

River Mead School



15th June 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

The children that have been back in school have had a really good week and we are so proud of how they have settled back in. It has been lovely to listen to the laughter and see the learning taking place 😊.

The parents of the children eligible to return in Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y6 were sent a letter on Friday and the key point was that we cannot accept children back a few at a time as we have had to carefully plan the class 'bubbles' and staffing. I appreciate this puts you under pressure to make a decision, but it is important for the safe running of the school. Unfortunately, at this time we are not opening to further year groups.

A key extract from the letter is as follows;

River Mead School does have a 'safe operating limit'. This figure has been based upon a range of factors including numbers and ages of children, available staff and physical spaces. This may result in the school not being able to accommodate any more children, even though they may be in Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y6. Currently we have an increasing number of children who require a nursery place. This may mean we will need to change from 2 days to 1 day a week for nursery children from the week beginning 22nd June. We will inform you by Friday 19th June if this has to change.

*If you have now changed your mind and would like your Nursery, Reception, Y1 or Y6 child to return to school, please contact the school office urgently via email office@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk by 5pm Tuesday 16th June 2020 latest. If we have not heard from you by that date, **WE WILL assume that your child will not be returning this academic year, and that your place can be reallocated to another child.***

Key worker places are only for those parents whose job is described by the government as, "critical to the covid response" these spaces are also only available to cover the specific shifts of the employee. Requests **MUST** be accompanied by evidence of shift pattern and a letter from the employer. This request will then be considered; a space is **NOT** guaranteed as all relevant criteria must be met.

Stay safe everyone!

Best Wishes

Mrs Karen Austin

Head of School

In school last week

The children in our Nursery, Reception, Y1, Resource Base and Year 6 classes as well as our keyworker bubbles had a great week in school!



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 children who are still with us, your work and activities in school too!

This week we are celebrating;

- **Otters** – Ashton
- **Magpies** – Ava
- **Frogs** – Martha
- **Hérons** – Ruby
- **Kestrels** – Kieron
- **Badgers** – George
- **Buzzards** – Taylor

Remember to celebrate at home and make it special!



Drop-off / Pick-up



If your child is in school, please support us by being on time (not too early). This will mean that you can line up for your child to come into school at the right gate at the right time. And do the reverse to collect them.

- **Keyworker 9am-3.15pm**
(unless agreed otherwise)
- **Nursery, 9am-3pm**
- **Reception, 9.15am-3.15pm**
- **Y1, 9.15am-3pm**
- **Y6, 8.45am-2.45pm**

If you are too late and there is not an adult on either gate, please use the office intercom and you will be given instructions to either go to the correct gate where an adult will meet you or a member of staff will collect your child from the front door.

Otters New Teacher!



Image by A Call For Nature

In September Mrs Mindi Little will be joining the River Mead Team, she will be the 'Otters' Reception Class teacher. She will also be supporting the senior leadership team, by leading the early years team. Mrs Little sent a message;

"Hi. My name is Mindy Little. I have been teaching for 13 years and I am especially passionate about early years' education. I am really looking forward to being part of the team at River Mead Primary School".

In return we are excited to have Mrs Little join us!



Are you worried or concerned about a member of our School community?

We are acutely aware that during this time we are all facing many challenges and one of our primary roles as a school is to support all our pupils and parents to feel safe and secure. Our schools are still running, albeit in a different way, and we are trying to maintain those vital links with your child/children and you. Please do feel that you can still ask to speak with someone if you have concerns by contacting the school office.

We also know that the lack of normal school contact, where you can choose to speak to someone face to face, could make it harder for you to share concerns during this time, so we have signed up to a secure, online messaging and reporting tool, run by [South West Grid for Learning](#), called **Whisper** which will allow parents to contact us if you have any concerns, worries, if there is anything bothering you, or you feel we can help. **This way of contacting us is anonymous.**

The platform is encrypted and only our Head of School/Designated Safeguarding Lead, and our SENCO/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, will be able to access the messages. Please be assured all such messages will be treated with sensitivity and professionalism.

If you have any welfare concerns that you would like to report through Whisper, you can do so leaving your name, or anonymously. There is a direct link on the school website.

<https://www.rivermead.wilts.sch.uk/safeguarding-covid-19/>

To send us a message please click the link below and this will take you to a secure e-mail page. We will endeavour to get back to you within 2 working days.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/rms1/>

We know this is a difficult time for many and through our Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub we are working hard to ensure the most vulnerable in our community get the support they need.

If you need support, or know someone who does, the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub can be contacted on 0300 003 4576 or by email at wellbeinghub@wiltshire.co.uk

The hub is open Monday to Friday, 8am – 8pm and weekends, 10am – 4pm.

So far, we have contacted more than 8,000 people and delivered more than 600 food parcels, so please get in touch if you need to.



#WiltshireTogether

☎ 0300 003 4576

✉ wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council

No one should feel unsafe in their own home –

If you're a victim of domestic abuse help is available 24/7

Spiltz – 01225 775276 (weekdays)
Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service – out of hours call 01793 610 610

#STOPABUSE

Wiltshire Council



Young people can go missing for a number of different reasons. If you have concerns about a child's whereabouts, please do not hesitate to contact us. In an emergency, always call 999.

