

# River Mead School Parent Newsletter

## 25/11/2022



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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



### Well Done

I want to congratulate all of the children who have had a different person teaching them this week (or last week) unfortunately we have been experiencing a very high absence amongst staff and the children have managed this extremely well. Their helpful attitude and polite manner has been noted by our visitors.

Well done to our 'Play -leaders' and the y3 children who travelled to "The Mead" school yesterday afternoon to join in with the 'Tri-golf' and represented the school well with their super behaviour and 'can-do' attitude - some potential golfers in the making?

### Car seats and seat belts!!

It has been brought to my attention by a number of different people that children have been seen in cars in the car park, without car seats and /or no seat belts on. Please remember to keep safe at all times, even in a stationary car unless you have the child-locks "on" children can open the door and be out in the busy car-park in seconds. and the rules are very clear about car seats!

[Rules on children & car seats](#) (click for full information)

*"Children must [normally use a child car seat](#) until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first.*

*Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall [must wear a seat belt](#).*

*You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight."*

Please ensure you are compliant with the law for the safety of your child/ren, they need a seat for longer than you think!

### 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!!

#### **Contact Details:**


**Street Address:** L F Beauty, Aintree Avenue,  
White Horse Business Park, Trowbridge, BA14  
0XB

**Nearest Town:** Trowbridge

**Country:** England

**Postcode:** BA14 0XB

 **Company Twitter:** @csl\_members

 **Website:** [www.companysshopgroup.co.uk](http://www.companysshopgroup.co.uk)

## 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**

	<b>National</b>	<b>School</b>
<i>Previous week</i>	94.4%	91.5%
<i>week 7-11th Nov</i>	94.7%	94.4%
<b>This week</b>	91.5%	

### **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 92.8

Frogs 93.7

Dormice 91.5

Kestrels 94.8

Otters R 89.4

Hérons 94.3

### **Buzzards 94.9**

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](mailto: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.**

## Scarlet Fever

We have received confirmation that a child who attended Nursery last week is unfortunately unwell with Scarlett Fever.

Scarlett Fever is a bacterial illness which is unfortunately contagious.

Symptoms are:

A distinctive pink rash, strawberry tongue, sore throat, headache, high temperature, swollen neck glands, loss of appetite, redline in the folds of the body and a general feeling of being unwell.

There are a lot of bugs going around at the moment that can give your child these symptoms, but if you notice that your child has the distinctive pink rash please take them to your GP where they will be prescribed antibiotics.

For more information please click on the link <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Thank you

## STAR of the Week



**Otters - Oliver Merrit**

**Dormice - Tia Thunga**

**Frogs - Jeremiah Cubagee**

**Hérons - Kohen Porter**

**Kestrels - Mia Ayliffe**

**Badgers - Robyn O'Harrow**

**Buzzards - Sasha Razdobarova**

**Bumble Bees - Jacolb Jurkiewicz**

## 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 - Michael Drew**

**Dormice - Alice Edwards**

**Frogs - Hunter Jenkins**

**Hérons - Molly Welch**

**Kestrels - Lexi Tadhunter**

**Badger - Sydney-Jo Brewer**

**Buzzards - Darcei Jowett**

**Bumble Bees - Eli Patterson and Blakey Smith**

## Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

### **Year 1**

50 reads - Elia Duli and Zachary Perrin

### **Year 2**

50 reads - William Eanes and Ava Sears

### **Year 4**

50 reads - Oliwia Wisniewska

### **Year 6**

50 reads - Lillie Goddard

## Christmas Performance

*Christmas Performances*



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 TIKTOK**

TIKTOK is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dancing trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than 1 billion active users worldwide. (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 OFCOM report found TIKTOK to be the most-used social media platform for creating content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**  
Content may be restricted to over 18 only

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
While TikTok's algorithm does only display videos from what's considered "safe" for a user's age, it is based on their previously watched content. Many videos can be "18+" rated, and it's difficult to tell what content is "18+" rated. The app's algorithm can also recommend content that is not age-appropriate. The sharing of user-generated content is also a risk, as users can share content with anyone.
- IN-APP SPENDING**  
TIKTOK is free, but offers users the option to buy TIKTOK coins, which can be used to purchase items in the app. These items are a real asset, as users can use them to purchase virtual gifts for other users. For some items, users can purchase them for real money. The app's virtual gifts can be used to purchase real-world items, such as clothing, shoes, and other goods.
- ADDICTIVE NATURE**  
Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive. It's easy to get lost in the app, and users can spend hours watching videos. The app's algorithm is designed to keep users watching for as long as possible. The app's addictive nature can lead to users spending too much time on the app, which can affect their schoolwork and other activities.

**ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS**

- ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**  
Family Pairing allows parents to link their child's account with their own. This allows parents to manage their child's account settings, including screen time limits, privacy settings, and content restrictions. Parents can also use Family Pairing to enable Family Safety, which allows parents to monitor their child's activity on the app.
- MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE**  
Although under-18s will have their TIKTOK accounts set to private by default, it's important to ensure that their accounts are set to private. This will prevent strangers from viewing their content and contacting them.
- LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING**  
If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TIKTOK, you can use the app's parental controls to prevent them from making in-app purchases. You can also set a spending limit on the app, which will prevent them from spending more than a certain amount of money on the app.
- DISCUSS THE DANGERS**  
If your child wants to see 18+ rated videos, you should discuss with them the risks of doing so. You should discuss the risks of seeing inappropriate content, including sexual content, violence, and hate speech. You should also discuss the risks of interacting with strangers, including the risk of being contacted by someone who is not who they seem to be.
- READ THE SIGNS**  
If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TIKTOK, or that they're using the app in a way that is causing them to miss school or other important activities, you should talk to them about their TIKTOK use. You should also talk to them about the signs of addiction, including loss of interest in other activities, irritability, and changes in mood.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Cathy Hooley is an experienced technology journalist with a special interest in how the internet is changing the way we live. She is the author of the book 'The Internet: A Guide to the World of the Web' and a frequent contributor to various technology journals, editors and consultants.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

One of the great things about our team of experts, the facility is enhanced. Content on the date of release: 22.11.2022

What Parents Need to Know about TikTok

*TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.*

*In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as age-inappropriate content, dangerous challenges and contact with strangers.*

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## Friends of River Mead



Hello from the Friends!

Our Christmas Fair is nearly here! We're all getting really excited and are pleased to announce the top 5 raffle prizes!

1. A bucket of booze
2. Sunday lunch for 4 people at The Kings Arms
3. £50 cash prize kindly donated by Kingstons Estate Agents
4. Holiday Fun Day session for 2 children at Wiltshire School of Gymnastics
5. £40 Vello D'oro voucher

But fear not, these 5 prizes are only the beginning...keep your eyes on the Friends' Facebook page for a full list of prizes. Those prizes still to be announced include a voucher for local legends Alba Ristorante, Boomerang and Bulldog Bouncers!

Raffle tickets will be coming your way soon in the bags of your little ones! We ask that any vouchers you don't want to buy you kindly return to the school reception to give someone else the chance to win some fabulous prizes!

The Friends would also like to let all grownups know that on the day of the fair there will be more vehicles in the school playground than normal. We just want to make sure all adults are forewarned so that all the children are safe during school pick up time.

Finally, if any grownups are free on the day of the fair from any time past 1:30 pm please consider coming along for some fun volunteering! We still need keen adults to help on stalls such as a tombola, craft and refreshments! Please email the Friends' email or contact us via one of our social media pages to let us know you'd like to lend some hands!

**Email: [rivermeadfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rivermeadfriends@gmail.com)**

**Facebook: Friends of River Mead School**

**Instagram: @friendsofrivermead**

Kingstons Estate Agents are running a Christmas Colouring Competition with a top prize of a £50 Toy Shop voucher, as well as 2nd prize £30 & 3rd prize £20 in Toy Shop vouchers!

The last date for entries is next Wednesday 30TH NOVEMBER.

Please click the below link for full competition details via Facebook....

<https://www.facebook.com/100047309545049/posts/pfbid032pSYiRQpV88YYx4rsGJysaFX6uZMRbhgz6vJPGZkdA5yW5Pt4Eibz5M2Hq4qyWHxI/?app=fb>

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



# flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



**1. Protect your child**

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications, such as bronchitis and pneumonia

**2. Protect you, your family and friends**

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

**3. No injection needed**

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

**4. It's better than having flu**

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

**5. Avoid costs**

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

For more information visit  
[www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

Flu **i**mmunisation  
Helping to protect children, every winter

© Crown copyright 2015. Product code: 28623161. Public Health England grant/number: 202108. If you want to order more copies of this poster, please visit: [healthpublications.gov.uk/home/line](http://healthpublications.gov.uk/home/line) or call 0300 123 1000.

## 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



### **November**

29th November - Year R - 6 Nasal Flu Vaccinations

### **December**

**2nd December - River Mead Christmas Fair**

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

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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 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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