

Learning for life!

Meridian Newsletter

Term 6

**Monday 1st June to
Wednesday 22nd July**

www.meridianschool.co.uk

Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery

Friday

3rd

July

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well – it's been a busy few weeks in school, particularly during the heatwave last week. I want to thank everyone, children, parents and staff for all your support whilst we tried our best to manage in these extreme circumstances. The children particularly enjoyed paddling in their trays of water to cool down after lunch!

Baby News!

Congratulations to Mrs. Beeching who had a baby girl on 6th June – her name is Evelyn Alba Beeching.

Congratulations to Miss. Caesar who had a baby girl on 24th June – her name is Alba Rue Etherington. Always lovely to share new baby news – and this year there has been a lot of baby news to share!

Summer Sizzler

It's our Summer Sizzler next Friday 10th July. Fingers crossed the weather is good! At the end of the newsletter is information about this fundraising event, including donations we need to make it a real success. If the children bring in a donation, they can wear non-school uniform. The PTFA team have been working so hard to get everything ready for day and if you are able to offer any support or volunteer to help, I know they would be really grateful.

Lost Property

We have got a lot of lost property in school which teachers are putting outside for people to claim. If these items are not claimed by the end of next week, we will be donating these to the PTFA pre-loved uniform collection.

Thank you for your continued support.
Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Miss. Claire Westcott
Headteacher

strength

respect



kindness

honesty

responsibility

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TERM DATES 2025/2026

Term 6

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

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

2026/2027

Term 1

Wednesday 2nd September – Friday 23rd October

INSET day – Wednesday 2nd September
Thursday 3rd September Year 1 – Year 6 children back to school

Reception staggered starts begin on Monday 7th September

Please note not all INSET days have been set for 2026/2027

KEY DATES

07.07: Reception music performance to parents 9.15am

08.07: Y1 music performance to parents 9.15am

09.07: Y2 music performance to parents 9.15am

~~**10.07:** OPAL afternoon for Reception and Nursery~~

10.07: PTFA Summer Sizzler 3.15pm – 6pm

13.07: Y3 music performance to parents 9.15am

14.07: Y4 music performance to parents 9.15am

15.07: Y5 music performance to parents 9.15am

16.07: Y6 music performance to parents 9.15am

17.07: Nursery Graduation

17.07: KS2 Sports Day 9.15am – 12pm

Reception/KS1 Sports day 1.15pm – 3pm

20.07: Sports Day reserve

21.07: End of term 6 – children go home at 1.15pm

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](https://www.nspcc.org.uk).


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 Keri Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

MERIDIAN NOTICEBOARD

Staff Changes

We have got a few changes of staff in September.

Mrs. Newth joined us in September 2023 as Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion. She has worked incredibly hard during this time to support many children and families to get the support they need to achieve in school. Mrs. Newth is going to be an Assistant Headteacher at a primary school Lewes, which is much closer to home. She is looking forward to being able to walk to work! I know you will join me in wishing her well in this new role – we will miss her. Good luck, Mrs. Newth!

Mr. Clayton joined us in September and has decided to retire from a long previous career in education, including significant leadership roles in London. We have loved having Mr. Clayton on our team and we will miss him – but who can blame him for choosing to retire! Good luck Mr. Clayton!

Mrs. McLeod joined Meridian in April 2021 after having been a Teaching Assistant in London for many years. We have loved having Mrs. McLeod on our team and I know we will all miss her dry sense of humour! Mrs. McLeod is retiring from a long career in schools – a truly well-deserved retirement. We wish you all the best, Mrs. McLeod.

Miss. O'Sullivan, a Teaching Assistant in Year 1, is leaving to pursue a career in teaching – good luck!

Miss. Mathias, a Teaching Assistant who has worked in Year 5 and Nursery, is leaving to start her teacher training at university – good luck!

Miss. Wood-Downie, a Teaching Assistant who has worked in Reception, is leaving to going travelling – we hope you have an amazing time!

Mrs. Martin will be going maternity leave in August – I look forward to sharing her baby news in September.

Miss. Stringer will be going on maternity leave towards the end of September – I look forward to sharing her baby news too!

Mrs. Lisa Harris in our Nursery will be going on maternity leave in September – I look forward to sharing her baby news as well!

We will be welcoming lots of new staff too:

Mr. Thomas Edwards will be our new **Assistant Headteacher** for Inclusion – he has been into school this week to meet with Mrs. Newth as part of our planned handover. You will get to meet him in September!

Mr. Sam Berry is covering one of our maternity leaves from September – he is an experienced teacher who will be teaching in **Year 6**.

Miss. Mia Griffin is also covering one of our maternity leaves from September – she has completed her new teacher probation period in Scotland and is moving down to Sussex over the summer. She will be teaching in **Year 5**.

Mrs. Debbie West is covering one of our maternity leaves from September – she is really looking forward to starting her teaching career at Meridian. She will be teaching in **Year 1**.

Miss. Abigail Simpson is covering one of our maternity leaves from September – she is also really looking forward to starting her teaching career at Meridian. She will be teaching in **Reception**.

We are welcoming the following Teaching Assistants:

Nursery: Holly Marsom is returning from maternity leave. Melissa Manthorpe and Rebecca Wright will be joining the team

Reception: Sarah Ticehurst will be joining the team

Year 1: Vicky King and Lusy Marano will be joining the team

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.



Whole School Picnic

On the last day of term for the children, Tuesday 21st July, we will be having a whole school picnic on the field.

Please can you provide your child with a healthy packed lunch so they can enjoy this picnic with their friends.

If you are entitled to free school meals (infant universal or benefits related), please let us know by Friday 10th July if you would like our kitchen to provide a healthy packed lunch.

Please email the school office if you require a school packed lunch.



WhatsApp Groups

Parent WhatsApp groups can be a helpful way for families to stay in touch, share information and remind each other about important dates.

However, we have recently seen an increase in concerns linked to discussions taking place in these groups, including inaccurate information being shared and some negative comments about the school.

If you find that messages in these groups are causing worry or stress, you may wish to mute notifications at certain times of the day. This can be especially helpful when the school is closed and staff are unable to respond to concerns straight away.

We all want to work together to make sure our children are safe, happy and successful at school. If you have a question or concern, please contact the school directly rather than discussing it on WhatsApp. This helps us provide accurate information, answer your questions and offer support where needed.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

LEARNING AT MERIDIAN

African Workshop

Year 6 recently enjoyed an African workshop in school – including African drumming, tie-dye and African dancing.

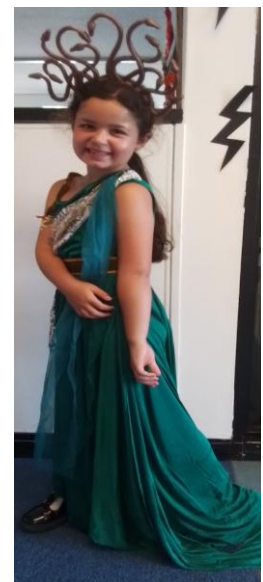
Our visitors were particularly impressed with the children's knowledge of Africa and in particular, the Benin Kingdom – well done Year 6!

Thank you to the PTFA who supported the school by contributing towards the cost of this wonderful experience to keep the price down for you all. And thank you to all the parents who supported the children too by also contributing towards the cost. These wonderful experiences really bring the learning alive and create memories of their time at Meridian and we really appreciate your support!



Greek Workshop

Last week, even in the extremely hot weather, our Year 3 and Year 4 children enjoyed a Greek workshop to support their learning about Ancient Greece. Lots of the children dressed up (as did some of the teachers!) and spent the morning in the hall with an amazing drama group. We want to thank the parents for your support towards the cost of this experience – we could not put on these wonderful events for the children without your help. They loved it and learnt so much!



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
93.2% (our target is 96%) –

Best Attendance this term

Week 1: 3R – 98.2%

Week 2: 3R – 98.9%

Week 3: 3R – 99.3%

Week 4: 4B – 92.3%

Week 5: 2T – 99%



The class with the best attendance this term is **4B** with 95.6% - 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

PTFA AT MERIDIAN

Summer SIZZLER

NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY
ON FRIDAY 10TH JULY

**IN EXCHANGE FOR DONATIONS TO
CONTRIBUTE TO OUR FAYRE!**

| NURSERY & RECEPTION | YEARS 1 & 2 | YEARS 3 & 4 | YEARS 5 & 6 |
|---|--|--|--|
|  <p><i>doughnuts</i></p> |  <p>stationary and crafts (packs of pens / pencils / highlighters / colouring books / pencil cases / any arts and crafts activities)</p> |  <p>A bottle of alcohol</p> |  <p>Individually wrapped sweets (moaams / lollies etc)</p> |

ALSO, ANY PRE-LOVED TOYS / GAMES / TEDDIES -



VERY GOOD / EXCELLENT CONDITION ONLY!

PLEASE TAKE THEM TO SCHOOL NEXT FRIDAY!

Meridian PTFA