



# Whole School Newsletter

Friday 7th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,



We have managed to fit a lot into three days of learning this week! Most significantly, children and staff across the whole school have embraced Deaf Awareness Week. At Meridian, valuing individuality and celebrating differences is fundamental to our school ethos. Our Designated Special Provision (DSP) for deaf children has been part of Meridian for decades and complements the rich diversity of our school. Whilst children and staff within our community are deaf aware, Deaf Awareness Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness even more; to celebrate the achievements of individuals and champion inclusivity. It is through both revisiting previous knowledge and creating new learning opportunities that children embed and develop their understanding. It is through teaching children about their world and the success of others that we can show them the possibilities for themselves and the difference they can make.

Deaf Awareness Week got off to a great start on Tuesday when, during our whole school assembly, Jane W, Lead Teacher of the Deaf, shared a video of her interviewing her famous stepdaughter - Jazzy Whipps. Jazzy is a deaf Youtuber with a very impressive following.

As Jane W summarised: *By watching the interview, the children found out the importance of sign names for deaf identity. Sign names are part of deaf culture. They can reflect elements of someone's personality, their interests or physical features such as 'curly hair' or 'beard'. They are given to you by someone deaf and are personal and unique to each person. Jazzy explained that sign names are easier and quicker to use than finger spelling someone's name using BSL. When she was growing up, sign names helped Jazzy to easily identify members of her family (such as differentiating between her two nans).*



Well done to Guin and Lewis for all their hard work in ensuring all the grown-ups at Meridian have sign names and to all the children who learnt some BSL, practised their sign names and/or researched the achievements of deaf individuals this week. If you want to know more about Deaf Awareness Week, follow the link here: [Deaf Awareness Week 2021 | Get Involved](#). If you would like to see Jazzy's interview, Jane W has promised to upload it to Google Classroom next week.

On a final note, Angie Newman, a musician and very talented BSL interpreter, has shared this Philharmonia YouTube video link with me which some of the children have already watched in school and you may be interested in watching at home. As Angie says, 'The more views, the better the sponsorship - it all helps to keep orchestras going at this difficult time.' [Philharmonia Sessions: Family Concert](#)

Best wishes,  
Jo  
Jo Graham, Headteacher

## What have our children been learning about during Deaf Awareness Week?

**Nursery** children have had great fun learning BSL (British Sign Language) to sign familiar nursery rhymes as they recite them. They particularly enjoyed learning 'Incy Wincy Spider' and 'Hot Cross Buns'!

hot



cross



bun



Deaf means you can't hear the same.  
Bea M, Nursery

I know the signs for hot, cross and bun!  
Reuben, Nursery

In **Reception**, children have shown great focus in learning the 26 letter signs needed to sign the alphabet and sing the ABC song - why not ask them at home to show you how to sign the first letter of their name?

My name starts with D - d for dog and d for Daria. Look, I can sign it!  
Daria, Reception

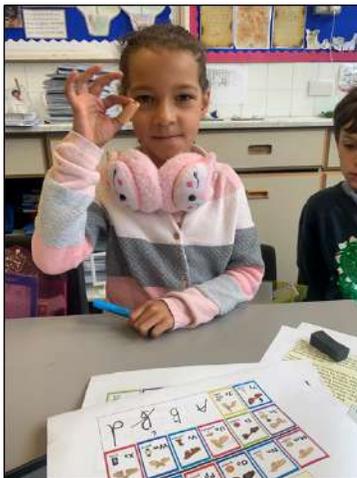
I liked learning the signs for the ABC song. Signing helps deaf people.  
Sean, Reception



**Year 1** and **Year 2** have demonstrated wonderful persistence when learning how to finger spell their names. They also created their own unique sign names, which they will be very proud to show you at home! Some children decided on their sign name based on a hobby or interest, others on their personality, appearance or their favourite thing!

I love trees, nuts and squirrels so my sign name is a tree.  
Tyler, Y1

I love rugby so mine is rugby.  
Harvey, Y1



My sign name is the daisy flower - I sign 'flower' and then pick off the petals to show I mean daisy.  
Daisy E, Y2



My sign name is 'octopus' as my name begins with an 'o' and I am wriggly like an octopus!  
Osman, Y2



Karate



Dragon

Rose



Tiger

Jump



Pokemon

Having mastered how to finger spell their names, **Year 3** and **Year 4** explored the importance of sign names in the deaf community as a way of expressing identity. Children thought about all the things that make us 'us', and considered how they could show these in their sign name.

Sign names are important to the deaf community because they show we are all individuals.

*Areli, Y3*

From watching one of her videos, we found out that Jasmine's sign name is *Flower* because her name is a type of flower.

*Aliya, Y3*

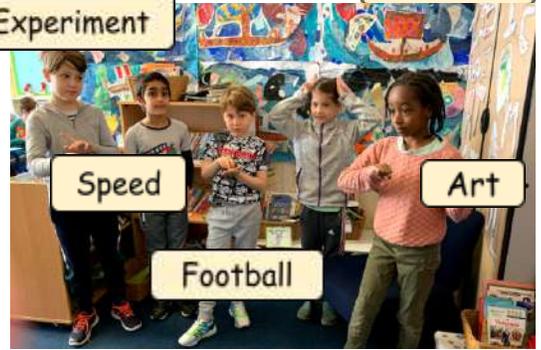
Experiment

Rabbit

Speed

Art

Football



I learnt that the vowels are on your hand which helps with finger spelling. It's nice to have a sign name that tells people what you like to do - and it's a lot shorter than finger spelling! It's an important way of expressing who you are.

*Wilf, Y4*

A sign name is important so we don't have to finger spell it each time. They use sign language in other countries too. In ASL (American Sign Language) they call them 'name signs' - we say 'sign names'.

*Urte, Y4*

sign

name

'S' for Sara



**Year 5** and **Year 6** have been learning more about Jazzy Whipps, the profoundly deaf YouTuber, and Chris Fonseca, a dancer from Greenwich who is deaf.



Jazzy posts a range of videos on YouTube, from light-hearted clips about her family's ability to understand her deaf voice, to more instructional videos that give advice to deaf people about how to interview well for jobs. Children

thought about the impact that Jazzy's work has for both the deaf and hearing people who view her content.



I think it's great that Jazzy shows people on her channel what it is like to be deaf and how deaf people deal with different situations that pop up in everyday life.

*Matilda, Y6*

Jazzy once said, "If you have any disabilities or you're deaf, it doesn't mean you should stop following your dreams."

*Chloe, Y5*



After having meningitis from a very young age, Chris became profoundly deaf in both ears. Working as a professional choreographer, street dance coach and dancer, he inspires people inside and outside the deaf community to achieve their dreams no matter the challenges.

Chris has three mottoes which I find very inspiring: 1. How do you know if you don't try? 2. Dreams don't work unless you do. 3. Dream it, believe it, achieve it!

*Nicole, Y5*

## Meridian Bunny Hop Easter Trail



Well done to all the children who completed the Meridian Bunny Hop during the Easter holidays and submitted their answers for entry into the prize draw. All children who participated received a certificate this week. The names of all children who entered were put into a hat, and a winner and ten runners-up were randomly selected. Congratulations everyone, and thank you to FROMS for making this possible!

Winner: Freddie (Y3)

Runners up: Phoebe (Y6), Elsie S (Y1), Ben (Y2), Irtaza (N), Sarah (Y5), Blaise (R), Leonardo (Y1), Amy (Y3), Reuben (Y2), Matas (Y6)



## Build a Burger Day - Thursday 20th May



**For any children who have packed lunch:** If you would like to have a school dinner on 20th May, please sign up by 9am on Monday 10th May via the link you were sent by text last week.

## Diary Dates

**Friday, 14th May** - National Child Measurement Programme for Reception & Y6 children - taking place in school

**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.*

# Calling all runners!



We are delighted to announce that that FROMS has secured a limited number of places for the Meridian School Community to run in The Big Half on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August!

Entries cost £10, more information on the event can be found here:

<https://www.thebighalf.co.uk/>

To request your place please email Gayle – [gayle.book@outlook.com](mailto:gayle.book@outlook.com)



## Happy Running!

# GREENWICH GIANTS



## CRICKET

### OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SESSIONS

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WEDNESDAYS 5.00pm-6.00pm

12th May until 28th July 2021 (12 weeks)

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GREENWICH PARK, BLACKHEATH AVENUE, SE10 8QY

- All sessions are free to students from Maritime Greenwich & Peninsula Primary Schools
- Open to boys and girls
- Level 2 qualified & DBS checked coaches
- Opportunities to take part in competitive matches



## PLATFORM

Supporting young people to progress  
through and in cricket

Please contact Chris Willetts (Manager) to confirm your place: 07801 026 891

[chris.willetts@thysf.org](mailto:chris.willetts@thysf.org)