River Mead School Parent Newsletter 21/07/2023



Our school latest news: http://www.rivermead.wilts.sch.uk/news-dates/latest-news

Our Twitter feed: @TweetRiverMead

Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/River-Mead-School-728064724207622/

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A message from the Chair of the Academy Advisory Board

Dear Parents and Carers

So, we come to the of the school year. With the legacy of the pandemic, the rapid rise in the cost of energy and inflation pushing up the price of food, it has been a challenging time for all of us. Thank you for your continued support through this difficult time.

The end of the school year is a time for goodbyes. Our Year 6 are leaving us and there are a number of other children who will be moving on to other schools. I would like to wish all of them, wherever they are going, every success in the future. Please keep in touch and let us know how you get on.

It is also a time when we say goodbye to staff; Lisa Penfold, Resource Base Lead and class teacher has supported the development of the Resource Base since the school became River Mead. Her skill for understanding the needs of children with complex SEN are intuitive and she has given these children opportunities to succeed. We wish her well on her travels to see family and for future opportunities..

Teresa Owen, Lead Nursery Teaching Assistant, who has been working on-site in the nursery provisions for a considerable number of years. She has helped scores of children begin their education and supported their development. Teresa has traveled from Wales to River Mead every day throughout this time and will enjoy being closer to home. We are also saying good bye to Sammy Parker, T Katie Coward, Teaching Assistants and Amy Bath teacher, all who are coming to the end of their contracts and off for adventures new!

Finally we are also saying farewell to Karen Austin our Headteacher. in the last five years Karen's contribution to the school resulted in Ofsted's 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 leaves behind an experienced Deputy Head who will become the Acting Headteacher, and Senior Management Team who will provide continuity and support for the next academic year. 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.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer

Colin Kay

Chair of the Academy Advisors Group

Message from Mrs Austin



Roarsome!

Well done to the cast of "The Lion King" what an absolutely amazing set of performances this week. The children performed to the rest of the school on Wednesday then two performances on Thursday for friends and family.

The children had all learned their lines, and some complicated words for the songs as well as some solo's. Amazing acting and fabulous singing all together making the audience stand in applause and wipe a tear or two away.

I know there were proud teachers, proud parents, families and siblings.

These things don't just 'happen' the children had to practice, take direction and learn the songs and words. They were ably guided by Miss Veitch, Mrs Udakis and Miss Tanner; thank you to everyone involved.

Quote from a member of our AAG

"It was a real joy to attend the afternoon performance today. I was impressed how confident the children were and how it was evident that they were really enjoying the experience. Great casting and some shining stars who acted with lots of passion.

I was impressed how loud the singing was with a small cast of 30. Many of these songs are quite complex, with tricky words and rhythms but you could tell the children had learnt them well and were able to keep with the backing and sing in parts- very impressive. So special to hear some solos too."

I am sure those who watched will agree, it was fantastic!

Time to say goodbye.....

As you are aware I am leaving as the Head Teacher of River Mead School, It was one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make, and thank you to those of you who have already spoken to me; Tuesday 26th July will be my last day. I am moving to a part time role in September with Wiltshire Council where I will continue to utilise my skills and knowledge supporting Head Teachers as a School Improvement Advisor.

I have been very fortunate to work with some wonderful people, some brilliant teachers and some fantastic children over the last 27 years as a teacher and school leader and none more so than here at River Mead. It has been a privilege to lead such an amazing school and I will miss working with such a great group of staff and children. I have always enjoyed coming to work and there is not a day goes past when I do not get to see the talents, skills and enthusiasm of our children in some way or another. It is watching young people grow and develop, achieving their potential, realising their ambitions, becoming responsible young citizens that drives every teacher and it has been a great pleasure to contribute to making this happen.

I take immense pride in the progress we have made and the positive impact we have had on the lives of the children at River Mead.

We have been working behind the scenes to ensure a smooth handover of role from myself to Miss Harrison who will be Acting Head Teacher for the next academic year. Whilst a change of Head Teacher can be unsettling, she and the team will be focused on ensuring that the school continues to provide the high standard of education and care that you, as parents, would expect from us.

Miss Harrison is an experienced Deputy Head Teacher, starting alongside me 5 years ago, and has a long association with The Mead Trust. She will be ably supported by a very strong leadership team and we can be confident that the school will have a successful future under her guidance.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible out on the playground after school on Tuesday and I will apologies now, in advance, for the tears that will undoubtedly flow!

I would also like to thank you for your continued support of the school.

Best Wishes to you all

Mrs Karen Austin



Summer Reading Challenge 2023

This is a great opportunity to keep reading all through the summer, so sign up and join in!!

Sign up for this year's <u>Summer Reading Challenge</u>. Sign up at Melksham Community library from **15 July.**

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The challenge is for 4–11-year-olds to read 6 library books over 8 weeks of the summer in return for various fun prizes, including a medal and certificate on completion.

This year the challenge runs from Saturday **15 July to Saturday 9 September**. There will be an initial registration period in the first two weeks of the challenge, where children will receive a collector's folder, then after this period (from 31 July) they are invited to return to talk about the books they have read and start collecting their stickers. Children can also continue to register throughout the summer.

It's **FREE** to take part, and last year 75% of children taking part improved their reading skills over the holidays.

Why should my child sign up?

- They will be **better prepared to return to school** in the autumn.
- Becoming more independent in their reading boosts children's confidence and self-esteem.
- The library provides free access to books and fun family activities all through the summer.
- Library staff are on hand to offer support and book recommendations.

Your child will be part of a UK-wide programme developed by <u>The Reading Agency</u> and delivered in partnership with the <u>public library network</u>.

How can my child take part? (Library or online)

It's **FREE** to join the challenge and to take out a library membership, visit: <u>Join the library - Wiltshire</u> Council and library staff will be on hand to support reading choices. Children can also take part in the challenge online via the website: Summer Reading Challenge where they can rate and review books, download activities, and access video content, games and quizzes.

KEEP READING!

Ready, Set, Read! Summer Reading Challenge 2023



Dear Parents and carers

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's <u>Summer Reading Challenge</u>. Sign up at Melksham Community library from 15 July.

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

Children often have a dip in their reading over the summer, the Summer Reading Challenge, produced by the Reading Agency and delivered by libraries, has been proven to stop this as well as changing children's attitudes in a positive way towards reading and libraries.

This year the challenge runs from Saturday 15 July to Saturday 9 September. There will be an initial registration period in the first two weeks of the challenge, where children will receive a collector's folder, then after this period (from 31 July) they are invited to return to talk about the books they have read and start collecting their stickers. Children can also continue to register throughout the summer.

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Any queries email: libraryenquiries@wiltshire.qov.uk

Attendance - every child, every day!



The last data shows

School overall 92.2% compared to National 94% - Lets not let it drop again - every child, every day, right up to the very last day!!

You MUST inform the school of your child's absence if you as the parent are unwell you are expected to find support to ensure your children are at school and on time.

Curriculum Booklets

What is my child learning in school?

Our children benefit from an exciting and engaging curriculum which has been developed to ensure that learning is irresistible for children. Follow the link below to find out more about your child's curriculum for the year and to see photos of their learning environment.

https://www.rivermead.wilts.sch.uk/learning/classes/

Tesco - Blue tokens for River Mead School

Tesco are helping to raise funds for River Mead School, so please look out for us when choosing where to pop your blue tokens after a Tesco shop! 'Every little helps!'

Star of the Week



Otters - Rylee Guy and Jackson Tucker

Dormice - Zachary Perrin

Frogs - Mia Nealey

Key Stage 2 & Resource Base - All Lion King performers!

Hot Chocolate with The Senior Leadership Team



Otters - Oliver Lowe

Dormice - Tayah Walton

Frogs - Millie-May Willis

Herons - Maximus

Kestrels - Imogen Gould

Badgers - Jak Powell

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



Dormice:

125 - Rowan Mustali

250 - Zachary Perrin

Frogs:

150 - William Eanes

175 - Corin Remington

250 - Taylor Busby

275 - Freddie Wild

Writer of the Week



Otters - Arabella Gill

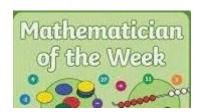
Dormice - Alora Brownsell

Frogs - Corin Remington

Kestrels - Murdoch Remington

Badgers - Sam Cousins

Mathematician of the Week



Otters - Harper Whittaker

Dormice - Macaiden Penfold

Frogs - Ava Lilley Sears

Kestrels - Leo Plumb

River Mead Nursery



NEW Prices for Services - from 01/09/2023

Due to many costs rising such as energy and food we have needed to review the charges we make for our traded services. We have tried to keep this increase to a minimum, as we do appreciate that our families are also battling with all these increased costs.

From 1st September 2023, the prices for the following services will be as follows:

- Nursery: Half Day (3.75hrs) £21.80. Full Day (7.5hrs) £43.75. Nursery Breakfast £4.65
- Meals: Cost per meal £2.70
- Before School Club: Cost per session £2.55
- After School Club to 4:15: Cost per session £1.75
- Lettings: Hall (per hour, min 1.5hrs) £12.00. Kingfisher Court Weekdays £12.00. Kingfisher Court Weekends £18.00
- Music Lessons: £8.00 per 15 min individual lesson, or a 30 min group session

Keeping Safe Online Over the Holidays



Friends of River Mead

We are delighted to announce that the Summer Fair raised a grand total of £600!

We were completely blown away by the support we received for this event; not only from the Friends who worked hard to pull everything together for the big day, but from teachers, parents, carers, siblings, aunties, uncles...even some River Mead children mucking in for the lightning speed setup! Thank You ALL So Much for helping to make this event a thoroughly enjoyable success.

In order to continue improving the events that we organise, could we kindly ask you to spend just a couple of minutes completing the following survey, which is completely anonymous: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K7SQKQ6

Finally, if you think you would like to get more involved with the work the Friends do, please feel free to approach one of us or email rivermeadfriends@gmail.com

We also put regular updates including any meeting dates on our social media....

Follow us on Instagram - https://instagram.com/friendsofrivermead?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

Join our Facebook group - https://www.facebook.com/groups/1816646455251366/

THE BIG HELP OUT

We would love to make this event a more regular thing, we achieved so much in so little time last time school asked us all for support with this! THANK YOU!

PAINTING SHEDS & FENCES

PLANTING, WEEDING & WATERING

LITTER PICKING

POWER WASHING & HEDGECUTTING

PLUS ANY CREATIVE IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS!

Please email rivermeadfriends@gmail.com
or let the Friends know if you would be
happy to give a small amount of time on
SUNDAY 16th or SUNDAY 23rd July to
help with this







Family & Community Learning







July 2023 - online courses

Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry Friday 7 July 10:00 -12:00

Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience Friday 14 July 10:00 -12:00

Helping My Child Prepare Positively for Change Friday 21 July 10:00 -12:00

Our courses are free, if you are over 19 years old, a resident in UK/EU for over three years, live in Wiltshire and meet any of the following criteria:

I less than five GCSEs grades A-C

To find out more visit workwiltshire.co.uk/events, call 01225 770 478 or email familyandcommunitylearning@ wiltshire.gov.uk





Wiltshire Council

Being a Parent



Suitable for parents of children aged 2-11

Join Us:

Online via Microsoft Teams

Wednesdays from 5th July

7pm-8.30pm

Call us on: 0800 970 4669









children's centre central line on: 0800 970 4669

www.wiltshirechildrens centres.org.uk

July 2023

1.30pm - 2.30pm

1:1 support available to join online sessions





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 next academic year 2023/2024 are:

1st September 2023

4th September 2023

30th October 2023

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)- Monday

Dates to Remember



TERM DATES REMINDER

The last day of term is Tuesday 25th July 2023. Please can you ensure you are visiting the correct River Mead site when looking for term dates: https://www.rivermead.wilts.sch.uk/

The first day back to school for Yr 1 to Yr 6 is Tuesday 5th September.

For our new Reception starters, you will receive a home visit during the first few days (Tuesday 5th September - Friday 8th September) and then staggered starts as follows:

Monday 11th September - Friday 15th September 8:40 - 12:00

Monday 18th September - Friday 22nd September 8:40 - 1:00 (staying for lunch)

Monday 25th September - full days 8:40 - 3:15

Please see the table for our updated and confirmed dates to remember including Sports Day and our Lion King performance

Monday	19 th June	Y2 Trip to Hengistbury head
Tuesday	20 th June	Y3 Trip to Roman Baths
Wednesday	21 st June	New intake (Year R in September) parents information meeting 6:30-7:30pm
Monday	26 th June	Year 6 Geography field trip - local area
Tuesday	27 th June	Year 5 Geography field trip - local area
Tuesday	27 th June	Y6 Melksham Oak transition day
Tuesday	27 th June	New intake (Year R in September) visits:
		Group A 9:30-10:30
		Group B 11:00 - 12:00
Wednesday	28 th June	Year 5/6 - World War 2 Enrichment Day
Thursday	29 th June	Y5 Melksham Oak taster day (parents to arrange child to meet River Mead
		staff at Melksham Oak
Monday	3 rd July	Sports Day (if raining, back up day - 17 th July) timings tbc
Tuesday	4 th July	New intake (Year R in September) visits:
		Group A 9:30-10:30
		Group B 11:00 - 12:00
	5 th July	Abbyfield Year 5 taster day (transport provided - leave River Mead 9am)
,	5 th July	Life Bus visiting - PSHE
Thursday	6 th July	
Friday	7 th July	
Monday	10 th July	Transition morning with new teachers/TAs (not RB)
Wednesday	12 th July	New intake (Year R in September) visits:
		All children 9:30-11:30
,	12 th July	Y6 Abbyfield transition day
Wednesday	12 th July	Y5 Sheldon taster day (parents to book places for child to attend)
Thursday	13 th July	Y4 field work - walk to library
Friday	14 th July	Summer Fair 3:30-5:30pm
		Parents/carers - meet your child's new teacher (Music Studio)
Monday	17 th July	8:45-9:15 Mrs Udakis (year 2 to Year 3)
Tuesdav	18 th July	2:45-3:15 Miss Coates (Year R to Year 1) 2:45-3:15 Mrs Boddington (Miss Veitch) (Year 3 to Year 4)
Thursday	20 th July	8:45-9:15 Mrs Sones (Year 4 to Year 5)
Friday	21st July	8:45-9:15 Miss Bartlett (Year 1 to Year 2)
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	,	2:45-3:15 Miss Woods
Tuesday	18 th July	Transition Day with new teachers/TA (not RB)
Wednesday	19 th July	Lion King dress rehearsal to EY/KS1 2pm
,	19 th July	New intake (Year R in September) teddy bears picnic 3:45-4:30pm
Thursday	20 th July	Lion King performance to KS2 & parents (siblings under 5 years) 2pm
Thursday	20 th July	Lion King Performance (no children under 5 years) 6:30pm
Monday	24 th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly - 9:00am parents welcome
Monday	24 th July	Year 6 water fight and end of year celebration 3:30-5:00pm
ivioliday	12-4 July	rear o water right and end or year delebration 3.30-3.00pm

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















WWW.ACTIVETROWBRIDGE.CO.UK

WEEK DAYS 25TH JULY - 31ST AUGUST 2023 - JOHN OF GAUNT STANDARD DAY 9AM - 3PM £13.80 EXTENDED DAY 8AM - 4PM £24.60 CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ASSENTED EXELUTES BANK HOLIDAYS

















WWW ACTIVE ROWBRIDGE.CO.UK



26TH JULY
- 31ST AUGUST
JOHN OF GAUNT
9AM - 3PM STANDARD
0 0 9AM - 4PM
EXTENDED DAY £24.60





KIT: TRAINERS, SHINPADS, PACKED LUNCH, WATER BOTTLE











WWW.ACTIVETROWBRIDGE.CO.UK





INDIVIDUAL DAYS £18 5 DAY BLOCK £70

The PE & Sports Project uses elite level coaching practice, to provide the children with a fun, engaging, successful and positive experience.

We use our advanced 'explorationdiscovery-competition' model to give the children the independence and responsibility to think and to solve problems for themselves whilst supporting and encouraging their development in a wide range of different sports.

t: 0117 382 8444 e: info@thesportsproject.org



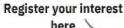
during school holidays?

Arts & Crafts | Fun Games | Multi sports |Graffiti Workshop| Music & Dance | Cooking And a Lot More...





Spaces For Those On Free School Meals!









activitycamps@pilot-uk.com

31st July - 24th August



07497 104944



Wiltshire Council







1st Lacock Scouts would like to invite all families to our Car Scavenger Hunt this weekend on Saturday 22nd July 2023.

The event starts and finishes at Lacock National Trust car park and trail sheets can be collected between 10am and 4pm. Follow the scavenger clues on your trail sheet in your car around the local area, answer the questions and crack the puzzles along the way! Great family fun suitable for all weather. Return your trail sheet by 5pm to be entered in to our prize draw. The trail should take approximately 2 hours to complete.

All funds raised go to 1st Lacock Scouts (registered charity).

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday. Thank you.

Lacock Cubs & Beavers

Lacock is such a short drive away, and many of Melksham's groups have long waiting lists, many of our group's Beavers & Cubs live in Melksham.

We meet on Fridays from 6.30 to 8 in Lacock Village Hall.

We have a few spaces for Beavers - boys & girls aged between 6 and 8 and Cubs 8 - 10.5, from September 2023 onwards.

Our Beavers gain automatic places into our Cub Group when they reach 8 years old and then in local Scout groups at the age of 10.5.

Scouting is a tremendous global movement, and our Beavers & Cubs enjoy fun activities, camps & days out at a remarkably small cost for parents.

If you would like to take up places for your child(ren) this September onwards, please contact our group scout leader Keith.Holloway@wiltshirescouts.org.uk.

Sheldon School open events for current Year 4's & 5's



Wiltshire Parent Carer Council - Short Breaks Bulletin:
https://wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk/en/Short breaks <a href="h

Cost of Living

If you are struggling with the cost of living crisis and need some extra support, the team at Wiltshire Council are waiting to help however they can. Please follow this link for further information:

https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6665/Council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support