



Whole School Newsletter

Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

"Ban, 'ban, Caliban, has a new master, get a new man!" chanted a young voice at morning play today, accompanied by the enthusiastic playing of drain pipes in the musical garden! Regardless of the pandemic, learning has resolutely continued, and it's great that the impact of Shakespeare and the Arts Festival continues to filter through the school and through my office window. A Reception child was also keen to tell me what fun she had had when I videoed her class swirling around in their Ariel costume in the Green Garden. Such things make me smile and remind me why planning the curriculum is such an important part of what we do at Meridian.



Digital Arts Festival Exhibition

Despite two bubble closures this week and the absence of some other children and staff, we now have a set of completed costumes and published books for every class across the school, all inspired by *The Tempest*. Next Wednesday, we will upload slideshows of children's learning and videos/photos of the final outcomes to Google Classroom for our whole school community to see. As our efforts are being directed towards publishing this digital exhibition for you, this will replace our 'what we've been learning' section of the school newsletter this week and next.

Summer Fair

Saturday brought our open air Summer Fair. Hosted in the front gardens of parents/carers, this occasion brought the community together in an innovative way and raised over £1,800 for school funds, with an additional £1,000 raised from the estate agency boards - an impressive achievement! I very much enjoyed meandering around, map in hand, with my daughter and dog, chatting with families - it was a lovely atmosphere. Thank you so much to FROMS, and especially to Holly, for making this wonderful event possible in these extraordinary times. Indeed, thank you to everyone who planned, organised, donated, made and sold, and to everyone who went along on the day. Your support is much appreciated.

Good News

There was more good news on Wednesday when Joanie (our Year 1 teacher) welcomed her baby boy, Jesse, to the world! Year 1 children were very excited to hear the news today and were keen to share much information about their own families and siblings with me! I'm sure you will join me in offering Joanie our congratulations.

Staffing

As we move towards the summer holidays, I can confirm that all children will find out who their new class teacher is next week when they meet them in person. After 19 years at Meridian, Christine (our Foundation Stage Leader, Nursery teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead) will be retiring this Summer. We thank Christine for her significant contribution to the school and the difference she has made to many children and their families over the years. We wish her all the very best of luck for this next chapter of her life and we are sure she will stay in touch.



Bubble Closures

Whilst we are very much looking forward to welcoming our Year 5 bubble back to school on Tuesday 20th July, our Nursery bubble will not be returning this school year. It is sad that the Nursery children and staff team are not able to say goodbye to each other in person before the end of term; however, the children will be invited to Google Meets next week where they can see each other virtually. During these challenging times, we continue to adapt.

All things Covid-19

From Monday 19th July, whilst contacts of positive cases are still required to self-isolate, the responsibility for contact tracing moves from the school to NHS Test and Trace.

Next week, there will be no other changes to our school risk assessment, and we thank you in advance for continuing to wear face coverings on the school playground at drop-off and pick-up times so that we can continue to keep all members of our school community as safe as possible.

Please note the following:

- Children with any one Covid symptom, however mild, should continue to self-isolate straight away (along with other members of their household). Parents should arrange a PCR test and inform the school.
- Parents/carers should still let the school know straight away if their child tests positive.
- Contacts of positive cases will be advised to arrange a PCR test.

From 16th August, children and fully vaccinated adults will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are close contacts of positive cases.

September 2021

With the national vaccination programme progressing well, it seems that we will be in a much stronger position in September 2021 than we were at the beginning of this school year. At the same time, many members of our community are concerned about the rising numbers of Covid cases currently and, as restrictions are lifted, the Prime Minister and Chief Medical Officer advise caution. In considering changes for September, the governors and I agree that it is prudent to proceed with caution in school.:

The new government guidance outlines the need to maintain current practices in relation to hygiene, enhanced cleaning and good ventilation but lifts some other measures related to social distancing. If there is a significant increase in Covid cases in the local area or a high number of cases arise in school, we need to be prepared to reintroduce additional safety measures.

Children will return to school on Monday 6th September, and we will write to you on Friday 3rd September to confirm drop-off and pick-up times and any other key information. It is likely that we will begin the 2021/22 school year with most of the current routines still in place and bring about change gradually.

Throughout the pandemic, I believe that Meridian has taken a measured approach to all things Covid. We have carefully considered and followed government and public health guidance and made decisions in the best interests of the children, staff and wider community. I do hope that you trust us to continue to do the same moving forwards.

And finally...

Please have a look at some of the information below from RBG about activities available in the Summer holidays.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Jo

Jo Graham, Headteacher

Information for activities for the Summer Holidays

Free summer club spaces through Holiday Food and Fun

Using a grant from the Department for Education, the Royal Borough of Greenwich is funding free places at holiday clubs this summer for school children who are eligible for free school meals. Providers across the borough are offering different activity camps, which will all include a health food offer.

A brochure will be sent out to families eligible for free school meals in the coming weeks listing all the provides and what's on offer.

Please see the [online directory for more information](#) - parents and carers should contact providers directly to book spaces.

Holiday Fun Fridays

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is putting on Holiday Fun Fridays events during the school summer holidays to provide free entertainment for children and families. They will take place each Friday during the school summer holidays in General Gordon Square in Woolwich, which will be festooned with colour, lively free entertainment and activities for the kids (and grown-ups!), plus market stalls featuring gifts and treats from local businesses as well as fab food from across the world to tempt your tastebuds.

When: Friday 30 July, 6 August, 13 August, 20 August, 27 August 10am to 4pm

Be prepared for some unexpected live performances around the Square, as part of our Royal Greenwich Festivals summer season! Find out what else is on at our Holiday Fun Friday events at www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/holidayfunfridays

2021 Meridian Governor Survey

Meridian's governing body is currently conducting an anonymous parent/carer survey to hear your views about the school. The survey has 20 questions and takes about two minutes to complete.

Please complete the survey by **Tuesday 20th July** using this link:

<https://forms.gle/CuXQvaenAzf6JWEs9>

Breakfast Club and Play Club from September 2021

Breakfast Club will be available to all Meridian children in Reception to Year 6 from Monday 6th September 2021. Play Club will be available to all Meridian children in Year 1 to Year 6 from Monday 6th September and to Reception children from Monday 20th September 2021. Please note that we are not currently able to offer wraparound care to Nursery children but will explore this possibility further in the new school year.

We can only accept long term bookings for the whole half term. If there is demand for more places than we have space for, we may have to prioritise places for parents/carers who are working or studying.

Breakfast Club is open from 7.30am each day until school starts and Play Club runs from the end of the school day until 5.45pm every day.

The current cost for Breakfast Club is £5.00 per session and for Play Club is £11.00 per session.

If you would like your child to attend Breakfast Club please follow this link to book a place.

<https://forms.gle/DmzkybvLDDL9Rn4t5>

If you would like your child to attend Play Club please follow this link to book a place.

<https://forms.gle/cexfe91dKXcimgGZ7>

Please complete these forms by **Thursday 22nd July**.

Once we have established how many children require our wraparound care service, we will write to you again to confirm your child's place.

Diary Dates

Friday, 23rd July - Last day of 2020-21 school year

2021-22 School Year

The first day of the 2021-22 school year for children will be **Monday 6th September** except for Reception children who start on **Tuesday 7th September**.

New Nursery children have also been given their individual start dates.

Term dates are set for our school by the [Royal Borough of Greenwich](#). The school allocates five training days (INSETs) - pupils do not attend school on these days.

Training days for 2021-2022 are:

INSET 1 - Wednesday 1st September 2021

INSET 2 - Thursday 2nd September 2021

INSET 3 - Friday 3rd September 2021

INSET 4 & 5 to be confirmed

Payments



Please continue to check your child's Play Club and Breakfast Club accounts on Parent Pay and make the required payment against any monies owing.

This is particularly important for all children who are leaving us on 23rd July; any outstanding balances must be settled in full by the end of next week.

Dinner Accounts

As dinner account balances do not show on Parent Pay, please contact Sharon or Tina in the school office to get an up-to-date balance.

If you are having any difficulty paying, please talk to Jo or Sharon by calling the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.



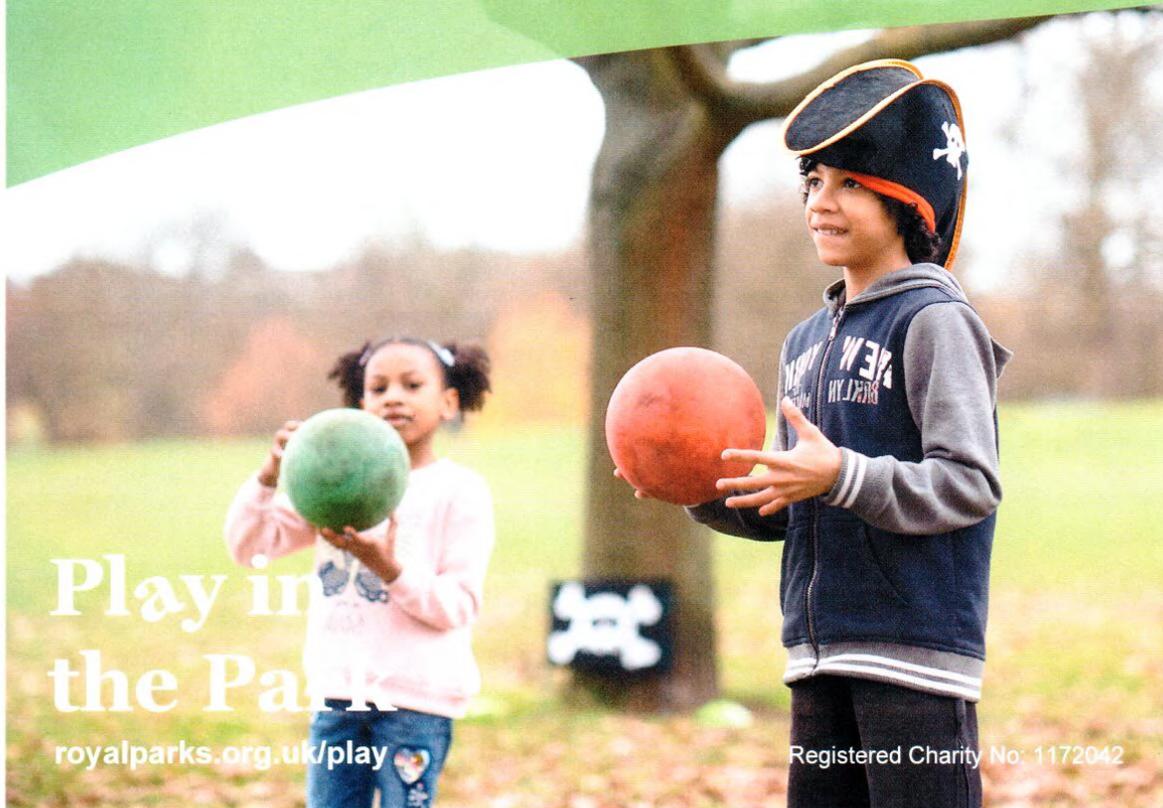
The Summer of Play

Eastney Street Community (Ball court)
Thursday 22nd July,
3.15 – 6.15 pm

Activities include: dressing up & making up games, constructing cardboard space-ships to knocking down towers of teddy bears. We will ensure that possibilities are endless.

No need to book, just come and join us!

For more information, please get in touch with us at
play@royalparks.org.uk



Play in
the Park

royalparks.org.uk/play

Registered Charity No: 1172042