

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

10/02/2023



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

We have had a wonderful week again with some amazing ambassadors at the West Wiltshire Dance Festival on Tuesday evening, where they were performing on the stage at the Bath forum! I slightly late night for many (not as late as young voices), and some outstanding dancing for every child who took part and confidently performed to a huge audience!

A massive thank you to the parents for getting their children to Bath and especially Mrs Udakis, Miss Woods and Miss Veitch who supported the children on the day. I would also like to say thanks to Emma-Jayne from [4 Stars Dance](#) has been teaching the children their routine and helped with costumes!

I hope that the weather is kind to us all next week and we are able to get out and about for some fresh air and burn off some energy walking, playing in the parks and just out and about! [some fun ideas](#) - click here

Some changes.....

It is unusual for our team to see many changes in staffing, it is normally very stable and consistent especially mid-year, but this year we have a few leavers and hopefully some joiners!

After Half term...

- Miss Nurdin will be leaving Y1 'Dormice' and going on Maternity leave; Mrs Miller will still be in Y1 with the team, providing continuity for the children.
- Mrs Kurtis TA will be leaving for a new position at another setting.
- Mrs Carey in the Office is moving to a role in the central Mead Academy Trust team, although we are excited that we are retaining her for a few hours a week for a specific role as an ELSA. She will be moving across to this role gradually over the coming term. Her replacement has already been interviewed and appointed, so we are excited to welcome Mrs Gibson. Please be kind to her when she starts as she won't know you or your children!

After Easter....

- Mrs Pike, Resource Base 'Honey Bees' is leaving us for a different role in education supporting older students. Mrs Penfold has been overseeing the classes as Mrs Pike has been unwell in the last couple of weeks; Mrs Penfold and the team will continue to provide continuity for all of the Resource Base pupils.
- Mrs Guilder-King Reception 'Otters' will be moving to a new position in a larger Early years team at a different school; Mrs Lewis will still be in YrR providing continuity for the children.

We will be sad to see both staff leave but wish them well in their career changes and the exciting times ahead for both of them. We wish Miss Nurdin all the best for her new baby, when he or she arrives too!

We are currently advertising to fill these positions and will of course let you know as soon as we can about who will be joining the teaching team for your children, if they are in one of these classes.

Homework / Home learning

Please remember to support your child to log into their 'seesaw' account - if you have forgotten how, please ask your child teacher, it is 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 break and enjoy some quality time together

Mrs Austin

DO NOT forget we are back to school promptly 8.30am on Monday 20th February - set your reminders now!

Resources Base Consultation

Over time the CNRB has grown gradually to accommodate the increasing need for local children to have a suitable school place. We have considered how best to accommodate the ongoing need for Resource Base places locally along with the belief that *“Children only get one chance to experience childhood and they have an absolute right to the highest quality of education”*.

There is a consultation document available for you to read, on the school website which can be found [here](#)

:[Resource Base consultation document](#) (please ignore the dates as we are re-issuing this).

We continue to receive consultations for places for local children, due to the increasing need. Formalising a consistent increase in numbers to an agreed maximum of 35 pupils will provide stability in staffing and funding; to be clear the size of the CNRB will not increase further.

The Local Authority are in support of this expansion and will appropriately fund the additional teacher required for 3 classes, necessary changes to the building/outside area.

There will be an opportunity to meet Mrs Austin to raise questions 8.45/9am on Friday 10th of March. CNRB parents will shortly receive a separate letter with more detailed information as this directly affects their child.

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.

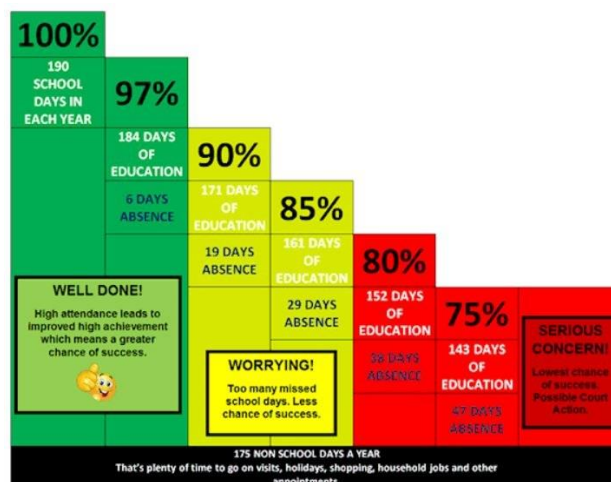
There are still a considerable number of children who are **NOT** in school every day - please speak to us if there is something we can do to help

Week beginning - 89.6% compared to national average of 93.5% ↓ on previous week

and SIGNIFICANTLY different to the national %

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



Butterflies - Hector Grigore & Blake Hallam

Otters - Escher Remington

Dormice - Ayaansh Doneria

Frogs - Isabelle Rodgers

Hérons - Ashton Boydell

Kestrels - Imogen Gould

Badgers - Archie Brown

Buzzards - Oliver Cook

Dragonflies - Adam Ottway

Bumble Bees - Thomas Wells

Busy Bees - David Nestian

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 - Oliver Lowe

Dormice - Tommy Sievwright

Frogs - Corin Remington

Hérons - Maximus-Rafael Neacsă

Kestrels - Rebecca Bogitini

Badger - Maddy Holland

Buzzards - Martha Southall

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

Frogs

25 reads - Lola Brookbanks

75 reads - Alice Edwards

125 reads - Alora Brownsell

Hérons

75 reads - Sophia Quintin

125 reads - Kyla Gerrish

Kestrels

50 reads - Delilah Holdbrook

100 reads - Mia Ayliffe & Lexie Smith

125 reads -

Buzzards -

150 reads - Ben Brown

Busy Bees

75 reads - Cristian Teleaga

100 reads - Lucas Goddard

Writer of the Week



Otters - Jackson Tucker

Dormice - George Drew

Frogs - Ruby Lloyd

Hérons - Ashton Boydell

Kestrels - Leo Plumb

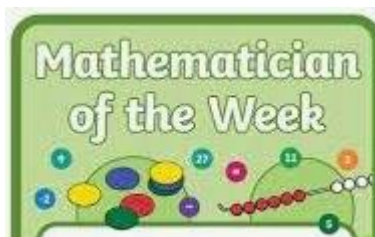
Badgers - Archie Brown

Buzzards - Ben Brown

Dragonflies - Dominic McCormack

bumble Bees - Sky Edmunds

Mathematician of the Week



Otters - Sophia Bullock

Dormice - Macaiden Penfold

Frogs - Eddie Plumb

Hérons - Adam Shahzad

Kestrels - Imey Gingell

Badgers - Sydney-Jo Brewer

Buzzards - Jessica Taylor

Dragonflies - Macaiden Penfold

bumble Bees - Marc Taylor

How to become a TA



Our local Family and Learning Community are offering a Working in Schools course in early March 2023 which will support adults to develop the skills they need to be an effective teaching assistant.

To prepare learners well for working in schools, the course will cover:

- Roles in supporting teaching and learning
- Understanding behaviour
- Curriculum support
- Differentiation and learning styles
- Observation
- Feedback and planning

Next five-week Online Course: Fridays, 10am-12 noon starting 3 March

Apply by 22 February 2023

Online induction session Monday 27 February 2023 10-11am

Click on the link below to register <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/enrolment/>

On-Line Safety Advice



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 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 Reception 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!

Family & Community Learning

Wiltshire Council **What's Happening - FREE!** **spurgeons**
Wiltshire Children's Centres providing support and services for families with children aged 0-5.
Free of charge for all families

Use your mobile to scan the QR code to access the website
www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org

Give us a call on 0800 970 4669 for more information or to book your space

Family Support Service
One to one support when you need it most for a range of issues which can affect family life:
• Parenting and behaviour
• Routines and boundaries
• Children's emotional support
• Financial and budgeting support
• Childcare funding
• Back to work
• Introductions to other services
Appointments can be via the phone or at the centre.

Baby Steps
A programme covering the weeks just before and after having your baby (speak to your Health professional about a referral).

Baby Massage
For parents and their non-mobile babies. Join us for 4 weeks learning how to encourage bonding and communication through soothing touch.

New Parent New Baby
Meet other parents with babies up to 6 months old and share activity ideas. Sessions run for 6 weeks.

Sensory Room
Available for children under 5 years old or for children under 11 with additional needs. 30 minute sensory room appointments are available in each of our children's centres.

Wiltshire Council Find us on Facebook for regular updates **spurgeons**
Wiltshire Children's Centres
Website: www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

Five to Thrive
Five to Thrive is the simple things that you can do to connect with your child and build a strong relationship. Join us for 5 fun sessions to support you with this.

Bookstart
Sharing books, stories and rhymes with your child from an early age can help create a love of reading. Bookstart is here to guide you on your child's reading journey from 0-5 years. 4 week course.

Being a Parent
This 8 week course helps parents learn practical communication skills for everyday life to bring up confident, happy and co-operative children. For parents with children 2 years and over.

One off Events
Over the year we plan events such as:
• **Mighty Me** - Self Care and Independence
• **Mighty Mind** - Emotions and Feelings
• **Mighty Movers** - Physical Play
• **Top Tips for Teeth** - Top tips for tiny teeth
See Facebook for upcoming sessions.

Early Words Together
A 5 week course full of fun for you and your child. Learn about how to support your child's speech and language development. For families with children aged 20-40 months.

Play and Connect/Scrapstore/Baby Sensory and more!
We are running a variety of different sessions to enable families to meet together in your local area. Please contact us for details.

Healthy Eating
A 4-week healthy eating course with lots of fun activities around healthy eating, budgeting and food safety. PLUS! Take home ingredients for a healthy meal.

All our sessions and support are free of charge for families in Wiltshire.

Give us a call on 0800 970 4669 for more information or to book your space

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.

Badgers - Monday

Dormice & Frogs - Tuesday

Hérons & Kestrels - - Wednesday

Otters - Thursday - please remember no Logos, plain white t-shirt if you don't have a coloured one.

Buzzards - Thursday

Bumble Bees (Beehive) - Monday

Honey Bees / Busy Bees (Beehive)- Friday

Dates to Remember



February

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


**COVID-19
Vaccination Service**

**POP UP
VACCINATION
CLINICS**

**MONDAY 13th February
11AM – 5PM**


**The Corn Exchange
Town Hall, The Strand, Calne SN11 0EN**

These clinics are for those eligible for the following vaccinations:

- 1st and 2nd COVID doses
- 1st and 2nd COVID doses for children aged 5-11 . 1st doses for children who were 5 on or before 31st August 2022
- Flu (eligible adults only)

Our clinics provide a safe space to have private conversations with the vaccination team about the benefits of protection for you and your family. It's never too late to have that all important first dose.

SCAN HERE



for more info on 'walk in' vaccination clinics go to **GRAB A JAB**



**COVID-19
Vaccination Service**

POP UP VACCINATION CLINICS

**TUESDAY 14th FEBRUARY
11AM – 5PM**

**Bradford on Avon Library
Bridge Street, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1BY**

You can check eligibility at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>

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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



**The Springfields
Academy**

**GET TO KNOW
SPRINGFIELDS**

**VIRTUAL OPEN
EVENING**

**MONDAY 13TH
MARCH
AT 4PM**

About Springfields

- We build safe, independent lives for autistic young people through support, understanding and enablement.
- We are a large special school, for pupils aged 5-19, in Calne, North Wiltshire, for children with a diagnosis of autism and speech, language and communication needs.

Key Information

- Monday 13th March viz Zoom at 4pm
- This session is for school-based professionals e.g. Sencos, Resource Base Managers and School Leaders.

Session Overview

This event will:

- Introduce you to key Springfields staff
- Provide an overview of our provision
- Share our curriculum and therapeutic provision
- Outline our admissions procedures
- Signpost next steps



BOOK BY SCANNING THE QR CODE.

WATCH OUR SCHOOL VIDEO [HERE](#)



Book your place via [Eventbrite](#) or
contact
admissions@springfields.wilts.sch.uk