

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

02/12/2022



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

Before and After School

There are number of things that have been bought to my attention that are taking place before and after school, as a reminder it is still noticeable in the community that you as parents, are parents of the children at our school if you are directly outside of the gates.

Please remember not to swear and to use appropriate language in this public place, it is not setting a good example to your own or other children. We have worked hard for the school and pupils to have a good reputation in the local community, please help us to maintain this.

Scooters, bikes and football! Please NO football inside of the school gates in the morning it is not the right time or place for this activity. If you and your children would like to play football before school, then please use the park. Scooters, bikes, trikes and ride-ons should not be ridden inside the school gates, please get off outside of school and walk these to the bike/scooter store, or for younger children pick it up and carry it till back outside of the gates, we try to apply the fairly to everyone for safety reasons.

Smoking, for those who smoke before or after school - if you are smoking cigarettes not vaping, please take your litter home!

Helping with food costs

Dont forget **Melksham community larder** is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4pm

[\(8\) Melksham Community Larder | Facebook](#)

follow them on facebook for updates!

I have also been told all about "**The Company Shop**" in Trowbridge where you can apply to be a member

[About Us | The Company Shop Group](#)

Membership is free and open to employees and pension recipients of the NHS, Care and Emergency Services, Prison Service, British Armed Forces, Charity and the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods supply chain. Those in receipt of means tested benefits are also eligible.

Membership Enquiries

We want to help you find an answer as quickly as possible. In the first instance, please see our [Membership FAQs](#) or our [store details](#) page for opening times and locations.

Email:

Tel: 01226 747 121 (*Mon-Fri 9:00am to 5:00pm*)

Membership is free and open to those who live locally to a Community Shop store and are in receipt of a means tested benefit (e.g. JSA, ESA, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support).

Please check with them before going to see if you are eligible!!

Attendance

At school, on-time!!

Attendance is extremely important - school and attendance every day is a gateway to the future for your child/ren

Whole school data

	National	School
Week 7-11th Nov	94.7%	94.4%
This week	92.2%	91.3 % (down on last week)

Class data this week

Every week on a Friday we calculate the attendance for each class each week - your child being at school every day, makes a difference. We celebrate this in our 9am Celebration Assembly and the class with the highest attendance has a reward at the end of the day such as pop-corn in class or extra playtime.

Badgers 92.5

Frogs 93.4

Dormice 91.3

Kestrels 94.5

Otters R 89.7

Hérons 94.2

Buzzards 94.5

Thank you for your continued support and in particular for getting to school on-time. Please don't forget the gates open at 8.30am and free breakfast is available; the gates shut at 8.45am, after this time you will need to go in through the school office and complete a late form - you **MUST** not drop you child in the carpark or at the school gates after this time as it is not supervised and is unsafe.

Learning starts promptly, so please be on time!!



Christmas Fuel Programme



The **FUEL** programme is a **free** holiday activity and food project that offers eligible participants the opportunity to take part in a range of fun activities during school holiday periods in 2022. On each day of the programme all participants will also be provided with a nutritious meal.

The Christmas FUEL camps will run in 10 locations across Wiltshire, Monday to Thursday (10am to 2pm) from 19 December to 22 December.

For further information on camp locations, food provision, activities on offer and the nutritional workshops please visit <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure/fuel-programme>

We have listened to your feedback and we've made some changes to the Christmas FUEL camp including

- Our online application form is on a new and improved format that is user friendly on both computer and mobile devices, time saving and allows you to attach relevant documents straight to your application form. You can also opt for our new application form to send you a confirmation email and copy of your submission and reference code for your records
- You'll no longer have to pick meals in advance as we are trialling a new 'feast model' approach, meaning a range of nutritional food will be available for participants to pick and choose from each day. We will also have the chefs and food experts available at lunchtime to guarantee participants are having a positive experience at lunchtime. All dietary requirements and allergies will still be catered for, along with standard meal choices (such as jacket potatoes) so nobody goes hungry
- Introducing a FUEL rewards scheme to support and encourage our young participants to make friends, learn new skills and build positive experiences that support their personal growth
- Expanding our science and engineering activities to provide new and exciting opportunities for participants
- Having a FUEL hotline number, that will be available once your space is confirmed, for you to liaise with should you need to, improving customer communication.

To apply for a place to a **FUEL** camp please follow the link below, applications close at noon on 11 December, places are limited so apply early to ensure you don't miss out!

[Apply for Christmas FUEL camp](#)

For any questions please email fuelprogramme@wiltshire.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing you at a FUEL camp soon!

Regards

FUEL team

Reporting Sickness

Just a reminder to always let the office know if your child is sick and cannot attend school. You can do this by calling 01225 703428 and choosing option 1 to report your child absence.

Although we appreciate children are unwell from time to time, children can still attend school when they have a cold or have not been sick if well enough to do so. We have enough tissues and TLC to go around, rest assured if we feel they are unable to take part in their class we will call you to collect them.

If your child has been sick or had an upset tummy, they are unable to return until 48 hours after their last episode.

STAR of the Week



Otters - Sophia Bullock

Dormice - Tommy Sievewright

Frogs - Josh Turk

Hérons - Oscar Bole

Kestrels - Rosie Allum

Badgers - Charlie Cole

Buzzards - Lily Allum

Bumble Bees - Ashley Lloyd

Busy Bees - Evie McCallum

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:

Otters - Jackson Tucker

Dormice - Keira Parker

Frogs - Bethany Smith

Hérons - Kyla Gerrish

Kestrels - Imey Gingell

Badger - Samantha Cousins

Buzzards - Ruby O'Harrow

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

Year 6

75 reads - Ben Brown

Busy Bees -

25 reads - Rebecca Carter

50 reads - Lucas Goddard and Isiah Agboka

Christmas Performance



We are super excited to announce that we will be holding our Christmas Performances this year where families can attend!

To support our young stars with their performances we ask that children under 5 attend specific dates, please take a detailed look below:

13th of December, Reception and Nursery classes will be singing around the Christmas Tree at 2:30pm **with adults welcome to attend.**

14th of December, Years 1,2 and 3 will be performing at 2:00pm for the rest of the school to watch, **with adults welcome to watch without under 5s.**

12th of December, Years 1,2 and 3 will be practicing their dress rehearsals at 2:00pm **that can be attended by parents with children under 5.**

15th of December, - Years 4, 5 and 6 will be performing at 2:00pm for the rest of the school to watch, **with adults and children under 5 able to attend.**

For the evening performance, Years 4, 5 and 6 will be performing at 6:00pm **for adults without children under 5s.**

We hope to see you there!

On-Line Safety Advice

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down a rabbit hole that isn't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which enthral young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK ... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

- 1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM**
Algorithms rank content by user interest, so you can't see everything. Algorithms rank content by user interest, so you can't see everything. Algorithms rank content by user interest, so you can't see everything.
- 2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS**
Avoiding the default feeds on social media can help you see a wider range of content. Avoiding the default feeds on social media can help you see a wider range of content.
- 3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN**
Chatting about what your child's seen online can help you understand what they're interacting with. Chatting about what your child's seen online can help you understand what they're interacting with.
- 4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT**
If your child encounters content that upsets them, there's a way to hide it. If your child encounters content that upsets them, there's a way to hide it.
- 5. SET DAILY LIMITS**
Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used.
- 6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY**
Keeping a close eye on their social media can help you see what they're posting and the interactions they're having. Keeping a close eye on their social media can help you see what they're posting and the interactions they're having.
- 7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS**
Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message on their phone. Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message on their phone.
- 8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER**
Having children internet-enabled devices and computers in common can help you see what they're posting and the interactions they're having. Having children internet-enabled devices and computers in common can help you see what they're posting and the interactions they're having.
- 9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES**
Medical health professionals often encourage young people to take a break from social media. Medical health professionals often encourage young people to take a break from social media.
- 10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE**
Many pressures about children's accounts to private, so only people they've approved can see their posts. Many pressures about children's accounts to private, so only people they've approved can see their posts.

Meet Our Expert
Dr. Sarah-Jane Hill, a clinical psychologist and a specialist in child and adolescent mental health, shares her expertise on how to help children manage their social media use.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

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As platforms grapple with managing 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which enthral young people, but we can still help children to be mindful of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK ... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

In the guide, you'll find tips such as how to hide content, setting daily limits and discussing what children have seen online.

Friends of River Mead



Each & EVERY one of you can make a very REAL difference for our children's school if you please read on.....

Please vote for Friends of Rivermead School to help us secure £500 from ASDA for new playground equipment! You only need to enter your email, but you must click the **Confirm your vote** button in the email sent after voting. If you have more than 1 email address - please use them, we need all the votes we can get!

<https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4345>

You can vote **EVERY 7 DAYS** & the more of us that do so, the more chance we have.

And don't worry - we'll keep the reminders coming! **Please vote & share for your children & our school!!**

Green Tokens - Vote | Asda

<https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4345>

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:

3rd January 2023

5th June 2023

Family & Community Learning Service



the national
sleep
helpline

Does your child suffer with sleep issues?

Do you struggle with your child's bedtime?

Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

WE CAN HELP

03303 530 541
Sunday - Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Wednesday 9am - 11am

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



December

8th December - Christmas Jumper Day

12th December - Dorothy House Elf PE Lessons

12th December - Year 1, 2 & 3 Dress Rehearsal/ Christmas Performance (children u5 may attend with a parent)

13th December - Reception and Nursery singing around the Christmas Tree 2.30pm

14th December - Years 1, 2, & 3 Christmas Performance 2pm (no children u5)

15th December - Christmas Dinner Day

15th December - Years 4, 5 & 6 Dress Rehearsal/ Christmas Performance 2pm (children u5 may attend with a parent)

15th December - Year 4, 5 & 6 Christmas Performance 6pm (no children u5)

16th December - Last day of Term

January

3rd January - Teacher Training Day - No children

4th January - Start of Term - All children in

25th January - Young Voices 2023

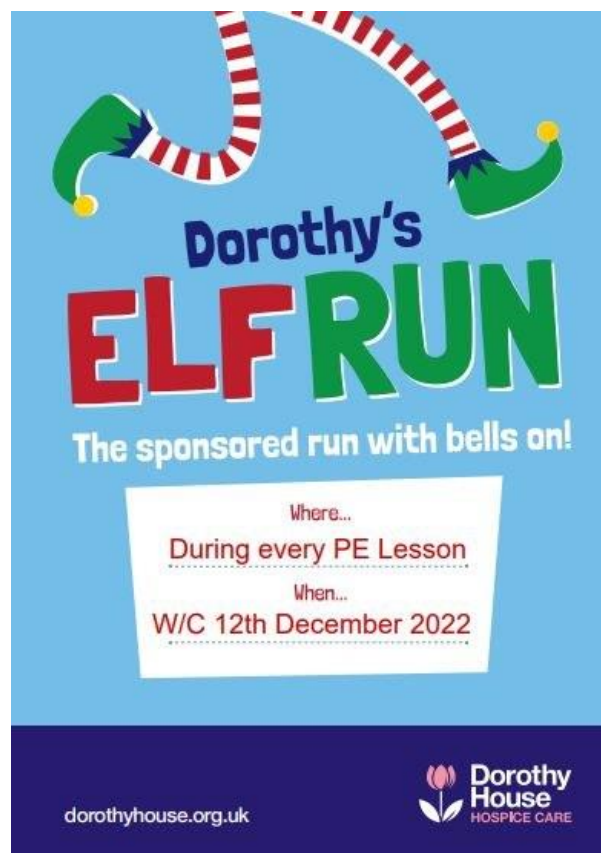
What's on

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 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



The poster features a blue background with a white box containing text. At the top, there are two green elf shoes with red and white striped socks. The text reads: 'Dorothy's ELF RUN' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'The sponsored run with bells on!'. A white box contains the following information: 'Where... During every PE Lesson' and 'When... W/C 12th December 2022'. At the bottom, there is a dark blue banner with the website 'dorothyhouse.org.uk' and the Dorothy House Hospice Care logo.

**Dorothy's
ELF RUN**

The sponsored run with bells on!

Where...
During every PE Lesson

When...
W/C 12th December 2022

dorothyhouse.org.uk

Dorothy House
HOSPICE CARE