

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

16.09.2022



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/>

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A message from Mrs Austin

What a strange feeling week, sorrow and smiles!

It has been such a strange week and I guess next week will be too, with the news of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II death last week, though the televised events we have all seen this has continued to be in our thoughts this week with an ongoing strange sense of sorrow for lots of us.

Then in complete contrast we have had some wonderful moments, smiles and laughter (and the odd tear here and there) welcoming in our new Reception Otters and our new Reception Busy Bees who have started their transition into school. In addition we also have some new little ones joining Butterflies Nursery - so I have a lot of new names to learn, and children to get to know the next few weeks.

On Monday our Trust CEO Mrs Bolton joined myself and the school leadership team to have a walk round, meet the children and see the progress we have made with the heating, the classroom moves and our general readiness to learn. She popped into every class in school and we had a valuable discussion about our intentions for the school this academic year and our priorities for the school and children for 22-23.

I have included an overview of these below for you to see how we intend to continue our journey of improvement this academic year.

In the short term I am hoping to have a 'working party' in the near future to help us tidy-up the outside areas of the school. So if you think you can spare an hour one day after school to help clear leaves, windfall apples sweep paths, trim back brambles and generally help us have a spruce-up - keep an eye out for a message from me! If you think you can source some plants and are nifty with woodwork and could repair a couple of raised beds - please think of us too! I will send out a message when I can firm up the date and hope that you can join in to help with this - this will certainly be a case of many hands making light work of a job!

Please remember that the school will be closed on Monday 19th September as a sign of respect for the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

School will re-open normal time on Tuesday 20th September.



Starting School September 2023!

If you know of someone or your own child is due to start school in September 2023 and you/they would like a school tour, please then click on the link below the River Mead logo to book a tour slot to have a look round and chat with me or a member of the leadership team.

click - [Open Days 2022-23 - The Mead Trust](#)

All parents including those of children who attend River Mead Nursery, or have a brother/sister at the school MUST still apply for a school place. The Wiltshire Council guidance is as follows:

Please read our [parents guide to applying for a primary school place in Wiltshire](#) before making your application.

The easiest and quickest way is to apply online [Apply online](#)

There is no automatic entry from a nursery into a school, and there is no automatic offer of a sibling place (a place for a brother or sister).

The School place application deadline for Reception Class applications, for River Mead School and all other Infant and Primary schools is 15th January 2023.

Mrs Austin

Attendance



Attendance

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

CONGRATULATIONS to BADGERS 98.1% for this week!

The government and local authority have been very clear that term time holidays are **NOT** permitted and if you choose to go on an unapproved holiday this will be an unauthorised absence and you may be fined.

Fines will be issued where a child has had 10 days unauthorised absence within a 6 month period (this includes unauthorised holidays).

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 & you should still bring your child in even if they are going to be late!

STAR of the Week



Dormice - Keira Parker

Frogs - Jessica Swann

Hérons - Jentson Ward

Kestrels - Esther Maritiro

Badger - Maddi Holland

Buzzards - Lillie Goddard

Bumble Bees - Marc Taylor

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 - Lola Brookbanks

Frogs - Oliver Bole

Hérons - Molly Welch

Kestrels - Oliwia Wisinewska

Badger - Sydney Brewer

Buzzards - Ben Brown

On-Line Safety Advice



Roblox encourages creativity and teaches game design for school age children. However, it's dogged by reports of inappropriate content and online predators. The platform aims to provide a child-friendly environment, but with the majority of Roblox players being under 13, the worries of parents and carers are easily understandable.

This week we've got tips and advice for enabling children to enjoy Roblox more safely. We'll explain what the platform's parental controls can be used for, what options exist for blocking or reporting other players who are being offensive, and how conversations about Roblox can help youngsters learn to deal with strangers online.

Butterflies Nursery



We would like to say a big Welcome to the new Children and Parents who have recently joined us and ask if you can support us with the following:

Please can we ask all parents whose children attend the nursery in nappies, to ensure that there are spare nappies, wipes and nappy sacks in their bags if required.

We kindly ask all parents to ensure that their children bring named spare clothes with them and if you supply a packed lunch for your child, please can we ask due to other children's severe allergic reactions that you do not provide egg or nuts.

Our toddler group are currently working through and 'all about me' topic, and Miss Haddrell has asked if the children can bring in photos of their close family, mums, dads, brother, sisters, and family pets please.

Thank you

Donations



Our Honey Bees class are look for donations of kitchen equipment. If you have any unwanted saucepans, frying pans, flat baking trays and mixing bowls cluttering up you kitchen we will gladly take them off you.

Please pop them into Reception.

Thank you

Friends of River Mead



Please send any second hand uniform requests to rivermeadfriends@gmail.com or message via our Friends of River Mead social media pages!

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



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 main text describes a 9-week course run by local parents for local parents, aimed at learning practical communication skills for everyday life to bring up happy, confident, and cooperative children. A contact number '0800 970 4669' is provided. A box on the right lists session details for four locations: Devizes Children's Centre (Tuesday 20th September, 10am-12pm), Little Folly Children's Centre Salisbury (Wednesday 21st September, 10am-12pm), Canberra Children's Centre Melksham (Friday 23rd September, 10.00am-12pm), and an online session via Microsoft Teams (19th September, 7pm-9pm). Logos for 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.

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

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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

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 - Wednesday

Badgers & Buzzards - Thursday

Bumble Bees (Beehive) - Monday

Honey Bees / Busy Bees (Beehive)- Friday

Dates to Remember



September

21st - Year 3 trip to Stonehenge

26th & 27th - Year 6 Bikeability

26th September - Parents Evening - Details to follow

19th October - Last Day of Term

What's on