

Monday 26th September 2022



FS2 Class Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Foundation Two (Reception) 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 arrangements:

Mary Clare (teacher) will teach the class every Monday and Tuesday. Esther (teacher) will teach the class every Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays, both Esther and Mary Clare will be in the class in order to ensure a smooth transition for the children. Sharna and Kit (TAs) will be in the class all 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.

All children have received a **guided reading pack** and a school book bag. The reading pack contains a reading diary and a levelled reading book which will reflect the sounds children have been learning in **phonics**. Please make sure your child brings their book bag and reading pack to school everyday. During our daily parent/carer reading sessions (from 9 until 9:30am), please feel free to select a book with your child from our reading corner to borrow and enjoy at home.

Reception children have lots of writing opportunities in the classroom, and an extra treat for them will be a weekly **Write Dance** lesson (writing and moving to music). Look out for some amazing 'scrimbling' coming home soon!

Routines:

Our **daily reading sessions** begin in the classroom at **9am**. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop good reading habits and encourage the use of new vocabulary. As the children enter the school building, they should be encouraged to use the toilet and wash their hands before they come into the classroom. Children are collected from the main playground at 3.15pm. Staff will release children from their line after contact has been made with their grown-up. Please be patient - we respectfully ask parents not to encourage their children to leave the line until we are ready to let them go.

As the children are becoming more settled, we have begun to have short whole class phonics and Maths sessions every day. Throughout the week, all children have the opportunity to work individually or in a small group with an adult to focus on a particular area of the curriculum such as Reading, Writing or Maths. Reception children participate in daily physical challenges in order to develop both fine and gross motor skills. Every day (and whatever the weather!), children will continue to enjoy 'free flow' activities, moving between our inside and outside classrooms as they choose; this will encourage independence and positive social interaction between peers.

A piece of fresh fruit and a carton of milk are available to the children, and they will use their own water bottle to drink from throughout the school day. Please ensure the reusable water bottle you send to school is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Clothing:

Please dress your child in weather-appropriate, easily-managed clothing so that they can develop independence. Please remember we will be spending lots of time outside! All clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name. Closed-toe flat shoes or sandals (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 also provide a spare change of clothes in a bag, to be left on your child's peg.

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.

Activities and resources that you can use to support your child at home will be available on our *Google Classroom*, so please check in regularly. Details of how to access *Google Classroom* will be sent home soon. We also look forward to welcoming you to our **Reception Curriculum meeting** on Wednesday 5th October at 4:00-4:30pm, where we will talk through some of the learning planned for the Autumn Term in more detail and answer any questions you may have.

If you would like a quick chat with one of us, we are available during reading time each morning or on the playground at the end of the day. Alternatively, if you would like a longer conversation, please call the School Office and you will be called 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,

Mary Clare, Esther and the FS2 team