

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

26/01/2023



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

This week had us all Slipping and sliding! I know a number of you took tumbles, as did children on the way to school (me included), thankfully the weather will be a little warmer in the coming week, but children still need their coats every day please!

Young Voices

A number of children travelled to Birmingham on Wednesday to perform with over 6000 other pupils in the 'Young Voices' event. they were fortunate enough to sing along with 'Heather Small (of M-people fame) as well as to warm up with the 'Beat Box Collective'. The staff across the trust commented on the super manners and behaviour from all of our children - well done for being such amazing ambassadors. A huge thank you to Miss Woods and Mrs Udakis who went with the children, it wouldn't have been possible without their commitment to 'go above and beyond' (it was a very long day)!

Teachers Strike

You will have received information to inform you that the school will be closed on Wednesday 1st February to all pupils unless you have been contacted by the school personally (you will have been contacted by midday on Monday). If you are eligible for Free school meals you will have been asked to let the school know if you are bringing your child in for Lunch. We did not make the decision lightly to close the school, however it would have been unsafe to open to pupils.

Mrs Austin

Attendance



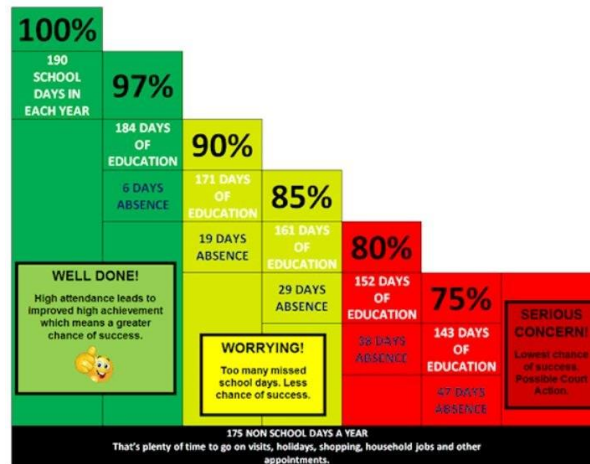
very day your child misses school they miss valuable learning that is really hard for them to catch up - It is so important that they are in every single day they are not unwell.

Last week, week beginning 16.01.23 - 87.8% compared to national average of 94.5% ↓ on previous week

Week beginning 09.01.23 - 91.7% compared to national average of 95.1% ↓ on previous week

Any term time holidays will be denied and any overall unauthorised absences that mean your child has accumulated 10 sessions will also be considered for a fine, this is a legal process and the school does not receive this money

Class award for the best attendance this week went to..... Bumble Bees! well done Bumble Bee's



Star of the Week



Otters - Alistair Reece

Dormice - Florence Jarman

Frogs - Thea Dainton

Hérons - Kyla Gerrish

Kestrels - Noah Cargill

Badgers - Sydney-Jo Brewer

Buzzards - Mollie Bailey

Dragonflies - Jamie Andres

Honey Bees - Noah O'Shea

Bumble Bees - Carl Gillet

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 - Hendry Main-Woods

Dormice - Alora Brownsell

Frogs - Phoebe Adams

Hérons - Emily Sieviewright

Kestrels - Rosie Allum

Badger - charlie Cole

Buzzards - Darcie Jowett

Bumble Bees - Lawson Miles

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

Dormice

25 reads - Freddie Hill & Rowan Mustali

50 reads - Effie Atoni-Turner & Lola Brookbanks

100 reads - Zachary Perrin

Frogs

75 reads - Hunter Jenkins, William Eanes

125 reads - Freddie Wild

Kestrels

75 reads - Murdoch Remington

125 reads - Imogen Gould and Gracie Wheeler

Buzzards -

25 reads - Jess Taylor

50 reads - Ruby O'Harrow

125 reads - Ben Brown

Writer of the Week



Otters - Lincoln-Jai Ward

Dormice - Macaiden Penfold

Frogs - Olive Bole

Hérons - Andrew Elliott

Kestrels - Gracie Wheeler

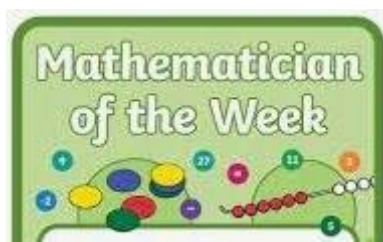
Badgers - Jay Bullock

Buzzards - Sasha Razdobarova

Honey Bees - Riley Stevens

Bumble Bees - Ashley Lloyd

Mathematician of the Week



Otters - Lillieanna Penfold

Dormice - Zachary Perrin

Frogs - sophia-Rose Carroll

Hérons - Adam shahzad

Kestrels - Mia Ayliffe

Badgers - Daniel Sieviewright

Buzzards - Ella Swann

Honey Bees - Logan Mumford

Bumble Bees - Jacob Jurk

Dress to Express



Friday 10th February 2023 we are holding **DRESS TO EXPRESS**

Come dressed in clothes that best express your emotions.

Are you yellow with joy, red with love, purple with excitement or full of emotions like a rainbow?

This year it's all about the clothes (no decorated hair or nails)

Do you dare to Dress to Express?!

Teacher Led Clubs



Teacher Led Clubs are an excellent opportunity for your child to take part in an after school activity they are interested in or would like to try.

Teacher Led Clubs for Term 4 will go live at 3pm on Friday 10th February and can be booked via Arbor - so keep your eyes peeled!

On-Line Safety Advice

12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off, streaming services for movies and music on demand, games consoles, smart speakers, phones, laptops – the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident; and making the recovery from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

- 1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE**
The longer, less common and less predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) recommends creating a long password which is easy to remember by using an acronym.
- 2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS**
When you use the same password everywhere, if one is compromised, you are at risk of losing access to all the services you're signed up to. If you use different passwords for each service, and password for one site or service isn't compromised, you remain safe.
- 3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER**
A great way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you don't need to remember any. It's important to choose a secure password manager and keep it up to date with the latest updates.
- 4. BACK UP YOUR DATA**
Keep a copy of your most important documents, photos and videos in a secure, off-site location. It's extremely important to ensure you have a backup of your data in case you lose it. Back up your data regularly and store it in a secure location.
- 5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)**
Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is when you need more than one thing to prove who you are to get into a system. It's a great way to protect your accounts and data. Enable MFA on all your accounts and services.
- 6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY**
Some services let you set 'recovery questions' to help you get back into your account if you forget your password. Make sure you choose questions that are hard to guess and that you can answer easily.
- 7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS**
Some services provide the facility to set up secondary accounts. These are accounts that you can use if you forget your password or if you're having trouble logging in. Set up secondary accounts for all your important services.
- 8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH**
Consider our tips in relation to the products and services you use. If you're not sure how to use a device or service, ask for help. It's important to stay up to date with the latest tech and security advice.
- 9. CHECK FOR BREACHES**
You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by using the National Cyber Security Centre's (NCSC) 'Have I Been Pwned?' service.
- 10. CHANGE DEFAULT IoT PASSWORDS**
Default passwords for IoT devices are often weak and easy to guess. Change them to something strong and unique as soon as possible.
- 11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED**
Computer updates protect you from new threats and vulnerabilities. Security updates are released regularly. Make sure you update your software and operating system regularly.
- 12. STAY SCEPTICAL**
Cyber criminals constantly use various methods, including phishing, to get you to give up your money or other sensitive information. Be sceptical of any messages or offers that seem too good to be true or suspicious. Don't click on links or download attachments from unknown sources.

Meet Our Expert

Andy Mendenhall is a cyber security expert and author of the book 'Cyber Resilience: How to Protect Your Data and Your Business from Cyber Attacks'. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and has been featured in the media.

NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

Terms of this guide do as their own discretion. No liability is accepted. Current as of the date of release: 25.01.2023

12 Top Tips for Building Cyber Resilience at Home

In the last couple of decades, the volume of online traffic has increased exponentially – but, by and large, people's awareness of the accompanying risks hasn't grown along with it. To illustrate the

scale of the issue, consider this: a report by the Internet Crime Complaint Centre found that, in the US during 2020, there was a successful cyber-attack every second. Yes: every second.

Criminals continue to find new and devious ways to attempt to hijack our online transactions and harvest our private information. To them, the smart devices that many of us now use as standard at home are simply a convenient back door into our lives – and our networks. Check out our #WakeUpWednesday guide for advice on beefing up your household's cyber resilience. In the guide you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as how to use a password manager, how to back up your data and how to check for breaches.

Friends of River Mead



FORMS would like to invite you to bake or buy cakes for a Valentine's Bake Sale on 09.02.2023.

The winning class will be able to choose a new classroom resource!

The sale will take place outside classrooms at 3.15!

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:

5th June 2023

PE timetable - Please see changes below

PE Days

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!

Badgers - Monday

Dormice & Frogs - Tuesday

Heron & Kestrels - - Wednesday

Buzzards - Thursday

Bumble Bees (Beehive) - Monday

Honey Bees / Busy Bees (Beehive)- Friday

Dates to Remember



January

31st January - Beehive trip to Lacock

February

1st February - Teachers Industrial Strike Action

7th February - Dance Festival

8th February - Beehive trip to Lacock

9th February - FORS Bake Sale

9th February - Year 1 Asda Taster Session

10th February - Dress to Express (clothes only)

10th February - End of Term 3

20th February - Start of Term 4

22nd February - Frogs trip to Chepstow Castle

22nd February - World Thinking Day (any Girl Guides/Brownies to proudly wear their uniforms to school)

March

2nd March - World Book Day

What's on



Are you a parent carer living in Wiltshire?

Are you looking for a new opportunity in 2023?

The Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) is looking for volunteers to help us make a difference and support our strategic work.

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a friendly, supportive and engaging team, helping to represent the collective experiences of parent carers of children and young people with SEND.

Come along to our **volunteer recruitment session** to meet other volunteers, learn more about the opportunities and some of the benefits of being a volunteer with the WPCC.

Join us on **Monday 6th February 2023, 10am to 2pm**

The WPCC will pay travel and childcare care expenses to every interested parent carer who attends.

Free lunch and refreshments, even if you decide it's not for you and a chance to win a £50 gift voucher!

 Scan this QR code to find out more 

Or visit

[www.issuu.com/wpcc1/docs/volunteer_information_pack - january 2023](http://www.issuu.com/wpcc1/docs/volunteer_information_pack_-_january_2023)

THE VIRTUAL RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

Get outside as a family this February half term and take on 25km, 65km, 100km or 200km to support vulnerable young people. Sign up for **FREE** and win a medal when you raise over £25!

Choose what activity you want to do and how far you want to travel!
 February Half Term
 Wherever you are!

To find out more, scan the QR code or visit www.youthadventuretrust.org.uk/resilience-challenge

FREE TASTER CLASSES AVAILABLE NOW

KEY BENEFITS OF MARTIAL ARTS

CONFIDENCE / DISCIPLINE / RESPECT
ANTI-BULLYING / STRANGER DANGER

MIGHTY MATTS
FOR 3 - 6 YEAR OLDS

FAMILY CLASSES
FOR AGES 7+ PLUS

LADIES ONLY KICKBOXING
FOR AGES 16+ PLUS

CONTACT US NOW TO BOOK IN FOR YOUR FREE TASTER LESSON!

0800 0350 415

text: 07722 704 504 or email: mfsgroup@mattfiddes.com
www.mattfiddes.com

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LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

ALL OF OUR INSTRUCTORS ARE DBS CHECKED

River Mead Vacancies



ARE YOU AWESOME?

JOIN OUR TEAM

AS AN ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

- 37.5 hours per week, 40 weeks per year
- £21,189 – £21,968 pro rata depending on experience
- Option to work up to an additional 120 hours a year, providing clerking support
- Closing date: 6 February 2023

www.themeadtrust.org/join-us/vacancies

1 - [Click here to see all Trust Job vacancies](#)