

River Mead School



30th March 2020

Lowbourn, Melksham SN12 7ED

Executive Head Teacher – Mrs Lyssy Bolton Head of School – Mrs Karen Austin

www.rivermead.wilts.sch.uk ☎ 01225 703428 ✉ office@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk

The school office is open and you can contact school via the telephone if you need assistance

Our school latest news: <http://www.rivermead.wilts.sch.uk/news-dates/latest-news>

Our Twitter feed: @TweetRiverMead

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/River-Mead-School-728064724207622/>

STAY AT HOME 

PROTECT THE NHS

 **save lives**

Dear Parents and Carers

We are all beginning to get used to being at home and living with one another in close proximity, we aren't always going to get on with one another! Remember be kind to yourselves, we will all find it tricky at times. I am no exception with two teenagers at home and husband who is working from home!

Although it won't feel the same as usual it will soon be Easter, try to do something different on Easter Sunday, make the day stand out and hopefully you might have some hidden chocolate you can all enjoy, if not have some Easter related fun!

We are continuing to share work with your children online, but remember there are lots of things you can do that are also valuable! Go bake a cake, build a lego model, set up a den in the front room, tell each other a story, do a jigsaw, play a game, make a card, paint a picture, go for a (socially distanced) walk.

Remember that if you set a timetable you can space the learning out with playtime, TV time, fitness, snack, board game, lunch, learning, dinner, family time, etc... If you are using additional online resources too, well done! There are links on the Trust website to help you here;

<https://www.themeadtrust.org/learning/curriculum/home-learning/>

We all miss you and your children immensely and will continue to check-in with some of you, however if you need us please telephone school during office hours. We are still in school just on a rota to ensure we are able to support the keyworker and EHCP children who are attending. Please leave a message if there is no reply and we will call you back.

We are grateful to all of the Keyworkers who have managed to keep their children safe at home. For those who need our help, thank you for letting us know which days/times in advance, this has enabled us to manage with a skeleton staff and therefore less risk for the staff.

Stay home, stay safe.

Best wishes

Mrs Karen Austin

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Messages For Class teachers

Please e-mail Office@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk

Or homelearnign@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk

Teachers WILL NOT be responding to direct messages on Seesaw / Google classrooms unless it's a quick reply, if there is a common class issue, they will support the class as a whole. We appreciate it's tricky, but they don't have enough time to reply to 30 separate messages as well as support the children's online learning. If in doubt do your best or try something different!

Free school Meals

If you were eligible you will have received either a supermarket voucher or a food box. The government announced on the news that there would be a national voucher scheme. We are still waiting for this information to be fully shared with schools. As soon as we know more and what the process will be (it may not even change) we will keep you informed.

Mrs Austin's weekly challenge

This week's challenge is to MAKE AN EASTER or SPRING THEMED HAT/BONNET

Send your pictures to homelearning@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk and I will include some in the newsletter next week. (Please make sure the pictures are small enough for us to receive)!

I will celebrate these in a short video clip (if I can manage the technology!)

Here are some ideas!



Some useful resources currently free here:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-28960-easter-hat-craft-activity>

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Guidance for Online Safety

Your children are spending more time than ever working on devices which can access the internet. It is therefore very important that you are aware of the measures you need to keep your children safe and take action. The following links will direct you to useful information which we recommend that you all read:

This link will direct you to a useful leaflet, which can also be downloaded in other languages:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online>

This is a useful site to look at as it covers a wider range of questions and lots of guidance about different devices:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

There are also individual guides to different platforms and what parents and carers need to know about them:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides>

Here you can find information about some very popular social media apps and what parents and carers should know about their use:

House Party/Zoom - <https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/2019/12/24/what-is-the-houseparty-app-what-parents-need-to-know/>

TikTok - <https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/2019/12/03/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

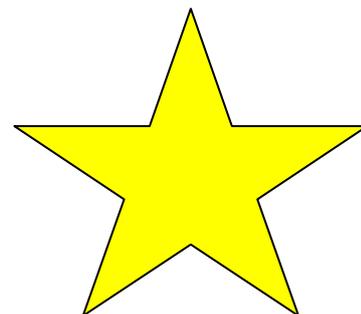
WhatsApp - <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>

Star of the week

We will continue to celebrate 'Star of the Week', teachers are looking at your online learning and the other super activities you are doing and for those still with us, your work and activities in school too!

This week we are celebrating;

- **Otters** - Freddie D
- **Magpies** – Lexi Smith
- **Frogs** – Lilli-Mae Barr
- **Hérons** – Charlie Cole
- **Kestrels** – Jasmine Coe
- **Badgers** – Anastasia Mitroi
- **Buzzards** – Teagan Thomas



School Nurse

Please see the information sent through by the school nursing service

Wellbeing

This is a challenging time when we are all social-distancing, staying home and staying safe there are resources on the website to support you and your family, you will find them here:

The Wiltshire
WELLBEING HUB
For vulnerable people in need of support

0300 003 4576

✉ wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

#WiltshireTogether

Wiltshire Council

School Nurse Support

Talk to us confidentially about.....

- * Emotional Health
- * Physical Health
- * Sex & Relationships
- * Drugs & Alcohol
- * Stress/Anxiety & Worries
- * Healthy Lifestyles

***Chat Health for 11-19 year olds**
Available 9-4pm
07480635513

***Young people can phone SPA on 0300 247 0090 between 12-2pm**

***Parents/carers can call 0300 247 0090 Between 9-5pm**

<https://www.themeadtrust.org/learning/curriculum/supporting-mental-health/>

Mrs Austin's challenge!

Well done if you had a go, I also saw lots of rainbows on seesaw and I know a couple more were sent in but the images were too big! – Please send them to the e-mail address and not via SIMs in-touch. homelearning@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk



by Sophie Pearson



by Freya Littlejohn



by Kaycee Knight

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Musings of a Headteacher
For the children ...

On the twentieth of March, twenty-twenty,
I was told that I had to shut school,
I really did not want to close us,
But had to follow the Government's big rule.

I knew it was going to be difficult,
And it all felt so scary and unknown,
But we made the most of our last day together,
Before I sent you all off, safely home.

We've still been here for a few children,
Making sure that they have a great time,
Doing things that we don't always get time for,
In the great outdoors, under beaming sunshine.

I've missed you so much since you left us,
And I think of you in all that I do,
Nothing seems quite right with no children,
And I can't wait to be reunited with you.

I miss the daily 'hello' and 'welcome',
And the big rush to all get inside,
Seeing no bags and coats hanging down on the pegs,
The corridors just feel empty and wide.

Daily phonics has stopped with your teachers,
When you learn how to read, spell and write,
The pride on your faces as you learn new words,
And knowing that you're getting it right!

Our playground is big, grey and empty,
And the field is all lonely and bare,
Your games and your chatter are missing,
Spaces are just not right now you're not there.

I can't hear you counting and adding,
As you learn in your daily maths time,
There's no sorting shapes or using measuring tapes,
Or singing and chanting number rhymes.

At lunch the big hall sits all silent,
With the tables all packed away,
They've all been cleaned, 'til they sparkle,
For you to sit at on your return one day.

Science is not being studied,
And PE lessons are now on hold,
History and geography are waiting their turn,
And no children's stories are being told.

Arts and crafts remain in the cupboard,
Musical instruments can't play by themselves,
Library books sit there unopened,
Gathering dust on the wooden book shelves.

What's still here are your wonderful workbooks,
Great displays with your work on the walls,
The photos of reading and writing,
And playing with big bats and balls.

And all the love that I have for you is going nowhere,
It's safely locked deep down inside,
So when all the germs have been sent far away,
You'll be here, safely back by my side.

Miss Scrivens 💕

*Written by a friend of mine, but my sentiments too –
Thinking of you all - Mrs Austin xx*