



Whole School Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I walked up to the school this week, I heard Year 1 chanting 'Prime Meridian line' in unison as they set off on their local walking trip. Indeed, Year 1 to Year 6 walked up to the top of Greenwich Park to trace this line from the Royal Observatory, and all classes have been learning about its significance to the school and the wider world. As I'm sure I've mentioned before, an ex-pupil visited Meridian some years ago and told me that his classroom desk had been placed strategically so that two of his chair legs were on one side of the Prime Meridian line and two on the other! It was a source of immense pride to him. This special landmark is, of course, why Meridian is called Meridian. This week, the children were curious to find out more about its importance. Do have a look at children's learning on the pages below.

I also spotted our Year 6 class waving excitedly to Reception children across the Foundation Stage garden fence this week. This was followed by our youngest children running towards our oldest, as if drawn by magnets! It was lovely to see these relationships flourishing. Well done to both classes - Reception for growing in confidence and Year 6 for epitomising our whole school value of nurture by buddying their charges.

Thank you to the parents/carers who have volunteered to read to classes in their home language during the European day of Languages celebration. This is an opportunity for us to celebrate **all languages** - of which about 40 are presented in our school community. **It's not too late to sign up to read a book to your children's class (or a small group) in your home language: if you can help, please email the school office, talk to your child's teacher or [sign up here!](#)** We really appreciate your support in helping all children to understand the importance of a multilingual society.

In other news... clubs start on Monday 21st September. If you have any questions about these, please talk to Siobhan or the school office. Thank you to staff and other club leaders for making these opportunities possible. **Please note that all our children who are eligible for Benefits- related Free School Meals are entitled to at least one free school club place.**

And finally... please see dates for your diary below. Year 6 parents/carers are reminded to check their email for a letter sent home last week re secondary school applications. Please do make an appointment to speak with me via the school office, if you would like to discuss this further.

Best wishes,
Jo

Jo Graham, Executive Headteacher



The Prime Meridian line runs right through our school.
Aitor

If you carried on walking North along the Prime Meridian line you would reach the North Pole.
George



My buddy helps me get my lunch.
Mabel

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

Nursery and **Reception** have been learning more about Meridian this week. The **Nursery** children visited the school roof to look out over the local area and to see if they could recognise some of the key local landmarks. They were able to draw on their own experiences and think about places which were important to them. Meanwhile, **Reception** discovered that their school is named after a very special landmark - the Prime Meridian line! They were delighted to learn that not only is this illuminated at night by a green laser beam across the sky, but that we also have our very own green line running through our playground and halls, marking the location of the Prime Meridian line.

Reception children have also continued to settle into the Meridian community and have been well looked after by their Year 6 buddies. The class have been busy getting to know everyone and are developing confidence as they navigate their new learning environment, including eating lunch in the bottom hall for the first time. What a great start to their Meridian learning journey they have made!

Nursery

I've been to the
Cutty Sark.
Etnik

My school is Meridian Primary
School.
Mimi

I can see the chimneys (of the
power station).
Alex B

Reception

I know the Cutty Sark! It's
here in Greenwich.
Rose

I went to the shops at the O2.
Aubrey

Cutty Sark by Medi

The O2 by Maryam

That's the Meridian line!
It's green at night time.
Soren

Year 1 and **Year 2** geographers have had a wonderful week immersing themselves in the Geography aspect of our school mini-topic: 'We are Meridian!' Building on their learning two years ago, they have now learnt what the Prime Meridian is, how it runs from the North Pole to the South Pole, and how it separates the world into the Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere. They thought about places in the world that are special to them and which hemisphere these places are in! This week, the children went to visit the Prime Meridian line in Greenwich Park and looked at the view from next to the Royal Observatory, where they could see much of their local area and how it sits within other London landmarks. They also examined local maps and identified landmarks both east and west of the Prime Meridian!

Year 1

We live on planet earth, in England, in London, in Greenwich.
Hana

I can't believe the Prime Meridian line goes through our school!
Michael



Our classroom is in the Eastern Hemisphere.
Alfie



The Prime Meridian line splits the world into two parts.
Silvi

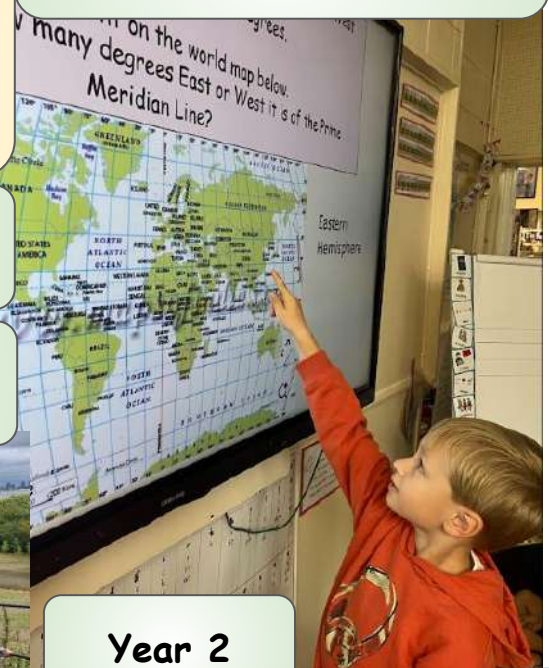
It's an imaginary line that splits the earth into the Eastern and Western hemisphere.
Oliver



I could see our school, Canary Wharf, the O2 and the River Thames from the Royal Observatory.
Maya

The Prime Meridian line goes through Spain.
Micheal

The Shard is in the Western Hemisphere.
Emily



Nigeria is in the Eastern Hemisphere. I stood to the east of the line.
Adikat



Year 2

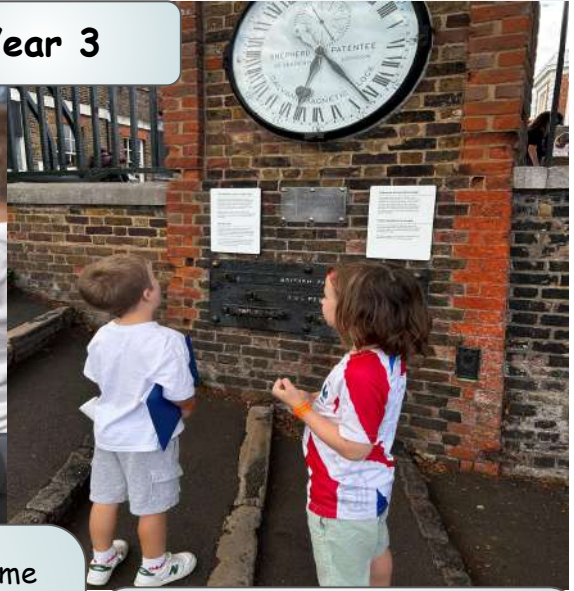


After focussing on the Meridian values and Learning Muscles last week, **Year 3 and Year 4** geographers have developed their understanding of the significance of the Prime Meridian line, which runs right through the Year 3 classroom! This week, they have focussed on how the Prime Meridian is used to calculate time around the world.

The children started to think about how the sun's light reaches different parts of the world at different times, meaning parts of the world experience night and day at different times. They learnt that the world is divided into 24 time zones. If we go west from the Prime Meridian line, we count back in time and, if we go east, we count forward! When standing on the Prime Meridian in Greenwich Park, children imagined that they were the different time zones in the Eastern and Western hemispheres.



Year 3



I learnt that there are different time zones. In some places, the time is ahead of us, and in some places, the time is behind our time.

Amelia

When it is daytime in Greenwich, it is nighttime in Japan or Korea.

Olivia



The Meridian line is a special line that helps people to mark the different time zones around the world.

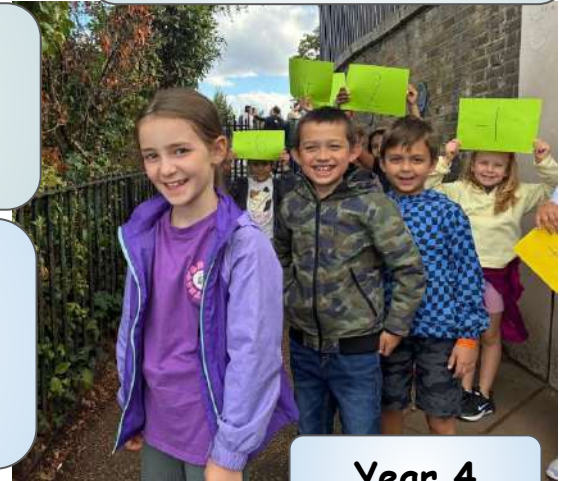
Maxi

The Meridian line is important because it splits the world into hemispheres and helps us split the world into time zones. Before that, it was difficult for people to be in the right place at the right time because everybody's time was different!

Annabelle

We have time zones so that everyone in the world wakes up and goes to school and has dinner when the sun is in the right spot in the sky.

Henry



Year 4



150 years ago, we didn't have the Prime Meridian line. Scientists decided that we should have it to mark where time is set.

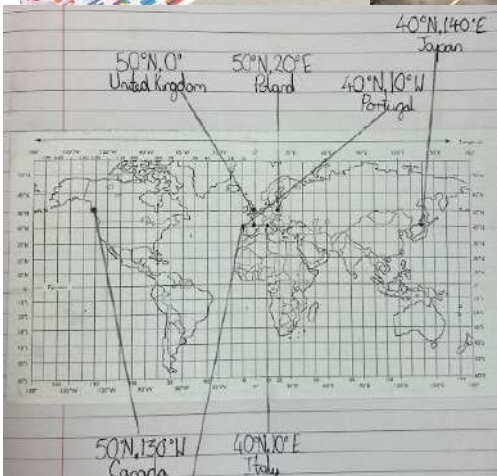
Yianna



We are Meridian! What does that mean? **Year 5 and 6** have become experts in what makes Meridian special over the last two weeks. Our young geographers used the Prime Meridian as a launchpad for exploring the world's lines of longitude and latitude. They have used the geographical coordinates created by these lines to find and pinpoint different places around the world, with a focus on the places that are important to them! They learnt about how these lines were first calculated, and the impact that this had on map-making and exploration of the world! My mapping places linked to their heritage and interests, they gained a deeper understanding of their own place in the world.



Year 5



The coordinates of Bangladesh are 20 degrees north, 90 degrees east. This country is special to me because my family is from here - I have lots of relatives who still live there!

Maria

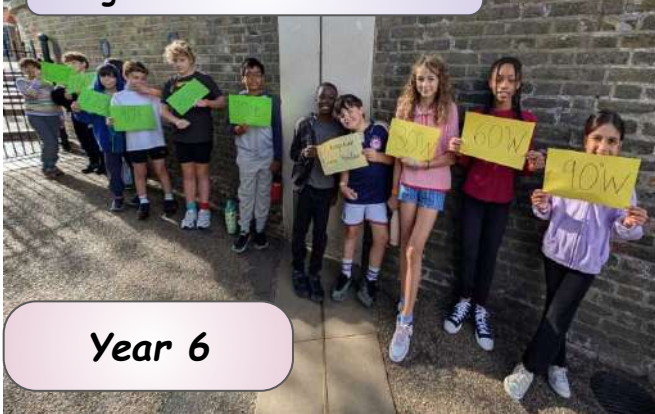
The equator is a significant line of latitude that runs through the centre of the earth. The Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn are lines of latitude that run parallel to the equator.

Oscar

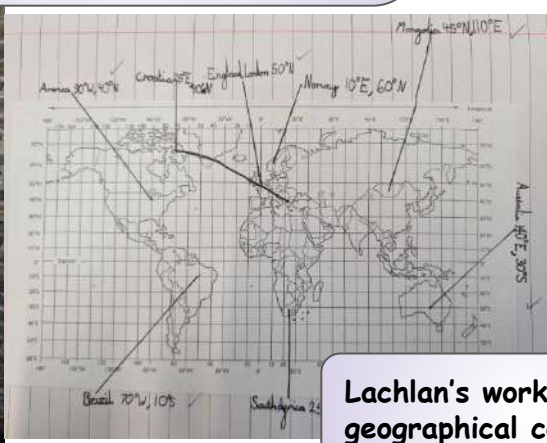
If you went 180 degrees east or 180 degrees west, you would end up at the same point because 180 degrees is half of a circle!

Edward

Bea's work - locating places using coordinates



Year 6



You have to remember that a world map joins up on itself, so the 180°E line of longitude is also the 180°W line of longitude.

Sebastian

Lachlan's work - using geographical coordinates



We can use geographical coordinates with longitude and latitude, but they are different from mathematical coordinates. You say how far north or south a location is before you say how far east or west it is!

Mireya



Meridian Diary Dates September 2026-27



Week beginning 31st August	Wednesday 3rd September	INSET day 1 - school closed to children
	Thursday 4th September	INSET day 2 - school closed to children
	Friday 5th September	INSET day 3 - school closed to children
Week beginning 7th September	Monday 7th September	First day of term for all children
Week beginning 14th September	Tuesday 15th September	Swimming Lessons begin for Year 4 and Year 5
	Tuesday 15th September	Year 4 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:00-4:30pm Year 6 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:30-5:00pm
	Wednesday 15th September	Year 3 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:00-4:30pm Year 2 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:30-5:00pm
	Thursday 16th September	(Year 1 Meet the Teacher meeting - <i>postponed</i>) Year 5 Meet the Teacher meeting 4:30-5:00pm
Week beginning 21st September	Monday 21st September	European Day of Languages - parent/carers readers
	Wednesday 23rd September	Reception curriculum meeting 4:00-4:30pm
Week beginning 28th September	Wednesday 30th September	Phonics workshop for Reception and Year 1 parents parents/carers 9:30-10:30am and 4:30-5:30pm
	Friday 2nd October	Year 6 class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Week beginning 5th October	Wednesday 7th October	RSHE consultation with Parents/Carers 9:15am. FROMS AGM 5:30pm
	Thursday 8th October	KS2 (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6) parent/carers reading session 8:50 - 9:20am
Week beginning 12th October	Wednesday 14th October	Flu Vaccinations RSHE consultation with Parents/Carers 5:15pm
	Friday 16th October	Year 5 class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Week beginning 19th October	Wednesday 21st October	Parents' Evenings for all classes 3:30-5:30pm
	Thursday 22nd October	Parents' Evenings for all classes 5:00-7:30pm
	Friday 23rd October	Year 4 class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Half Term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October		

Week beginning 2nd November	Monday 2nd November	Children return to school
		Year 2 trip to Mudchute Farm
	Friday 6th November	Year 3 class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Week beginning 9th November	Monday 9th November	Year 2 trip to the Barbican
		FROMs Astronomy Night 6:30-8:30
	Wednesday 11th November	Flu Vaccinations (2nd round)
	Friday 13th November	Children in Need - cake sale after school
Week beginning 16th November	Tuesday 17th November	Year 1 Curriculum Open Morning 9:00am Year 2 Curriculum Open Morning 9:25am
	Wednesday 18th November	Reception Curriculum Open Morning 9:00am Year 3 Curriculum Open Morning 9:25am
	Thursday 19th November	Nursery Curriculum Open Morning 9:00am Year 6 Curriculum Open Morning 9:25am
	Friday 20th November	Year 4 Curriculum Open Morning 9:00am Year 5 Curriculum Open Morning 9:25am
		Year 3 trip to Deptford Creek
Week beginning 23rd November	All week	Enterprise Week for children
	Friday 27th November	Christmas Fair - after school
Week beginning 30th November	Monday 30th November	Year 4 Deptford Creek trip
	Wednesday 2nd December	Christmas Dinner
Week beginning 7th December	Tuesday 8th December	EYF5/KS1 Theatre Trip to The Albany
		Last Swimming lesson for the term
	Friday 11th December	Year 5 trip to the Barbican
Week beginning 14th December	Wednesday 16th December	Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance (Nursery , Reception , Year 1 and Year 2) 1:45pm
	Thursday 17th December	Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance (Year 3 , Year 4 , Year 5 , Year 6) 1:45pm
	Friday 18th December	Last day of term

Christmas Holidays: Monday 22nd December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027

Week beginning 4th January	Monday 4th January 2027	INSET day 4 - school closed to children
	Tuesday 5th January	Children return to school
Week beginning 11th January	Friday 15th January	Year 2 class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Week beginning 18th January	Tuesday 19th January	Young Voices
	Friday 22nd January	Year 1 Class assembly 9:00-9:30
Week beginning 25th January	Friday 29th January	Discovery class assembly 9:00-9:30
Week beginning 1st February	Wednesday 3rd February	Parents' Evenings for all classes 5:00-7:30pm
	Thursday 4th February	Parents' Evenings for all classes 3:30-5:30pm
	Friday 5th February	Rocking Horse Room class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Week beginning 8th February	Thursday 11th February	KS2 (Year 3 , Year 4 , Year 5 , Year 6) parent/carer reading session 8:50 - 9:20am
	Friday 12th February	Reception class assembly 9:30-10:00am

Half Term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027

Week beginning 22nd February	Monday 22nd February	INSET day 5 - school closed to children
	Tuesday 23rd February	Children return to school
	Friday 26th February	Nursery class assembly 9:30-10:00am

Easter Holiday: Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April 2027

Week beginning 12th April	Wednesday 14th April	School Photographer in school - all classes
Week beginning 19 April	Thursday 22nd April	All Cannings visit to Meridian - Year 5 invited to stay after school until 6:45pm to host, including dinner
Week beginning 3rd May	Monday 3rd May	May Day bank holiday - school closed
Week beginning 10th May	Monday 10th -13th May	Year 6 End of KS2 assessments (SATs)

Half Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027		
Week beginning 14th June	Wednesday 16th - Friday 18th June	Year 2 and Year 6 Camp at Bentley Copse
Week beginning 5th July	Thursday 7th July	Secondary Transfer Day for Y6 children
Week beginning 20th July	Thursday 22nd July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9:30am
Summer Holidays: Friday 23rd July		

Announcement
AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
07 OCTOBER
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
MERIDIAN SCHOOL, SE10 9NY

 **FROMS**

 **COMPLETE THE ANNUAL SURVEY (PLUS VOTE FOR ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY INSIDE) CLOSING 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](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofmeridian)



**GREENWICH
SEND VOICE**
Parent Carer Forum

COFFEE MORNINGS

A friendly space for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND to connect, share and support each other.



Connect
with other
parent carers



Learn
about local
services and
support



Relax
in a welcoming,
friendly
environment

Representatives from the local authority, health and support organisations pop into sessions to share information and answer questions.



STARTING FROM
Thursday 10th September
and every 2 weeks



TIME
10am – 12pm



LOCATION
Woolwich Library
[Woolwich Centre,
35 Wellington St,
London SE18 6HQ]



**PLEASE BOOK
FOR ATTENDANCE**
due to room capacity.



Scan me
to book!

Eventbrite Link :
bit.ly/GSV-coffee-mornings



No need to come every time –
drop in when you can.
We'd love to see you there!



www.greenwichsendvoice.co.uk



Greenwich SEND Voice



St Ursula's

Secondary School, Greenwich

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER | 09:00 – 12:00



CLICK TO REGISTER
YOUR INTEREST!

OPEN MORNINGS

09:00 – 10:30 | MONDAY 5TH OCT TO FRIDAY 9TH OCT

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.