

# Learning for life!

## Meridian Newsletter

### Term 3

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

### Term 4

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

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



Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery



@MeridianCPS

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well.

We have had a busy couple of weeks since the last newsletter and the children have been enjoying learning about important people. The work they have produced and the way the teachers have displayed these looks amazing. We look forward to you seeing these on Parents Evening.

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mrs. Smiles and Mrs. Yates-Malone who are going on maternity leave soon – Mrs. Smiles at the end of April/beginning of May and Mrs. Yates Malone towards the end of April. We look forward to hearing all their baby news!

### Emailing the school office and year groups

The school office opening hours are from 8am to 4pm. So please be aware that should you send an email outside of these hours, they can only be forwarded on during the office hours. Also, please be mindful that when you email year groups, teachers are teaching from 8.35am to 3.15pm so have limited access to their emails. We aim to respond within 3 - 5 school days – although the Meridian team are really good at responding very quickly. Thank you for your support with this matter.

### Children's Parade

We are very excited to let you know that we have been accepted to take part in the Brighton Festival Children's Parade again this year. A letter with further information about this will be sent out very soon.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to another busy week in school next week!

Take care and best wishes

Miss. Claire Westcott  
Headteacher

**strength**

**respect**



**kindness**

**honesty**

**responsibility**

## TERM DATES 2025/2026

### Term 3

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

### Term 4

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

### Term 5

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

### Term 6

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
INSET DAY – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

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

## 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,  
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](#).

## KEY DATES

**05.01** School closed for INSET training for staff

**06.01** Children back to school

**23.01** Year 6 Parents Meeting about SATs

**06.02** Valentine's Disco

**10.02** Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

**12.02** Parents Evening 4.30pm – 7pm

**13.02 End of term 3**

**23.02 Children back to school**

**05.03 World Book Day**

**27.03 End of term 4**

### School Jotter



If you know of any parents who have not yet downloaded the School Jotter app, please do encourage them to do this so that everyone can keep up to date with school events, news and notifications!

Thank you!

**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](http://www.eastsussexchildren.nhs.uk)

Service provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

**(we care)**

# MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

## School Disco

The PTFA have organised another school disco for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February – A Valentine’s Disco!

We are very lucky to have a small but very supportive PTFA who organise fundraising events for the school.

Our Christmas Fair was a real success and the discos are really popular too!

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Disco is from 4.15pm to 5.15pm – **we will close the gates at the usual time and reopen just before 4.15pm for the children to arrive.**

Year 3 – Year 6 Disco is from 5.30pm – 7pm. **Children must be collected by an adult at the end of the disco please. Please do not send older siblings to collect unless they are over 16 years old.**

For more information, please see a poster at the end of this newsletter.

## Water Only Please!

Please can we remind everyone that children’s water bottles should contain water. If your child struggles to drink water, you could try flavoured water or putting pieces of fruit in the water to help them, such as orange slices.

### No squash please.

Water really is the best form of hydration.



## Parents Evening

Parents Evenings are an important part of how we share the progress your child is making in school. Teachers have the opportunity to celebrate the successes your child has achieved and suggest ways in which you can support with their learning at home.

A letter will go out next week with information about how you can book a slot to meet with your child’s teacher.

**We look forward to seeing you then!**

## Earrings

If your child wears earrings to school, please can you ensure that they are wearing studs only. This expectation is to support the safety of the children in school.



## Older siblings collecting children

We recently had a query about the age siblings need to be to collect their brother or sister from Meridian at the end of the day.

Having sought advice and discussed this as a leadership team, we have agreed that siblings 16 years old or older are suitable to collect their younger siblings from school.

This has always been the case but more recently our approach has been inconsistent. So I have reminded all staff about this to ensure we are in line with this expectation.

## Healthy snacks in school

For Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, the school is part of a free fruit and vegetable scheme so we provide a healthy snack for break time.

For Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, if you would like to send in a healthy snack for your child, please make sure it is a **piece of fruit or a portion of vegetables**. No cereal bars, chocolate or other types of snack.

# LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

## Nursery

Our Nursery children have been enjoying learning about animals and how to look after them. They loved playing in their zoo this week, making sure the animals had plenty of food and water, selling tickets and being zoo keepers and animals!



## Learning in Year 2

In Year 2 we have been busy with a Design Technology project where we have been exploring and understanding how wheels and axels work! Inspired by our topic about the significant person 'Amelia Earhart', we researched, designed, made little planes! We also evaluated our outcomes just like real engineers.



Also in Year 2, the children had great fun in their forest school session this week. We worked together in groups to follow a map to create silly faces using equipment. We had to use our knowledge of north, east, south and west to help us.



## Hedgehogs visit Year 1!

As part of our topic about Woodlands, the children in Year 1 had a visit from some hedgehogs! Graham brought along his hedgehogs and shared important facts about these woodland animals. The children loved learning about these creatures and they have written thank you letters to Graham.



## Reception at Forest School

In Reception, we enjoyed cooking tomato soup in our Forest School session this week. We used a caldron to heat the soup and everyone thought of a spell to say like the witch does in "Room on the broom". We also enjoyed trying the tomato soup!



# 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:

Cuddly Toys



Fabrics - all shapes and sizes



Metal pots, pans, trays etc.

Old clothes, jackets, overalls, hats, bags



Old household appliances, hoovers, microwaves etc

Phones

Small Children's Bike Wheels



Suitcases - all sizes



Tubes of all kinds



Guttering



Brief cases

Buggies, push chairs

Dressing up clothes

Small world toys



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 OPAL playtimes!



# 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 Mrs. Newth to discuss this

## Whole School Attendance

**93.5% (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: 4SPS% - 100% 😊**

**Week 2: 2T – 98.7% 😊**

**Week 3: 5S & 2D – 98.7%**

## 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

I'm concerned

Seriously worried

A good attendance gives you the best chance for success

A poor attendance gives you less chance of success

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

**The class with the best attendance so far this term is 2T with 98.7% - 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**



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

#### MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

#### IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

#### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

#### COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.



#### PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.



#### CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.



#### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.



#### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including *Wired*, *TechRadar*, *The Telegraph*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Guardian* and *The New Statesman*.



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