

River Mead School



Lowbourn, Melksham SN12 7ED

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

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

Our Twitter feed: [@TweetRiverMead](https://twitter.com/TweetRiverMead)

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

Issue 13 8th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

As we started the new term this year we did so with an overnight announcement on Monday that meant we were not able to welcome you all back. We have been able to offer places for Critical workers and a small minority of other children as the guidance issued to us has allowed. We hope despite the restrictions you were able to have an enjoyably different Christmas!

I know this was not the start to the New Year any of us were expecting. Firstly I must say thank you to those of you who are working on the 'frontline' supporting critical roles in the community and also to all of you who have had to change your plans to support this, and are now helping your children to access their online learning.

Schools have been closed not because they are unsafe but because additional measures are needed to contain the spread of the virus. The wider restrictions in place as part of the national lockdown to contain the spread of the virus in the community will allow us to continue to keep the nursery open and the school for critical workers.

On the next page we there will be some advice about how to access online learning and how we can support you—you MUST ask if you need help.

I cannot tell you how important it is that your child/ren complete their learning carefully and with focus. The data shows us that many children who DID NOT complete their learning in March are now behind and will need to catch-up, so we need them to 'keep-up'.

As a parent I know this is not easy, I myself am reliant on my husband who is working from home to support my own children to complete their learning—but it is our responsibility to do the best we can for our children, to make sure they have a good future and the best possible life chances!

Stay safe, best wishes



Online Learning

As you will now be aware, work is being set for all children working at home on Seesaw. There will also be daily live sessions through Google Meet and your class teachers will let you know what time these are. (see below) They are at the same time each day to enable siblings sharing devices to access these without clashes.



The expectations on schools are different during this lockdown compared to the one in March and we thought it would be helpful if we shared these with you.

There is a greater focus on schools providing work that is in line with the planned curriculum, it is important that ALL children are accessing what their teachers provide on Seesaw.

This will ensure that they continue to make progress in their learning. The children who are in school are also continuing with their curriculum and teachers are working very hard to make sure that what is provided online is as similar to the teaching in school as possible.

The teachers will be checking to see if the children are logging on to Seesaw to complete their work, as well as the quality of work completed. Teachers will phone families where work is not completed to see if there is something we can do to help. However, do not feel you need to wait for this phone call - please contact us through email if you require any help or are facing any problems with the online learning and we will do our best to help you.

homelearning@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk

If your child is not accessing the learning at home the government have advised us to invite your child to attend school so they can complete their learning, Their learning is important to their future.

If you DO NOT have a device to work online we will do our best to help—if you have issues with your internet or mobile data, please let us know.

If you have an X-Box or Play Station you can access your home learning!!!

If you cannot get a keyboard please ask us, or you can use your game controller.

Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot.
2. Go to my games and apps.
3. Find and select Microsoft Edge.
4. Navigate to your online learning platform.



PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (WWW with dots around it).
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller.
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications.
4. Go to applications and you will find the internet browser.
5. Navigate to your online learning platform and log in as usual.



Free School Meals / Children's work & reading books / Allocated devices

If you are eligible for Free School Meals the office will have been in touch to discuss this with you, you will receive an allocated time to come and collect your 2 week box next week—this timetable will follow via email and will be posted on social media. (if you do not have a car we will discuss this with you individually).

You will also be able to collect your child/ren's work books and reading books and if your request has been agreed, an allocated device (these are our own devices as those from the DFE have not yet arrived)!



Google Meet Timetable

The link for your meeting will be on Seesaw. Each Meeting will last for no more than 30 minutes

Reception – 2pm

Y1 - 1pm

Y2 - 10am

Y3 - 11am

Y4 - 11am

Y5 - 3pm

Y6 - 3pm



Beehive - please check Dojo as your teacher may arrange something different for you!

We want to make sure you are kept up-to-date about what is happening in our schools, especially at a time when you can't come in to school and see us in person.

The Mead Trust – as well as our individual schools – has a range of social channels that we post to, as well as the emails and text messages that we send out.

If you use any of these platforms, then please follow / like us! We will be sharing updates, but also love to feature news and achievements from our families, so make sure you tag us so that we can share your posts with our wider community.

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/themeadtrust>

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/mwlite/company/the-mead-academy-trust>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/themeadtrust>



BBC TV will be broadcasting lessons on BBC Two (secondary pupils) and CBBC (primary pupils), as well as online from Monday 11th.

The primary programmes, which will be broadcast on CBBC from 09:00 every day, will include BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily as well as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories and Operation Ouch.

This another way to access some home learning!



PE Days

For those children in school during 'Lockdown' they will need to wear their PE kits to school on the following days, if you are at home you might also want to get your PE kit on as there will be PE activities to do at home, look out on Seesaw!!

Year 5&6 - Monday (yoga)
Year R - Monday
Year 1&2 - Tuesday
Year 3&4 - Wednesday
Year 5&6 - Thursday
Beehive - Friday



For the attention of
all parents

Will your child be four years old
before September 2021?

**You must apply for a
primary school place**

Apply online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Application forms for Wiltshire residents are also available at
all Wiltshire Council Offices.

**The deadline for applications is
Midnight on 15 January 2021**

All forms must be returned to the
school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge

Ring customer services on 01225 713010
for more information or to request our guide -
Finding a primary school place in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council

Lockdown DON'T FORGET

If your child is unwell and has covid symptoms YOU MUST still get them tested even though you are not at school. NHS 119 or online can support you. You MUST let us know, please also let us know if a member of your family tests positive as we are being asked to reflect the positive cases in our school community.

⇒ [covidreport-
ing@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:covidreporting@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk)

⇒ or use the emergency covid text number **07521622705**

If you or a member of your family are waiting for a test result YOU ALL stay at home, you DO NOT go out.