

River Mead School



Lowbourne, 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/>

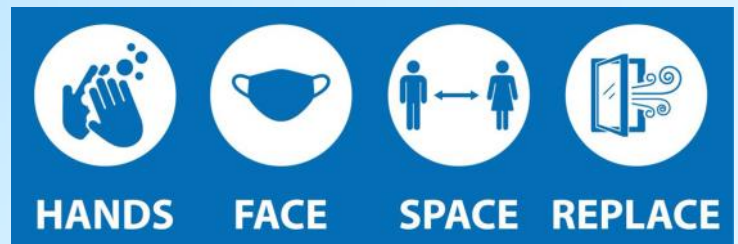
Issue 16 29th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

As you may have heard, the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the reopening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity. We, like you will wait to hear what The Prime Minister has to say on the 22nd of February! Please be reassured we will remain in close contact with you as soon as we have any information.

We will NOT be open during the half term break, if you are a frontline Critical Key Worker (e.g. emergency services/NHS) and you have no other arrangement's in place please let me know I believe that I have made Wiltshire Council aware of our numbers of frontline workers to give them an idea of numbers and we are assured they are considering the provision they can offer.

Thank you again for all of your hard work supporting your children with their home learning. Please remember that if its tricky take regular brain breaks and be kind to yourselves!



COVID REPORTING

Please remember it is still important to tell us if you are self-isolating or have tested positive. We are tracking cases in our community, but it also means we can check you are ok, and support you! Text: 07521622705 or e-mail us

covidreporting@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk

Family and Community Learning update

Do you have parents/carers struggling with the Health and Wellbeing of their families? If the answer is yes, Family and Community Learning can help.

We have some fantastic courses coming up in the very near future to help support. Most of these courses are single sessions but we also offer Family Wellbeing courses as a more in-depth course over 5 weeks.

Dates and Times are below:

08/02	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child to Prepare Positively for Change
10/02	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience
15/02	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry
22/02	10:00-12:00	Family Wellbeing - 5 week course 1 X session a week
01/03	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry
08/03	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience
15/03	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child to Prepare Positively for Change
22/03	10:00-12:00	Family Wellbeing - 5 week course 1 X session a week

We can also offer the flexibility to adapt these courses to meet the needs of your parents and carers so please do not hesitate to contact us at: familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk We will be happy to talk about what may work for the specific needs of your school and it's community.

COVID-19 TESTING - Lateral Flow Testing in school

In line with government guidance, we have started preparing for twice weekly testing of our staff so that we are ready to commence a testing programme once our test kits have been received from the Department for Education.

All adults working within our schools will be offered the opportunity to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) at home twice a week; the testing regime aims to reduce transmission of COVID-19 by early identification of asymptomatic carriers of the virus. Testing is not compulsory, and will not replace any of our robust protective measures that are already in place to keep our schools safe – HANDS-FACE-SPACE-REPLACE. There are no plans to test primary school children at present.

Should a member of staff receive a positive result from the LFT test they, along with identified close contacts, will need to self-isolate following government guidelines.

The member of staff will then need to arrange a PCR test for confirmation. This will mean that we may need to close any bubbles affected within the school and, if this is the case, we will contact you to let you know.

Should we be required to close a bubble any children within the affected bubble will need to be collected promptly and self-isolate following guidelines provided.

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.

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>



Home Learning

This week, we published detailed information about our Home Learning provision, which sets out what children, parents and carers can expect from remote education across The Mead Academy Trust when national or local restrictions require individuals, year group bubbles or the whole school to remain at home. It covers everything from how much work will be set, to how our teachers will feedback on work being done at home, to how we are supporting children who have additional needs. You can read it on our website here: <https://www.themeadtrust.org/learning/curriculum/home-learning/>

We have also continued to update our #LockdownLearning gallery, and now have over 150 photos in it! We want to gather pictures of what our children and their families are doing whilst they are learning at home, and would love to see what you have been up to. It might be a snap of your child taking part in a live lesson, but it could be anything – we know that lots of you are baking, doing painting, going for (chilly!) walks, and much more! You can share your photos with us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/themeadtrust>) and twitter (<https://twitter.com/>)

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



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.

⇒ 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.

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!



Make a
difference in your
community

Photo Credit: drawingrooms@icloud.com

COMMUNITY
FIRST



VOLUNTEERS



NEEDED!

**Your local Link Scheme
needs you:**

Demand for our service is growing and we
urgently need new volunteers to support
the service



If you could spare some time, or for more information
please contact us: 01380 722 241

Email: linkproject@communityfirst.org.uk