

River Mead School



22nd 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

Firstly, I want to thank you all for your support over the last 12 weeks, I know the staff and I appreciate your understanding in this difficult time. I must remind families that we are only able to accept Keyworker children who have booked a place and those who have already requested a place in the eligible year groups. We are NOT accepting further requests for places for Term 6 in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 6, these bubbles are now full.

Like yourselves we are awaiting the government announcements about what school will look like in September 2020. I must make it clear that we hear the information at the same time as you in the Prime Ministers daily briefing, this is then followed up with more detailed guidance. As soon as we are able to plan for September, we will do so and we will let you know. If you have a child who needs a nursery place for September, we are still accepting applications for places.

Please make sure that if your family circumstances have changed you check to see if you are eligible for 'Free School Meals' especially if your child is moving from Y2 to Y3 where they are not entitled to 'Universal infant free school meals'; from Y3 onwards you would be required to pay for a hot dinner.

Follow the link to see if you are eligible;

<https://pages.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/schoolsandcolleges/parentadvice/educationgrants/freeschoolmeals/freeschoolmealsform.htm>

Stay safe everyone!

Best Wishes

Mrs Karen Austin

Head of School

Farewell Mrs Johnston

Sometimes a school loses someone who has had such a profound impact upon the life of a school you are unsure of what the school will feel like without them; Sandie is one of those people!

Sandie has been involved at River Mead School (previously as Lowbourn and Kings Park schools), for about 20 years, as a parent helper, governor and member of PTA but most recently working in the school office for 12 years.

She was the first face you would see and meet and I know her smile and kindness was infectious – we will all miss her deeply. She has in her own words thoroughly enjoyed working at the school, however due to ongoing health issues has taken early retirement.



I know you will join us in wishing Sandie all the best, if you wish to leave a card or gift we will pass them on to her. We are hoping once things are a little more normal she will pop back into school as a volunteer and share her love of reading, cookery and crafts with the children.

If you are a fan of her skillful arts and crafts, jam, cakes and other amazing goodies – look out for her online as she is busy making and selling them!

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

We are 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, but 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](https://www.southwestgridforlearning.org.uk/), 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/>



Goodbye to Miss Gosling

We will be saying goodbye to Miss Gosling at the end of term 6, as she has decided to take on a new teaching challenge and is not only moving schools, but moving to a 'brand new' school in September.

We will be very sad to see Miss Gosling leave River Mead, she has been working at the school for 12 years (previously as Lowbourne and Kings Park), I know I have valued her experience as have all of the children she has taught. We wish her the best of luck in her new adventure. If you wish to drop a card or gift in, we will pass them on to her.

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.

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** – Hamza
- **Magpies** – Tyler
- **Frogs** – Ben
- **Hérons** – Charlie
- **Kestrels** – Belle
- **Badgers** – Will S
- **Buzzards** – Finley-Jay
- **In school** - Mia

Remember to celebrate at home and make it special!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

We are excited to welcome a new addition to our River Mead family. I am sure you will join us in sending our congratulations to Mr and Mrs Feierabend on the arrival of their baby boy Josef Feierabend born at 35 weeks and weighing in at 5lb 8oz. We are pleased to say both Mother and baby are home and doing well.

