

Learning for life!

Meridian Newsletter

Term 3

**Monday 5th January – Friday
13th February**

Term 4

**Monday 23rd February to
Friday 27th March**

www.meridianschool.co.uk



Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery



@MeridianCPS

**Friday
23rd**

**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

C. Westcott

Miss. Claire Westcott
Headteacher

strength

respect



kindness

honesty

responsibility

TERM DATES 2025/2026

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

Monday 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

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!



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](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

School Disco

The PTFA have organised another school disco for Friday 6th 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.

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.

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.



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 health 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.

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!

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.



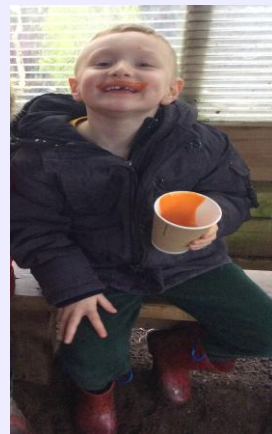
Hedgehogs visit Year 1!

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%



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

The background of the poster is a vibrant purple and pink gradient with a bokeh effect of light spots. A large, multi-colored disco ball is positioned at the top center, surrounded by numerous red hearts of various sizes. The title 'Valentine's DISCO' is prominently displayed in the center. 'Valentine's' is written in a large, elegant, cursive script, while 'DISCO' is in bold, blocky capital letters with a sparkling, textured effect. Below the title, the date 'Friday 6th February' is written on a red ribbon banner. Further down, the event times are listed in yellow and green text. A large red heart shape contains the ticket price and details. At the bottom, a call to action for chaperones is written in yellow and white text, followed by the organizing team's name and a small blue heart icon. The entire poster is framed by a decorative border of small white snowflakes.

Valentine's DISCO

Friday 6th February

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: 4:15-5:15pm

Years 3-6: 5:30-7pm

£3.50 a ticket —
includes sweets
& a Glo stick!

(Payment method to follow)

Chaperones wanted! Please get in touch if you can
help chaperone either or both discos.

Meridian PTFA team 

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.org.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

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.

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.

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.

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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See full reference list on our website

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