

Learning for life!

Meridian Newsletter

Term 3

**Monday 6th January – Friday
14th February**

Term 4

**Monday 24th February to
Friday 4th April**

www.meridianschool.co.uk



**Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery**



@MeridianCPS

**Friday
31st**

**January
2025**

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

A very very belated Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you are all well and I am sorry this is my first newsletter of the year – I cannot believe how busy school has been these last few weeks!

Squid Game

We have become aware that some children in school have been watching Squid Game at home or viewing short clips of Squid Game on YouTube. This programme is rated as 15+ due to the violence and horror themes. I have attached at the end of this newsletter, information to support parents and carers to manage if their child has accessed unsuitable content online about Squid Game.

Walking to and from school independently

We are noticing an increase in the number of unsafe incidents being reported whilst Year 5 and Year 6 children are walking independently to and from school. This includes pushing each other in the road, fighting/hurting each other and inappropriate language in front of other parents and younger children. If you child is walking to and from school without you, please can you speak to them about safe and appropriate behaviour – I am worried that there may be a serious accident soon in light of what has been reported to me.

Children in Nursery to Year 4

It is an expectation that parents/carers or trusted adults drop off/pick up younger children at school. Year 5 and Year 6 children should not be bringing younger children into school or collecting them. This is not safe as the older children cannot be responsible for younger children's behaviour.

School Jotter App

It appears that lots of the initial glitches with the school jotter app have been resolved. However, I understand that for some android phones, there are still some issues.

These have been reported to the developer and I will keep you updated about this.

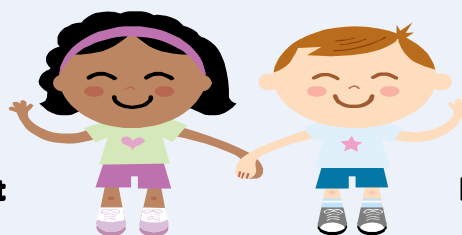
Take care and best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott
Headteacher

strength

respect



kindness

honesty

responsibility

TERM DATES 2024/2025

Term 3

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February

**INSET day: Wednesday 12th February –
school closed for staff training**

Term 4

Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April

**INSET day: Monday 24th February –
school closed for staff training**

Term 5

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

Term 6

Monday 2nd June – Tuesday 22nd July

**We have got one more INSET day left to
plan for – this information will be shared
soon**

KEY DATES

- 06.01 Term 3 starts – children back to school
- 09.01 Year 6 Parent Meeting about SATs
- 03.02 Book Fair all week
- 04.02 Parents Evening
- 06.02 Parents Evening
- 12.02 School closed for staff training
- 14.02 End of term 3

- 24.02 Term 4 starts – school closed for staff training
- 25.02 Children back to school
- 06.03 World Book Day
- 10.03 Science Week
- 04.04 End of term 4

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

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

**The School Health Service takes over
from the Health Visiting Service
when a child is of school age.**

Our nurse-led friendly team can help with:

- sleeping problems
- emotional health and wellbeing
- wetting the bed and day wetting
- healthy eating and healthy weight
- worries and troubles – including changing schools
- self care and hygiene
- referrals to other services for more complex health needs.



Please contact 0300 123 4062 or visit
www.eastsussexchildren.nhs.uk



Service provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

Contact details

Please can you make sure that you update the school with any new contact details that have change. 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.

Emergency Contacts

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

Class Photographs

The school photographer will be taking class photographs on Friday 28th February. We have managed to get a discount for parents to buy class photographs by booking the photographer earlier this year 😊



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Miss. Hales and her partner on the birth of their new baby daughter, Cecilia Katherine Davis! She was born on 22nd December – just In time for Christmas!



I know you will all join me lots of love and best wishes to Miss. Hales and her family.

Parents Evening

Don't forget it's Parents' Evenings next week.

The bookings are now closed so if you have forgotten to make an appointment, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange one.

This is one of the ways that we support parents to find out about your children are doing in school, so it is really important that you attend.

You will also receive a mid-year report about the progress your child is making in school.

LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

Curriculum learning Spring Term

The children have enjoyed learning about an Important person this at the beginning of this term and you can see their work celebrated around the school in some wonderful displays when you come for Parents' Evening next week.

The teachers have got some exciting Learning Journeys planned for the rest of the Spring Terms:

Nursery and Reception are learning about Water and why this is so important

Years 1 and 2 are learning about The Seaside

Years 3 and 4 are learning about Rivers

Years 5 and 6 are learning about Coasts and the Sea

More information will be available on the school website really soon!

Maths at Meridian!

At Meridian, we know that being a confident mathematician is really important as children learn and achieve in school – from Nursery to Year 6.

Did you know that every morning, from Year One upwards, children come into school and straight start their maths learning. They have questions on the board that they complete from 8.35am until the register closes at 8.55am. This 20 minutes a day is a crucial way to help children with their maths. So if your child is late arriving or only arriving just as the gate is closing at 8.55am, they will be missing out some really important maths learning. No time is wasted at Meridian, so please make sure your child does not miss out on this learning!

PLAY AT MERIDIAN

Loose Parts

Keep those donations coming in for our OPAL playtimes! **All donations will be safety checked by the staff to ensure suitability for the children to use.** Here are suggestions of what we will be asking for:

Cardboard boxes

Cuddly Toys

Fabrics - all shapes and sizes

Metal pots, pans, trays etc. Especially catering sizes

Old clothes, jackets, overalls, hats, bags

Old household appliances, hoovers, fax machines, microwaves etc

Phones

Small Children's Bike Whe

Sofa and chair cushions

Suitcases - all sizes

Tubes of all kinds

Carpet samples

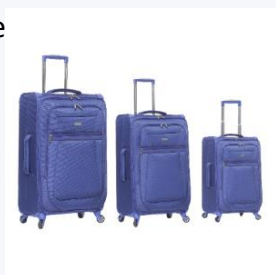
Carpet squares

Guttering

Hoses

Brief cases

Buggies, push chairs



So if you are having a clear out, please think of us! The donation areas are by the entrances to the school gates – please put your items in there ready for our safety inspection.

Our wonderful playtimes!



Every other week on our Friday assemblies, we share photographs with the children showing them all the wonderful play activities the children are involved in at break times. These are two of the photos that we shared today. A fantastic band with musical instruments and an interesting farm (with lions, tigers and giraffes!)

The Teaching Assistants also write postcards for children who have demonstrate positive behaviour – following our school rules and school values.

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

94.4% (our target is 96%) – hopefully this attendance will go up over the year once all the winter coughs and colds have gone.

Best Attendance this term

Week 1: 1S – 97.2% 😊

Week 2: 2T – 97.4% 😊

Week 3: 3SPS – 98.7% 😊

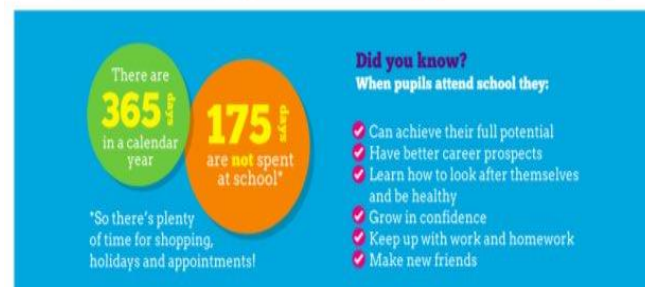
Week 4: 1M – 97.6% 😊

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%



The class with the best attendance so far this term is **3SPS** with 97.1% - congratulations!

Please do not forget: If your child is off ill, you must call the absence line or speak to a member of the office team – please do not email the school. The absence line is available 24/7. It is important that you contact the school every day that your child is off sick and when they return, you must send a hand signed letter confirming the reason for the absence. Once we have received this letter, we can then make decisions about whether or not this absence is authorised.

What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

AGE RESTRICTION
15+
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed for young audiences by the viral TV show, Squid Game. The nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show is rated 15+ and is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread across online platforms, and there is a great risk of young people being exposed to unsuitable scenes, meaning parents and carers have to be vigilant when allowing children to use devices.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that Squid Game contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children at face-value. The name "Squid Game" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like Squid Game.

VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, Squid Game has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the Squid Game trend, creating content such as "How to Draw Squid Game Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them. episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable telling you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen Squid Game, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing Squid Game" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch Squid Game, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The INQUIRER, Carly now works as the news editor for Computer Shopper and IT Pro and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The Metro, uSwitch and WIRED.



Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/technology/2021/oct/26/squid-game-netflix-children>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-58444444> <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-58444444> <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-58444444>



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National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday