



Thursday 22nd September 2022

Year 5 Class Newsletter

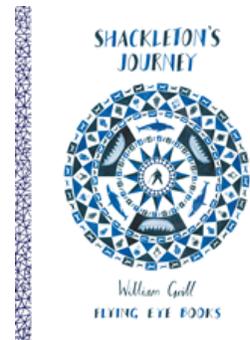
Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year at Meridian. We hope that you have all had a restful break over the summer. Phil is delighted to join the Meridian school community and is excited to work alongside Hannah to teach your children and get to know everyone. For both of us, it has been lovely to see some of you in the playground.

You may not be surprised to hear that Year 5 has made a fantastic start to the new school year. They have adapted well to routines, are enjoying the social interactions that school life has to offer and are demonstrating great behaviours for learning!

Curriculum:

To start the Autumn term, we have been focussing on our mini topic '**We are Meridian**'. Within this, we have been discussing everything that makes Meridian special, from our values to our Meridian Learning Muscles. We have explored the importance of the Prime Meridian Line in terms of exploration and travel, and how lines of longitude and latitude are used to identify locations.



For the remainder of the Autumn term, we will be focussing on our whole school topic '**Where in the World are We?**' which will allow us to explore the polar regions of Antarctica and the Arctic Circle. We will compare the similarities and differences between the regions and explore the human and physical features of these regions (including volcanoes!). Our writing in **English** will be linked to our geographical theme. We will learn to write a range of narrative and non-fiction texts inspired by the books 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Gill and 'Sky Song' by Abi Elphinstone.

Please see the attached curriculum overview to find out more about the exciting learning opportunities in different subjects. You can also find out more about the year ahead at today's *Meet the Teacher* meeting!

Staffing:

Phil will teach the class from Monday to Wednesday morning and Hannah will teach from Wednesday afternoon to Friday to allow for a smooth transition. Our experienced TA Mark will support children's learning throughout the week.

Routines:

We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child comes to school every day and on time. Arriving in the playground from **8:45am** ensures a smooth start to the school day at **8:50am** for all children and ensures no learning opportunities are missed. The school day ends at **3:20pm** when children can be collected from the playground. If you wish your child to walk home alone, please put this in writing to the School Office. If someone different is collecting your child, please let the School Office know as early in the day as possible.

Class PE sessions this term will be on **Monday (swimming)** and on **Friday (indoor)**. Children will need a swimming costume and towel for their session on Mondays. The children will need to change into a full PE kit for their session on Friday. This includes shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms and a t-shirt. It is a good idea to keep your child's PE kit in school for the half term as this reduces the risk of forgotten kits. Should children forget their PE kit, they will be given a school kit to change into.

Supporting learning at home:

Home learning will be posted on Google Classroom every **Friday** and will always be linked to work we have been doing during the week. It will consist of an English or Maths task and a spelling pattern. Although your child should be able to do it on their own, it is beneficial if they can talk about it and ask questions at home too. Home learning should be completed and returned by the following **Wednesday**. If you do not have access to a home computer of some description (e.g. laptop, PC, iPad), please let one of us know so that we can provide your child with a paper copy of the home learning.

All the children have a **reading diary** that they should bring to school every day and which will be checked on a **Wednesday**. We are encouraging children to make their own comments about the books they read in their diaries, and parents are also welcome to jot down comments. We look forward to welcoming you to parent reading sessions once a term this school year - look out for dates in the whole school newsletter. We will lead Guided Reading sessions each day and ensure that children have 1:1 reading support as necessary. In addition to the weekly home learning, please continue to read with your child at home every day.

Audiology: Hearing devices for the deaf children in the Discovery Group will be checked on a daily basis. In the event that your child is having an issue with a device, please do send in a note so that Giles is aware of it; he will reciprocate this if anything arises in school.

When possible, we will incorporate the children's individual **speech and language** targets into our daily teaching and learning experiences. The children who require it will also continue to see a speech and language therapist, and their progress will be closely monitored and regularly reviewed. In order to support your children's speech and language development, it is very important that you spend time talking and listening to your child in your home language (if that is your preferred first language). You are welcome to have copies of the SALT games and activities that have been recommended for your child if you would like them.

Communication:

Please check our weekly whole school newsletter for important information throughout the year and updates on what we have been learning. These will be emailed to parents/carers and available on the school website.

If you would like a quick chat with one of us about any questions you may have, we are usually available to speak to you on the playground after school. Alternatively, if you would like a longer conversation, please call the School Office and you will be called back at an available time.

We're really looking forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's learning this year!

Kind regards,

Phil, Hannah and the Year 5 team