

Monday 26th September 2022



## FS1 Class Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Foundation One (Nursery), and a special welcome to all the new children who have just joined Meridian Primary School. The children have already made a great start to the school year, and we are all enjoying getting to know each other. We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead!

**Staffing:** Sue (Nursery Teacher) and Nadia (Nursery Nurse) will be teaching the class each day with Nealam supporting the children at lunchtimes throughout the week.

**Curriculum:** There are seven areas of learning and development in the Foundation Stage. All seven are important and inter-connected. The three **Prime Areas - Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Communication and Language** - are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. The three Prime Areas are strengthened and applied through the four **Specific Areas - Literacy** (reading and writing), **Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design**.

To encourage independence and support learning, activities are planned across these areas to engage and meet the needs of individual children. New beginnings need to be handled sensitively with young children and, because of this, we have a strong focus on Personal, Social and Emotional Development.



As part of our mini whole school topic '**We are Meridian**', we have been learning a little bit about our school and how lucky we are to live so close to a World Heritage Site. For the remainder of the Autumn term, we will be focussing on our whole school geography topic which is '**Where in the World are We?**'. We are lucky to have children in our class whose families are from many different parts of the world. As part of our topic, we would very much like to learn about family experiences of different languages and cultures. If you have a favourite rhyme or story from your own childhood and would like to share it with the class, why not tell us about it? Throughout the topic, we will be learning more about Greenwich and our local environment.

There is a strong **reading** culture at Meridian that is nurtured in our Nursery - we love stories and take every opportunity we can to share a book! During class time, we will read a wide range of texts, including some traditional tales and classic books such as 'Owl Babies' and 'So Much', encouraging the children to ask and answer questions about the book and share links to their own experiences. Each child has received a school book bag, which you can use to take home books borrowed from our book corner. Please try to record the books you have taken in the folder, along with any comments, so that we can see which books you have been enjoying at home!

**Routines:** Our daily reading sessions begin in the classroom at **9am**. Before you come into class, please place your child's bag into their named box. After hanging up their coats and finding their name cards, children should then wash their hands. They can then choose what they would like to do in our indoor or outdoor classroom. As part of their daily routine, we have incorporated times for regular hand washing throughout the day, and will continue to teach the children about effective

hygiene.

The children are offered fresh fruit and milk provided by the school. They can also help themselves to a drink of water whenever they feel thirsty. Please ensure that your child brings a reusable water bottle to school every day and that it (and everything else they bring in!) is clearly labelled with your child's name. The 'morning children' are collected from the Nursery gate at **12.00pm** and children who are here in the afternoons are picked up at **3:15pm** from the playground.

**Clothing:** Please dress your child in weather-appropriate, easily-managed clothing so that they can develop independence, particularly when going to the toilet. All clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name. We spend a lot of time outside, so children should have waterproof coats. Closed-toe flat sandals or shoes (ideally with Velcro fastenings) allow children to climb and play safely. All children are encouraged to experiment and explore activities which are set out each day. It's a good idea to dress your child in clothes which you don't mind getting messy as unfortunately, although the children do wear aprons, paint, glue, clay and other materials may get onto clothes. Please make sure they have a spare change of clothes in their bag.

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

If you have any questions or would like a quick chat with me, I am usually available to speak to you in the classroom in the mornings or on the playground after school. Alternatively, if you would like a longer conversation, please call the School Office and I will call you back at an available time.

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

Best wishes,

Sue James and the Foundation Stage One team