



Friday 17th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Jane and I were reflecting yesterday that, in some ways, this term has flown by, yet in others, it seems to have lasted an awfully long time! That's the thing with a pandemic - it shifts your reality somewhat.

What I do know with certainty is that it has been fantastic to have the whole school back under one roof learning together again. I have been so impressed with how well our new children (and staff) have settled into school life and how the rest of our community has adapted to change - thank you for your support in this. Whilst we were sad to say goodbye to Ann and Abi today, we had a lovely virtual whole school assembly together (for those of you who can remember Challenge Annika, there were some slight similarities). We look forward to welcoming new member, Amy Thomas, to our team in January and some of our Y2 parents were able to meet her briefly in the playground this morning. Strong communities are able to accommodate flux and change and, with your support, I believe that Meridian do it very well.

Despite the best efforts of the weather and virus to dampen the Christmas mood this week (not to mention some unfortunate political wranglings), the children's spirits certainly have not been dampened - they were very enthusiastic in assembly and, at lunchtime, one group of children were in particularly good voice, chanting an old pop song outside my window! Importantly, despite the ups and downs of the week, I am pleased to report that Father Christmas did manage to visit Meridian and drop off 240 selection boxes. These were handed out in the rain on Monday. Thank you to FROMS for making this happen. (Don't worry if your child wasn't here to receive their chocolate gift - we have saved one for them.) Although teachers have yet to record children's class poems for you, they will do so in the New Year.

I sincerely hope you all have a healthy and happy Christmas. If you need to contact us, the school email address will be checked daily up to and including 23rd December - email us at:

sao@meridian.greenwich.sch.uk. A brief reminder - if your child should receive a positive Covid test between now and 23rd December, please do email us as soon as you can.

It has been humbling to receive your many emails and kind words of support this week - thank you. Once again, I know I am privileged to work alongside such a fantastic staff team and serve such a great community. Whilst it is difficult not knowing what 2021 will bring, I am hopeful that there are better times ahead and confident that the school community will face together whatever the future holds.

On that note, I'll finish with a Christmas book recommendation (which may suit a last minute present for a KS2 child). I've just finished reading 'The Midnight Guardians' by Ross Montgomery. Although a fantasy, the book includes some real events and illustrates some of the challenges faced by children during the Second World War. It shows how friendship, love and courage can overcome hatred and fear. The book tells the story of Col, who has been evacuated to the countryside. With the help of his imaginary friends, he sets off to fight the darkness of the Midwinter King and save his sister and home in Blitzed London. On their journey, Col and his friends meet Ruth, a young Jewish refugee who has fled Germany and is looking for her parents. As they shelter in the darkness each evening, Ruth lights a candle to celebrate Chanukah.



"None of them knew the challenges that lay ahead... But in that moment, carrying the candle towards a future that lay unmapped, waiting to be written, they knew that no matter what happened to them they would at least face it together. In some ways, it was the only hope they had. But sometimes that's the only hope you need."

Merry Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday January 5th 2021. If I hear any news relevant to primary schools before then, I will of course let you know via email.

Warm wishes,

Jo

Jo Graham - Headteacher