

River Mead School Parent Newsletter

29/09/2023



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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Message from Miss Harrison

It has been lovely to see so many of you at Parent Consultations this week, we hope it has been a useful opportunity to meet your child/ren's new teacher(s). Teachers will be following up with those who couldn't make it over the next week.

We had a lovely assembly for European Day of Languages on Tuesday - celebrating the learning that had taken place in each class. Thank you for the grown-ups who came in to teach the children some different languages.

Illness - Covid 19

We have noticed an increased number of positive covid cases over the last week, and lots of coughs/temperatures. Although you are no longer required to do a COVID-19 test if you have symptoms, NHS do recommend that you try to avoid contact with other people to reduce the spread of the virus.

If a child tests positive:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day the test was taken. Children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults

If an adult tests positive:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took your test.
- avoid meeting people who are more likely to get seriously ill from viruses, such as people with a weakened immune system, for 10 days after the day you took your test

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Harrison




RIVER MEAD NURSERY

PLACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

WE HAVE NURSERY PLACES FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS.

WE PROVIDE:

- 15 AND 30 HOUR FUNDING DURING TERM TIME
- LEARNING LED BY A QUALIFIED TEACHER
- ENGAGING AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES
- A FRIENDLY, FAMILY-LED ENVIRONMENT

At River Mead School we invest in early education. Our friendly team of Early Years professionals support children to learn, make friends, and become more independent.

Pop in to the school or call us to arrange a visit.

☎ 01225 703428 🌐 www.rivermead.wilts.sch.uk 📍 Lowourne, Melksham, SN12 7ED



CLEANERS NEEDED

PART-TIME, TERM-TIME ONLY POSTS AVAILABLE




SCAN TO APPLY

- 3.00-5.00PM OR 3.00-5.30PM, MONDAY - FRIDAY
- £10.60 PER HOUR
- GO TO WWW.THEMEADTRUST.ORG OR CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON 01225 703428 FOR MORE INFORMATION
- APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON 19 OCTOBER 2023 AT 9.00AM

Parking Reminder



A reminder to **please be mindful** when you are parking to collect your children. The car park is a general public car park, and does not belong to the school.

Whilst we appreciate the car park is small, **please refrain from parking where you are blocking cars from exiting.**

Please do not park on the grass next to the school entrance.

Be kind, park with others in mind.

Flu Nasal Spray

The School Age Immunisation Service provides vaccinations to children and young people aged 5-16 across Wiltshire, Swindon, Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES).

On Monday 2nd October, the team will be coming to the School to give immunisations to all children who have consent from their parents. Follow this link to give or withdraw your consent:

<https://schoolimms.hcrgcaregroup.com/flu/2023/wilts>

Please contact the HCRG Group with any problems: email: vcl.immunisations@nhs.net or phone: **0300 247 0082** (lines are open 9.00 to 16.30)

Attendance

Everything you need to know about school attendance - from the Department of Education

Face-to-face education is important in helping pupils to fulfil their potential.

During school time we believe pupils should be in class with their teachers and peers and enjoying all the benefits that brings.

Parents or carers of a child have a legal responsibility to ensure their child receives a suitable education. This is usually achieved through regular attendance at school.

Here will look at everything you need to know about school attendance.

Why is regular attendance so important?

Being in school every day that it is open, is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and their wider development.

Over the coming weeks and months there will be a renewed focus on maximising pupils' time in the classroom, as [evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

Here's what the data shows:

- Pupils with higher attainment at KS2 and KS4 had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment.
- Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 4.7% over the key stage, compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.
- Pupils who did not achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths GCSEs in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 8.8% over the key stage, compared with 5.2% among pupils who achieved a grade 4 and 3.7% among pupils who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.
- Generally, the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage at KS2 and KS4, the lower the level of attainment at the end of the key stage.
- Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.
- Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent.

There are only a small number of circumstances where missing a school day is permitted.

When can my child be absent from school?

When you register your child at school, you have a legal duty to ensure your child attends that school regularly.

This means that your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend that day.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet; or
- You are a gypsy/traveller family with no fixed abode, and you are required to travel for work that day meaning your child cannot attend their usual school. In most circumstances, however, your child is required to attend another school temporarily during such absences.

These are the only circumstances where schools can permit your child to be absent.

What do I need to do if my child needs to be absent from school for one of those reasons?

You should contact their school as early as possible to explain why. If not, your child's school will contact you on the first morning of their absence to find out why.

Can I take my child on holiday during term time?

Parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid requesting leaves of absence for holidays unless it is unavoidable.

As leave of absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely that your child's headteacher will agree a leave of absence for a family holiday.

If permission is refused and you keep your child off school on the days requested, you are likely to be committing an offence and be issued a fixed penalty notice or be prosecuted by your local authority.

Where can I get support to help my child attend school?

Children may struggle to attend school for a wide range of reasons.

If your child is struggling to attend school, both their school and your local authority also have responsibilities to help you to support your child's attendance.

In most cases, if your child's attendance level is falling, their school will contact you to explore the reasons and discuss what help can be put in place to help you overcome the barriers they are facing.

If your child is struggling to attend school, you can expect the school to meet with you and your child if they are old enough. The school will want to understand the reasons for their absence and what support you or they need to overcome the barriers to attendance they are experiencing.

If the barriers to your child's attendance are in school – such as they are having friendship problems – the school is responsible for working with you to help overcome the issues.

Information on who in school you can contact for help, including the school's senior leader responsible for attendance, can be found in the school's attendance policy on its website or available in hard copy from the school itself.

If the barriers to attendance you or your child are facing go beyond the remit of the school – such as a transport or a mental health issue – both the school and local authority have a responsibility to help you. This includes helping you to access the wider support you might need, for example from the school nurse or from local housing or transport teams.

As part of the conversation you have with your child's school you will agree a set of joint actions you will all take to help overcome any barriers to attendance.

This agreement will often include a commitment to refer or help you to access support services in exchange for an agreement from you to engage and take part in the support offered. They will also arrange mutual convenient times for you to come together to review these and your child's progress.

This agreement may take the form of an informal action plan, an early help plan, or a parenting contract – depending on the complexity of the reasons for your child's absence.

Star of the Week



Dormice - Nela Salamonska

Frogs - Lola Brookbanks

Hérons - Jessica Swann

Kestrels - Oscar Bole

Badgers - Sherkarnah Ward-Jones

Buzzards - Ersä Duli

Bumble Bees - Lukas Sartin Hann

Honey Bees - Finley Parker

Busy Bees - Ewan Chilcott

Hot Chocolate with The Senior Leadership Team



Dormice - Mila-Rose Tuck

Frogs - Elia Duli

Hérons - William Eanes

Kestrels - Maximus-Rafael Neacsa

Badgers - Rubie Cleverley

Buzzards - Jamie Andrews

Bumble Bees - Thomas Wells

Kingfisher Reading Challenge



Dormice :

5 reads: Arabella Gill, Lincoln-Jai Ward-Storey

10 reads: Janelle Cubagee, Sapphire Duck, Eddie Edmunds

15 reads: Kevin Marino, Milena Sledz

20 reads: Noah, Reeva Linington, Escher Remington, Nela Salamonska, Eddie Sharp, Mila-Rose Tuck, Archie Wild

Writer of the Week



Dormice - Eddie Sharp

Frogs - Reneya Wyatt

Hérons - Ruby Lloyd

Kestrels - Joeli Maritiro

Badgers - Murdoch Remington

Buzzards - Adam Ottway

Bumble Bees - Arthur Jardine

Honey Bees - Noah O'Shea

Busy Bees - Francesca Saward

Mathematician of the Week



Dormice - Dottie-Rose Cook

Frogs - Bella-Elizabeth Caven

Hérons - Isabelle Rodger

Kestrels - Kyle Saward

Badgers - Ella-Rose Willis

Buzzards - Gracie Plumb

Honey Bees - All of Honey Bees!

Bumble Bees - Lucas Goddard

Busy Bees - David Nestian

Online Safety

What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Live Streaming

Like a lot of digital services, live streaming really found its niche during the pandemic – think of Joe Wicks’ at-home fitness classes, Billie Eilish’s virtual gigs and Miley Cyrus’ chat show, for example. Real-time broadcasting of video content over the internet isn’t solely the province of celebrities, however: anyone with a device and something to say (or show) can take part.

With platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, TikTok and Twitch all offering routes to a vast online audience, young people have enthusiastically taken up the baton – streaming on subjects from gaming to sports to live shopping (yes, really!). Potentially having strangers among one’s viewers, though, is just one of many concerns. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide has the key information.



PE timetable - Please see changes below

PE Days

On PE days children should come in wearing their PE kit to avoid changing at school.

Otters & Honey Bees - Monday

Frogs, Kestrels - Tuesday

Badgers & Buzzards - Wednesday

Dormice & Herons - Thursday

Bumble Bees & Busy Bees - Friday

Dates to Remember - Term 1



Saturday 30th September: The Friends of The Mead Autumn Fair at The Mead School, Hilperton

Monday 2nd October: Flu Nasal Sprays, Years R - 6

Wednesday 11th October: Rugby Festival for selected pupils

Thursday 12th October: Dormice Longleat Trip

Sunday 15th October: FORMS AGM

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be four years old before September 2024?

You must apply for a primary school place

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Apply online at **wiltshire.gov.uk** or complete an application form, available at all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is
12 midnight, 15 January 2024

All forms must be returned to the school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.
.....

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide to finding a primary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be transferring
to a secondary school in
September 2024?

You must apply for a secondary school place

Apply online at **wiltshire.gov.uk** or
complete an application form, available at
all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

12 midnight, 31 October 2023

All forms must be returned to the school admissions
team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide
to finding a secondary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council

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

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 2023/2024. 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:

30th October 2023

4th January 2024

3rd June 2024

From the Office

Absence: If your child is unwell please let the school know by contacting the office on 01225 703428 or emailing office@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk as soon as possible in the morning

Arbor: Arbor is a great tool to use to update any contact information, choose school meals, and consent to clubs and trips. If you need help with accessing Arbor and how to use it, please pop into the office so we can help!

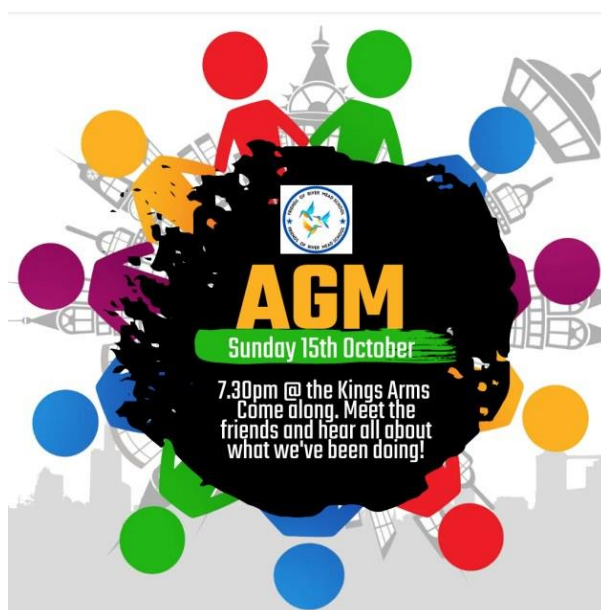
Meals: Please remember to select your child's lunch choice on Arbor under Meals

Friends of River Mead School

Annual General Meeting

Please join us at our 2023 AGM where we will share what we have done over the past year and our plans for 2023 / 2024. If you have any ideas or have any questions then come along and meet the team. We are always welcoming of anyone that wishes to join us in any capacity so if you are interested or want to know a little more about what we do then come say hi, or drop us an email.

Keep an eye on our Notice Board (outside the main white gates) as well as our Facebook & Instagram pages for plenty of regular updates!



Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/1816646455251366/?ref=share>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/friendsofrivermead?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Email: rivermeadfriends@gmail.com



Family & Community Learning



Support we offer

We are here to help with a whole range of topics including:

Ideas around implementing routines and setting boundaries.

Help to understand your child's needs and build your confidence as a parent.

Help around finances, housing applications, debt support and accessing benefits.

Advice on local childcare and applying for funding.

Supporting you 'back to work'.

Introductions to other services.

We can help families access:

Breast pump loan
Baby Bundles
Food boxes
New Parent, New Baby programme
Healthy Start vitamins



Facebook

Our Spurgeons Wiltshire children's centres Facebook page is another way for families to stay up to date with current services. Make sure you like and follow to stay in touch with us.

Simply click here:



Get in touch with us

If you have any questions or would like more information about our services please call us on one of our numbers below or check out our website:

Freephone:
0800 970 4669

email: wiltshirecc@spurgeons.org

Other useful numbers:

Health visitor - single point of access

0300 247 0090

National Breastfeeding helpline

0300 100 0212

Splitz (domestic abuse support service)

01225 775276

Wiltshire out of hours domestic abuse helpline
01225 712880

Click here to visit our website



<https://www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org>



October 2023

Newsletter

LET'S FACE SOME ISSUES!

Wednesday
18th Oct
18:30 - 19:30
FREE



FREE SESSION

Family Meetings:
Why and How

Monday
2nd Oct
18:30 - 20:30
£24



Understanding the Teenage Brain

Why teens think, feel and behave differently from adults

Monday
23rd Oct
18:30 - 20:30
£24



Understanding Anger

Yours and theirs - what is anger, why do we feel it and how can we manage it?

Thursday
26th Oct
18:30 - 20:30
£24



Supporting a Child with ADHD

interactive session explaining what ADHD is and offering a range of interventions that can make lasting differences.

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk



Spurgeons
Together with families

For families of children aged 0-5 yrs

Five To Thrive

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



For more information or to book a space contact the children's centre central line on: 0800 970 4669
www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

Join us online via Microsoft Teams
Friday 29th September - Friday 20th October 2023
1.00pm - 2.00pm
1:1 support available to join online sessions

What's on

TROWBRIDGE APPLE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2023
11AM - 3PM • FREE ENTRY



EMMANUEL'S YARD TROWBRIDGE

APPLE PRESSING & TASTING
LIVE MUSIC • FOOD & DRINK • TRADITIONAL GAMES
CRAFTS & STALLS

We are a plastic-free event

ORGANISERS: THE BIG COMMUNITY GROW (Registered Charity: 1169927)

Can you make the best apple pie or cake?

Please use British apples and fair-trade ingredients

THE GREAT APPLE BAKE OFF

Anyone can enter!
Children and adults
Judging at Frowbridge Apple Festival
Entries must be submitted by 12pm on 7th October 2023
Emmanuel's Yard

ORGANISERS:
THE BIG COMMUNITY GROW
Registered Charity 1169927

Braeside Education Centre



October Half Term Activity Days!

£36 per day

Adventure - Challenge - Fun

For ages: 8 – 12 years
(Siblings up to 14 years)

Drop Off - 8:30am – 9:00am
Pick Up - 4:30pm – 5:00pm

Thursday 19th – Climbing Day
Climbing Wall, Zip Wire and Abseiling



Friday 20th – Mixed Activity Day
Archery, Life Line, Low Ropes, Bouldering



Monday 23rd – High Ropes Day
Leap of Faith, Crate Stack, High All Aboard, Parallel Poles



Tuesday 24th – Canoeing
GPS, Problem Solving Games



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

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

Braeside Education Centre

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



active
trowbridge



**ACTIVE
KIDS
CAMP**

WWW.ACTIVETROWBRIDGE.CO.UK

WEEK DAYS 19TH - 27TH OCTOBER 2023 AT THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL
STANDARD DAY 9AM - 3PM £19.80 EXTENDED DAY 8AM - 4PM £24.60

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED EXCLUDES BANK HOLIDAYS



SCAN ME



active
trowbridge
soccer schools

**GIRLS
FOOTBALL**

THURSDAY 26th
OCTOBER
JOHN OF GAUNT

9AM - 3PM STANDARD DAY

£19.80

8AM - 4PM EXTENDED DAY

£24.60



5 - 14 YEARS

KIT: TRAINERS, PACKED LUNCH,
REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED



SCAN ME



WILD CATS
TROWBRIDGE

WWW.ACTIVETROWBRIDGE.CO.UK



October Half Term

23rd - 25th OCTOBER
JOHN OF GAUNT
MON - WED

9AM - 3PM STANDARD DAY
£19.80
8AM - 4PM EXTENDED DAY
£24.60



5 - 14 YEARS

KIT: TRAINERS, PACKED LUNCH,
REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED



DIAMOND
TROWBRIDGE



WWW.ACTIVETROWBRIDGE.CO.UK

FROM
£12
A DAY

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

HALF TERM SPORT CAMP

ST PETER'S CE ACADEMY
LORDS MEAD, CHIPPENHAM SN14 0LL
RECEPTION - YEAR 6 - 9:00 - 3:00

TAG RUGBY, FOOTBALL, DANCE, CIRCUS SKILLS, FENCING,
CHEERLEADING, STREET HOCKEY, ULTIMATE FRIZBEE, CRICKET,
MUSICAL THEATRE, DODGEBALL, ATHLETICS
AND MORE

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October

[THE-SPORTS-PROJECT.CLASSFORKIDS.CO.UK/CAMP/33](https://the-sports-project.classforkids.co.uk/camp/33)

CLICK ON THE LINK OR COPY IT INTO YOUR BROWSER
TO BOOK.

EARLY BIRD INDIVIDUAL DAYS £16
DISCOUNT 5 DAY BLOCK £60
AVAILABLE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15TH

INDIVIDUAL DAYS £18
5 DAY BLOCK £80

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 'exploration-discovery-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

DESTINY AFRICA
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

3pm Wednesday October 25th

Spencer Sports & Social Club
Beanacre Rd., Melksham SN12 8AG



Dance, Drama, Drums and Song

Merchandise, Donations, Sponsorship

TICKETS from Ticket Tailor - <https://bit.ly/DA-Tickets>

Adults - £10, Seniors - £8, Children 4-16 - £6, Under 4's free on knee

Promoted in Melksham by GoodNews Church goodnewsmelksham@gmail.com 07389 866714





THE LAST POST



An original stage adaptation of Keith Campion's highly-acclaimed First World War novel for a family audience.

Fri 20th October 2023 - 7.30pm
Saturday 21st October 2023 - 2.30pm
Saturday 21st October 2023 - 7.30pm

'One of the best things I've ever seen! ★★★★★'



The Mission Theatre,
32 Corn Street, Bath, BA1 1UF

Bath Box Office: 01225 463362
www.bathboxoffice.org.uk

Tickets
£12

www.hobgoblintheatrecompany.co.uk



THE LAST POST



An original stage adaptation of Keith Campion's highly-acclaimed First World War novel for a family audience.

Saturday 11th November 2023
3pm & 7.30pm

'One of the best things I've ever seen! ★★★★★'



The Wharf Theatre
The Wharf, Devizes, SN10 1EB
0333 666 3366

www.wharftheatre.co.uk

Tickets
£8-12

www.hobgoblintheatrecompany.co.uk