

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Headteacher – Mr Mark Stenton

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The first two weeks of term for 2021 have not been as anyone would have hoped for and I must thank you all for your patience and resilience as we work together to get through these most difficult of times.

I personally long for the return of full schools, normal interactions and the freedom to focus entirely on education and our community without the permanent shadow of the pandemic – but we're some way from that at the moment. I've adjusted my thinking to regard the spring term as the one when we all come together to finally beat Covid, then hopefully see a return to some form of normality in the summer term. The vaccination programme is rolling out quickly now and I'm sure many of you, like myself, will have been relieved this week to hear that older family members are getting the vaccinations locally now; feels like the beginning of something better. We've also received news this week that the lateral testing kits will be available in primary schools from next week to enable school staff to test at home each Monday in the same way that health workers have to do – another control which will help us to keep everyone safe. As it stands, there has been no further talk of this testing extending to primary aged children in the way that it has been suggested for secondary school pupils, which seems very sensible!

We are operating with just over a quarter of the children on site to support critical workers. The staff are dividing themselves into teams in each year group so that they can focus on constantly supporting home learning during the day whilst also teaching those children in school. They have responded magnificently to the challenge and I am extremely proud of what they have achieved. Online learning is at another level now and we are trying to maintain the full curriculum for this term with live lessons included and a lot of devices shared with families from school to support at home (more to follow where needed).

You have also been absolutely wonderful as a parent body. The engagement from children has been extremely high via Seesaw and Google Meets, which is down to your support. I know it is extremely challenging and can't thank you enough for the time you're putting in to make this work. Thank you for all of your messages of support – the generosity of spirit has been tangible. We will continue to follow up every concern you raise as best as we can. Together we'll get through this safely.

Warm regards

Mark Stenton  
Headteacher

### **Reporting Covid-19 symptoms to the school**

If you or anyone in your family is being tested or has received a positive Covid-19 test please inform the school as soon as possible by emailing [covidreporting@themead.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:covidreporting@themead.wilts.sch.uk) (including over the weekend and during school holidays).

For all other communication, (Covid or otherwise), please email [office@themead.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@themead.wilts.sch.uk)

**INSET DAYS: 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021**

**Please send comments or feedback [feedback@themead.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:feedback@themead.wilts.sch.uk)  
Paper copies of this newsletter are available from the school office.**

**IF YOU REQUIRE THIS IN LARGE TEXT OR ANOTHER LANGUAGE PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE**

### Supporting home learning routines Planning the day



Consistent routines are important for behaviour and wellbeing in school and our routines at home have changed significantly. Routines support behaviour and you will be finding a new rhythm with your family. You could share this checklist with your child. Talk to them to help them plan their new routines.

The importance of simple approaches as part of a regular routine is key recommendation 4 of the EEF's guidance report [Improving Behaviour in Schools](#)

	M	T	W	T	F
I woke up at a good time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I did some exercise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I had regular meals and drank water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I enjoyed some reading in a quiet space.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I practised a maths skill.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I completed some school work at my work space. I chunked it so I had some breaks too.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I talked to my family about my day and how I am feeling. I asked them about their day.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I helped with a household job and talked to my family while I did it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I contacted my friends.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I spent some time on my creative hobby.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My parent/carer told me what I did well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My goal:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My goal:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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### Keeping Up To Date

We want to make sure you are kept up-to-date about what is happening in our schools, especially at a time when you can't come in to school and see us in person. The Mead Trust – as well as our individual schools – has a range of social channels that we post to, as well as the emails and text messages that we send out. If you use any of these platforms, then please follow / like us! We will be sharing updates, but also love to feature news and achievements from our families, so make sure you tag us so that we can share your posts with our wider community.

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/themeadtrust>

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-mead-academy-trust/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/themeadtrust>



### #LockdownLearning

While you are supporting your children to access their learning at home, we would love to see your photos. It might be joining a live lesson, or completing an activity on Seesaw – but it might also be some home baking, going for your daily exercise, joining in with Joe Wicks – or something else!

Show us what you are up to, and tell us about your #lockdownlearning, to inspire and support others, and join our virtual community for the next few weeks.

**Post your photos with #lockdownlearning and tag us @themeadtrust on [twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) and we will share them at [www.themeadtrust.org/lockdown-learning](http://www.themeadtrust.org/lockdown-learning) (Please don't email your photos in to school, with so much going on we are not able to accept them on email at the moment.)**

# For the attention of all parents

Will your child be four years old  
before September 2021?

**You must apply for a  
primary school place**

**Apply online at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)**

Application forms for Wiltshire residents are also available at  
all Wiltshire Council Offices.

**The deadline for applications is  
Midnight on 15 January 2021**

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

Ring customer services on 01225 713010  
for more information or to request our guide –  
Finding a primary school place in Wiltshire

**Wiltshire Council**