



Meridian Primary School

Parent Handbook 2026/2027

Learning for Life; Striving for Excellence

Resilience | Kindness | Community | Respect | Curiosity



Welcome to Meridian

Miss Becky Snelling, Headteacher

Welcome! We are delighted that you will be joining Meridian Primary School, where we are passionate about fostering strong connections with our families and the wider community. Together, we aim to give every child the best possible start in their educational journey.

This handbook contains all the essential information about Meridian's values and ethos, curriculum, and organisation.

We are always happy to give parents a tour of our school and answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to collaborating with you as your child moves through their primary school journey.

Our school vision

The Meridian community work together to become successful, life-long learners. Through high expectations, mutual respect and encouragement we promote curiosity and resilience. This builds a positive, nurturing and inclusive environment in which everyone feels safe and thrives.

Our school values

Resilience
Kindness
Community
Respect
Curiosity



Contact:

For all enquiries, please contact the school office:

Phone: 01223 262423

Email: office@meridian.cambs.sch.uk

School website:
www.meridianprimary.co.uk

Classes

Meridian Primary School is a one-form intake school. We have an enrollment of around 200 students who are distributed among seven classes ranging from Reception to Year 6. Each class is named after a tree. The class names are as follows:

- Acorn – Reception
- Apple Tree – Year 1
- Cherry Tree – Year 2
- Birch – Year 3
- Sycamore – Year 4
- Willow – Year 5
- Oak – Year 6

Meridian boasts individual classrooms for each of its classes, all of which are arranged around paved outdoor courtyards. Along with these, the school also has a dedicated music room, an ICT suite, a library and 'chill zone', which is a calm nurture space. The main hall serves as a multi-purpose space for assemblies, physical education activities, and lunchtime. There is a large playground space and additionally, the school features a large playing field with climbing equipment and a habitat garden designed for peaceful activity and reflection.

Wrap-Around Care

New for 2026, the school are managing the before and after school club.

Places will be available to book on the MCAS app from mid-July 2026.

Breakfast Club: 7:30 – 8:45am Monday - Friday

After School Club: 3:30 – 6pm

Contact the school office for details.

Arriving at School

The primary entrance to the school is located on Harbour Avenue. Additionally, there is a gated entrance from the Recreation Ground that both lead to the playground.

Please note that these gates are only opened for drop-off and pick-up during the beginning and end of the school day. Throughout the day, all gates remain locked.

Walking and Cycling

We encourage families to walk or cycle to school whenever possible. Bike shelters are available in the playground.

The School Day

The gates open at 8:45am, and all children enter the classroom directly.

Gates are locked at 9am – all children must be in school by 9am.

At the end of the day, gates are opened for pick up at 3:30pm (3:20pm for Reception/Acorn class)

To ensure we are safeguarding all children, parents are not permitted inside the school building, including cloakrooms, at drop off and pick up times.

Bus

Bus transportation is available for children living in Great Eversden and Little Eversden. Parents need to apply for a bus pass online at School transport - Cambridgeshire County Council. The bus drops off and picks up children within the school grounds. In the morning and at the end of the day, all children are supervised off the bus, and a Passenger Assistant accompanies the bus driver according to pupil ratios.

Parking at School

During the school day, **from 8:30am, only staff cars are allowed in the school grounds**. Parking on yellow or zigzag lines on Harbour Avenue, even for a brief period, is prohibited. These restrictions are in place to ensure the safety of the children and easy access for the school bus, as the road is narrow and visibility is poor. Please be considerate of the residents of Harbour Avenue and avoid obstructing their driveways.

If you need to drive to the school, parking is available on the recreation ground accessed from Hines Lane. A paved walkway across the Rec to the playground is provided for your convenience.



Term Dates

Autumn Term

Inset Day	Tuesday	1 September 2026
Children Return	Wednesday	2 September 2026
Last School Day	Thursday	22 October 2026
Inset Day	Friday	23 October 2026
Half Term	Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026	
Children Return	Monday	2 November 2026
Last School Day	Friday	18 December 2026

Spring Term

Inset Day	Monday	4 January 2027
Children Return	Tuesday	5 January 2027
Last School Day	Friday	12 February 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 February 2027 to Friday 19 February 2027	
Children Return	Monday	22 February 2027
Last School Day	Thursday	25 March 2027
School Holiday	Friday 26 March 2027 to Friday 9 April 2027	

Summer Term

Children Return	Monday	12 April 2027
Last School Day	Thursday	27 May 2027
Inset Day	Friday	28 May 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027	
Children Return	Monday	7 June 2027
Last School Day	Tuesday	20 July 2027
Inset Day	Wednesday	21 July 2027
School Holiday	Thursday	22 July 2027 onward

Induction Arrangements

Similar to many schools, **Meridian** implement a gradual introduction of Reception children into the school in September. Your child will follow a timetable that involves short stays at school, which gradually increase to full-time attendance during the second week. A comprehensive description of the procedures will be provided in advance of the September start.

Behaviour

Positive behaviour is essential for successful teaching and learning. Our approach is based on the **Cambridgeshire Therapeutic Thinking** model and provides clear expectations, consistent consequences, restorative approaches and positive praise to support all children.

We aim to:

- Ensure everyone feels safe and valued
- Foster a positive learning environment
- Promote respect, courtesy and consideration for others
- Be clear and consistent in our expectations

We strive to develop high standards of behaviour, good manners and positive relationships, enabling every child to thrive.

Attendance

We expect children to attend school regularly. According to the Education (Pupil's Attendance Records) Regulations 1991, all schools must differentiate in their registers between authorised and unauthorised absences. Holidays taken during term time will not be authorised and will be classified as unauthorised absences. Please see our Attendance Policy on the school website.

Registration

We expect children to be punctual for school. Registers are marked at the beginning of the morning and afternoon sessions and children arriving after the registration time (9am) will be recorded as late. Late arrivals must report to the school office with a reason for lateness. Please make sure you report a child's absence online before registration time.

Health

If your child becomes seriously ill or injured at school, you will be informed as soon as possible, and if necessary, asked to take them home. Therefore, it is essential that the school is kept fully informed of any changes in your contact details, place of work, and telephone number.

Absence/Illness

If a child is absent from school, we require an online explanation as soon as possible and before 9am. (<https://www.meridianprimary.co.uk/applications-for-term-time-short-leave-of-absence/>).

Similarly, children will only be allowed to leave early if we receive an online form from a parent or carer. A message from the child will not be accepted.

Please note that children should not return to school after experiencing sickness or diarrhea until they have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours.



Uniform

At our school, we believe that wearing a uniform has several advantages, including:

- Promoting a sense of belonging and pride in ourselves and our school
- Being practical and smart for school work and play
- Reducing opportunities for children to compete over their clothing
- Being easily recognisable when children are on school trips
- Establishing a collective working ethic and routine

For details of the Meridian uniform, please see the uniform policy on the school website.

School uniform with the school logo can be ordered from School Trends at www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/. **Uniform with a logo is not mandatory.**

To learn more about pre-loved uniform sales offered by the PTA, please keep an eye on the school newsletter for dates.

PE Kit

Children should wear their PE kit on PE days. There will be two PE days per week and you will be informed of the days prior to the start of term.

For details of our PE kit, please see the uniform policy on the school website.

For safety reasons, children are not allowed to wear earrings or any other jewelry during their PE lessons. Covering earrings with tape is not sufficient; children must fully remove all earrings in order to participate in practical PE lessons. Long hair must be tied up on PE days.

House Teams

From EYFS to Year 6, every child at Meridian is part of a School House Team. There are four House Teams, currently named after space rockets including **Challenger** (Red), **Discovery** (Green), **Explorer** (Purple) and **Voyager** (Blue).

You will be informed what house your child is in and they should wear the corresponding coloured PE t-shirt for PE.

The houses compete each week to earn Dojo points (behavior points) and children also team up for events like sports day and other special days.

Staff and Governors

For a full list of our staff and governors, please see the school website.



Lunches

School meals are prepared on the premises by Lunchtime Company Limited. The kitchens have a serving hatch that opens onto the main hall.

Thanks to the national Universal Infants Free School meals programme, all children in EYFS and KS1 are entitled to a free meal every day.

There is no need to book in advance, children can make their lunch choice each morning during registration. There is a choice of hot school meal, cold school meal or packed lunch from home.

Once children move into KS2, lunches can be paid online through the MCAS app.

Communication

It is important that parents/carers and the school work collaboratively to ensure a successful time at school. Please always contact us if you have a worry or question, however small.

If you wish to discuss anything about your child's learning, please contact the class teacher in the first instant via Dojo.

For anything else, please email or call the school office, who will ensure your message is sent to the appropriate member of staff.

In September we hold a 'meet the teacher' session and in Autumn and Spring terms, you will be invited to a parent consultation with your class teacher. At the end of the school year, you will receive an annual summative report.

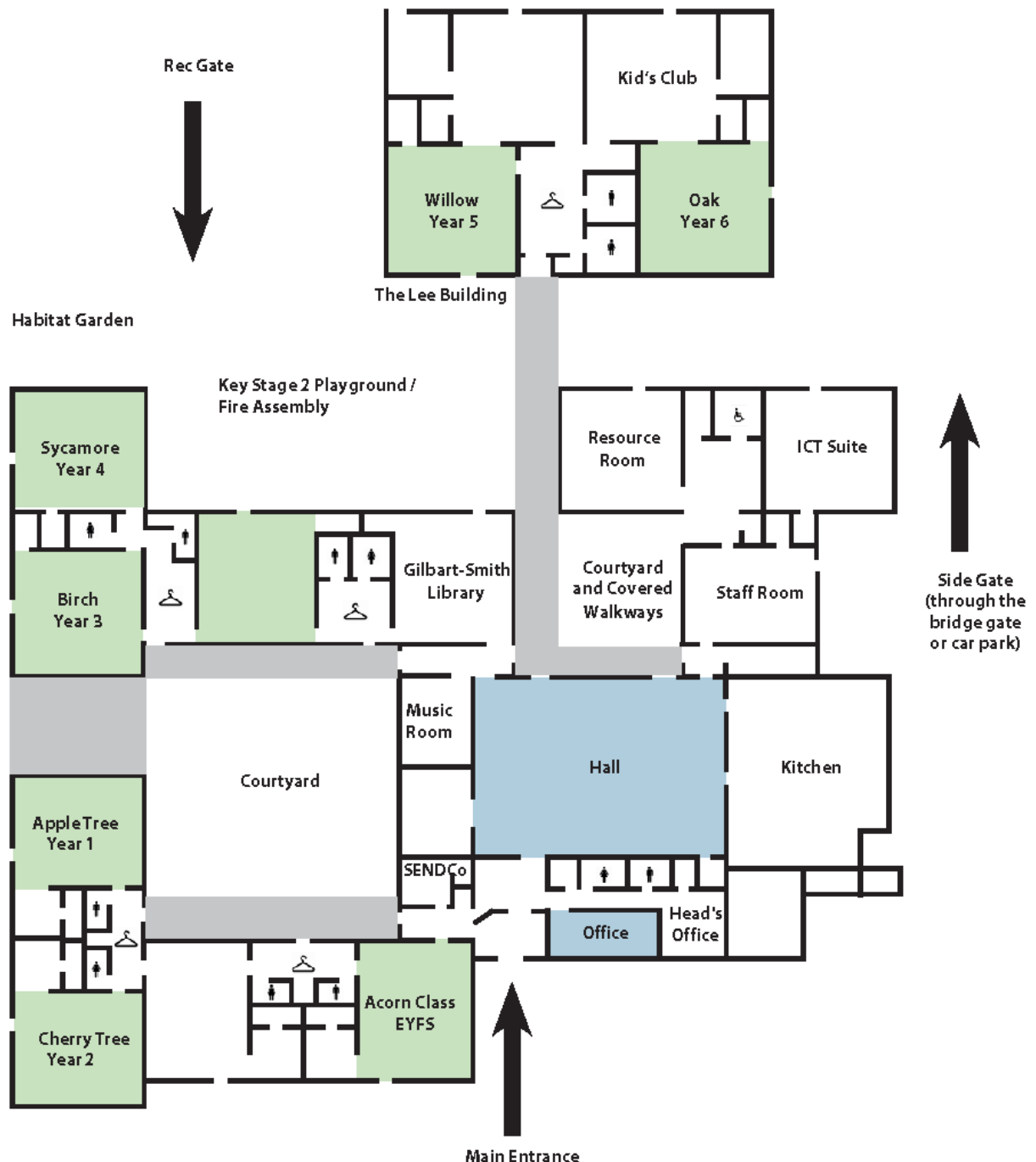
There are many opportunities to come into school to see the children's classrooms and work-books at our regular Welcome Wednesdays and other open school events.

You can find out about what your child is learning on Dojo and in our weekly class updates in the newsletter.



Meridian Primary School

School Map



Phone: **01223 262423**

Email: **office@meridian.cambs.sch.uk**

Website: **www.meridianprimary.co.uk**