

# River Mead School Parent Newsletter

## 24/03/2023



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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 lot going on!**

### *Groundworks*

The work is well under way to provide the pupils in the Resource Base with some area of all weather play surface. The team from 'Sovereign' have worked hard (despite the weather) to get the groundworks completed ready for the surface. The delivery drivers have thankfully managed to get most of the equipment and supplies on-site rather than in the car park. which has been great.

As you would expect a lot of the learning has included opportunities watching and talking about the digger, the dumper, and the work underway - we are all rather excited to see then end product!

### *M&M Productions*

We were delighted to welcome back M&M productions for a classic tale this spring - the magical story of "Alice in Wonderland", the children were enthralled engaged and loved joining in! The magic of theatre is truly something special, to see the rapture and enjoyment on the children's faces was very special indeed. We will look forward to welcoming M&M back in the Autumn term for a 'Panto Performance' of Cinderella!

We are busy planning ahead for a very busy summer term full of SATs, sleepovers, trips and residential!

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 - 88.3% compared to national average of 93.6% ↓ on National, but worse 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 may have an impact on the car park due to the siting of skips and 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 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 will need 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. as the footpath will be busy.

## Star of the Week



Butterflies - Jasper Edwards

Otters - Eddie Sharp

Dormice - Logan Tucker

Frogs - Isabelle Rodgers

Hérons - Oscar Bole

Kestrels - Lexie Smith

Badgers - Calum Wheatley

Buzzards - Ruby O'Harrow

Bumble Bees - Sienna Porter

## 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 - Alistair Reece**

**Dormice - Kaiden Deerans**

**Frogs - Ava Lilley Sears**

**Hérons - Jojo Maritiro**

**Kestrels - Delilah Holbrook**

**Badgers - Robyn O'Harrow**

**Buzzards - Rebecca Carter**

**Bumble Bees - Sophia Walton**

## Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

### **Frogs**

25 reads - Finley Peckover

150 reads - Jessica Swann, Taylor Busby

### **Hérons**

100 reads - Sophia Quintin



125 reads - Emily Sievwright

### **Kestrels**

50 reads - Lexie Tadhunter

100 reads - Rebecca Bogitini

150 reads - Jack Swan and Sherkarnah Ward-Jones

175 reads - Jasmine Kaur

### **Buzzards**

75 reads - Darcie Jowett, Ruby O'Harrow, Martha Southall and Annalise Brookbanks

100 reads - Mollie Bailey, Rebecca Carter and Lillie Goddard

150 reads - Ersu Duli and Lily Allum

### **Busy Bees**

75 reads - Evie McCallum

## Writer of the Week



**Otters - Reeve Linington**

**Dormice - Tommy Sievwright**

**Frogs - Larna Rey Lewis**

**Hérons - Kyla Gerrish**

**Kestrels - Ollie Brown**

**Badgers - Charlie Smith**

**Buzzards - Ella Swann**

**Bumble Bees - Arthur Jardine**

## Mathematician of the Week



Otters - Eddie Edmunds

Dormice - Tia Thunga

Frogs - Finley Peckover

Hérons - Oscar Bole

Kestrels - Rosie Allum

Badgers - Sam Cousins

Buzzards - Ruby O'Harrow

Bumble Bees - Lucas Goddard

## On-Line Safety Advice

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to make an informed decision about online safety with their children. Should they feel it is needed, this guide focuses on one of many issues which our online safety experts should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guidance, advice and tips for adults.

### Ten top tips for STRONGER PASSWORDS

Passwords continue to be the most common way to prove our identity online. A combination of a username and a password known only to the user provides access to our online accounts and data – and hopefully keeps unauthorised individuals out. As a security measure, though, passwords are relatively weak. People are often pessimistic in how we choose our passwords, for example, a meeting term less secure. With increasing volumes of usernames and passwords being leaked online, what can we do to keep our data more secure? Here are our top tips for stronger passwords.

#### BE UNPREDICTABLE

We often choose passwords which are easy to remember, but these are also the ones most likely to be guessed. Avoid using words from a dictionary, names of family members, birthdays, or anything else that is predictable. Instead, use a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols. If you're stuck, try using a password manager to generate a strong, unique password for you.

#### AVOID GETTING PERSONAL

Many of us use passwords relating to our family, such as children's names or favourite football teams. These are predictable and easy to guess. Avoid using anything that is personal to you or your family. Instead, use a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.

#### NEW PLATFORM, NEW PASSWORD

Whenever you create a new account on a new website or app, create a new password. Don't reuse passwords from other accounts. This is a common mistake that can lead to a security breach. Use a password manager to help you create and store unique passwords for each account.

#### LONGER IS STRONGER

Longer passwords are often stronger than shorter ones. Aim for at least 12 characters. The more characters you use, the harder it is for someone to guess your password. Use a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.

#### CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY

Many of us share our passwords on social media. This is a bad idea. Your password should be private. Don't share it with anyone. If you need to share it, use a secure method like a password manager or a secure email.

#### Meet Our Expert

Dr. David Smith, a leading expert in online security, shares his top tips for creating stronger passwords. Visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for more advice.

#### DOUBLE LOCK YOUR DATA

It's possible that cyber criminals may eventually discover your username and password. (Many of us use the same password for multiple accounts.) To protect your data, use a password manager to generate and store unique passwords for each account. This way, even if one password is leaked, the others remain secure.

#### DELETE UNUSED ACCOUNTS

Data breaches occur when cyber criminals gain access to an online service. If you have an account on a service you no longer use, delete it. This reduces the risk of your data being leaked. Use a password manager to help you delete accounts.

#### TRY PASSWORD MANAGERS

Even though most of us have forgotten our passwords, it's important to manage them. Password managers are apps that store your passwords for you. They generate strong, unique passwords for each account and autofill them for you. This makes it easier to manage your passwords and reduces the risk of a security breach.

#### GET CREATIVE

The British government's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) recommends the 'three random words' technique. This involves choosing three random words and putting them together to form a password. For example, 'blue elephant jumps' becomes 'blueelephantjumps'. This is a strong password that is easy to remember.

#### STAY VIGILANT

The best way to protect your data is to be vigilant. Don't click on suspicious links or download files from untrusted sources. Use a password manager to generate and store unique passwords for each account. This way, even if one password is leaked, the others remain secure.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety Facebook: NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety TikTok: @national\_online\_safety

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### Ten Top Tips for Stronger Passwords



*According to a Google survey, more than half of us (52%, to be exact) routinely re-use the same passwords, with around one in ten employing a single password across all of their online accounts. What that means, of course, is that any hacker successfully cracking our password would find themselves with access to not simply one of our online accounts, but several (at least).*

*That, along with the fact that many people's favoured passwords aren't exactly impenetrable, makes it easier to see why some sources put the number of online accounts being broken into at around 100 per second. Yes, you read that right: 100 per second. To help give you some extra peace of mind about your digital data, our #WakeUpWednesday guide has some tips on setting more secure passwords.*

*In the guide you'll find a number of top tips on setting stronger passwords such as how to get creative, what to avoid, and the value of multi-factor authentication.*

## 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!

## Family & Community Learning

**Spurgeons**  
Children's Church

**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

**spurgeons**  
children's charity

**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 9th 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

**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

**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](http://www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk)

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

Please note that our sessions do not run on bank holidays

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

**spurgeons**  
children's charity

**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

**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

**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

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**spurgeons**  
children's charity

**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, 11.5am - 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

**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

**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.

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

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**

28th March - Y3 Church visit

29th March - Butterflies Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade 2.45pm

30th March - Year 4 Residential Parent Meeting 3.30pm

31st March - End of Term 4

17th April - Term 5 Begins

18th April - RB and Year 5 swimming begins

24th/25th April - Year 4 Residential

3rd May - Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting 2.45pm

4th May - Year 5 Residential Parent Meeting 2.45pm

15th /16th May - Year 5 Residential

24th/26th May - Year 6 Residential

## 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](http://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](mailto:IVScheme@wiltshire.gov.uk)

**Wiltshire Council**

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


# 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.https://melkshamtennis.co.uk/coaching/](https://melkshamtennis.co.uk/coaching/)

 Melkshamtennis

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# CHARITY FAMILY FUN DAY

RAISING MONEY FOR  
"RUHX" (Formerly  
FOREVER  
FRIENDS.)



In Memory Of  
**EMMA RODGER**  
(was Brewer)

**SAT. 10th  
JUNE 2023**  
12pm Onwards..

**RUHX**

**FOREST COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
MELKSHAM.**

**FACE PAINTING - LIVE MUSIC - FOOD TRUCKS  
GLITTER TATTOOS - ICE CREAM VAN - RAFFLE  
BOUNCY CASTLE - HAIR FEATHERS - TOMBOLA  
LUCKY DIP - ALL DAY BAR  
VARIOUS CRAFT STALLS & LOTS MORE.....**

CHARITY #No: 1058323