

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

28/04/2023



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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A message from Mrs Austin

Another busy week with a Y4 sleepover (well a few children slept for a bit!) and then an activity day at Braeside. A public thank you from me to the staff who supported the sleep-over and the day itself making it such a memorable experience for the children.

Some Year 5 children also attended a Maths Enrichment event at John of Gaunt School this week. They had the opportunity to work in teams with children from other primary schools to solve a number of different maths problems. It was lead by Year 10 students at John of Gaunt, who were great role models.

Please don't forget the following important meetings for Y5 & Y6

- Wednesday 3rd May - Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting 2.45pm
- Thursday 4th May - Year 5 Residential Parent Meeting 2.45pm

I will be holding a 'Parent Connect' session, on Friday 5th May at 2.45pm as one of the themes in your survey responses is that you would like better communication with the school so do join me for a cuppa and a chat at 2.45pm!

Finally I thought I would share this lovely 'messy' image with you as I know our younger children (and a few older ones) do come home with 'extras' on their uniforms! Its a nice reminder that they are never intentional and that they are often just very engrossed in the activity they are undertaking, my mantra with my own children was baths, showers and washing machines will sort it out!

I wish you all a lovely long weekend

Karen Austin

I'm sorry I got messy today but..

I've been exploring the water and learning about emptying, filling and pouring. Sometimes I might spill a little bit - the muscles in my hands are still developing.

There was flour in our messy area today. I was so interested in how it would make clouds if I threw a little into the air.

I loved the texture of the playdough, but I rested my arm on a little bit as I reached across the table. I didn't realise it would stick to my sleeve!

I was learning about what happens if I mix two colours together.. It's messy work, but the green paint on my jumper comes from the blue and yellow that I mixed!

This mark is from a pen. I'm trying really hard to learn to hold the pen and make marks on the paper.

The mud kitchen is very dirty, but it's so much fun! Playing there helps me develop my imagination and explore my understanding of the world. I watched you cook at home and I wanted to try by myself.



**Early
Childhood
and Family
Service**

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 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.

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

Attendance



Attendance week of 24/04/23 Attendance was at 91.1% compared to National 93.6%

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

(POET) Survey on EHCP support

Wiltshire council want to hear what you think about the additional support children and young people receive in Wiltshire for their special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Published 17 April 2023

We'd like your views on the process of putting in place extra support in schools, and what it helps achieve for those with an EHCP.

An organisation called 'In Control' has devised questionnaires, with the help of children, young people, families and practitioners from across the country, for people to feedback about the process of getting and maintaining additional support that your child or young person needs and receives.

Complete the survey relevant to you, via the links; click on the 'button' for parents and carers;

[POET survey link](#)

Star of the Week



Otters - Sophia Bullock

Dormice - Kiera Parker

Frogs - Adam O'Harrow

Hérons - Jentson Ward

Kestrels - Whole class!

Badgers - Charlie Cole

Buzzards - Rebecca Carter

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 - Lillieanna Penfold

Dormice - Bentley Pepper

Frogs - William Eanes

Hérons - Sophia Quintin

Kestrels - Leo Plumb

Badgers - Isabelle Thorpe

Buzzards - Oliver Cook

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



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

Otters

5 reads - Alora Brownsell, Tommy Sievwright, Zachary Perrin, Rowan Mustali, Elia Duli, Freddie Hill

25 reads - Bentley Pepper

50 reads - Keira Parker

75 reads - Effie Antoni-Turner

175 reads - Zachary Perrin, Elia Duli

200 reads - Alora Brownsell

Frogs

100 reads - Hunter Jenkins, Corin Remington

175 reads - Taylor Busby, Jessica Swann

200 reads - Freddy Wild

Kestrels

25 reads - Ella Willis

50 reads - Tiarni Stone

Buzzards

25 reads - Harvey Aylesbury, Sasha Razdobarova

175 reads - Lily Allum, Ersal Duli

Writer of the Week



Otters - Lincoln-Jai Ward-Storey

Dormice - Bentley Pepper

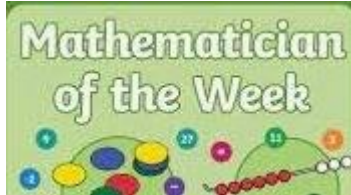
Hérons - Jentson Ward

Kestrels - Evelyn Hill

Badgers - Harvey Kitchener

Buzzards - Martha Southall

Mathematician of the Week



Otters - Hendry Main-Woods

Dormice - Elia Duli

Hérons - Freddie Decunha

Kestrels - Esther Maritiro

Badgers - Lacey-Mae Ward

Buzzards - Ben Brown

On-Line Safety Advice

What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Fortnite Chapter 4

If you know any young gamers, you'll almost certainly be familiar with Fortnite. It's one of the most popular video games on the planet – up alongside other mega-hits like Minecraft, Roblox and Call of

Duty in terms of its sheer number of fiercely dedicated players. Fortnite currently has more than 400 million devotees worldwide – around 25 million of whom play it every day.

Given Fortnite's relatively young user-base, though (as many as one in four pre-teens are reported to have played the game, despite its PEGI 12 age rating), it's prudent not to conflate immense popularity with absolute safety. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide assesses the latest version for potential pitfalls that parents and carers of young Fortnite fans should be aware of.

In the guide you'll find a number of potential risks such as compulsive playing, audio chat with other gamers and in-game spending.

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 - 2.30pm
- 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 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](#)
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!

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

Devises 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

Devises Children's Centre, Devises
 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 2-5 years

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

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 - Devises Children's Centre, Devises
 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

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

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 - Thursday

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



May

3rd May - Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting 2.45pm

4th May - Year 5 Residential Parent Meeting 2.45pm

5th May- 'Parent Connect' session at 2.45pm join Mrs Austin for a cuppa, chat and Q&A

15th /16th May - Year 5 Residential

24th/26th May - Year 6 Residential

9th June - 'Parent Connect' session at 2.45pm join Mrs Austin for a cuppa, chat and Q&A

What's on



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



MELKSHAM CRICKET CLUB YOUTH SESSIONS 2023

THURSDAYS KS1 5pm-6pm

SATURDAYS KS2 & KS3 10am-11am

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST NOW OPEN.

- SUITABLE FOR ALL ABILITIES
- PAY AS YOU PLAY OR BLOCK BOOK
- GIRLS/BOYS
- HARD/SOFT BALL SESSIONS
- ECB, DBS, FIRST AID TRAINED COACHES



Advanced coaching available for more information
please contact us.

WWW.MELKSHAMCRICKET.CO.UK

FACEBOOK/MELKSHAMCRICKET

FACEBOOK/THEBOUNDARYMELKSHAMCC

EMAIL - MELKSHAMCRICKET@GMAIL.COM



GYMABILITY

MAY HALF TERM

TUESDAY 30TH MAY 12:45-1:45

WEDNESDAY 31ST MAY 9:30-10:30



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**