

# River Mead School Parent Newsletter

## 09.09.2022



---

*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/>*

---

### In this Newsletter

- **Message from Mrs Austin**
- **STAR of the Week**
- **Hot Chocolate with Senior Leadership Team**
- **Friends of River Mead**
- **School Term & Holiday Dates**
- **Family & Community Learning Survey**
- **PE times**
- **Date's to Remember**
- **What's On**

## A message from Mrs Austin



### **Queen Elizabeth II - 21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022**

It is right that I now start this newsletter with a few words in recognition of the death of our monarch HRH Queen Elizabeth II, who we were all informed died peacefully yesterday afternoon at Balmoral Castle in Scotland aged 96. Mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

She was head of our nation and the commonwealth and was the longest serving monarch; Queen for 70 years and 214 days.

We have now entered a period of national mourning that will continue until the end of the State Funeral. Once details of the funeral are confirmed by the Royal Household, these will be shared with us all. We have been advised by the government that schools will remain open during this period of national mourning.

We will spend some time in school ( as is appropriate) sharing our thoughts and feelings, and reflecting upon the life of her Majesty HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

**The long reign of Queen Elizabeth II was marked by her strong sense of duty and her determination to dedicate her life to her throne and to her people.**

### **Welcome Back**

It has been lovely to see all of the children back in school and some new children joining our River Mead family too, we are looking forward to welcoming our reception pupils across the school including the Resource Base in the coming weeks as they begin their transition to starting school . The children are all looking so smart and when I have walked round have been really engaged in their learning.

The staff across the school have worked tirelessly over the summer to get the school ready after moving the classrooms around, working around the heating engineers, it was certainly a real

challenge for the cleaning team as everything was in the way everywhere, so a huge thank you to them too; it really was a whole school team effort so i would publicly like to thank everyone for really going above and beyond.

A brief reminder that we have slightly adjusted timings to the day to accommodate the FREE breakfast offer (so arrive on time and have the children fed for free!) and to comply with the length of the school day requirements from the government.

In the morning, gates open at 8.30 and shut promptly at 8.45am, you will be required to accompany your child to the office if they are late and complete a late form. For Morning nursery sessions the double gates will be open for you to come in off the pavement at 8.30, (please wait alongside the picket fence) and then staff will be available to welcome your children shortly afterwards. We understand that there may be a delay for some children arriving by taxi which is beyond control and will accommodate this.

### **Welcome to the team!**

It is unusual for us to have a turn-over of staff but this year we do for a variety of reasons, so we are welcoming the following staff to our team this year.

Mrs Macinnes

Mrs Wild

Mrs Bailey

Mrs Tuck

Mrs Parker

Mrs Wing

Mrs Hunt

Mrs Davies

Mrs Church- Coombes

Although not on our staff , Mr Newman who has been our sports coach for a number of years working for In2Sport is leaving us to go travelling. We will sad to see him go, but are expecting some postcards of his adventures overseas! Mr Tanner from In2Sport will be joining us and will be working alongside Mr Newman to get to know us all before he takes over mid October.

### **Heating**

The heating engineers have been in all summer (and have almost finished) removing the old outdated and inefficient heaters and fitting new thermostatic radiators, so we hope we will be able to out them on, control them and have a lovely warm (but affordable) heating system!

## Attendance



### Attendance

*What a great start to the term with amazing attendance across the school - well done everyone!*

*CONGRATULATIONS to Herons & Kestrels who are joint winners with 97.4%, the winners this week!*

It is important, that you should be aware the government have tightened up on attendance and in particular term time holidays and unauthorised absences and any illness lasting longer than 3 days; we are of course aware of children who require hospitalisation or have a very specific medical need.

They have been very clear that term time holidays are NOT permitted and if you choose to go and have an unauthorised absence you may be fined. Authorised absence may be granted for exceptional circumstances such as a wedding or funeral but you may be required to present evidence of these.

### **You are required to let us know if your child will not be in school**

If you haven't we will...

1. phone you, if there is no answer then we will...
2. text or email you asking you to phone, if there is no answer then we will....
3. phone or message the contacts on your list, if there is still no answer then we will....
4. visit your house and knock on the door, if there is still no answer then we will....
5. post a letter through your letter box asking you contact us immediately, if there is no answer in the next few hours then we will...
6. contact social services and or the police explaining that we are concerned for your welfare and that of your children.

The last one may seem like an over-reaction but this is a genuine concern. It is part of our process as nationally there have been several incidents, where children have been with a seriously injured relative and unable to open the door, or worse still a parent has died! I am sure you can appreciate that I would never be able to live with myself if that were you and your child and I hadn't checked.

**You should still bring your child in even if they are going to be late!**

For example you have overslept, they said they were ill but they then seem fine! They won't get dressed (bring a bag with their clothes in we will help), or they have an early medical appointment - being here for part of the day is still important, then at least they won't miss all of their learning.

## **STAR of the Week**



**Dormice - Ava Mullis**

**Frogs - Sophia-rose Carroll**

**Hérons - Kyle Seward**

**Kestrels - Tyler Miller**

**Badger - Daniel Sievwright**

**Buzzards - Ella Swann**

## **Hot Chocolate with The Senior Leadership Team**



**Well Done to those children who have gone 'above and beyond' this week with their attitude and behaviour, this week the Leadership Team will be welcoming the children for their hot chocolate**

**These children are:**

**Dormice - Macaiden Penfold**

**Frogs - Isabella Dumitru**

**Hérons - Emily Sievwright**

**Kestrels - Faith Smith**

**Badger - Adam Burbidge**

**Buzzards - Ersal Duli**

## Friends of River Mead



A really big 'Hello and welcome' to all of our new starters and their parents, grandparents and carers - from all of the River Mead Friends! We're so pleased to welcome you to our school. The aim of our Friends Association is to raise funds to support the development of the school, not provided for by the normal school budget. We're a newly formed team that has been steadily growing since March this year. Since then we've organised a number of non-uniform days, colouring competitions, book sales, second-hand uniform sales, a Year 6 school-leavers party and a fantastic Summer Disco that sooo many of the children enjoyed! For those that haven't already seen on Social Media - the Disco raised a total of £378.50 for our school! Thank you to EVERYONE that contributed.

Our next PTA meeting is this Sunday 11th September, meeting at The Forester Arms at 7pm. The main focus for this meeting is all things **Christmas Fair** and anyone is welcome to join us! You don't need to commit to every meeting and how much support you provide, if any, is completely flexible.

We've had a number of new Friends join the team recently - Helen Wild, Sophy Hunt, Catherine Cargill & Edith Pantall, so with such a fast growing team we're feeling rather optimistic about our future fundraising efforts! You won't be alone with those 'first meeting' jitters if you decide to come along this Sunday. And if I'm honest - as (current) Chairperson, I still get nervous too - it's still all so new to me. But the joy I'm experiencing in all of our team successes so far and the real feeling of community, as well as the excitement of what's to come, really outweighs the anxieties for me.

See you at school or perhaps at one of our meetings!

Best wishes,

Marie Edwards (Mum of Alice - Y1 and Jasper - Nursery) on behalf of all The Friends.

**Follow** us on **Instagram** @friendsofrivermead or **join** our **Facebook** group - Friends of River Mead School - for regular updates! **Email** [rivermeadfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rivermeadfriends@gmail.com).

## School Term & Holiday Dates

School holidays are important to all of us! To help you plan for some family time we have put together the School Term & Holiday Calendar for 2022 - 2023. You can find this by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.themeadtrust.org/news-and-dates/term-dates/>

Teacher Training Days for next academic year 2022/2023 are:

31st October 2022

3rd January 2023

5th June 2023

## Family & Community Learning Service



We are super excited to announce that we are a Walk Safe School. Each year pupils take place in Walk Safe Training, here's what they said...

"Thank you for supporting Walk Safe training at your school in 2021/22 and helping to equip your pupils with the vital skills and knowledge for safe walking."

This years Walk Safe training will be arranged for later in the year, so watch this space!



The poster is titled "Being a Parent" in a large blue circle. Below the title, a banner reads "Suitable for parents of children aged 2-5". The text describes a 9-week course run by local parents for local parents, aimed at teaching practical communication skills for everyday life to bring up happy, confident, and cooperative children. It provides contact information: "Call us on: 0800 970 4669". A box on the right lists the course locations and start dates: Devizes Children's Centre (Tuesday 20th September, 10am - 12pm), Little Folly Children's Centre Salisbury (Wednesday 21st September, 10am - 12pm), and Canberra Children's Centre Melksham (Friday 23rd September, 10.00am - 12pm). An online session via Microsoft Teams is also listed, starting on 19th September from 7pm - 9pm. Logos for "EMPOWERING PARENTS EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES", "RISE TRUST", "Wiltshire Council", and "spurgeons children's charity" are at the bottom.

**Being a Parent**

Suitable for parents of children aged 2-5

A 9-week course run by local parents for local parents.

.....

Learn practical communication skills for everyday life to bring up happy, confident and cooperative children.

.....

Call us on: 0800 970 4669

Devizes Children's Centre starts Tuesday 20th September 10am - 12pm

Little Folly Children's Centre Salisbury Starts Wednesday 21st September 10am - 12pm

Canberra Children's Centre Melksham starts Friday 23rd September 10.00am - 12pm

Online session via Microsoft Teams starts 19th September 7pm - 9pm

EMPOWERING PARENTS EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

RISE TRUST

Working in partnership with Wiltshire Council

spurgeons children's charity

## PE timetable

### PE Days

#### Please see changes for Herons & Badgers

On PE days children should come in wearing their PE kit to avoid changing at school.

Otters - we will let you know when they will start!

Dormice & Frogs - Tuesday

Herons - Wednesday

Kestrels - Thursday

Badgers & Buzzards - Thursday

Bumble Bees (Beehive) - Monday

Honey Bees / Busy Bees (Beehive)- Friday



## Dates to Remember



### **September**

12th - New Reception children Morning only

21st - Year 3 trip to Stonehenge

26th & 27th - Year 6 Bikeability - Details to follow

What's on

