



Whole School Newsletter

Monday 28th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am fond of saying, one of the things which makes Meridian so special is our richly diverse community. One of the ways in which this diversity is evident is through the many different languages spoken by the children, parents/carers and staff. As part of the National Curriculum, French is taught as a Modern Foreign Language in KS2. However, European Languages Day last week was a perfect opportunity for classes to celebrate all languages, European and otherwise. Thank you to those parents/carers who came in to read a book or sing a song in their child's home language. If you have not yet had the chance to do so, but would like to, please let us know! This is a fantastic way to show our children that all languages have value and to create a strong sense of belonging for everyone. On our classroom welcome displays, we also aim to reflect the different home languages represented in the class - you or your child can talk to the class teacher if you spot that your child's home language is missing.

Another way in which we seek to create a sense of belonging for Meridian children is by reflecting their cultural heritage in our wider curriculum. For example, in the early years, we seek to reflect important aspects of a child's home life in our role play areas. Similarly, across the school, we have classroom world maps on which children mark countries that are important to their heritage. We also choose books which reflect diversity, acting as 'mirrors, windows and sliding doors for children': books where children can see themselves (like looking in a mirror), see those who are different from them (like looking through a window), or step into the worlds of others and empathise with them (like moving through a sliding door). In these ways, we support children to better understand and affirm who they are, whilst also widening their experiences so they can navigate our diverse world more inclusively. We are always interested to hear ideas from parents/carers about other ways we might do this. Please let us know if you would like to discuss an idea.

Outside of European Languages Day, we have regular opportunities for parents/carers to read in school with children. A reminder that on Thursday 8th October, all parents/carers in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are invited into school to do so at the start of the school day for our termly KS2 parent/carer reading session. Nursery and Reception parents/carers continue to be welcome to stay for reading every day and Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers on Fridays. These regular parent/carer reading sessions show children how important reading is and bring our community together. We do hope you can join us.

In other news... Everyone is important to the success of the Meridian team and we are privileged to have such a wonderful group of committed and skilled TAs (teaching assistants). Last Friday, we celebrated National Teaching Assistants Day. As part of our celebrations, those teaching assistants who were at our whole school assembly came out to be thanked by children and staff; I'm sure you will join us in expressing our thanks to the whole TA team for their hard work - they make a difference to children's care and learning every day.

We are also privileged to have such a hardworking PTA at Meridian - FROMS (Friends of Meridian School). We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the FROMS AGM next Wednesday 7th October at 5:30pm in the bottom hall.

And finally...

- The closing date for secondary school applications is **31st October 2026**. If you would like to speak to me about this, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with me.
- If your child is due to start primary school in September 2027, you need to apply for a **primary school** place. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2027 and more information can be found in the [RBG admissions booklet](#) or on the RBG website: [Apply for a primary school place](#).

Best wishes,

Jo

Jo Graham, Executive Headteacher



How have our children celebrated **European Day of Languages** this week, and what have our KS2 children been learning in their **French** lessons?

Nursery read the **French** book 'Tout Le Monde Danse'. They then enjoyed dancing to a French children's song and thinking about how words in different languages sound compared to English words. They also discussed the different languages that their families speak at home and Mimi taught everyone the numbers to five in **German**. They were lucky enough to have two parents read to them in **Portuguese** - Maria's Mum, Joyce, read Maria's favourite book 'Abigail' about a giraffe who loves to count. Alex's mum, Ana, read Stephen Hawking's 'Voice of the Universe' and helped the children to think about the future of their planet and what they would like to be when they grow up.



I want to be
a painter.
Safaa



My
mummy
speaks
two
languages.
Mimi



My daddy speaks Portuguese.
Alex

It's
French.
Etnik

Uma, dois, três
(1,2,3)
Maria

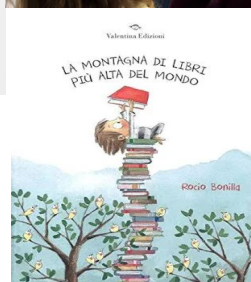


In **Reception** there are over 20 languages spoken! The children have been teaching each other how to say 'hello' in lots of these languages during their morning registration.

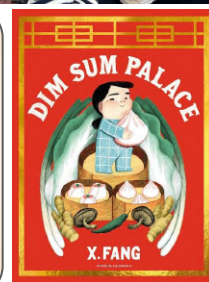
Lorenzo's dad, Giovanni, visited the class to read two books in **Italian**. The book, 'Di che Colore è un Bacio?' helped the children to learn lots of colours in Italian and 'La Montagna Di Libri Più Alta Del Mondo' told the story of Lucas, a boy with a fantastic imagination whose mountain of books took him on lots of adventures. Lorelai's mum, Laura, read 'Dim Sum Palace'. She told the class that Lorelai and her family speak **Cantonese** which is a Chinese language. She shared how their family enjoys coming together to have special meals and also taught the children how to say 'good morning' in Cantonese - 'jo sun'.



Mummy speaks French and my daddy speaks Italian. I speak French and Italian!



I speak Italian at home with Mummy and Daddy.
Filippo

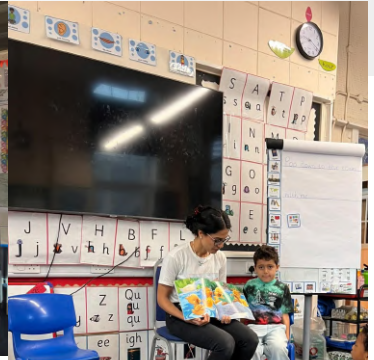
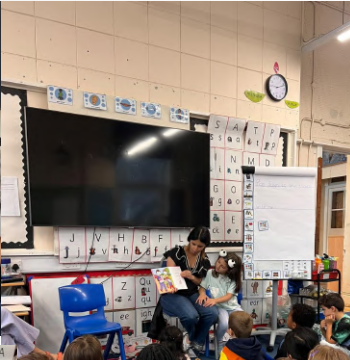


I speak **Spanish** at home with Mummy and Daddy. They read to me in Spanish.
Lucia

My mummy speaks **Russian** to me and I'm learning lots of words like colours and how to say 'yes' 'no' and 'hello' - privet!
Sasha

Sasha and Kostie taught me how to say hello in Russian.
Soren

This week, **Year 1** have loved talking about the languages their families speak as well as listening to stories read in different languages by parent volunteers. They have had lots of interesting discussions about the characters and events. The children listened to the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' in two different languages. Mira's mum, KT, kindly read it to them in **French** and the children learnt that 'papillon' is butterfly. Masaki read the same book in **Japanese** and taught the class that 'pekko peko' in Japanese means 'very hungry'. Maya's mum, Lara, also read a story book in **Arabic** and Oskar's mum, Cemre, read a version of the Ugly Duckling in **Turkish**. Thank you to all our visitors for supporting Year 1 in this way.



I can count to 6 in **French**!
Teddy

My mummy and daddy can speak **Italian**.
Freja

I like **French**. It sounds really nice.
Oliver

That was nice listening to it in a different language.
Alexander

This week, **Year 2** have loved sharing the different languages that they speak at home. Lav's mum, Marina, visited Year 2 to read 'The Bear and the Bee' in **Serbian**, all about a bear who tries to steal honey from the bees! The children also learnt the words 'bee,' 'bear' and 'cave' in Serbian. The children also loved listening to Theo's mum, Vicky, reading two picture books in **Cantonese** about how Chinese New Year is celebrated. Well done Year 2 for listening so well to your visitors.



I speak **Greek** with my mum and dad and **English** with my sister.
Nefeli

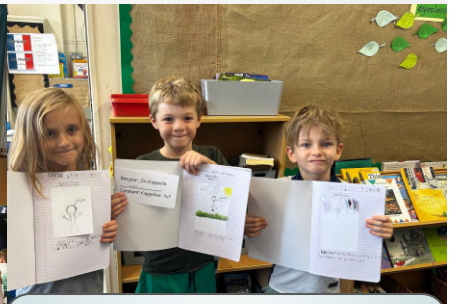
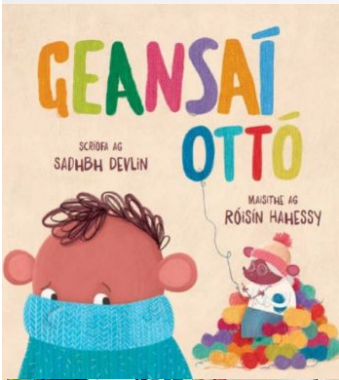
Chinese people celebrate New Year by setting off loud firecrackers!
Lola

I liked the part [of the story] when all of the bees were stinging the bear!
Micheal.

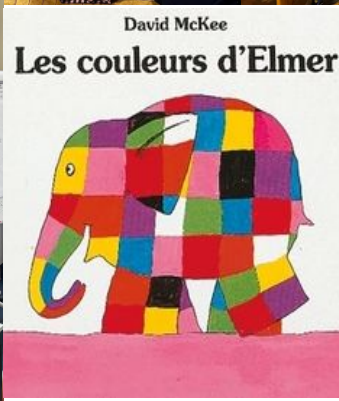
I speak **Maltese** at home with my mum, dad and sister.
Emily

Bonjour! **Year 3** have been very excited to start learning **French** this term. They have already learned how to say hello and introduce themselves to others and are keen to learn more.

To celebrate the European Day of Languages, it was lovely to hear about the languages children speak at home. The class also really enjoyed a visit from Fiachra's mum, who read a book in **Gaelic** to them all - 'Gensai Otto'. Louis also read a story to the class in French, called 'Les couleurs d'Elmer'.



Je m'appelle Amelia.
Comment t'appelles tu?
Comment ca va?
Amelia



We have been learning **French**. I learnt how to introduce myself. You say, 'Je m'appelle Matin.'
Matin

I speak Albanian at home. To say hello in **Albanian**, you say, 'përshëndetje.'
Aster

At home, we speak English but I also speak a bit of **Spanish**, **French** and **Portuguese**.
Ewan

Year 4 have been consolidating their **French** knowledge from the previous year and are now learning how to describe other people in French using the 3rd person of the verbs avoir (to have) and être (to be). To brush up on their nouns, they played an interactive matching game which they really enjoyed. This helped reinforce their vocabulary before putting everything together to form complete descriptive sentences.

To celebrate the European Day of Languages, the children were delighted to welcome two parents to the classroom. Noah's dad, Gianluca, shared the story of 'Romulus and Remus' and the founding of Rome in **Italian**. Adriana shared the story of 'The Boy Who Touched The Stars' in **Spanish** which retold the inspiring journey of Jose M. Hernandez, who grew up in a migrant farming background but held onto his dream of becoming an astronaut. The children were completely captivated by the tales and thoroughly enjoyed listening to the language, showing great curiosity by asking plenty of thoughtful questions afterwards.

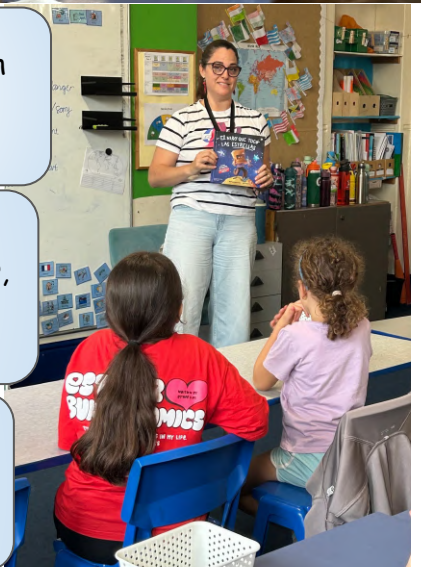


We've been learning to describe features in French .
'Il a des cheveux noirs' means 'he has black hair.'
Gabby

I can say 'hello' in Turkish and French - 'merhaba' and 'bonjour'.
Dilay

I've asked everybody in the class this week to try and say 'thank you' in a different language. I'm the door monitor, and so far I've counted 9 languages in our class.
Lily

At home, I speak Mexican Spanish. It's similar to mainland Spanish but just a bit different. I'd like to learn more mainland Spanish!
Iker



To celebrate European Day of Languages, Year 5 reflected on all the languages spoken in **Year 5**. The class were very excited to welcome Rozita, Robita and Ronita's mum, into the classroom. Rozita read a story in **Farsi**, with the help of Robita and Ronita's translations.

In **French** lessons this term, Year 5 have been refreshing their knowledge of how to greet people and give personal information about themselves. As well as giving their name and their age, this week the children interviewed their peers asking them about how many brothers and sisters they have. Bravo, Year 5!



Ronita: 'Tu as des frères ou des sœurs?'

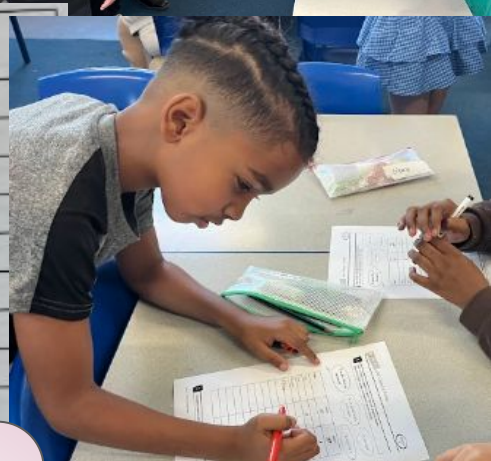
Oscar: 'J'ai deux sœurs.'



Bonjour! J'ai deux sœurs.
Arya

Nom	frères	sœurs
Polly	1	X
Jake	X	1
Bernard	3	2
Hilda	1	1
Neva	2	X
Bea	1	X
Margat	X	X
Robita	X	1

J'ai deux frères.
Max



I speak Romanian at home and there are quite a few similar words to English, for example elephant is elefant.
Margot

It is useful and cool to learn languages because you can make friends in new countries, and work abroad all over the world.
Margot

In French this week, to celebrate European Day of Languages, **Year 6** immersed themselves in the story 'Une Histoire Sombre'. First of all, they listened to the story, then children used the bilingual dictionaries to look up key vocabulary and refine their understanding of the text!

Alongside Year 3, we were also lucky enough to be visited by Norin, mum to Fiachra and Blaise, who read a book in **Gaelic** to them all - 'Gensai Otto' which translates to Otto's jumper. The children were clearly very engaged in the story as Sean was able to retell the key points to Jo when she visited the classroom.

I love that the people in my class speak so many different languages! There is so much we can learn.
Dakota

In assembly this week, some Year 6 children greeted everybody in different languages. I spoke in **Swedish**!
Martha



	Français	Anglais
1	armoire	wardrobe
2	bois	wood
3	boite	box
4	chambre	bedroom
5	coin	corner
6	couloir	corridor
7	dans	in
8	derrière	behind
9	escalier	stairs
10	pays	country
11	porte	door
12	rideau	curtain
13	salle	room
14		

Zayden's translations

It was really interesting that some of the vocabulary had completely different meanings to English words that they might sound like!
Ella



Meridian Diary Dates Autumn Term

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 Reception Autumn Walk
	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. Nursery Autumn Walk FROMS AGM 5:30pm
	Thursday 8th October	KS2 (Year 3 , Year 4 , Year 5 , Year 6) parent/carer 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	EYFS/KS1 Theatre Trip to The Albany
		Last Swimming lesson for the term



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



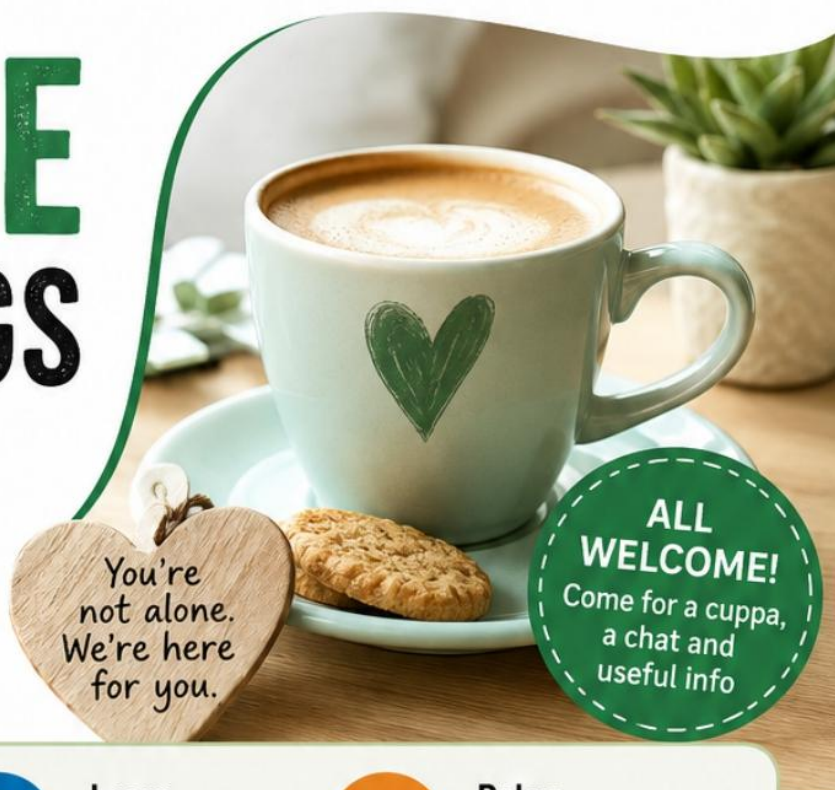
@friendsofmeridian



**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

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.