

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

24/02/2023



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

Welcome back

We all hope that you have had a good break and are ready for everything the term will bring! It will be a busy time as we move towards Easter and hopefully we will see some warmer weather and can enjoy the signs of Spring that are beginning to emerge too! Don't forget a coat as the weather is particularly changeable at this time of the year.

Strike action 2nd March

There will be a letter sent out to confirm that the school will be closed for the majority of pupils on Thursday 2nd of March for the upcoming teacher Strike.

With the exception of those pupils who have parents who work for the emergency services/NHS (in patient facing role, nurse/Dr etc) or Prison Service, or whom have been invited into school.

If you work in one of these services and are 'on shift' that day please let us know.

The following classes will be open;

The complex Needs Resource Base (Busy , Honey and Bumble Bee classes).

Butterflies Nursery (for those children who attend on a Thursday)

Otter's Reception class.

World Book Day 1st March

In order to still celebrate world Book Day we will be having a book related day on Wednesday 1st March instead of the 2nd of March!

Remember to use what you have at home and be creative!

More importantly can you style your hair the same as your *FICTIONAL* character ????

We talked in assembly about how your hair can also reflect your chosen character!

Mrs Austin





Attendance

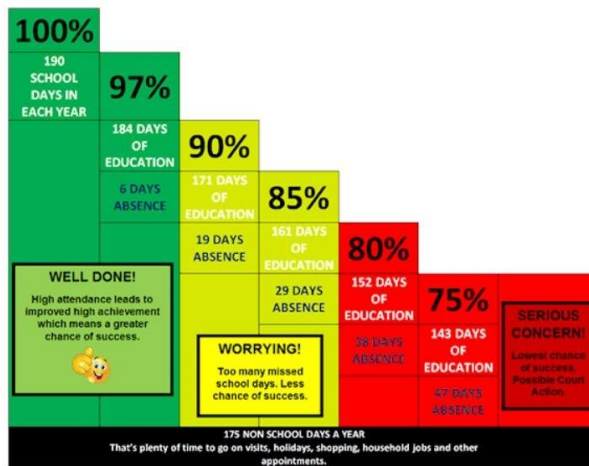


very day your child misses school they miss valuable learning that is really hard for them to catch up - It is so important that they are in every single day they are not unwell.

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 06.02 - 89% compared to national average of 94.1% ↓ on National SIGNIFICANTLY different to the national %

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 - Quinn Knight & Francesca Saward

Otters - Elliot Hall

Dormice - Rowan Mustali

Frogs - Bethany Smith

Hérons - Kyle Saward

Kestrels - Keira Vincent

Badgers - Jay Bullock

Buzzards - Annalise Brookbanks

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 - Harper Whittaker

Dormice - Bella Caven

Frogs - Millie-May Willis

Hérons - Alfie Adams

Kestrels - Rubie Cleverley

Badger - Lacey-Mae Ward

Buzzards - Mollie Bailey

Bumble Bees - Sky Edmunds

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

Dormice

50 reads - Ava Mullis

125 reads - Elia Duli, Tommy Sievewright, Zachary Perrin

Kestrels

25 reads - Tiarni-Brooke Stone

50 reads - Noah Cargill

125 reads - Jack Swann & Sherkarnah Ward-Jones

Buzzards -

125 reads - Lily Allum

Honey Bees

75 reads - Oliver Clunie

Writer of the Week



Otters - Janelle Cubagee

Dormice - Keira Parker

Frogs - Hunter Jenkins

Hérons - Freddie Porter

Kestrels - Faith Smith

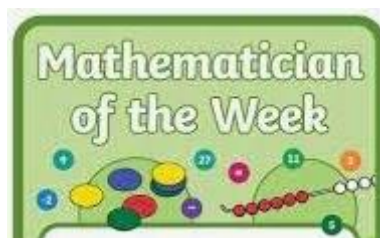
Badgers - Rowan Parker

Buzzards - Jess Taylor

Dragonflies - Jamie Andrews

Bumble Bees - Eli Patterson

Mathematician of the Week



Otters - Milena Sledz

Dormice - Ava Mullis

Frogs - William Eanes

Hérons - Alfie Adams

Kestrels - Noah Jarman

Badgers - Harvey Kitchener

Buzzards - Oliver Cook

Bumble Bees - Lawson Miles

On-Line Safety Advice

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world since launching in 2008. Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to playlist and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 439 million users globally.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- EXPLICIT LYRICS**
All age Spotify's terms and conditions require users to be at least 13 years old. However, the platform does not filter explicit lyrics, which are often used to describe sexual activity. Young teenagers could still be exposed to explicit content through playlists which contain explicit references, discriminatory language and swearing.
- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS**
Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to some highly sensitive and more - with content covering an array of subjects. This includes some material which may be suitable for minors, including audio which is characterised as abusive but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.
- ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE**
If your child has a Spotify account, they'll be able to access the platform's live content through Spotify Live, which is a real-time audio stream where Spotify Live artists on the main Spotify platform send, receive and share live audio. Virtual rooms to chat with other users, explore and share live audio content with other users and individuals who might not necessarily be best for the right reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS**
If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate and free service specifically designed for children aged 13 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy personalised music (including playlists and podcasts) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium family subscription - meaning that parents can see and manage the content their child listens to.
- TALK ABOUT THE RISKS**
As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with anyone - and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.
- KEEP AN EYE OUT**
If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly sensitive about how their music is represented, there is a tool called Spotify Family. It's a direct parent to show an interest in what your child is listening to, so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way for the right reasons, and they're not being taken into anything they shouldn't be.

MEET OUR EXPERT
Cathy Page is an experienced technology journalist with a social media background from across the industry. Previously the editor of Tech Radar, she regularly writes and consults on technology, journalism, editor and consumer.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety NationalOnlineSafety nationalonlinesafety

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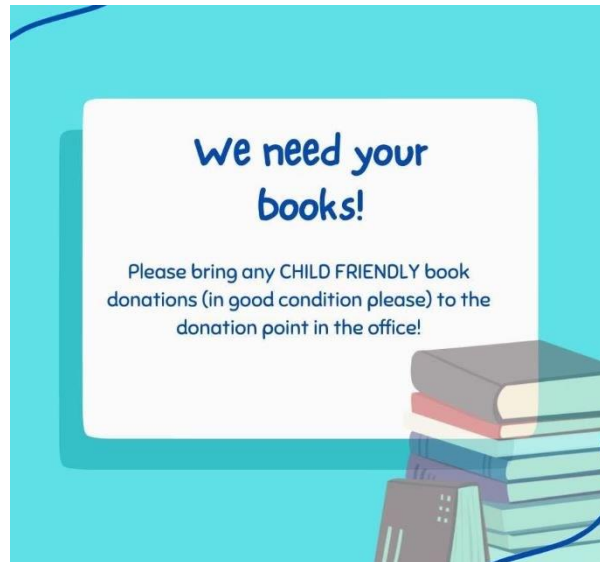
What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Spotify

With around 60,000 songs added to its online library every day, Spotify is a vast treasure trove of audio dating from some 19th century recordings through to giants of the download age like The Weeknd and Ed Sheeran. Factor podcasts, audiobooks and videos into the mix, and the Swedish-based streaming platform quite literally offers something for everyone.

Not everything in Spotify's depths is universally suitable, however. The sheer mass of music and content on the platform mean that, naturally, not all of it is intended for younger listeners. With an audio chat service available and media reports of predatory activity, our #WakeUpWednesday guide highlights other aspects of Spotify which trusted adults ought to be in the loop about.

In the guide you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as age-inappropriate lyrics, an audio chat function and recent reports of predatory activity.

Friends of River Mead



Hello from the Friends of River Mead!

A big thank you and well done to everyone who took part and either made or ate cake during our successful Valentines Bake Sale! Everyone did an amazing job and the friends are really proud of every class for getting involved. A special shout out to River Mead staff who led the charge during the sales. The winning class will be announced soon. We thank everyone for their patience in waiting for the announcement, half term slowed us down but we're coming in fast now! We raised a phenomenal £198.23!!

We're super excited for World Book Day! We want to thank everyone who has donated books so far. Once again the grown-ups and children in our little school have shown big amounts of generosity. There's still plenty of time to donate even more. Just bring your preloved books into the school office and the friends will do the rest!

Also coming up in March is International Women's Day! This year the friends have organised a little competition. All the children have to do is write about or draw their favourite women! The children have complete creative freedom with this fun competition. They could write a poem, song, story or anything else they can think of! The woman of their choosing doesn't have to be friends or family – it could be a celebrity, public figure or even someone from History! The winner will be announced in the school assembly the Friday after International Women's Day (Friday 11th) via a special guest.

We'll be sending an email update via the school office with some more information soon. Including where to submit their entries. We can't wait to see what the children come up with!

To find out more about the Friends of River Mead or to volunteer at future events find us here:

Email: rivermeadfriends@gmail.com

Facebook: Friends of River Mead School

Instagram: @friendsofrivermead

Family & Community Learning

FAMILY HELP SURVEY

Are you a parent or parent to be?
Are you a young person who needs help and advice?
Do you know how you can find out information on help available for you and your family?

We want to hear your views on family services and how you'd best like to access them. Please take this short survey and help us shape services for the future.

Web link:
survey.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=167422754798

Wiltshire Council

What's Happening - FREE!

Wiltshire Council 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 servicesAppointments 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
Wiltshire Children's Centres
Website: www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

Find us on Facebook for regular updates

spurgeons
children's centre

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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



March

1st March - World Book Day - *Please note the change in date*

14th March - School Photo's

27th March - Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting

28th March - Y3 Church visit

28th March - Year 5 Residential Parent Meeting

31st March - End of Term 4

17th April - Term 5 Begins

What's on