their tracksuit bottoms.

Please remember that leggings and cycling shorts are not part of our P.E. kit.

If you want to know when your child is having P.E. this term, please visit our school website [here](#).

Office Team

Our Office Team are:

Louise Norman – Business Manager

Toni Gambetta – Office Secretary

Jacqui Dray – Admissions and Attendance

We are so lucky to have such an incredible and hard-working team.

As Sandra has now retired and we have not yet recruited for her post, it means that we will be short staffed for a while. So please bear this in mind when you are communicating with the office team.

The Office opening hours are 8am – 4pm. This includes emails. Please be aware that should you email the office after 4pm, these emails will not be read until the Office reopens at 8am the following morning. The office team will then either respond to the emails or forward them on to the relevant person for a response.

Thank you for your support

Governors

We have vacancies on our Governing Body, including a parent Governor. A news item went out via School Jotter about becoming a parent Governor recently – if you are interested in finding out more, please do contact the school office.

We also have a vacancy for Clerk to Governors – if you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please do visit our [vacancies](#) page on our website.

There are also vacancies for other Governors – so if you know someone who would like to join the Governing Body and support the strategic leadership of the school, please do encourage them to contact the school via our office email office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk

Communication at Meridian

I want to remind everyone about our expectations for **home/school communication** at Meridian.

We recognise the importance of effective communication between school and parents/carers and this includes raising concerns and complaints.

In the first instance, we ask parents and carers to speak or contact the class teacher as they are usually best placed to address any concerns you may have. Teachers will arrange a suitable time to meet with you, either in person or a phone call, to discuss these with you.

Please remember, that teachers are teaching from 8.35am to 3.15pm and they often have meetings and other commitments arranged from 3.15pm. Our teachers all meet every Tuesday (terms 1, 3 & 5) or every Thursday (terms 2, 4 & 6) – so please be aware that they may not access the year group email every day.

You are also able to raise a concern with the Headteacher or Deputy via the school office. Please remember, that Ms. Westcott and Mrs. Mapp are not available on demand. So, to avoid disappointment or frustration, we would kindly request that you do not approach the school office asking for an immediate meeting.

If your concern is regarding the safeguarding of a child, then a member of the safeguarding team with contact you as soon as possible.

We take informal concerns extremely seriously and will make every effort to resolve the matter quickly and effectively. However, we are unable to give specific time frames for resolving matters due to the availability of staff, the nature of the concern or the complexity of the concern. It is important that you allow the school time to address your concerns so that we can resolve these. We **aim** to respond to communication within 5 school days.

If you choose to raise a formal complaint, this is then investigated by the Headteacher. The Headteacher can delegate the investigation to another member of the Senior Leadership Team, but the Headteacher will make the final decision. There are timeframes attached to complaints: you will receive an acknowledgement within 5 school days. The investigation and final written response will be provided within 15 school days.

If your concern or complaint is about the conduct or competency of school staff, this is not within the scope of the complaints policy. We will still take your concern or complaint seriously, but you will not be informed of any outcomes or actions taken.

Finally, we appreciate that sometimes emotions run high when there are concerns or complaints. However, it is important to understand that getting angry or aggressive with staff is not ok, including via email. The school has the right to limit communications or ban parents from the school site for aggressive behaviours.

If you would like to read more about our approaches to communication, concerns or complaints, here are the links to the relevant policies.

[Complaints Policy and Procedure](#) [Home School Communication Policy](#) [Parent Code of Conduct](#)



MERIDIAN COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND NURSERY
Learning for Life



NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE

Welcome to Meridian Community Primary School & Nursery. All members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence and abuse. We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff. We will act to ensure it remains a safe place for pupils, staff and all other members of our community. If you have concerns, we will always listen to them and seek to address them.

We understand that people can become angry when they feel that matters about which they feel strongly about are not being dealt with as they wish.

If that anger escalates into aggression towards our staff, we consider that unacceptable.

We adopt a 'zero tolerance' approach to anti-social, abusive, aggressive or violent behaviour. Any person who is aggressive or abusive towards a member of staff or who damages the property may be reported to the police and be banned from the school premises.

Aggressive or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated including:

- Language (whether verbal or written) that may cause staff to feel afraid, threatened, offended or abused
- Personal verbal abuse and intimidation
- Derogatory remarks and rudeness
- Remarks of a racial or discriminatory nature
- Unsubstantiated allegations

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MERIDIAN

Harvest Festival

Thank you so much for all your donations for our Harvest Festival assembly on Monday 13th October. Your generosity and support was wonderful – the Peacehaven Food Bank was over the moon when they saw everything you had donated. Our local vicar, Jez, led our assembly to celebrate Harvest and the children enjoyed listening to him and singing one of our popular Harvest songs!



Peacehaven Mosque

On behalf of the staff and Governors at Meridian, we are deeply saddened to hear about the recent attack on Peacehaven Mosque. To our Muslim families and all those affected we want you to know that you are a valued part of our school community and we are here for you.

LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

Year 1 and Year 2 Royal Banquet!

The children in Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed preparing and eating food that they made for their royal banquet, linked to their learning about Kings and Queens.



Years 5 and 6 visit the National Gallery

Our Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a trip to London recently to visit the National Gallery. This is part of our curriculum pledge that we will ensure children get the opportunity to visit our capital city and go to an art gallery.

And The National Gallery is a great place to start!

They also got to see some important London landmarks, including Nelson's column and Buckingham Palace.

Thank to the Year 5 and 6 teams and the parent volunteers who supported the school to make this wonderful experience possible.

We received some really positive comments from the volunteers at The National Gallery about how brilliantly behaved the children were – well done Years 5 and 6!



OUR WONDERFUL NURSERY!

At Meridian we are so lucky to have such a wonderful asset to our school – our Nursery! Since we have opened our Nursery, it has gone from strength to strength over the years. Over the last two years, Nadia, our Nursery teacher and Early Years Leader, has worked tirelessly to ensure that our youngest children get the best possible start to their education. Nadia's passion and commitment to our Nursery children is amazing and we are very lucky to have her on our team. Nadia is supported by our team of Teaching Assistants, Channon, Rosie, Lisa and Izzy – who also work hard to ensure the children love being in Nursery.

A message has gone out via Tapestry about Open Morning Sessions after half-term – please do check Tapestry for more information. Nadia and her team are looking forward to welcoming you to see our super Nursery provision in action with your children!



PLAY AT MERIDIAN

OPAL playtimes

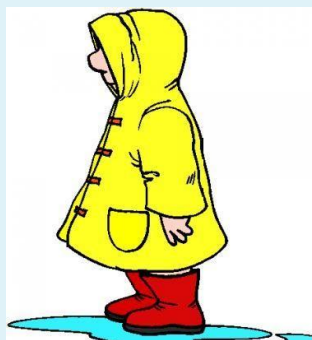
We had the most wonderful time this afternoon at our Year 1 and Year 2 OPAL afternoon.

Thank you to all those parents who were able to come along and see how much the children enjoy playing outside with everything we have on offer.

We hope you enjoyed yourselves too – seeing everyone playing nicely and exploring our grounds – from the sandpit to the bikes; the small world to the mud pit; the wheelie bins and the tyres.

Thank you so much for your donations of either loose parts/toys or money to go towards keeping OPAL fund and engaging for the children!

Thank you to Mr. Legate for organising this event – we are planning further events for other year groups soon – watch this space!



ATTENDANCE AT MERIDIAN

Good attendance at school is so important so that children do not miss out on the learning and playing opportunities in school!

If you are worried about your child's attendance or would like some support with this, please do make an appointment with Mrs. Newth or our EWO (Education Welfare Officer), Victoria Sutherland.

Whole School Attendance

93.9% (our target is 96%)

Best Attendance this term

Week 1: 2T, 4SPS and 5S 99% 😊

Week 2: 3R 99% 😊

Week 3: 5S 99% 😊

Week 4: 3OS 99% 😊

Week 5: 4SPS 99% 😊

Week 6: 2D & 4B 99% 😊

Week 7: 3OS 97% 😊

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 days 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