



## **Governors' Letter to Parents/Carers**

Summer 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

In common with schools across the country, the 2020/2021 academic year has been challenging for the Meridian community. Covid has imposed tremendous challenges for our children, the school, and our families. Throughout this, the Meridian community has risen to the challenge, with everyone working hard to minimise the impact on our children.

As Governors, we have had to consider the Government guidance and have done our best to support Jo and her team. We have tried to keep a focus on the things that directly affect your children's experience of the school: access to a rich and invigorating curriculum, engaging teaching, continued strong academic progress, safety and happiness.

We welcome to the Meridian Governing Body two new parent Governors: Philippa Peto and Zelee Hill. They have already been busy and helpful in preparing the Parent Survey - thank you for taking the time to complete this. Your views on the school are extremely important to us - they will help us to set our priorities for the next three-year plan as we continue to build on our successes and improve our school.

Throughout the year, we seek engagement with the school staff to find out what's working well, what we should do more of, and ask about any challenging areas that the Governing Body should monitor. This helps to give Governors a good idea of what is happening at the school and where we should focus resources. Since the return to full time attendance, the school has focused on engaging all children in rich learning opportunities, providing extra support for those most in need and embedding key skills. Our children's emotional well-being has also been at the forefront of Meridian's provision.

It is important for us that Meridian is a vibrant part of the broader community. FROMS is a continually active friends association - a huge thanks to all involved for the events and innovative fundraising that has taken place this year. We know the work that goes into keeping this going is immense and we are grateful. The school budget is well-managed but limited, and the money raised through FROMS really helps the school to provide enrichment activities.

There are some things that we look forward to every year. Things that symbolise something. They spark memories. It has been great this term to see the return of the Arts Festival and all the photos in the newsletter and on the school's new Instagram feed, *meridianlearns*. Next year, we hope to bring back some of the other events that were not possible this year, some of the other things that make Meridian special.

As well as doing well academically, your children have helped to create the warm, friendly, and fun environment that makes Meridian such a joy for Governors to be involved with. Our Year 6 children leave us this term for the next phase of their education at secondary school. We wish them well and thank them for their support and company during their time with us. They will be excellent ambassadors for Meridian School.

None of this year's achievements would be possible without the Meridian team. There have been many difficult times for the staff team this year, personally and professionally, and their hard work has delivered successes that don't always appear in the school newsletter. As Governors, we would like to thank the whole team at Meridian for their phenomenal resilience and perseverance throughout this academic year.

We look forward to the new academic year with optimism, founded upon the hard work and commitment of all involved with Meridian throughout the lockdown periods. Our thanks to our families for your continued belief in, and support of, the school. We wish you a well-deserved summer break and we look forward to working with you when school returns in September.

With best wishes,

Matthew

Matthew Filbee, Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Meridian Governing Body