

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

10/03/2023



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

Snow!

The weather has also been cold, wet and slushy although when we all woke up and looked out of the window it was very white with snow! Just a reminder that we will update you on social media and local radio as well as via Arbor if the school will be closed. The school will only close if staff are unable to get to school as the roads are not safe or the depth of snow is unsafe for pupils and parents.

ASDA

This week we were really pleased to accept a cheque from ASDA, the Friends had recently been asking you to vote for ASDA's green token scheme, and the school won £500 which means even more funding for the children! The school pupil parliament have decided that they will spend the funds on playground equipment.

Strike action

Please be prepared for the same arrangements for the forthcoming 2 day teacher strike next week, unless of course the unions call these off due to an agreed pay offer. If there are to be any changes we will let you know as soon as we are able to do so.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend

Mrs Austin

Attendance

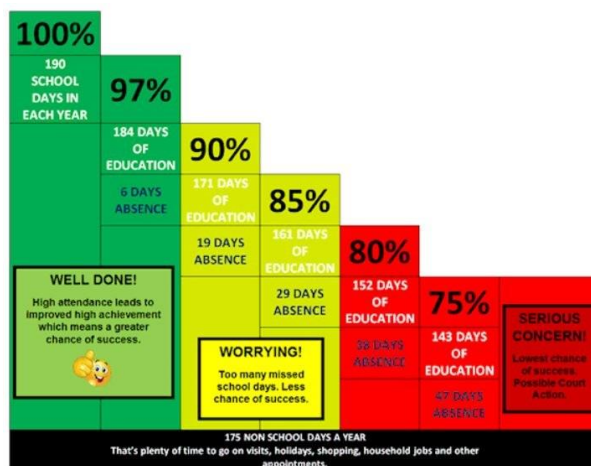


Every day your child misses school they miss valuable learning that is really hard for them to catch up - It is so important that they are in every single day they are not unwell.

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 20.02.23 - 91.1% compared to national average of 94.5% ↓ on National, not as good as 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



Easter Fuel Programme - BOOK NOW



FUEL is a free holiday activity and food project that offers children the opportunity to take part in a **range of fun activities** during school holiday periods in 2023. Participants will also be provided with a **nutritious meal on each day** that they attend.

The FUEL camps allow each participant to:

- eat healthily over the school holidays
- be active during the school holidays
- take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment
- be safe and not to be socially isolated
- have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition

FUEL camps will run in 10 locations across Wiltshire, **Monday to Thursday (10am to 2pm), from Monday 3 April - Thursday 6 April.**

What's on offer?

Food Provision: The lunchtime model for the core camps is improved, listening to previous participant feedback you'll no longer need to pick meals in advance as we are trialling a new 'feast model' approach.

Meaning a range of nutritious food will be available for participants to pick and choose what they would like to eat 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!

To view the menu in advance please visit the [FUEL webpage](#)

Nutritional workshops: Each participant will get an opportunity to take part in a nutritional workshop where they will get to learn and explore food and nutrition as well as a practical session to produce something tasty to take home.

For Easter FUEL we are bringing back a favourite for the participants to create a marshmallow Easter bunny to take home!

Activities: Every day is made up of fun and enriching structured activities to keep participants entertained and active whilst developing new skills and knowledge.

Participants will be split into age-appropriate groups and given a staff group leader who will guide them through a tailor-made timetable of activities delivered by session specific staff.

Activities over Easter FUEL will include a selection of creative, physical and hands on activities. All sessions are designed to build communication, team work, confidence and problem solving skills, but most importantly to have fun and discover new talents.

Example of activities on offer at Easter FUEL camps include circus skills, slime lab, sporting sessions and robot salvage.

You can apply for all four days or just the days you want to attend. Spaces are limited so please apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. All applications will be assessed and participants will receive a confirmation email if successful.

Please apply by completing the application form using the link below. If you have multiple children you will need to apply for each one separately. If you require any support with completing this form please speak to your school.

Please find your leaflet and parent/guardian information pack providing more details about the FUEL programme that you can share with your child.

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>

[Click here to apply](#) no later than noon, Wednesday 22 March to take part in the Easter FUEL camps.

Star of the Week



Otters - Milena Sledz

Dormice - Tommy Bullock

Frogs - Oliver Bole

Hérons - Darcie Merritt

Kestrels - Ella Willis

Badgers - Riley Stokes

Buzzards - Lillie Goddard

Bumble Bees - Lawson Miles

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 - Archie Wild

Dormice - Elia Duli

Frogs - Freddy Wild

Hérons - Jentson Ward

Kestrels - Oliwis Wisniewska

Badgers - Sydney-Jo Brewer

Buzzards - Ersu Duli

Bumble Bees - Carl Gillet

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

Dormice

75 reads - Ava Mullis

100 reads - Alice Edwards

Frogs

50 reads - Phoebe Adams

100 reads - William Eanes

Busy Bees

100 reads - Cristian Teleaga

125 reads - Lucas Goddard, Isaiah Agboka

Writer of the Week



Otters - Eddie Sharp

Dormice - Ayaansh Doneria

Frogs - Corin Remington

Hérons - Kohen Porter

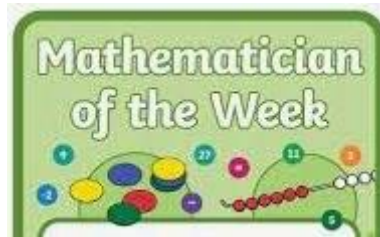
Kestrels - Sherkanah-Mae Ward

Badgers - Jak Powell

Buzzards - Oliver Cook

Bumble Bees - Jake Burnett

Mathematician of the Week



Otters - Jenson Nealey

Dormice - Bella Caven

Frogs - Jessica Swann

Hérons - Kobey Bryant

Kestrels - Daniel Mitchell

Badgers - Riley Stokes

Buzzards - Annalise Brookbanks

Bumble Bees - Sky Edmunds

On-Line Safety Advice



What Parents and Carers Need to Know about iPads

When Apple unveiled the iPad in early 2010, they almost single-handedly rewrote people's idea of what of a portable computing device was capable of – and sparked a tablet revolution. There are several very respectable imitators on the market now, but the iPad remains the standard bearer for tablet computers and still routinely shifts upwards of 40 million units every year.

Their immense popularity, of course, has made the iPad a familiar companion for children and young people: an auxiliary TV; an aid for schoolwork; and a blessing on long car journeys. That said, there are still some aspects of Apple's flagship tablet that parents and carers should bear in mind to help protect their child from online risks.

This guide highlights possible hazards including the risk of age-inappropriate content, physical damage to the device and potential screen addiction.

Red Nose Day

Come to school dressed in your favourite pyjamas. Don't forget to bring your donation with you!



Soak the Staff Member!

For a £1 a go, take aim and throw a wet sponge at one of our staff members.

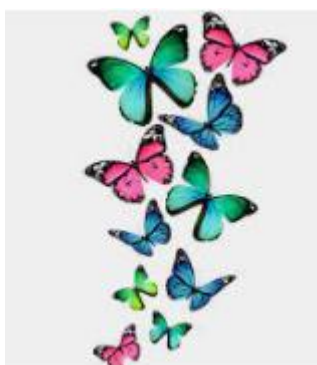


After school activities!

We will be selling a range of cakes, biscuits, cupcakes and more straight after school.



Butterflies Nursery



Nursery staff would like to remind parents that due to the number of children with severe allergies within both classes, please can you ensure lunchboxes do not contain nuts or eggs, such as scotch eggs, egg sandwiches or egg rice.

Nursery drop off and collection times:

Morning session - 8.45am - 12.30pm

Afternoon Session - 12.30pm - 3.15pm/4.15pm

If for any reason you will be late to collect your child, please can you call the office on 01225 703428

Friends of River Mead

FORMS are holding a PTA meeting on Wednesday 15th of March, 7.30pm at The Kings Arms (Melksham) to discuss upcoming events so that we can raise even more money for the children and school.

We could really do with a few extra helping hands!

If you are interested in attending please feel free to message us on our Facebook page for more information. We look forward to seeing some of you there!

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](https://www.instagram.com/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

Wiltshire Council **What's Happening - FREE!**
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
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:

- **Highly Me** - Self Care and Independence
- **Highly Mind** - Emotions and Feelings
- **Highly 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



March

14th March - School Photo's

17th March - Red Nose Day

27th March - Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting

28th March - Y3 Church visit

28th March - Year 5 Residential Parent Meeting

30th March - Year 4 Residential Parent Meeting

31st March - End of Term 4

17th April - Term 5 Begins

What's on



**COVID-19
Vaccination Service**

POP UP VACCINATION CLINICS

MONDAY 20th MARCH

13.00 -17.00

Melksham Town Hall

Market Place Melksham SN12 6HL

These clinics are for those eligible for the following vaccinations:

- 1st and 2nd COVID doses (No BOOSTERS)
- 1st and 2nd COVID doses for Children aged 5-11 – (1st doses for children who were 5 on or before 31st August 2022 (available after 3pm)
- Flu (eligible adults only)

You can check eligibility at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them>

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**

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN.

**Sunday 2 April
at Melksham Town Hall
1-3pm**

**All kit provided,
including Tea and Cake!**



If you can't make the Sunday, you can join the Great British Spring Clean between 17 March to 2 April. Pick up equipment and bags from the Town Hall any time during these dates and bring rubbish back to the Town Hall to be collected.

Email miriamzaccarelli@melksham-tc.gov.uk or call 01225 704187