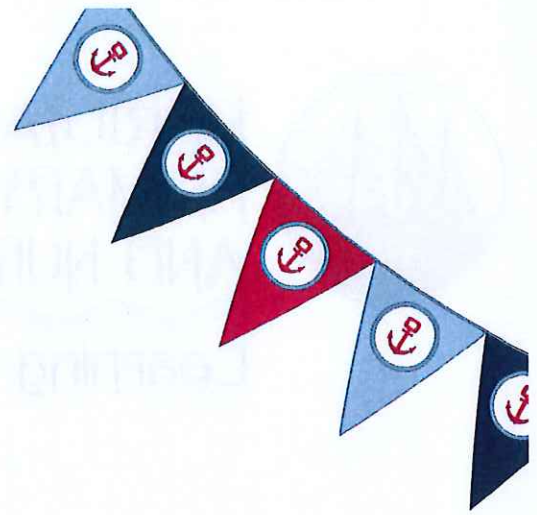




MERIDIAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Learning for Life



Thursday 8th March

Dear Parents/Carers

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery. We can only be successful in keeping all of our children safe online if we work with you to ensure that online safety messages are consistent and that all members of the community, including parents, behave safely and appropriately online.

Unfortunately many of you will be aware that some parents/carers have been using Facebook as a forum to complain and be abusive about Ms Westcott, which has resulted in a wide-spread abusive campaign from other Facebook users, both locally and nationally. Whilst we are all entitled to have our own views and opinions, we would like to ask that all members of our school community consider how this may be misunderstood or misinterpreted when shared online and the possible impact and consequences of these actions. The Governing Body has written to those parents who made several negative comments about Ms Westcott and the school is currently liaising with East Sussex legal team and the local police about this matter. Whilst we can continue to raise the profile of online safety within school, we need the help of the whole community to support us in keeping our wider community safe online.

It is important that all members of our school community understand that the use of technology (including social networking, mobile phones, games consoles and other websites) to deliberately threaten, upset, harass, intimidate or embarrass someone else could be considered to be cyberbullying or harassment. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as bullying in the real world and is not tolerated at Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery. We take all instances of cyberbullying or harassment involving any members of our community very seriously as we want members of our community (children, parents, carers and staff) to feel safe and happy both on and offline. Posting threatening, obscene or offensive comments online can also potentially be considered as a criminal offence and can therefore have serious consequences.

Any complaints regarding Meridian should be made using the correct and official channels so we can work together to help resolve any concerns that parents/carers may have. The complaints procedure is

Headteacher - Claire Westcott
Roderick Avenue North, Peacehaven
East Sussex BN10 8BZ
Telephone: 01273 584212
e-mail: office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk
web: www.meridianschool.co.uk





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available online via the school website www.meridianschool.co.uk/aboutus/policies or upon request at the school office.

We would like to ask all parents/carers to think carefully about the information and comments they post online. As responsible adults it's important that we all consider the potential impact and implications posting such content may have on you and your family as well as other members of the community, including the Meridian staff team. We would also like to remind all parents/carers about the need for us all to work in partnership to promote responsible internet use. Your role in setting a good example of positive and responsible online behaviour for your children is crucial.

We were deeply shocked and saddened by this extreme Facebook incident about Ms Westcott and hope that this letter will ensure that there are no future incidents of this nature again about anyone in our school community.

Many thanks in advance for your support in this matter.

Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery Governing Body

Mrs J Anthony
Chair

Mr C Bonner
Vice Chair

Mr G Ford

Mr D Glidden

Mr E Dunn

Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery Leadership Team

Mr Doody
Deputy Headteacher

Miss Maslen
Assistant Headteacher

Miss Duffy
EYFS Leader

Ms Treglown
KS1 Leader

Miss Miles
Lower KS2 Leader

Miss Roberts
Upper KS2 Leader

Miss Passingham
Teaching and Learning Leader

Mrs Hunt
Business Manager

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