

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

14.10.2022



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

I have been conspicuous in my absence this week - unfortunately I am at home with a round two of covid-19 infection! Although able to access some work on my laptop those of you who have experienced the infection will know it causes a number of different symptoms including fatigue and for me this time round a very debilitating cough day and night. I am extremely confident that the team in school, led by Miss Harrison, Deputy Head Teacher, are keeping the school running safely and effectively, we have a really great team of staff (as you know) and the value of being part of a trust is that in these circumstances there is wider support to draw on, hopefully I'll be back next week!

It is that time of the year where we will see illnesses both in staff and pupils, please inform the office and seek advice on how long your child should be absent such as 48 hours for a sickness bug. Minor sniffles, coughs and colds then children (and adults) should be in school. Any absence over 3 days and we will be concerned for their welfare, and you will be contacted. An illness of 5 days or more it is essential they see a doctor and you will be asked to show evidence of this as they are clearly very unwell! It is the same for staff - anything over 5 days requires a Doctor's note/evidence of appointment - it's the same for everyone!

Climbing equipment, walls and fences

A reminder that children must NOT be on any of the schools fixed climbing equipment before or after school, the same applies for the walls outside of the school reception office and the school gates, it is easy for a child to fall and sustain an injury which may go unnoticed. We teach the children to be respectful of school property so please support us in the same way before and after school - thank you

Reading Again!

Well done I have seen lots of extra reading recorded and children who are now being recognised for a weekly reading reward and a few who have chosen a book too! "Keep Reading"!

Remember that phonics, learning the sounds, letters and groups of letters make to form words are the building blocks of learning to read. This is crucial in the first years in school, so please see the links below to sign-up for a parent session where the team can share the 'how we teach it' and some ideas for how you can help at home. It is so exciting to be able to welcome parent back into school for these so please sign up (I'm sure we can find some biscuits and put the kettle on)!

At school, on-time

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.

For the past 4 weeks Kestrel Class have reigned supreme!

Kestrels 95.3%

Dormice 92.2 %

Hérons 94.5%

Frogs 93.5%

Badgers 93.8%

Otters 91.1%

Buzzards 93.5%

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!!



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

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.

Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND) Newsletter



Wiltshire have launched a newsletter focussed on Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND). This newsletter will provide you with all the latest news and information on SEND matters in Wiltshire. The first edition can be found on [The Local Offer website here](#) and you can also sign up to have the newsletter directly emailed to you. We'd also like to hear your feedback on the SEND newsletter so please let us know what you think by emailing localoffer@wiltshire.gov.uk.

STAR of the Week



Dormice - Logan Tucker

Frogs - Ruby Lloyd

Hérons - Whole Class

Kestrels - Noah Jarman

Badger - Jay Bullock

Buzzards - Ruby O'Harrow

Bumble Bees - Blakey Smith

Honey Bees - Tommy Gamble-Williams

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 - Ava Mullis

Frogs - Thea Dainton

Hérons - Harry Ettle

Kestrels - Lexi Smith

Badger - Alleesha Lowe

Buzzards - Oliver Cook

Bumble Bees - Sophia Walton

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

Year 1

25 reads - Alora Brownsell

Year 2

25 reads - Jessica Swann, Freddy Wild, Joshua Turk, Taylor Busby, Willilams Eanes & Corin Remington

Year 3

25 reads - Emily Sieviewright & Kyle Saward

Year 4

25 reads - Ollie Smith, Murdoch Remington, Lillian Smith, Jack Swan, Oliwia Wisniewska

Year 6

25 reads - Lily Allum, Annalise Brookbanks, Ben Brown, Ruby O'Harrow, Mollie Bailey, Lillie Goddard

On-Line Safety Advice

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FIFA 23

With the new release of FIFA coming to most of our players in schools, meaning that youngsters can't help themselves to keep looking to connect with their friends.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ**
It's all about the game, but it's also about the social media buzz. Don't let your child get carried away with the excitement of being a star. It's all about the game, but it's also about the social media buzz. Don't let your child get carried away with the excitement of being a star.
- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT**
FIFA 23 has a chat function in-game. It's important to ensure that your child is aware of the risks of online chat and to use appropriate parental controls to restrict access to chat.
- IN-GAME PROMOTIONS**
FIFA 23 has in-game promotions for real-world products. It's important to ensure that your child is aware of the risks of these promotions and to use appropriate parental controls to restrict access to these promotions.
- CIRCLING SCAMMERS**
The beauty of all this attention is that it can also attract scammers. It's important to ensure that your child is aware of the risks of online scams and to use appropriate parental controls to restrict access to these scams.
- ADDICTIVE NATURE**
FIFA 23 is a highly addictive game. It's important to ensure that your child is aware of the risks of addiction and to use appropriate parental controls to restrict access to the game.
- GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR**
FIFA 23 has a gambling-adjacent feature. It's important to ensure that your child is aware of the risks of gambling and to use appropriate parental controls to restrict access to this feature.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS**
It's important to ensure that your child is aware of the risks of online chat and to use appropriate parental controls to restrict access to chat.
- CONTROL SPENDING**
FIFA 23 has in-game purchases. It's important to ensure that your child is aware of the risks of spending and to use appropriate parental controls to restrict access to these purchases.
- AVOID EXTRA TRAF**
FIFA 23 has a feature that allows players to connect with friends. It's important to ensure that your child is aware of the risks of this feature and to use appropriate parental controls to restrict access to it.

Meet Our Expert

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National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know about FIFA 23

You don't have to be football crazy or an avid gamer to have heard of the FIFA franchise. What you might not know is that this latest edition will be the last release to bear that name, thanks to a

parting of the ways between football's governing body FIFA (that's Federation Internationale de Football Association, acronym fans) and developers EA Sports.

There's no disputing that the game's been an immense success – but what's less impressive is its tendency to look defensively shaky against some online threats. Young players aiming to recreate their football heroes' exploits can be at risk from abusive opponents, expensive in-game purchases and the "just one more game" mentality.

Teacher Led Clubs

Teacher Led Clubs are available to book for Term 2. Please ensure you book early as there are only a certain number of places available.

Clubs available are:

Forest Club - Monday

Building Club - Monday

Drama Club - Tuesday

Choir Club - Tuesday

Girls Football/Cricket Club - Wednesday

Arts & Crafts - Friday

Art Club - Friday

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



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 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.*

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

Please, please click the link below & 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. We're up against Forest & Sandridge School who are twice the size of River Mead.....we have our work cut out but if we ALL put in maximum effort, voting every week (set a reminder!) & telling **ALL our friends & family** as regularly as possible until 31st December, **we know we can do this** 🙏

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:

31st October 2022

3rd January 2023

5th June 2023

Family & Community Learning Service



The poster features a photograph of children's hands working with craft supplies like scissors and glue. The Spurgeons logo is in the top right. A diagonal banner reads 'For families of children aged 0-5 yrs'. The main text invites families to a 'fun and creative session' at three libraries. A 'Book your space now!' call to action is in the middle left. A 'Bursting with Creativity' logo is at the bottom left. Contact information for the children's centre is at the bottom left. A booking deadline note is at the bottom right.

spurgeons
children's charity

For families of children aged 0-5 yrs

Join us for an amazingly fun and creative session run in association with Wiltshire Scrapstore!

Book your space now!

"Bursting with Creativity"

For more information or to book a space contact the children's centre central line on: 0800 970 4669
www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

Booking for Scrapstore events will close one week before the scheduled event date.

Tisbury Library, SP3 6HJ
Wednesday 9th November
10.30-11.30am

Devizes Library, SN10 1DL
Wednesday 16th November
10.30-11.30am

Westbury Library, BA13 3BD
Thursday 24th November
10.30-11.30am

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

Hérons & Kestrels - - Wednesday

Badgers & Buzzards - Thursday

Bumble Bees (Beehive) - Monday

Honey Bees / Busy Bees (Beehive)- Friday

Dates to Remember



October

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

19th October - Otters Parent Workshop - Phonics

19th October - Friends Halloween Disco

19th October - Last Day of Term

31st October - TD Day

November

1st November - Term 2 Begins

7th November - Year 1 Noah's Ark

24th November - School Photo's

December

8th December - Christmas Jumper Day

12th December - Dorothy House Elf PE Lessons

January

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 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

The National Trust believes that everyone needs nature, so for a limited time they're offering you a free visit* to a place they care for this autumn. Where will your escape take you?

* up to two adults and two children. If you're already a member, you can use your free visit to bring along a friend or family member.

Visit the National Trust website for more information and to claim your free pass:
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/escape-into-autumn>

Escape into autumn



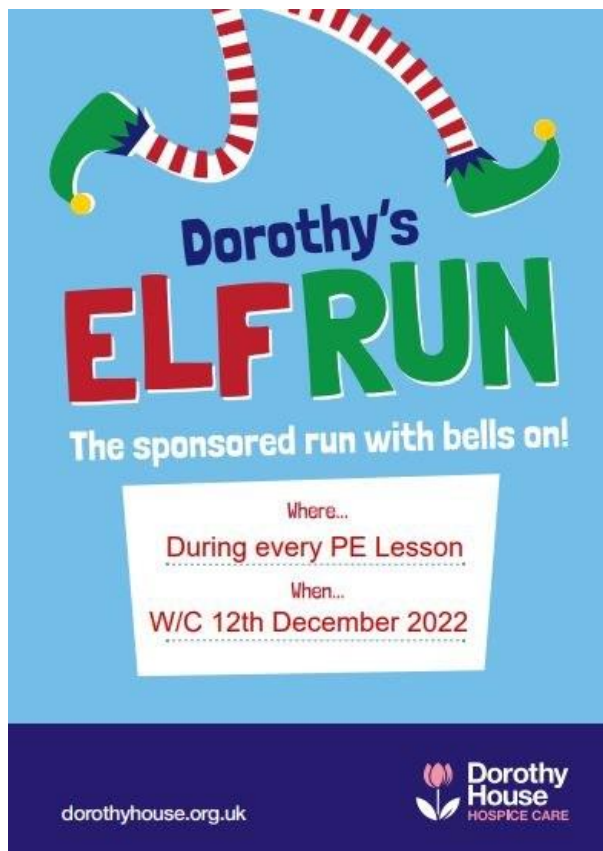


HALLOWEEN GYMABILITY

Thursday Oct 27th | 12.45 - 1.45 | Book online now
£4.75

Our Gymnastics drop-in sessions are for children aged 3-12 years with any physical, mental, emotional, social, language, and/or sensory challenges. Children and their parents/carers can explore our gymnastics apparatus with our coaches in attendance. Spaces are strictly limited and must be booked in advance

GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND SECURE A SPOT NOW!!!
WWW.WILTSHIREGYMNASTICS.CO.UK
 or call on - 01225793402




Dorothy's ELFRUN

The sponsored run with bells on!

Where...
 During every PE Lesson

When...
 W/C 12th December 2022

dorothyhouse.org.uk



Dorothy House
 HOSPICE CARE