



MERIDIAN COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND NURSERY
Learning for Life



Outdoor PLAY Afternoon – Tuesday 15th January

Thursday 10th January

Dear Parents & Carers

At Meridian we really value the importance of play as an essential part of childhood! Play helps children learn new things while building social skills, developing creative thinking, and exploring their interests and talents.

As part of the continued development of our OPAL initiative we are holding our first PLAY AFTERNOON being held on Tuesday 15th January (**Please see the timings below**). We invite all families to join us from 1:30pm to play with the children and to experience what it is like for them during playtime.

To enable the children to have a positive experience of play we need lots of play equipment. **As part of attending the afternoon we ask that you can bring as many appropriate and safe items that you no longer need which you are willing to donate to the school.** The more items available to the children the richer the experience outside will be. You can start bringing in items from now and place them in the grass area behind the shed on the playground for our OPAL team to safety check. Please read the attached leaflet which gives you suggestions of the types of things you could bring in and our play expectations that both the children and yourselves are expected to adhere to during the afternoon.

Date - **Tuesday 15th January**

Timings

- From 1:30pm: families to bring in any items for the children to play with and place in the grass area behind the sheds. **Please use the back and side gates to the school.** You will not be allowed to enter via the main Reception entrance.
- 1:50pm: we ask all Parents and Carers to listen to a short briefing with myself on expectations for the afternoon.
- 2:00pm – 2:45pm: all staff, children and families participating in play.
- 2:45pm: children go back into class to prepare for end of school. Parents are welcome to wait on the playground for their children.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and thank you for your continued support.

Mr Legate
PHSE Curriculum Leader

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Play @ Meridian



General equipment suggestions

To allow children to develop their own play areas, where no specific area needs to be provided, therefore complete self-discovery. **Do you have of the following to donate?**

Carpet Squares
Crates (E.g. Tesco/Asda)
Buggy/Push Chair
Cable Drums
Drain Pipes
Water/Cable Pipes
Old Clothes
Hoovers
Computer Equipment
(with plugs removed)

Suitcases
Kitchen Door Panels
Old Cabinet Doors
Football Nets
Cargo Nets
Hand Bags etc
Ropes
One Tonne Bags
Fax machines
Microwaves

Steering Wheels
Small Wheelie Bins
Scooters
Go Karts
Balance Bikes
Ride on Cars
Tubes (All Kinds)
Phones
Small figures
Cardboard Boxes

When playing with your child always think of the following:



Yes please...

- Let your child direct their play.
- Ask questions.
- Be silly (but still safe)



Please avoid

- Directing your child / telling them how to play
- Let technology disrupt your play.
- Force activities on your child.

We ask anyone attending to kindly respect our play and behavior policy.

- * No play fighting
- * No throwing sticks, stones or mud.
- * No hitting with sticks.
- * Pick each other up.
- * Respect the natural environment and our neighbours.

Ready,
Respectful,
Safe



Play @ Meridian



Key zones and equipment suggestions

Small World

Children develop their imagination and role playing through using small cars and figures. This type of play is for those who like to relax and play quietly.

Cars

Diggers

Tractors

Trains

Garages

Doll houses

Small figures

Mud Kitchen

This is for those who like to explore and develop their senses of touch through different textures. Children must be prepared to get muddy and wet whilst role playing.

Children spades

(wooden/metal)

Strong buckets

Pots & Pans (Commercial)

Washing Machine

Fridge/Freezers

Microwaves

Sinks (Metal)

Wild Area

Children focus on their exploration and construction skills through using the building materials provided e.g. tyres, branches & Christmas trees.

Tarpaulins

Rope

Bed Sheets

Long Thick Branches

Planks of Wood (Scaffolding)

Wood Chip (please see Mr Legate)

Sand Pit (In the future)

Children experience a different aspect of their touch senses through exploring and imagining different play methods.

Children spades

(wooden/metal)

Trowels

Strong buckets

Medium/Large Diggers

Medium/Large Trucks

All items must be of a good condition and suitable for children to PLAY with.

THINK! Would you let your children play with the items?