

# **HEADTEACHER UPDATE**

**Dear Parents and Carers** 

I am so sorry that I have not been able to complete as many newsletters this year – it has been an incredibly challenging time at Meridian as we have been particularly short staffed throughout the year, particularly on our leadership team whilst we recruited a new Business Manager and a new Deputy Headteacher. I promise I will be much better next academic year (3)

We have had such a busy few weeks since returning at the beginning of term 6 and I am looking forward to seeing you all at our musical performances and Sports Days as we come towards the end of this academic year. It really has flown by!

#### Last day of term

There are a lot of planned works this summer holiday with EMCOR upgrading and updating areas of the school throughout the summer. This means that the school team are not able to access their classrooms to get ready for the new year until the beginning of September. With this in mind, I would like to support the wonderful team here to have the chance to get started on this on the last day of term. So, if you are able to collect your children at 1.15pm, we would very much appreciate this. If this is not possible due to work commitments, we will keep the children safe in school until 3.15pm as usual. Please could you let the school office know if you are not able to collect your child at 1.15pm so we can make suitable arrangements. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you are able to collect at this time.

### Sad News

Some of you will remember our previous Business Manager, Miss. Gaydree Wrigley, who retired at the end of July last year. Unfortunately, just 3 weeks before her official retirement date, she was diagnosed with cancer and very sadly she passed away at the end of May. Some of us attended her celebration of life event the other week to represent everyone at Meridian and show our support to her family and friends.

## Reports

The teachers have been busy writing your children's end of year reports. These will be sent out to you on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

strength

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes respect honesty

Claire Westcott Headteacher

responsibility

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## **TERM DATES** 2024/2025

## Term 6

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

## **TERM DATES** 2025/2026

### Term 1

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October

INSET DAY – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September INSET DAY – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September Children back to school – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September

### Term 2

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Please note not all INSET days have been set for 2025/2026

### **KEY DATES**

- 07.07 Year 5 Musical Performance to Parents/Carers - 9am in school hall
- **08.07** Year 4 Musical Performance to Parents/Carers - 9am in school hall
- **09.07** Year 3 Musical Performance to Parents/Carers - 9am in school hall
- 10.07 Year 2 Musical Performance to Parents/Carers - 9am in school hall
- **11.07** Nursery Sports Day 2.15pm
- **14.07** Year 1 Musical Performance to Parents/Carers - 9am in school hall
- **15.07** Reception Musical Performance to Parents/Carers - 9am in school hall
- **16.07** Year 6 trip to Saltdean Lido
- **17.07** Sports Day
- 21.07 Year 6 Musical Performance to Parents/Carers - 9am in school hall
- **22.07** End of term 6 parents are welcome to collect children at 1.15pm
- **03.09** School closed for INSET for staff
- **04.09** School closed for INSET for staff
- 05.09 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:

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** 

Mrs. Lucy Newth

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:** 

Ms. Claire Westcott Mrs. Helen Mapp Miss. Ciara Smiles Mr. Jon Barcock

Miss. Nadia Pentland 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.



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# **MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD**

## **Staff Changes**

We are saying goodbye and thank you to the following staff at the end of term: Miss. Jones (Reception) is leaving to pursue other career options; Miss. Barron (Year 3) is leaving at the end of a fixed term contract; Miss. Wilson (Year 6) has secured a job closer to home; Miss. Da Silva (Reception Teaching Assistant) is relocating to Bristol with her partner. Thank you to all of these members of the Meridian team for their hard work and commitment during their time at school – we wish them all the best for the future!

Some of you may have noticed that recently we advertised for a Music Teacher – so I am sure you are keen to know more. Mr. Mole will be retiring at the end of December to spend more time with his family and friends. So we are not saying goodbye to him just yet . . . !

We will be welcoming the following people who will be joining our school in September: Mr. Clayton (teacher), Mr Bridgford (teacher), Miss. Roache (teacher), Mrs. Smith (Teaching Assistant) and Miss. Harris (Teaching Assistant)

The children will be finding out who their new teachers are this week and so I look forward to sharing this information with you all very soon!

You will get the chance to meet your child's new teachers at some point in the new academic year.

## Sun Safety

As the weather is warming up, it is a good idea to ensure that your child has a **sun hat** in school as there is very little shade on our playgrounds and field.

Please make sure that you put your child's name in their hat so that they can be returned if they are lost.

Also, it is a good idea to put **long lasting sun cream** on children before they come to school to ensure they are protected in the heat all day.

If you wish to send your child in with sun cream, they will need to be able to apply this themselves the bottle must be named to avoid any confusion.

Thank you for your support with this.

#### **Mobile Phones in School**

As you will remember, we strongly advise that children do not bring expensive smart phones into school as there has been some upset in the past when these are used inappropriately before and after school.

A reminder that children in Years 5 and 6 can only bring a mobile phone into school if they are walking to or from school independently.

We would strongly encourage parents of current Year 4 children who will be moving up to Year 5 to only provide a simple phone that can make calls or texts in emergencies if they are walking to school or going home by themselves.

All phones are collected in every morning and kept safely in the school office
Thank you for helping us keep your child safe in school.

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# 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**

94.1% (our target is 96%)

### **Best Attendance this term**

Week 1 - RC - 99.3%

Week 2 - 1M - 98%

Week 3 - 1S - 99%

Week 4 - 1M - 100%

Week 5 - 2T 97.3%

Attendance Matters  Meridian comments of the comment of the commen	UNITY
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99% 1 DAY 5 LESSONS MISSED 98% 3 DAYS 15 LESSONS MISSED 97% 1 WEEK 25 LESSONS MISSED	
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94% 2 WEEKS 50 LESSONS MISSED	۱
93% 2.5 WEEKS 62.5 LESSONS MISSED	
92% 3 WEEKS 75 LESSONS MISSED	
90% 3.5 WEEKS 82.5 LESSONS MISSED	
Maximise your potential Attend School every day	0

The class with the best attendance so far this term is: 1M with 96.9% - CONGRATULATIONS!!

The class with the best attendance so far this year is: 2T with 97% - CONGRATULATIONS!!

# PTFA AT MERIDIAN

## **PTFA**

We are hoping to be able to relaunch our PTFA in September if we can persuade some people to join us! It would be lovely to try and re-establish our fundraising group so that we can put on our wonderful discos, Christmas Fair and Summer Sizzler again next year.

If you are interested in joining our PTFA team, please do contact us <a href="mailto:meridianptfa@gmail.com">meridianptfa@gmail.com</a>

Over the summer holidays, Jenny will have second hand uniform available to buy – for more information, visit the PTFA Facebook page "Friends of Meridian School"