

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

21/04/2023



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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Letter from the chair of the Academy Advisors Group (Governors)

Dear Parents and Carers

It is with great regret that I am writing to inform you that Karen Austin has decided to resign from the post of Headteacher to pursue new career opportunities and will be leaving River Mead at the end of the summer term.

Karen became Headteacher in 2017 and in the last five years has made an enormous contribution to moving River Mead forward. In 2019 she led the school through a successful Ofsted inspection raising it from Requires Improvement to Good. She navigated the multiple challenges posed by the pandemic with patience, skill and determination. Her commitment to providing a high quality learning experience for pupils and an environment in which each individual feels safe and valued has been outstanding.

She will leave behind an experienced Deputy Head and Senior Management Team who will provide continuity and support for the new appointee. With this and the continued support of the Mead Academy Trust I am sure that the school will build on the strong foundations Karen has laid and continue to make excellent progress.

Colin Kay

Chair of the Academy Advisors Group

A message from Mrs Austin

It has been Lovely to welcome all of the children back after the break, a real pleasure to see them getting stuck into their learning straight away.

A really busy term ahead starting with Parent consultations, a sleep-over, a Kings Coronation and then Y5 & Y6 residentials, SATs, and hopefully sunshine! Keep an eye on your messages and ensure you know what's happening when so you don't miss out!

You will have read the letter above from Colin our AAG and I appreciate this will be unexpected news, but it is the right decision for myself, my family and my future. I know that you will be as supportive and respectful of this decision as you have been to me throughout my tenure as Head Teacher. Please be reassured that I will remain fully focused on River Mead, and its continued successful journey. It has been my privilege to get to know you and your children over the last 5 years and to work with such a dedicated team of staff. I am very proud of all that we have accomplished as a school community.

I wish you all a lovely weekend

Karen Austin

Forthcoming Teachers strike/Industrial Action in Schools

Forthcoming Teachers strikes/Industrial Action in Schools

Dear parents and carers

Thank you for your supportive approach for strike days that have already occurred and thank you in advance for the upcoming strike days, declared by the NEU and supported by NAHT, NASUWT, GMB, UNISON and UNITE.

I can confirm that on **Thursday 27th March and on Tuesday 2nd May** the following classes will be;

Open

- Butterflies (Nursery)
- Otters
- Buzzards
- Badgers

Children in these classes should attend school as normal, non-attendance will be considered UNAUTHORISED.

Closed

- Dormice
- Frogs
- Kestrels
- Busy Bees
- Honey Bees
- Bumble Bees

These children cannot be supported safely in school due to staff absence.

However, like in the pandemic, we will open to some children as follows, for a childcare service, with suitable activities to meaningfully occupy the children:

- Vulnerable families who we will speak to in confidence – you will be contacted if this is you!
- Front line & Patient facing emergency services families – NHS, police, fire service, armed forces, social care, prison service (if you are on-shift). Please let us know if you require a place at school and your profession.
- Mead Academy Trust pupils whose parents will still be at work in our schools on the strike days to enable the childcare service to operate.

The limited service will be provided by a skeleton staff of mainly non-NEU members, the NEU being the union which has declared strike action at this point.

Children entitled to free school meals will be able to come into school for a hot lunch on this day at 12.30, please book this with the office, so we cater for those children who will arrive. Please come to the green 'King Fisher Court Gate'. These pupils will be dismissed at this gate at apx 1pm.

We appreciate that this causes disruption, and thank you for taking time to understand the reasoning behind this national industrial action in schools.

Mrs Austin

School Photos

Fraser Portraits have confirmed the final day for placing orders for the last classroom photo's is Friday 28th April.

All photo's if requested to be delivered to school will be sent out a few days later.

Please ensure you get your orders in, we would not want you to miss out!

Attendance



Attendance today was 91.6% compared to national of 93.6% however our attendance to date is at 89.6%!

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

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 - Nora Lavery

Otters - Reeva Linington

Dormice - Effie Antoni-Turner

Frogs - Gemma Andrews

Hérons - Kohen Porter

Kestrels - Daniel Mitchell

Badgers - Maxi Cathcart - Harris

Buzzards - Roxy Mitchell

Dragonflies - George Drew

Bumble Bees - Sophia Walton

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 - Teagan Norris

Dormice - Tayah Walton

Frogs - Larna Rey Lewis

Hérons - Andrew Elliott

Kestrels - Evelyn Hill

Badgers - Alleesha Lowe

Buzzards - Sasha Razdobarova

Dragonflies - Adam Ottaway

Bumble Bees - Ashley Lloyd

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

Dormice

5 reads - Tayah Walton, Bella Caven, Freddie Hill, Tommy Sievwright, Zachary Perrin & Alora Brownsell

75 reads - Freddie Hill

150 reads - Tommy Sievwright

Busy Bees

150 reads - Lucas Goddard & Isaiah Agboka

Writer of the Week



Otters - Sapphire Duck

Dormice - Effie Antoni-Turner

Frogs - Bethanu Smith

Hérons - Emily Sievwright

Kestrels - Sherkanah Ward-Jones

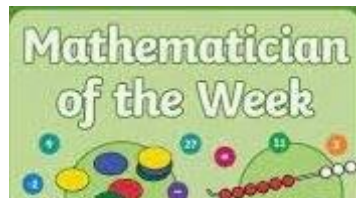
Badgers - Maxi Cathcart-Harris

Buzzards - Mollie Bailey

Dragonflies - Sienna Stone

Bumble Bees - Sienna Porter

Mathematician of the Week



Otters - Freddy Gamble-Williams

Dormice - Tia Thunga

Frogs - Arabella Antoni-Turner

Hérons - Oscar Bole & Darcie Merritt

Kestrels - Tiarni Stone

Badgers - Gracie-Mae Plumb

Buzzards - Lily Allum

Dragonflies - Jamie Andrews

Bumble Bees - Carl Gillett

On-Line Safety Advice



What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Echo Chambers

Have you ever read something online that's changed your perspective? Provided new information and made you look at an issue in a fresh light? Imagine if that kind of thing never happened: if everything you read on the internet just reinforced what you thought to begin with, and – what's more – confirmed that pretty much everyone else out there in cyberspace felt the same way.

Welcome to the world of online echo chambers, where one particular school of thought is constantly repeated and never challenged. This lack of impartiality can be damaging if the opinion is an extreme one – especially for younger people who are generally more inclined to believe it. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide has the essentials for parents and carers.

This free online safety guide examine echo chambers – how they work; why they're potentially harmful to impressionable young internet users; and what trusted adults need to know.

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](#)
www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

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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
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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

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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!

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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

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

Braeside Easter Activity Days!
Adventure - Challenge - Fun



ALL DAY
- £36

Age 8 – 12 years
(Siblings up to 14 years)

Dates: Tuesday 11th – Thursday 13th April 2022

Drop Off – 8:30am – 9:00am
Gates will be closed and locked from 9:15am

Pick Up 4:30pm – 5:00pm
Gates will be open for pick up from 4:30pm

Braeside Education Centre

| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|---|--|---|
| Survival Day Shelter Building Fire Lighting Camp Fire Cooking – Easter themed | Canoeing Morning Lifeline Problem Solving with Easter prizes | Climbing Wall Zip Wire Abseiling Leap of Faith |

Activities will run in groups, in rotation, throughout the day.

Please book online by visiting
www.braeside-education.co.uk/holiday-club

Children need to bring:

- Packed Lunch
- Water Bottle
- Appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather, including trainers

Contact us for more details –
info@braeside-education.co.uk
01380 722637



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

Wiltshire Council

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

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