

# River Mead School Parent Newsletter

## 03/02/2023



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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

### A slightly odd week!

It has been an odd week with no teachers in school on Wednesday, although i know this will have caused difficulties for you and you families I appreciate that you have been supportive of the teaching staff who were on strike.

### Uniform

I have noticed some creeping in the standards of uniform this term, pride in presentation is not only in our work, but how we present ourselves.

Please check that you can still read your child's name in their jumpers and clothes (if you have used pen, they do fade).

Some reminders.....

- Trainers are for PE days only, sensible black shoes please.
- Jeans are not school uniform
- No football/ team strip for PE (plain or house coloured T-shirt, plain shorts/jogging bottoms/leggings)
- School sweatshirts/ cardigans at all times (including PE days)

This link will remind you of the uniform expectations - [School Uniform - The Mead Trust](#)

*The 'Friends of River Mead School' are having a second hand uniform so grab a bargain - 9th Feb, 3.15pm £1 per item.*

### Homework / Home learning

- Reading

Don't forget to keep writing in the home reading record books, these are checked in school by staff to support the children to receive their rewards.

Spend a small amount of time everyday please completing this piece of home learning - reading is such a valuable skill, take time to help your children to be successful.

- Seesaw

Please remember to support your child to log into their 'seesaw' account - if you have forgotten how, please ask your child teacher, it si really important that you do as messages and, homework/home learning, photos of your child and other information is on this platform, it wasn't just for the pandemic its there for use every day.

*I hope you all have a good weekend*

*Mrs Austin*

# Attendance



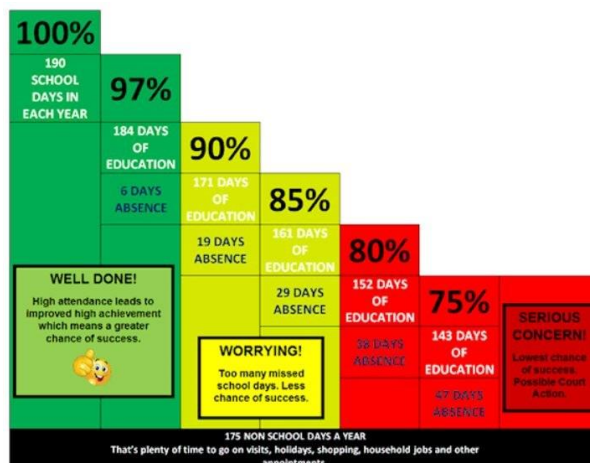
every day your child misses school they miss valuable learning that is really hard for them to catch up - It is so important that they are in every single day they are not unwell.

There are still a considerable number of children who are **NOT** in school every day - please speak to us if there is something we can do to help

Week beginning 23.01.23 - **93.72%** compared to national average of 94.3% ↑ on the previous week

Week beginning 16.01.23 - **87.8%** compared to national average of 94.5% ↓ 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



## Star of the Week



**Otters - Sapphire Bong**

**Dormice - Caiden Brown**

**Frogs - Hunter Jenkins**

**Hérons - Oscar Bole**

**Kestrels - Oliwia Wisniewska**

**Badgers - Jak Powell**

**Buzzards - Ersa Duli**

**Dragonflies - Harvey Painter**

**Bumble Bees - Jacob 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 - Lillieanna Penfold**

**Dormice - Carlos Neasca**

**Frogs - Josh Turk**

**Hérons - Kyle Seward**

**Kestrels - Noah Jarman**

**Badger - Charlie Smith**

**Buzzards - Lillie Goddard**

## Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

### **Kestrels**

75 reads - Noah Jarman

100 reads - Oliwia Wisniewska

125 reads - Jasmine Kaur

### **Buzzards -**

50 reads - Darcie Jowett

75 reads - Lillie Goddard

### **Busy Bees**

100 reads - Isiah Agboka

## Writer of the Week



**Otters - Archie Wild**

**Dormice - Freddie Hill**

**Frogs - Isabelle Rodger**

**Hérons - Andrew Elliott**

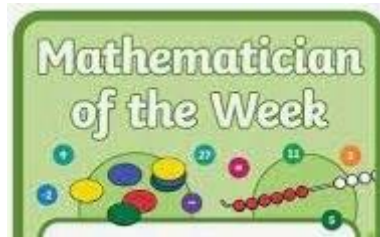
**Kestrels - Lexie Tadhunter**

**Badgers - Robyn O'Harow**

**Buzzards - Paddy Tomney**

**Dragonflies - Adam O'Harrow**

## Mathematician of the Week



**Otters - Alistair Reece**

**Dormice - Rowan Mustali**

**Frogs - Jessica Swann**

**Hérons - Oscar Bole**

**Kestrels - Rebecca bogitini**

**Badgers - Ruby Smith and Maxi Cathcart-Harris**

**Buzzards - Ersa Duli**

**Dragonflies - Sienna Stone**

## Children's Mental Health Week - 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 devices which can collect the tiniest of bits of data on our lives, from our shopping habits to our health, are becoming more and more common. As we introduce each new device to our homes, however, we introduce the level of the risk to our lives. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that we use in our households.

**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 necessary steps to recover from a cyber attack as quickly as possible.

- 1. PASSWORDS LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE**  
The longer, less common and more difficult a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 3-Word Keychain method is a good example of a password that is easy to remember but hard to guess.
- 2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS**  
When you use the same password across different devices, the security of them all falls to the lowest level. If one device is hacked, your username and password for one site or service may be used to try them on others.
- 3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER**  
A password manager is a software application that stores and manages your passwords. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you don't need to have them on any device. It also helps you generate strong, unique passwords for each account.
- 4. BACK UP YOUR DATA**  
Keep a copy of your data using cloud storage, a hard drive or external storage. If you have a backup, you can restore your data if it is lost or deleted. Back up your data regularly and store it in a secure location.
- 5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)**  
Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone, by email or another device, in addition to your password. This adds an extra layer of security to your accounts and makes it much more difficult for cyber criminals to gain access to your accounts and your data.
- 6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY**  
Recovery questions are used to help you recover your account if you forget your password. Make sure you choose questions that are not easily guessable and that you can answer if you are asked.
- 7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS**  
Some services provide the ability to set up secondary accounts. These are used for things like social media and email. They are useful for keeping your main account secure and for having a backup in case you are hacked.
- 8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH**  
The more you use your devices, the more you will learn about them. This helps you to stay up to date on the latest security threats and to keep your devices secure.
- 9. CHECK FOR BREACHES**  
You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches. If you have, you should change your password and any other accounts that use the same password.
- 10. CHANGE DEFAULT IoT PASSWORDS**  
Many IoT devices come with default passwords. These should be changed as soon as possible to prevent unauthorized access.
- 11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED**  
Software updates for your devices are important for security. They often contain security improvements and bug fixes. Make sure you keep your devices updated.
- 12. STAY SCEPTICAL**  
Be careful of phishing emails, text messages and social media posts. If you are unsure if a message is genuine, do not click on any links or provide any personal information.

**Meet Our Expert**  
NOS's Head of Cyber Security, Dr. Sarah-Jane Wall, is a leading expert in cyber security. She has worked for the NHS, the Home Office and the National Cyber Security Centre. She is also a frequent speaker at conferences and a regular contributor to the media.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) | [@nationalonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/nationalonlinesafety) | [NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/nationalonlinesafety) | [@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

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### 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



Hello from the Friends of River Mead!

We have our first events of the New Year coming up fast! First up is the Valentines bake sale! Come along after school with plenty of change and buy some goodies! Each class will be selling their bakes and the class that sells the most cakes will with the opportunity to choose a new classroom resource. Please bring any cake donations in a named tin or tub to your child's classroom. Cakes can be homemade, or shop bought. We love both and want everyone to get involved the best way they can! We would just like to remind parents that River Mead is a Nut Free school – therefore our only request for your treats remain Nut Free!

Also coming up is our first uniform sale this year. Which is happening on the same day as the bake sale to make things easier for all grownups. Buy yourself a treat and your uniform needs all in one afternoon! We have a variety of clothes on offer – t-shirts, trousers and jumpers to name a few!

Lastly, the Friends would like to call upon the generosity of the River Mead grownups. For World Book Day this year the Friends are organising a Surprise Book treat for all the children at the school.

To make sure this Surprise Book is a success we are looking for as many book donations as possible! We need books for all age groups and reading abilities – including picture books for the littlest children. Please bring any books you'd like to donate into the school as soon as possible. Thank you all in advance!

If you have any further questions or want to volunteer for any future events, please find us over on Facebook: Friends of River Mead School and Instagram: @friendsofrivermead. Or, feel free to email us: rivermeadfriends@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

## 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

Hérons & Kestrels - - Wednesday

Buzzards - Thursday

Bumble Bees (Beehive) - Monday

Honey Bees / Busy Bees (Beehive)- Friday

## Dates to Remember



### **February**

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)