

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/>

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Dear Parents / Carers

I am not sure where to start, except to say a huge THANK YOU! We know that home schooling your children has been really tricky and we really do want to thank you for everything you have been doing and continue to do to support your children at home. Remember if you need a BT hot-spot code for Wifi or a Sim card for mobile data or a laptop/i-pad to access home learning please contact us!

homelearning@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk

As soon as we have the information about the wider opening of school we will share this with you—although I suspect the news will tell you at the same time as us! Please be reassured we will share any details such as start and finish times, entrances, exit's etc as soon as we know what is expected of us.

Meanwhile we look forward to continuing to support everyone online and for a few children in school. Please also remember Otters Nursery is open as usual.

Can I remind everyone regardless of now or in the near future that to reduce risk at drop off or collection times only ONE adult please and face coverings are required unless you wear an exemption lanyard. We are all trying to work together to keep our school community safe and need your ongoing support.

Please find some time to go outside, have some fun, have a break from screens and the odd PJ day over the half term break. It will be important to find some ways to make it different to a 'school week'!

Stay safe, best wishes

Mrs Austin



HANDS



FACE



SPACE



REPLACE

Families urged to keep following the rules and stay safe this half term

Kate Blackburn, Director of Public Health for Wiltshire, said: "The rate of COVID-19 cases reported in Wiltshire has fallen over the last seven days and this is largely due to the fact that local people have played their part and followed the lockdown rules.

"Next week is the school half term holiday and I am appealing to parents, children and young people to continue to follow [social distancing guidance](#). I know this will be hard and that many children are missing their friends, but please do not be tempted to break the rules; this will help to contain the virus and so make it possible for children to go back to school and meet up with friends again in the future.

"I am also asking people not to hold sleepovers this half term, as Halloween sleepovers held during the October half term break led to a number of outbreaks last year. By following the rules, you are helping to reduce the spread of infection so we can all get back to normal faster."

During half term, parents can form a **childcare bubble** for a child under 14, with one other household, ideally who live locally. The childcare bubble is for childcare only and should not be used to mix with another household for social reasons.

A [childcare bubble](#) is different to a [support bubble](#) which is a support network linking two households. You can **only form a support bubble** if you meet one of the following criteria:

- You live by yourself
- You have a child under one
- You're a single adult living with one or more children under 18
- You're the only adult in your household not in need of continuous care
- You have a child under 5 with a disability who requires continuous care
- You're aged 16 or 17 living with others of the same age and without any adults

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 phone the school office or e-mail us covidreporting@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk

During half term there are a number of activities available for families online

The [Active Communities](#) page on the Wiltshire Council website has details of activities and resources for families during half term. The resources, activities and ideas support mental health, promote physical activity and ideas to do something new or different.

The Reading Agency has a [Winter Mini Challenge](#) which challenges children to read at least three books by Friday 19 February. If they review the books online, children unlock limited edition virtual badges and a special certificate.

Wiltshire libraries have [recordings of story times, author talks and craft activities](#)

A number of Wiltshire Council libraries are offering an order and collect service with bookable computers for essential use too!

Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre is setting families a challenge to record their creative activities - a record that could become part of our [Living in Lockdown](#) archive.

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 its community.

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



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.

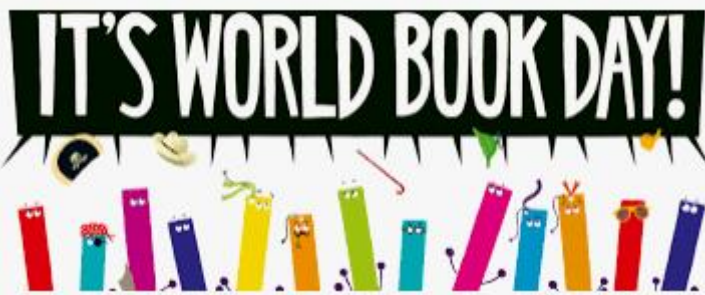
If you use any of these platforms, then please follow / like us! We will be sharing updates, but also love to feature news and achievements from our families, so make sure you tag us so that we can share your posts with our wider community.

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

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

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





Thursday 4th March is World Book Day.

This year we are going to wait until we are all back in school before we have our

'dress as your favourite book character day' as we don't want anyone to miss out on the fun. However, we are going to have lots of exciting book themed activities for online and in school learning that week.

So Keep your eyes peeled! 

Some ideas for supporting 'Home Learning'

T Take turns to make plans and predictions before starting a task

'You think that we should have fish fingers for dinner? That's better than my pizza plan.'

'I wonder how many fish fingers everyone would like. What do you think?'

R Recap to check ideas and understanding as your child is helping

'So, you think that we should dig the hole here? Why is that?'

'Why do you think that the tower fell over when you added the last block?'

U Use encouragement and praise to keep children engaged in learning

'I love your ideas for grandma's picture. Let's collect what we need and make it.'

'You thought so carefully about your picture. I wonder how it would look with stars on. What do you think?'

S Share prior knowledge & past experiences that link to what is being learnt

'Have you learnt about things that float at school? Do you think that this bottle will float in your bath?'

'Do you remember the counting we did when we watched Numberblocks? Let's do some more counting so we've got the right number of smiley faces.'

T Tune-in and listen to your child—be curious about their interests

'I didn't know you were so good at baking. I think the things that you make taste the very best!'

'I know that you love dinosaurs. Shall we make some green dinosaur biscuits?'