



The Mead Academy Trust

Nursery & Pre-School Welcome Pack

Castle Mead Pipstrelles Nursery

Mascroft Road Trowbridge BA14 6GD / 01225 768641

River Mead Nursery - Butterflies

Lowbourne, Melksham SN12 7ED / 01225 703428

The Mead Orchard Nursery (Hilperton)

Hackett Place, Hilperton, Trowbridge BA14 7GN / 01225 759273 (option 2)

The Mead Mice Pre-school (Wingfield)

Church Lane, Wingfield, Trowbridge BA14 9LW / 01225 759273 (option 3)



A note from our Executive Headteacher



We would like to extend a warm welcome to you as a nursery / pre-school parent within The Mead Academy Trust.

Our positive reputation reflects our drive to *Shape Inspirational Learning* for our children, right from the start. The enriched curriculum we offer provides exciting learning opportunities, which extend beyond the classroom to engage and inspire inquisitive minds.

It's our aim to meet the needs of each child individually and we provide the resources and the staff to achieve this. Our dedicated team is committed to providing a wonderfully creative learning environment to fascinate every child.

Within this pack you'll find more information about our nursery / pre-school provision across all of our schools.

With kind wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyssy Bolton".

Lyssy Bolton

Our schools



At Pipistrelles Nursery we understand that play is the key to learning in the Early Years and we work hard to provide an exciting, stimulating and safe environment for our children to thrive in. We observe each child closely to ascertain their interests and abilities, and in partnership with parents, we use these observations to plan opportunities to develop their learning further. This journey is documented within the nursery and shared with the parents through our planners.

We believe in encouraging our children to be independent in their self-care, confident in their emotional wellbeing, able to build relationships and have the confidence to make their own choices from the free-flow activities that are carefully planned to further their interests. Throughout the day the children have access to a wide range of activities and resources both inside and out, with a range of adult led experiences as well as ample time to pursue their own avenues of play and learning.



The Mead's purpose-built Orchard nursery (Hilperton site) will open in September 2017, and an Early Years class of pre-school and Reception children will be available on our Wingfield site from the same time.



We are delighted to be able to extend our outstanding provision to 3 and 4 year olds. Children will have the opportunity learn, play and explore both inside the nursery and outside in the gardens and orchard space, whilst making the most of the excellent school facilities to support their independence and confidence as they grow.



At River Mead School, we pride ourselves on how included the nursery children are within the main school. The children regularly use areas such as the school hall and the library; their confidence in using these learning spaces has been highly effective in the promotion of their independence and in supporting a smooth transition into school.

We welcome parents as our essential partners in our nursery. We are all on a long and exciting journey, learning together; children, staff and parents. This is with a sense of hope which fulfils dreams and wishes. We hope that parents and carers will recognise and celebrate the achievements at River Mead and take pride in becoming active contributors to our learning community. We understand that every child and family is unique and that every day we will have much to learn from each other.

Our philosophy

“It is our choices that show who we truly are, far more than our abilities”

- J.K. Rowling

“Play is the highest form of research”

- Albert Einstein

“life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our break away” - Carlin, cited in Woolton (2006)

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Adults in the foundation stage focus on what the children can do, their stage of development and what their next steps are in order to support them in meeting their full potential. This is an exciting way to learn and teach and we share the children’s learning journeys regularly with parents/carers.

In the Early Years children work towards the Early Learning Goals which most of them achieve by the end of Reception. Our curriculum ensures that all children have access to learning in the following seven areas:

- Personal, social and emotional,
- Communication and Language,
- Physical Development,
- Literacy,
- Maths,
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Understanding the World

We welcome our parents as essential partners in our nursery and would like to encourage parents to become fully involved and supportive of the successful education of our children. If you would like to volunteer some of your time or expertise please get in touch with the nursery staff or school office.

What you need to bring to nursery

Nappies & wipes: Please provide your child with a supply of nappies for their session. If you would like us to use nappy cream, please provide this as well with their name clearly written on the container

Clothes: All children need a change of clothes and underwear which will be kept in your child's bag

Bags: Pegs are allocated each day so we advise all belongings are kept in your child's bag

Autumn/Winter: Please provide a suitable raincoat, wellies, hat, scarves and gloves

Spring/Summer: Please provide an outdoor hat, sun cream and suitable clothing

Medication: If your child needs prescribed medication please ask the school office for a form so that we can administer it in the nursery as necessary

We aim to go outside in all weathers so please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for each session.



Settling in sessions

You will be invited to an initial settling in session with your child which will last an hour. This is a chance for you both to meet the nursery staff and other children, and ask any questions.

We will use this opportunity to find out as much as possible about your child and his or her needs. This could include any comforter your child might have, their medical needs, interests, anxieties or difficulties.

The daily routine will also be explained and you will be able to see where your child will eat, play and learn within the setting.

We will cater to you and your child's needs, so if your child requires more settling in sessions this can be arranged.



Meals & snack times

We aim to provide a healthy and balanced diet. During meals and snack times we discuss the importance of eating healthily and encourage the children to independently access their snack.

Snack times involve a range of healthy, nutritious finger foods with a choice of milk or water. Lunch and tea are cooked meals prepared by the school kitchen, or you are welcome to bring a healthy packed lunch if you prefer. Our menus change every other term, to ensure we offer seasonal variations. You'll be asked to choose your child's hot meals from our termly menus when they start at the nursery / pre-school.

With an emphasis on quality, we provide food that is:

- Sourced or produced locally
- From sustainable sources or ethical suppliers
- Farm assured meat
- Free from any undesirable additives or hydrogenated fats



Trust Early Years staff

We have a tremendously friendly, energetic and professional staff who continually work together to establish a happy and effective learning community.

All people have democratic rights which mean listening to children, families, staff and community to shape our nursery to be the best it can be. Our strength is in our relationships with each other. Believing in oneself and others is essential to promoting well being.

Within the Mead Academy Trust we have many areas of strength and expertise. In the Leadership Team key staff for the nursery are Mrs Lyssy Bolton (Executive Headteacher for The Mead Academy Trust) and Mrs Helen Tate (Deputy Headteacher and Early Years Lead for The Mead Academy Trust).





River Mead Nursery

The following information is specific to River Mead Nursery, Melksham.

Session Times and Costs from September 2022

Session time	Cost	Age
8.00am – 8.45am	£4.45 (including breakfast)	All children
8.45am – 12.30pm	£21.55 (or free entitlement where available)	2 year olds
8.45am – 12.30pm	£20.85 (or free entitlement where available)	3 years and over
12.30pm – 4.15pm	£21.55 (or free entitlement where available)	2 year olds
12.30pm – 4.15pm	£20.85 (or free entitlement where available)	3 years and over
Lunches	£2.55	All children

All payments should be made through Arbor we do not accept cash.

Please note: we cannot refund any days when your child cannot attend due to illness or other reasons.

Term Dates

Our term dates are available on the website, please note the nursery is also closed on bank holidays and 5 training days which are detailed on the website.

Nursery Team

Staff member	Role
Mrs Karen Austin	Head Teacher
Mrs Emma Lewis	Early Years Lead
Mrs Teresa Owen	Senior Teaching Assistant
Mrs Nikki Hewlett	Admin Officer (Nursery Admin)

Full details of staff are shown on the website, link below –

<https://www.rivermead.wilts.sch.uk/our-team/>

Other Early Years support

In addition to our nursery team, we have a range of people who are available to help and support you:

Parent Support Advisors: Parent Support Advisors are here to support parents and carers within the school community to enhance and develop their family unit. They offer professional support and advice to enable families to access services within the school and local environment. Contact the school office if you would like to make an appointment with your PSA.

The governing body: The school has a local group of Academy Advisors that has a focus on ensuring high quality provision and outcomes for all of our children. Details of the current Academy Advisors Group can be found on the website

School Nurse: Ruth Noakes is currently the named school nurse for River Mead School, contact can be made through the website, link below -

<https://wiltshirechildrensservices.co.uk/school-nursing/teams/wiltshire-school-nurses/>

or 0300 247 0090

SENCo: Each nursery has support from the school Specialist Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) or Inclusion Lead who can be contacted via the school office. Initial support will usually given by senior teaching assistants.