

# River Mead School Parent Newsletter

## 30.09.2022



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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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A message from Mrs Austin

**The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you will go.  
-- Dr. Seuss**

### **READING!!!**

**Are you reading at home? are you writing it in your child's reading record?**

It seems to have been a slow start to this years reading challenge and I am keen to see some more children visiting me having earned a free book of their choice to take home as a reward for their super reading!

If you have lost your child's reading record, book, folder etc. please let the class teacher know and we will replace them.

Reading is such an important part of our lives and your children need to know you value reading, please support them to be engaged, successful readers who want to read! I know its hard to find the time when its busy at home, but its only a few minutes and it will make such a difference to your child's education. They need to be able to read to complete maths and learn about the world around them, to learn history, science, geography and so much more -reading open doors.

Children should be bringing books home from school, but also don't forget comics and magazines if you fancy a walk out why not visit the beautiful new library space at the community campus, sign up, get a library card and borrow books for free!

**Free School Meals - are you eligible??? LAST CHANCE for funding.....**

The government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a Pupil Premium. Please check and see if you are eligible for Free School Meals (Pupil Premium) EVEN if you don't want a free hot dinner, mind you with the cost of living going up, a free hot dinner sounds like a bonus! When we submit our census numbers next week our finances will be calculated on the number registered. Obviously you can register after next week, we just don't get the funding till much later in the year.

The money we receive as a school is spent directly on your children in supporting their learning so please check and see if you are eligible in addition, as a school we are able to access other offers and support if we have certain % of pupils who are signed up for Free School Meals - so please check here - [Information about Free School Meals](#)

Sign up even if your child doesn't want a free school meal the funding is MUCH more than this.....



### **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 teh 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

If you are requesting an exceptional school absence your request **MUST** be in 2 weeks prior to the date you are requesting. Term time holidays will be refused.

- **CONGRATULATIONS to Kestrels 96.2% for this week! (second week winners)**

*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 -

**Frogs -**

**Hérons -**

**Kestrels -**

**Badger -**

**Buzzards -**

**Bumble Bees -**

## 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 -**

**Frogs -**

**Hérons -**

**Kestrels -**

**Badger -**

**Buzzards -**

## Kingfisher Reading Challenge



**A big well done to those children who have completed the following reads:**

Year 1

5 reads -

## On-Line Safety Advice



### *What parents need to know about Reddit*

*Most exchanges on Reddit are interesting and entertaining discussions of technology, sport, health or pop culture. The site has attracted controversy and criticism, however, for communities sharing depictions of violence against women, leaked or stolen explicit images (including those of minors) and online hate (particularly racism).*

*Because of its popularity, links to Reddit frequently turn up among search engine results – so young people may be exposed to the site's content even without purposely looking for it.*



## Reception & Year 1 Phonics



If you would like to join us for our Reception and Year 1 Phonics meeting please click on the relevant link below:

Reception (Otters) - <https://forms.office.com/r/b8NmQZapUw>

Year 1 (Dormice) - <https://forms.office.com/r/Cgtf4csRQH>

Thank you

## Celebrating Participation



Have you recently achieved something you are proud of?

Have you recently taken part in a sports team event? Are you a member of a local group? Do you have any new certificates or awards to celebrate?

If so, please send in a picture of you with your celebration to [office@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk).

## School Support

As we are heading into financially tougher times, we wanted to make you aware of support that is out there for you that we can help with:

Free School Meals: Information for parents about access and benefits of claiming FSM can be found at: [Free school meals - Wiltshire Council](#)

We also have access to the local food bank, so please contact the office if you would like us to obtain some for you.

## Friends of River Mead



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### *Halloween Disco*

*The Friends are really excited to announce that we will be hosting a Spook-tacular Disco on the last day of term - Wednesday 19th October!*

*Keep an eye out for booking forms coming out sometime next week.*

***Second-hand uniform** Please send any second hand uniform requests to [rivermeadfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rivermeadfriends@gmail.com) or message via our Friends of River Mead social media pages!*

***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).*

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## 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, it says '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. It includes a contact number: 0800 970 4669. A box on the right lists the start dates and times for four sessions: 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). The bottom of the poster features logos for RISE TRUST, Wiltshire Council (with the text 'Working in partnership with'), and spurgeons children's charity.

**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

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 & Kestrels - - Wednesday

Badgers & Buzzards - Thursday

Bumble Bees (Beehive) - Monday

Honey Bees / Busy Bees (Beehive)- Friday

## Dates to Remember



### **October**

4th October - Harvest Festival

12th October - Year 3 Stonehenge Trip

18th October - Year 1 Parent Workshop - Phonics Screen Check

19th October - Friends Halloween Disco

19th October - Last Day of Term

31st October - TD Day

### **November**

1st November - Term 2 Begins

### **December**

8th December - Christmas Jumper Day

## What's on

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***School admissions window open for secondary and primary school places***

*Wiltshire residents can now apply for secondary and primary school places for September 2023 entry.*

*Applications can be submitted online on our [website](#) until the national deadlines of 31 October 2022 for secondary schools and 15 January 2023 for primary schools and infant to junior.*

*The National Offer Day for school places for applications received before the published deadlines are 1 March 2023 for secondary and 19 April 2023 for primary and junior. Applicants will be able to log back into the online system on the National Offer Day to view the outcome of their application*

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