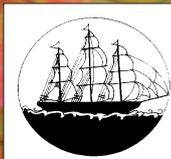


Learning for life!



Meridian Newsletter

Term 1

Monday 7th September to
Friday 23rd October

Term 2

Monday 2nd November to
Friday 18th December

www.meridianschool.co.uk



Meridian Community Primary
School and Nursery



@MeridianCPS

Friday
23rd

October
2020

Dear Parents and Carers

This term has rushed by and whilst there have been significant changes to the day to day running of the school to keep everyone safe, it has been so fantastic to have all the children back in school. It has also been so lovely to welcome our new Reception children starting school for the first time.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to so many of you for attending Parents' Evening via Google Meet. I know the teachers really welcomed the opportunity to share with you how well your children have settled in and the learning they have been doing this term.

If you missed your appointment, have not logged on yet to Google Classroom or your meeting was cut short due to connection issues, we do not have the capacity to offer you an alternative option, such as a telephone consultation. You will all have received a report about how your child is performing in class with some targets to know how to help them at home. We will have another Parents' Evening in term 3 – so do look out for this information in future newsletters.

Celebration Letters

I do hope you enjoy the celebration letters that will be sent out today. We wanted you to know about the learning going on in each year group. Thank you to the teachers for putting these together.

School Photographs

We have got the school photographer coming into school on Friday 13th November. We have to get your permission to take these photographs in school. **To avoid disappointment, please make sure you complete the form that was sent out this week and return to school as soon as possible.** I will write to you again next term to explain arrangements for sibling photographs, particularly for those children who have siblings in our Nursery. Please note we will not be able to offer family photographs with babies and toddlers.

Thank you so much to everyone for your continued support and understanding with the COVID-19 risk assessments. I appreciate everything that you do to support the school. I feel very lucky to have such and kind and supportive parent/carer community.

I hope you enjoy half-term

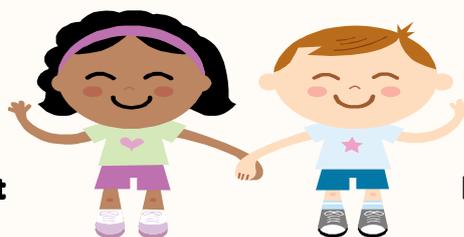
Best wishes

C. Westcott

Claire Westcott
Headteacher

strength

respect



responsibility

kindness

honesty

TERM DATES 2020/2021

Term 2

Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th
December

Term 3

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February

Term 4

Monday 22nd February – Thursday 1st April

Term 5

Monday 19th April – Friday 28th May

Term 6

Monday 7th June – Friday 23rd July

**PLEASE NOTE NOT ALL INSET DAYS HAVE
BEEN ALLOCATED YET**

IMPORTANT DATES

02.11 Term 2 starts
03.11 Parent Council Meeting
13.11 School Photographer
17.11 Flu Vaccinations
19.11 Virtual PTFA meeting

Christmas Performances cannot happen in the usual way this year. Decisions about how we can celebrate Christmas with children and families will be made this term and shared with parents/carers in term 2.

Thank you and Goodbye

Mrs. Michelle Hunt, our School Business Manager, is leaving us today to take up a new post in Brighton and Hove.

I would like to thank her for all her kindness and support for Meridian over the 3½ years she has worked here.

Michelle has worked tirelessly to ensure that the school runs smoothly and the budget balances – such an important job which she makes look easy.

I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future – we will miss her!

Google Classroom

Please make sure you are familiar with Google Classroom as this is how we will offer remote learning should a Year Group bubble have to close due to a positive COVID-19 test outcome or schools are closed. If you are struggling with this, please do e-mail your child's class teacher. Or visit this [page](#) on our website and scroll down to Friday 18th September.

CATERLINK CASHLESS SYSTEM

Caterlink have developed a bespoke online payment and meal recording system which is designed specifically for Caterlink, and aims to remove cash from all Schools. The system gives parents the ability to pay online using debit or credit cards, as well as being able to look at meal history and receive low credit warnings.

Individual letters have been sent out to all pupils in Nursery, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (pupils in KS1 do not need their log-ins as they are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals (UFSM)). These letters have your child's Student ID number, which is individual to each child, so please do not share codes with other parents/carers. If you lose your code, then please contact the School Office who will be able to provide you with another. Once you have activated your account the system will then find your child and Meridian School. If your child's name does not appear then please contact Caterlink on the details provided in the letter.

Things to note are:

- there can only be one parent linked to each child;
- the minimum top up for online transactions is £10;
- online payments are made through a secure provider with no card or user information saved;
- parents will receive an email with the payment reference for tracking every payment made on the system.

The School sent activation letters out just before lockdown in March, and I know that as a result some parents activated their accounts. If you have already activated your account you will not need to re-activate your account with the letters that are being sent out now, so please disregard these letters.

Any problems, with any aspect of the Cashless Catering then please contact Caterlink by emailing meals@caterlinkltd.co.uk.

Please note, this is not a school set up system so all questions and enquiries need to be directed to Caterlink

See below a message from East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service about staying safe with Fireworks.



East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Lewes Community Fire Station, North Street, Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2PE

Tel: 01323 462181
Switchboard: 0303 999 1000
E-mail: enquiries@esfrs.org
Web: www.esfrs.org

In the case of emergency please dial 999

FAO: The Headteacher/Principal

19 October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

FIREWORKS – STAYING SAFE

As the firework season approaches, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service would like to remind your staff and students about firework safety.

Fireworks are exciting to watch, but every year many people get hurt in firework accidents or may get involved with fireworks in a way that puts themselves or others at risk. Most accidents happen at family/private displays or in the street.

Could we please ask for your help in reminding students about the following safety messages on our behalf. Many young people will be aware of these dangers already and some are more aware than the adults around them. This year, we want to encourage students to share this information with their parents and carers, keeping everyone safe during the fireworks seasons.

We have also given you links to resources that specifically cover firework safety teaching materials.

For Key Stage 3 & 4 students the main safety messages are:

- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- When you are watching fireworks, always stand well back
- Never go near a firework when it has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Keep pets indoors

Safety Messages for Parents/Carers Setting Off Fireworks

- Only buy fireworks marked with the British Standard mark, BS7114
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed metal box
- Follow the instructions on each firework by torchlight, not a naked flame
- Fireworks should be lit at arm's length, using a taper
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Keep pets indoors

What does the law say?

The Fireworks Regulations 2004 make it an offence to:

- Sell fireworks to people under 18 years of age
- Possessing fireworks in a public place, if you are under 18 years of age
- Throw a firework in the street or public place
- Don't let off noisy fireworks after 11.00pm

Further information on staying safe can be obtained from the following websites and may be useful for teachers and students:

- <https://www.rospa.com/Home-Safety/Advice/Fireworks-Safety>
- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/fireworks.html>
- <https://www.capt.org.uk/staying-safe-around-fireworks>
- <https://www.fireservice.co.uk/safety/firework-safety/>

On behalf of East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Cusack', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nigel Cusack
West Group Manager – The City and Lewes



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

Staying safe with fireworks

As bonfire night approaches, the night sky is lit up with firework displays. With all the sparkle it's easy to forget that fireworks can be dangerous if not used correctly and responsibly.

This advice will help you and your family to stay safe while celebrating.

How to host safely

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is at an organised display. The fireworks will be bigger, you're not responsible for safety and you'll be part of the crowd. If you do decide to host your own firework display, here's how you and your guests can stay safe.

Read all the instructions

The box of fireworks will tell you important things like how far people need to stand back once the firework is lit. Make sure to read all the safety warnings.



Check your timings

Did you know that you can't let fireworks off between 11pm and 7am? The only exceptions are Bonfire night, when the cut off is midnight, and New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when it's 1am.



Only buy from licensed sellers

Most shops, like supermarkets, can only sell fireworks on certain dates during the year. If you're buying them at a different time you need to visit a specially licensed shop. It's illegal for under-18s to buy or carry fireworks.

Don't let children help

Kids should enjoy the display from a distance and should not be allowed to handle fireworks, tapers and matches.



Search 'fireworks' on GOV.UK for more advice

Keep pets indoors

Furry friends should stay inside. Don't forget that they might be scared by the fireworks.



Having a bonfire?

Bonfires are a fun tradition, but they do have their dangers. Wrap up warm and don't throw anything dangerous onto the fire.

If you're having a bonfire, always:

- ✓ tell your neighbours so they can prepare
- ✓ keep your bonfire away from buildings, sheds, fences and trees
- ✓ have water or a hosepipe ready

Search 'bonfire' on GOV.UK for more advice

