



Whole School Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to all our existing families and a warm welcome to new children and staff! We hope you had a wonderful break. It has been lovely to see the children settling into their new classrooms and routines this week and to welcome new Nursery and Reception children.

We have started the new school year with our mini-topic, 'We are Meridian'. Siobhan's whole school assembly focussed on the school values - equality, inclusion, aspiration, nurture and creativity - which underpin all aspects of school life and make Meridian so special. In class, the children continued exploring these and the Meridian Learning Muscles - developing these will support children in strengthening resilience for learning. Next week, the children will be learning about why we are called Meridian, with classes visiting Greenwich Park to see where the Meridian Line begins!

As we always say to the children, Meridian is not just a building; most importantly, it is all the people who make up our school community - the children, staff, parents/carers and governors. We are very much looking forward to continuing to work in partnership with all our families and the wider community this year and to all the possibilities a new school year brings.

Welcome back to Hannah Turner (Maths Lead/Year 3 teacher) who has returned from maternity leave. Welcome to new teachers, Imogen Herlihy in Year 1 and Baykan Özdoğan in Year 4, as well as Abi Cook, who joins us on secondment from Thomas Tallis School as our Lead Teacher of the Deaf. I'm sure you will make them very welcome. There will be a chance for all parents/carers to meet their child's teacher and hear all about the curriculum and routines at our Meet the Teacher meetings next week - please see Dates for your Diary on page 7. A comprehensive list of dates for the term and school year will be emailed to you next week.

Our diverse community is made up of children and staff who speak over 40 languages! To celebrate European Languages Day later this month, we will be celebrating all languages and are inviting parents/carers to share stories in their home language with their child's class. Please do [sign up here!](#)

A very important aspect of our school community is our incredible Parent/Teacher Association - FROMS (Friends of Meridian School). Our thanks go to Vicky, El and the rest of the committee for all they have done for the school in recent times. As our committee are now stepping down, we **really** need new committee members to step up - we do hope you can help. FROMS is a registered charity which plays a vital role in school life: bringing together our community for social events and raising much needed funds. FROMS cannot continue to run without at least three core members - a chair, a secretary and a treasurer. If you are interested in finding out more about these roles or in sharing a role with someone else, please do let me or Siobhan know as soon as possible. I am sure that current members can hand over a wealth of information and resources to help anyone new to the committee. I do hope others can volunteer as we would really struggle without this exceptional committee.

The FROMS AGM takes place on Wednesday 7th October at 5:30pm in school. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for more information. You can also complete the FROMS annual survey and vote for this year's enrichment activity [here](#).

And finally... we are delighted with our new drinking water coolers on each floor!

Best wishes,
Jo

Jo Graham, Executive Headteacher



**Imogen, Year 1
teacher**



**Baykan, Year 4
teacher**



**Hannah, Year 3
teacher and
Maths Leader**



**Abi, Lead Teacher of
the Deaf and RHR**

Through our whole school mini topic **We are Meridian**, what have our children been learning about this week?

There are returning and new Meridian children in the EYFS this week. All the children have been settling into school life and making the most of the learning environment. They have been talking a lot about starting a new school, learning new routines and meeting new friends. They are demonstrating our school value of **inclusion** by making everyone welcome, as well as **nurturing** each other. The children are also working hard to develop their confidence and independence and are enjoying challenging themselves in new ways.



Nursery

It's the little pigs' house.
Alex E



Wash hands.
Etnik

I played on the slide
with Alex.
Alex B



Reception

I like making new friends and all
having snack time together.
Oscar

Reading and learning time
are so much fun!
Lorelai



I played with some
new toy dinosaurs in
the sand.
Isa

I like drawing at school and making maps.
Mabel

The children in **Key Stage One** have had a busy and exciting week familiarising themselves with their new classrooms and teachers. They have spent the week learning about behaviour expectations and routines and have reminded themselves of our whole school values and the five important school rules: Be polite and considerate, Walk quietly around school, Keep hands, feet and objects to ourselves, Follow instructions, and Take care of everyone and everything in our school. Well done, children, on settling in so well this week!

Year 1 talked about what **nurture** means and created birthday cards in advance for their classmates to show they care for them. They explored **inclusion** by reading *All Are Welcome Here* and discussed how they can make the classroom a happy and welcoming environment for everybody. Finally, the class used their **creativity** to create new pieces of artwork from broken china plates, which also involved flexing their Meridian Learning Muscle, **resourcefulness**!

Year 2 created a rainbow display showcasing their understanding of the rules, with each child signing their name on a paper hand, a commitment to themselves and their friends that they will follow the rules for the rest of the year. They also learnt more about the Meridian values of **aspiration** and **nurture** through setting an ambitious goal for the year and writing kind words for a friend.



I've made a unicorn with the plates!
Sumairya

I like looking after my friends.
Maya



I got my friends to help me solve the problem.
Teddy



I want to be a police girl and help people when I grow up.
Freya



Micheal, you are very good at scoring goals in football.
Oliver

Emily, you always make me laugh when I'm sad.
Cleo.



Year 2

I want to learn how to be a vet. I will read books about animals every day.
Ava



I want to learn how to write my sentences in cursive handwriting. I will be **persistent**.
Millie



I want to improve my handwriting.
Lilia



Both **Year 3** and **Year 4** have settled into their new classes well and have spent the week exploring what it means to be part of our school community, focussing on our school value of **inclusion** and developing their Meridian Learning Muscles.

Year 3 explored the importance of our Learning Muscles in helping us grow as learners. The children role-played what it looks like to be **persistent, focussed, resourceful, curious and reflective**, before creating personal 'learning journeys' to celebrate times they used these qualities to succeed in their learning. They are very **aspirational** for the year ahead and look forward to strengthening these muscles.

In **Year 4**, the children celebrated the rich diversity of our school community by exploring their family heritages and learning about the significance of flags from around the world. Linking to our value of **inclusion**, the class also flexed their **reflective** Learning Muscle while introducing the Zones of Regulation. They took time to reflect on how different emotions across the Blue, Green, Yellow, and Red zones shape their daily experiences, investigating how feelings shift and building a shared bank of calming strategies to support themselves and one another as learners.

My Learning Journey		
		
It was challenging when I learnt to ride my bike.	The Learning Muscle I used was persistence and I never gave up.	It felt good because it was a challenge.

Joshua

?	
	Kate
Reflective	
Focussed	

I can use equipment the Learning Wall or my friend to help me. I ask questions or try things out to see how they work.

Year 3



When I was doing work in English that was hard, the Learning Muscle I used was being focussed and I listened really well in lessons. It felt amazing because I was so happy with my writing.

Albie



I showed **persistence** when I was making my puppet! I tried and kept trying until I had finished making it!

Eve

When I was learning to swim, the dolphin stroke was really hard. I was **persistent** and kept trying and it felt good when I eventually got it!

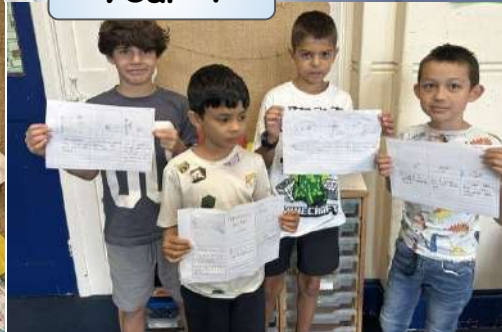
Ezra

People can feel very different emotions about the same things. Something that puts me in the Green Zone might put somebody else in the Blue Zone.

Sofia S



Year 4



You never really think about what flags mean, but every colour has a meaning related to something about a country's nature or its history.

Hayden

We've been learning to recognise our emotions using the Zones of Regulation. We looked at scenarios and worked as a team to recognise what emotions they might make you feel. There is no right or wrong Zone to be in, but there are ways that you can try to feel calmer when you're feeling big feelings.

Dottie



Year 5 and **Year 6** have had a fantastic start to the school year! Through the 'We are Meridian' topic, they have been exploring our Meridian values and the Meridian Learning Muscles.

In the **Year 5** classroom, the children have been creating a tree to represent the school values. Focussing particularly on **nurture** and **aspiration**, the children wrote ways they look after themselves on the leaves and thought carefully about their future dreams for the blossom!

Year 6 children delved into the value of **aspiration** by creating vision boards that help them visualise their future goals. Reflecting on their Learning Muscles, they created 'Learning Journeys' to show how they have learned and improved new skills in the past, and how they used their Learning Muscles to do so!

Nurture means to look after something to help it grow and develop. I nurture myself by relaxing, stroking my cats and listening to music!

Memphis

Year 5

When I'm older, I would like to be a car engineer because I like cars and am interested in how they work.

Irtaza

In English, we are writing an autobiography and, in my opening paragraph, I am imagining that I have reached my **aspiration** of being a stuntman. I am describing myself mid-stunt, jumping from a car onto a motorbike!

Oscar

Year 6

Aspiration is about having goals for the future and really high expectations for yourself!

Fola

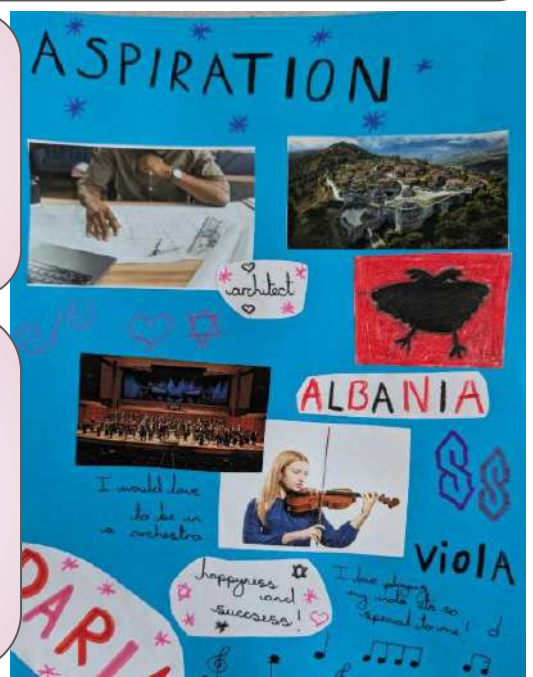
I want to be an author! I am imagining walking into Waterstones and seeing customers take my first book off the shelf to buy!

Take

Sometimes learning takes place over a really long time. Actually, you could say that it never stops!

Jia

Nicola's vision board





Did you know that our children, families and staff speak over 40 different languages? During the week beginning Monday 21st September, we will be celebrating the European Day of Languages and using this as an opportunity to reflect on the linguistic diversity of our community and the importance of learning languages in general.

We would like to invite parents/carers who speak a language other than English (including non-European languages!) to come into school to read to their child's class in their home language. You might have your own favourite dual language book at home that you'd like to bring in but, if not, we have a range of dual language books in school including Spanish, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Albanian, Farsi, Ukrainian - the list goes on! If you are interested, please complete the Google form linked below to tell us in which language you'd like to read and when you are available. Your child's class teacher will then be in touch to confirm with you.

[Sign up here!](#)

After School Clubs

After school clubs will start in the week beginning Monday 21st September. Please see the timetable below of the clubs that will be running this term. A letter about after school clubs, including the link to an online booking form to sign your child up, will be emailed to parents/carers on **Monday 14th September at 12pm** and close on **Wednesday 16th September at 12pm**.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1 & Year 2	Y1 & Y2 Dance	Y1 & Y2 Football		Y1 & Y2 Multisports	
	Y1,Y2 & Y3 Arts and Crafts Club with Amy	Y1, Y2 & Y3 D&T Club with Joanie		Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6, The Green Gang Club with Nelly	
Year 3 & Year 4			Y2, Y3 & Y4 Gymnastics		Y3 & Y4 Football
	Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 KS2 Choir with Nelly			Y4, Y5 & Y6 Tennis	Y3,Y4,Y5 & Y6 Musical Theatre Club with Abi McWilliam
Year 5 & Year 6			Y5 & Y6 Football		



Please remember Meridian is a nut-free school. Nuts and nut-based products (such as peanut butter, Nutella and some chocolate bars such as Kinder Bueno) can cause serious allergic reactions for some of our children. Please do not send your child to school with any items which contain nuts. *Thank you for helping to keep all our children safe.*

Diary Dates

2026-2027 School Year



Term dates are set for our school by the [Royal Borough of Greenwich](#). The school allocates five training days (INSETs) - children do not attend school on these days. The remaining INSET days for this school year are listed below:

- **INSET 4 - Monday 4th January 2027**
- **INSET 5 - Monday 22nd February 2027**

A comprehensive list of dates for the Autumn Term and key dates for the school year will be emailed to parents/carers with the newsletter next week and will also be put on our school website. New dates, including Christmas theatre trips for all classes and some class trips, will be added as they are confirmed, so please do check this list periodically. Please find below dates for the next two weeks at school, including our **'Meet the Teacher' meetings for Y2-Y6** and **Curriculum Meeting for Reception** where parents/carers will have an opportunity to meet their child's teacher(s) and find out more about the learning that will take place throughout the Autumn Term. (Year 1 date to be advised.)

Year 6 parent/carers:

The **closing date for secondary applications is 31st October 2026**. Jo or Siobhan will attend the Year 6 'Meet the Teacher' meeting on Tuesday 15th September to speak about this. If you are not able to attend and would like to speak to Jo or Siobhan about this, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment or speak to one of us on the playground.

Week beginning 14th September	Tuesday 15th September	Y4 and Y5 swimming lessons begin
		Year 4 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:00-4:30pm Year 6 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:30-5:00pm
	Wednesday 16th September	Year 5 & Year 6 Local walk to Greenwich Park am
		Year 3 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:00-4:30pm Year 2 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:30-5:00pm
	Thursday 17th September	Year 2 Local walk to Greenwich Park am Year 4 Local walk to Greenwich Park pm Year 3 Local walk to Greenwich Park pm
		Year 5 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:30-5:00pm
Week beginning 21st September	Wednesday 23rd September	Reception Curriculum Meeting 4:00-4:30pm



Announcement AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

07 OCTOBER

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

MERIDIAN SCHOOL, SE10 9NY



COMPLETE THE ANNUAL SURVEY (**PLUS VOTE FOR ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY INSIDE**) **CLOSES 2 OCT** AND RESULTS WILL BE DISCLOSED AT THE AGM

**Open
Position**

THE CURRENT COMMITTEE WILL BE STEPPING DOWN AT THE AGM. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED, GET IN TOUCH

CHILDREN WELCOME TO STAY AT PLAYCLUB

AGENDA

- 25/26 IN REVIEW
- APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
- SURVEY RESULTS
- FUNDING NEEDS AND IDEAS
- TRUSTEE RESIGNATIONS
- NEW COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS



Info@froms.co.uk



www.FROMS.co.uk



@friendsofmeridian

Keeping Children Safe at Meridian Information for parents/carers and visitors

All schools have a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. At Meridian, we endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children and adults feel respected and valued; where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.

We recognise that:

- Children cannot learn effectively unless they feel secure;
- All children have a right to be protected from harm;
- All staff, volunteers and governors have a key role in the prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, either in the school or in the community.

Meridian will support children in their understanding of staying safe by:

- Ensuring children know that there are adults in the school whom they can talk to if they are worried;
- Promoting opportunities across the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to keep themselves safe, including when using technology.

Within Greenwich schools, we maintain an attitude of '**it could happen here**' where safeguarding is concerned, and promote a culture of openness where children and adults are able to talk and are listened to.

Who should my child speak to if they have a concern?

Your child can speak to any trusted adult in school. If the adult has a concern about the safety of the child, they will refer the matter to Jo (Executive Headteacher), Siobhan (Acting Head of School), Melissa (Assistant Head/ SENCo) or Jane W (Lead Teacher of the Deaf/ DSL).



Jo



Siobhan



Melissa

All schools also have a safeguarding link governor. At Meridian this is Philippa Peto.

We acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies protects children and reduces risk, and so we will engage in partnership working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children. Whilst the school will work openly with parents and carers as far as possible, there may sometimes be occasions when we need to contact Children's Social Care or the police without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child's best interests. This is a legal obligation and not a personal decision; this decision will be made in partnership with Social Care.

Our full safeguarding policy is available to parents and carers via the school website or school office.

We're proud to have signed up to the Royal Greenwich

Equality and Equity Charter

#Greenwichequality

royalgreenwich.gov.uk/equalitycharter



FAIRER SAFER ACCESSIBLE INCLUSIVE

Royal Borough of Greenwich Equality and Equity Charter

Everybody counts – a pledge for equality across Royal Greenwich

Royal Greenwich is a vibrant borough with a growing diverse population. We share an ambition to create a fairer, safer, accessible and inclusive borough where everyone feels they belong, has a voice and an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive.

We are committed to making a real difference by:

- making Royal Greenwich a welcoming borough where everyone feels they belong
- inspiring trust and confidence in all the borough has to offer
- recognising, valuing and celebrating diversity
- listening to and understanding the diverse needs of all people
- building good relations and understanding between people
- creating a fairer borough through promoting inclusion, participation and equal access
- challenging discrimination, harassment, bullying, hate crime and victimisation
- eliminating barriers, encouraging a growth mindset, raising aspirations and creating opportunities for growth beyond limit.

As an organisation we will:

- actively promote equality
- work with partners and the community to make our information, services and products more accessible and inclusive
- put equal opportunity at the heart of our recruitment, employee development and service delivery
- continually review the diversity of our workforce and ensure it's representative of our local community across all levels
- address all allegations of discrimination, harassment, bullying and victimisation
- promote good relations between people from different backgrounds
- share good equality practice with our partners
- measure and share our progress and success.