

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

17/03/2023



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/>

In this Newsletter

- **Message from Mrs Austin**
- **Attendance**
- **Car Park - Temporary reduction of spaces available**
- **Star of the week**
- **Easter Fuel Programme**
- **On-Line Safety Advice**
- **Butterflies Nursery - Easter Bonnet Parade**
- **Friends of River Mead**
- **School Term & Holiday Dates**
- **PE times**
- **Date's to Remember**
- **What's On**

A message from Mrs Austin



What an odd week!

It has felt like a very busy week for me as i have been in everyday as have many of the staff, but very quiet for 2 days as there were less children in school. Lets remain hopeful that with your support the government find a solution to the pay dispute!

for the classes who have been in all week, we have celebrated star of the week.

Thank you to everyone who supported the schools efforts for Red Nose day for Comic Relief - there were lots of cakes, some super PJ's and some very wet teachers! WE think that you amazing people have raised apx £400!!

We look forward to a full week in school next week, but it will be busy as we have some re-surfacing work completed to make some all weather play areas for the children in the Complex Needs Resource Base, you will see in the information below that this will impact on the capacity of the car park for the next week and a half so please be patient, be kind and WALK TO SCHOOL if you can, or park at the bottom of the park and walk up?

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend

Mrs Austin



Attendance

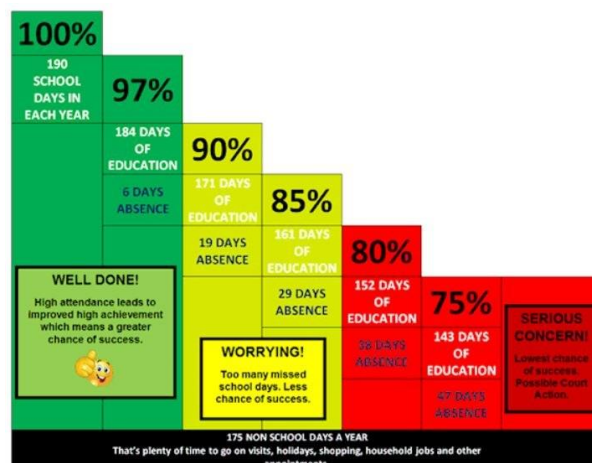


Every day your child misses school they miss valuable learning that is really hard for them to catch up - It is so important that they are in every single day they are not unwell.

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 10.3.23 - 91.8% compared to national average of 93.4% ↓ on National, but better than 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



Car Park - Temporary reduction of space available

The school are having some playground installation work taking place from next Tuesday 21st March until Friday 31st March 2023.

This will have an impact on the car park due to the siting of 2-3 skips and also a large amount of aggregate, which are required for the project. The are most affected will be alongside the boundary as you approach the school gate.

This area will be fenced off in advance of the skips/aggregate arriving so please respect this and do not move any barriers that have been put in place to secure the area.

During the works please also take extra special care approaching/leaving school as the car park may be more congested than normal.

All areas containing skips/aggregate will be fenced off and secure.

Nursery children arriving and leaving at lunchtime and at 4.15 will enter and exit via the side gate where the bike store is to ensure this is safe. We have asked the contractors to keep the main gates clear first thing in the morning and at 3.15pm.

Star of the Week

Otters - Oliver Lowe

Bumble Bees - Ashley Lloyd

Busy Bees - Evie McCallum

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.

On-Line Safety Advice



Top Tips for Adopting Safe and Healthy Online Habits

Every year, Comic Relief goes all out to help people, both in the UK and internationally, who are going through a tough time. In our area of specialism, we at National Online Safety are acutely aware that – for children and young people in particular – many of those difficult moments increasingly originate from and unfold in the digital world.

From inappropriate content to the toxic behaviour of others, online harms can do long-lasting damage. That's why we're passionate about helping this new generation to build their digital resilience – equipping them to deal with digital dangers. This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide has a selection of tips for encouraging safe and healthy online habits.

In this guide we've compiled a list of useful suggestions which could help you and your family strike the right balance and build digital resilience.

Butterflies Nursery - Easter Bonnet Parade

On Wednesday 29th March, the Nursery children will be taking part in a Easter Bonnet parade.

We are asking parents to support their children in making their bonnet. The parade will take place at 2.45pm in the drop-off/pick up playground. We are more than happy for parents/carers to come and watch and support the children.

We look forward to seeing some fantastic Easter Bonnets!

Friends of River Mead

Dear River Mead Grownups,

The Friends need to call upon the generosity and spirit of the grownups in our school. We have so many plans and goals we want to carry out as a group, but we are struggling with our numbers. We are currently a very small group of people who desperately want to do more than we are.

Unfortunately, this is not possible with the current numbers. We are, of course, always grateful for the support the grownups outside our group show us whether that comes from student families or the school itself. To achieve bigger, bolder and better things - we need you. We need people who can run stalls, decorate discos, hand out prizes and so much more. Even if you can dedicate an hour or two a month or, even if you would prefer to only be on hand to be a volunteer at future events - any small contribution can go such a long way when it comes to the goals of the PTA. We understand that taking that step to join a group can be scary, but we are a warm, welcoming and friendly bunch. We are so ready and excited to expand our little group into a bigger River Mead community. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you need more information or want to put your name down for future fun!

Thank you, FORMS.

Contact us here, we can't wait to hear from you!

Email: rivermeadfriends@gmail.com

Facebook: Friends of River Mead School

Instagram: @friendsofrivermead

Family & Community Learning



April to June 2023
Request your place: 0800 970 4669



Five to Thrive

Join us for 5 fun filled sessions where we share ideas to develop the positive connection between you and your child.

Tisbury Children's Centre, Tisbury
Wednesday 12th April, 10.00am - 11.00am
Amesbury Library, Amesbury
Friday 14th April, 1.30pm - 2.20pm
Studley Green Children's Centre, Trowbridge
Tuesday 18th April, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Salisbury Library, Salisbury
Tuesday 18th April, 10.00am - 11.00am
Tidworth Leisure Centre, Tidworth
Wednesday 19th April, 10.00am - 11.00am
Marlborough Library, Marlborough
Thursday 20th April, 10.00am - 11.00am
Devizes Children's Centre, Devizes
Friday 21st April, 10.00am - 11.00am
Online via Microsoft Teams (Antenatal)
Friday 21st April, 12.30pm - 1.30pm
Bulford Children's Centre, Bulford
Friday 19th May, 10.00am - 11.00am
Melksham Community Campus, Melksham
Wednesday 14th June, 10.00am - 11.00am

Please note details may be subject to change.
Information correct as of 14/3/23

Healthy Eating

Join us for 4 great sessions where you can learn about healthy eating! You will also receive the ingredients to cook a healthy family meal in your home!

Studley Green Children's Centre, Trowbridge
Tuesday 18th April, 10.00am - 11.30pm
Amesbury Baptist Church, Amesbury
Tuesday 25th April, 1.00pm - 2.30pm
Windmill Hill Children's Centre, Tidworth
Monday 5th June, 1.00pm - 2.30pm
Little Folly Children's Centre, Salisbury
Tuesday 6th June, 1.00pm - 2.30pm

Ready to Start School

Is your child starting school this September? Join us for 2 sessions to find out how you can support your child.

Canberra Children's Centre, Melksham
Tuesday 4th April, 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Studley Green Children's Centre, Trowbridge
Tuesday 4th April, 10.00am - 11.00am
Westbury Community Project, Westbury
Monday 24th April, 10.00am - 11.00am
Online via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday 31st May, 7.30pm - 8.30pm



April to June 2023
Request your place: 0800 970 4669



Bookstart

Four sessions held weekly where you and your child can explore stories and rhymes in fun and creative ways.

Pewsey Library, Pewsey
Tuesday 18th April, 10.00am - 11.00am
Bulford Children's Centre, Bulford
Friday 21st April, 10.00am - 11.00am
Little Folly Children's Centre, Salisbury
Tuesday 8th May, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Bradford-on-Avon Library, BoA
Friday 6th June, 2.00pm - 2.45pm (under 1's)
Canberra Children's Centre, Melksham
Thursday 15th June, 1.00pm - 2.00pm

One Off Events

Check out our Facebook page
Spurgeons Wiltshire children's centres
[Click here](#)
Or visit our website [Click here](http://www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk)
www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

Please note details may be subject to change
Information correct as of 14/3/23

Early Words Together

Join us for 5 weeks to learn a range of ways to support your child's language development through fun and engaging activities.

Little Folly Children's Centre, Salisbury
Tuesday 4th April, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Melksham Library, Melksham
Thursday 20th April, 9.30am - 10.30am
Devizes Children's Centre, Devizes
Monday 15th May, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Windmill Hill Children's Centre, Tidworth
Thursday 8th June, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Westbury Community Project, Westbury
Monday 12th June, 10.00am - 11.00am

Please note that our sessions do not run on bank holidays

Don't forget all of our sessions are completely free of charge!



April to June 2023
Request your place: 0800 970 4669



Being a Parent

A 9 week course run by parents for parents of children aged 2-5 years. Parents learn practical communications for everyday life to bring up happy, confident and co-operative children.

Online via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday 19th April, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Devizes Children's Centre
Tuesday 18th April, 10.00am - 12.00pm
Amesbury Baptist Church, Amesbury
Wednesday 26th April, 10.00am - 12.00pm
Forest and Sandridge School, Melksham
Monday 15th May, 9.15am - 11.15am

Play, Talk and Grow Together

For forces and civilian families with children aged 0-5 years

Windmill Hill Children's Centre, Tidworth
Drop in
Every Tuesday, 10.00am - 11.30am
Every Friday, 10.00am - 11.30am

Baby Massage

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

Amesbury Baptist Church, Amesbury
Monday 17th April, 10.00am - 11.30am
Little Folly Children's Centre, Salisbury
Wednesday 19th April, 10.00am - 11.30am
Bradford-on-Avon Library, BOA
Wednesday 19th April, 9.30am - 10.30am
Windmill Hill Children's Centre, Tidworth
Thursday 20th April, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Bulford Children's Centre, Bulford
Wednesday 24th May, 10.00am - 11.30am
Tisbury Children's Centre, Tisbury
Wednesday 31st May, 10.00am - 11.30am
Devizes Children's Centre, Devizes
Thursday 8th June, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Studley Green Children's Centre, Trowbridge
Tuesday 13th June, 10.00am - 11.00am

Please note details may be subject to change. Information correct as of 14/3/23



April to June 2023
Request your place: 0800 970 4669



Scrapstore

We have partnered with Wiltshire Scrapstore to bring you a fun craft activity session near you!

Bradford-on-Avon Library
Wednesday 26th April, 11.15am - 12.15pm
Downton Library
Thursday 4th May, 10.30am - 11.30am
Amesbury Library
Thursday 11th May, 10.30am - 11.30am
Westbury Library
Tuesday 16th May, 10.30am - 11.30am
Wilton Library
Thursday 25th May, 10.30am - 11.30am
Pewsey Library
Tuesday 13th June, 10.30am - 11.30am
Warminster Library
Wednesday 21st June, 10.30am - 11.30am
Marlborough Library
Thursday 29th June, 10.30am - 11.30am

Sensory Rooms

Sensory rooms are available free of charge in all our centres for 30 minute appointments. Give us a call to find out about availability at your nearest centre.

Play and Connect

Play and connect with us and other families during these weekly play sessions.

Westbury Community Project
Mondays 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Just drop in!
Little Folly Children's Centre, Salisbury
Mondays 10.00am - 11.00am
Just drop in!
Bulford Children's Centre, Bulford
Tuesdays 10.00am - 11.00am
Just drop in!
Sessions for children with SEND - Devizes Children's Centre, Devizes
Tuesdays (Fortnightly) 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Please book your place
Studley Green Children's Centre, Trowbridge
Fridays 10.00am - 11.00am
Please book your place
Canberra Children's Centre, Melksham
Fridays 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Please book your place
Sessions for children with SEND - Windmill Hill Children's Centre, Tidworth
Fridays (Fortnightly) 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Please book your place

Don't forget all of our sessions are completely free of charge!

Please note details may be subject to change. Information correct as of 14/3/23

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 the remainder of this year 2022/2023 are:

5th June 2023

Teacher Training Days for the next academic year 2023/2024 are:

1st September 2023

4th September 2023

30th October 2023

4th January 2024

3rd June 2024

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

Herons & 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

23rd March - Alice in Wonderland Theatre Production

27th March - Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting

28th March - Y3 Church visit

28th March - Year 5 Residential Parent Meeting

29th March - Butterflies Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade 2.45pm

30th March - Year 4 Residential Parent Meeting

31st March - End of Term 4

17th April - Term 5 Begins

What's on



GYMABILITY EASTER SESSIONS

TUESDAYS 4TH APRIL 12:00-1:00
TUESDAYS 11TH APRIL 12:45-1:45

OUR GYMABILITY DROP-IN SESSIONS
ARE FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-12 YEARS
WITH ANY PHYSICAL, MENTAL,
EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL, LANGUAGE,
AND/OR SENSORY CHALLENGES.
CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS
CAN EXPLORE OUR GYMNASTICS
APPARATUS WITH OUR COACHES IN
ATTENDANCE. SPACES ARE STRICTLY
LIMITED AND MUST BE BOOKED IN
ADVANCE.

BOOK ONLINE NOW!!
WWW.WILTSHIREGYMNASTICS.CO.UK

**THE WILTSHIRE SCHOOL OF GYMNASTICS,
LYSANDER ROAD, BOWERHILL,
MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE, SN12 6SP**



Ever thought about volunteering?

Wiltshire's Independent Visitor Scheme is looking for people who can spare a couple of hours of their time every 3-4 weeks.

Volunteers are needed across Wiltshire

to befriend children in care. Young people living away from their families often really value having a consistent independent person who can take a special interest in their lives.

Wiltshire Independent Visitor Scheme is looking to take on more independent visitors to fulfil this valuable and rewarding role. Volunteers are needed who can communicate well with young people, share in their interests and who have regular time to spare.

If you are interested in knowing more please contact the scheme on
IVScheme@wiltshire.gov.uk

**"My IV is
awesome
and lots of fun;
he makes me
happy."**

Young Person

Wiltshire Council

TENNIS LESSONS

Melksham Tennis Club

PRIVATE or GROUP Sessions

Every Saturday Morning

Private Lessons (1 to 1) £10 per 30mins

Private Group £5 per person

Call or Text Mike to Book

0781 436 5554



 www.melkshamtennis.co.uk/coaching/

 **Melkshamtennis**

Made with PosterMyWise.com