



# Whole School Newsletter

Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! It's been lovely to see all the children this week, refreshed from the Easter holidays and settling back into routines. They have embarked on their new whole school topic, 'Surviving and Thriving'. The learning focus is on science and geography, and the children will be exploring aspects of growth as well as the human and physical geography of the UK and other parts of the world. (Please look out for class newsletters which will be sent home as soon as possible.)

The last time I counted, there were 37 different languages spoken by Meridian children. This is certainly reflective of one aspect of the rich diversity of the Meridian community. Whilst our journeys abroad may be restricted by Covid at the moment, it is fascinating to consider the threads that link us to countries and communities across the world.

Over 100 years ago in America, the Wright brothers invented the first successful aeroplane and, in 1903, Orville Wright flew a distance of about 36 metres. Since then, humans have flown all over the world and travelled incredible distances into space. On Monday, the first powered, controlled aircraft flew on another planet - Mars! The aircraft was a small helicopter named Ingenuity and a little piece of the Wright flier was attached to it. If you haven't already seen it, you can look at a clip of this historic mini-flight here: [NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter Succeeds in Historic First Flight](#). The children watched this in assembly this week. It's hard to recognise a significant historical moment when you're 5 years old (or even 11) but, hopefully, the children will take away some understanding of the remarkable advances of science and future possibilities.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Best wishes, Jo - Jo Graham, Headteacher

## What have our Foundation Stage children been learning about this week?



This week, the Foundation Stage have enjoyed taking part in a range of active and interactive opportunities to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. **Nursery** thought about how being active helps keep us healthy and strong, and children enjoyed setting physical challenges for themselves, especially on the clamber climber!

I hold the rope with two hands.  
I look where I am going.  
*Hilda, Nursery*

You have to hold the string and then walk.  
You need to go slow!  
*Eddie, Nursery*

Reception have enjoyed reading the story 'Oliver's Fruit Salad' by Vivienne French. They discussed the benefits of a healthy balanced diet and the importance of regular exercise. Children also loved taking their weekly Write Dance session outside this week - a great way to exercise their hand and arm muscles!



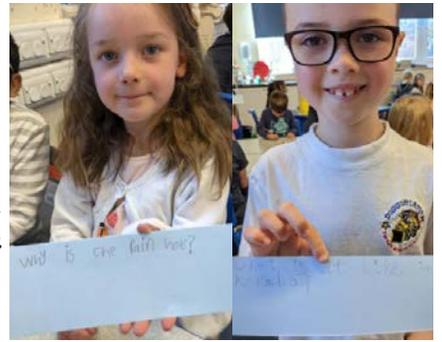
I love chocolate but too much is unhealthy because it is full of sugar. Bananas have naturally occurring sugars!  
*Zayden, Reception*

I like grapes and pears and melon!  
*Sumaiya, Reception*

This week, our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children have begun to immerse themselves in our new geography and science topic '**Surviving and Thriving**'...



**Year 1** and **Year 2** have already hit the ground running with their geography learning this term by finding out about the four countries of the United Kingdom and the surrounding seas. They have also begun to think about another place in the world that they are going to be learning about - Kerala, a state in India. Children used maps to locate where Kerala is and generated questions about the things that they'd like to find out.



The United Kingdom is an island because it's surrounded by water and not land.  
*Shanzay, Y1*

There are four countries in the United Kingdom: England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.  
*River, Y1*

How do you get to India?  
*Henry, Y1*

How long does it take to get to Kerala from London?  
*Elsie H, Y1*



To support their science learning about life cycles, both classes have welcomed some temporary tiny visitors into their classrooms! Year 1 are excited to watch their caterpillar eggs grow and develop into butterflies, and Year 2 are looking forward to observing their triops eggs mature into tadpoles!



Bonjour! This term, **Year 3** and **Year 4** will be learning about the geography of the UK, and how the land is used in different ways to help people **survive** and **thrive** before making comparisons with Paris and its surrounding areas. This week, children have learned to differentiate between towns, cities and capital cities, locating the major towns and cities of the UK using atlases.

I've visited Manchester and I was able to find it on the map too!  
*Maison, Y3*



*A Walk in Paris* by Salvatore Rubbino, has been a great introduction into 'The City of Light', as children have explored its many landmarks.

A capital city is different because it is normally where the government meets.  
*Amelie, Y4*

A city is bigger than a town and has more people living there so it needs more shops and schools too.  
*Han Han*



**Year 5** and **Year 6** have begun to get stuck into their geography topic for this term by recapping their prior geographical knowledge of the United Kingdom. This week, they used maps to explore the different geographical regions of the UK and accurately annotate their own maps. Later this term, children will discover just how much can be learned from maps as they study a wider range of thematic maps.

A country is made up of different counties. For example, Cornwall is a county in England.  
*Liesel, Y6*

A continent is a collection of countries; a country is a land mass with counties, cities and towns.  
*Hannah O, Y6*

## Diary Dates

**Monday, 3rd May** - Bank Holiday Monday - school is closed

**Thursday, 6th May** - Due to the London Mayoral elections, the school is being used as a polling station and will be closed to children on this day.

**Friday, 28th May** - Last day of Summer Term 1

**Monday, 31st May - Friday 4th June inclusive** - May half term holidays

**Monday, 7th June** - First day of Summer Term 2

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

## 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.

### Dinner Accounts

A reminder that payment for school dinners should be made in advance; the cost of dinners for **Summer Term 1** is **28 days x £2.75 = £77**. Please note that if your child is entitled to Free School Meals or is in Reception, Y1 or Y2 there is no charge for dinners.

*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.*



# News Eggstra

**FROMS Easter Eggstravaganza  
raised £720!**

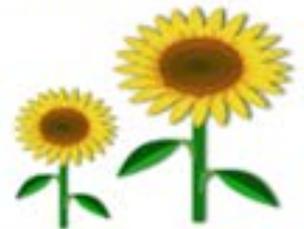
**Thank you to everyone who supported this event.**

We hope that the children enjoyed doing the Easter Scavenger Hunt at school, following the Meridian Bunny as he hopped around East Greenwich and planting their sunflowers.

If you haven't donated yet but would like to do so, please donate what you can via the FROMS bank account. The details are:



**Account Name: Friends of Meridian**  
**Account number: 73546895**  
**Sort code: 60-09-16**



Alp, Reception



Ben, Year 2



Ethan, Year 4



Demid, Year 3



Mimi, Year 2



Alana, Year 1



Daisy, Year 2



River, Year 1