

The Mead at Wingfield

Week beginning – 8th March 2021



Headteacher – Mr Mark Stenton
Head of Site – Miss Emma Holton

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Dear Mead Families,

It goes without saying that the warmest of welcomes awaits every single child on Monday morning – we can't wait to have everyone back in school. We know that some children and families will be a little bit anxious, which is totally understandable, but all will be ok. The same procedures that worked so well from September to Christmas will keep us safe as we return to normality via careful steps and stages. The most important thing will be amazing teaching and learning, in synergy as always with excellent care and support for all. We can certainly guarantee this moving forwards in what are hopefully more predictable times ahead.

I have been talking to Team Mead Staff this week about our expectations for the future. We will keep 'the main thing, the main thing' – ***curriculum led school improvement, leading to excellent progress and attainment for every child at a happy school in which they thrive.*** We have set the highest targets for all classes and we will work relentlessly as a team to deliver an outstanding education for your children. We had a superb autumn term, with excellent progress being made – and we will ensure that continues every school day. One thing we're obsessing about when the children return is **reading**. A love of reading must be at the heart of any school – and you can expect to hear the children talking so much about their love of books and the great reading experiences they're having in school. Miss Davies and Mrs O'Leary are our reading leads, and their excellent plans, coaching and challenges will underpin the eternal truth that reading for pleasure and children's educational process go hand in hand. Outstanding schools must have an outstanding culture of reading. Please help us in any little way you can by always encouraging daily reading for pleasure 😊

As I mentioned in my letter to the children earlier this week, we have much to look forward to alongside wonderful lessons in the remaining half of this school year. Auditions will begin for our summer show, and we hope to have a real 'whole school' feel to our performance of 'Alice in Wonderland' (more to follow from our amazing Performing Arts team). In addition, Sports Day will return and, if the roadmap out of the pandemic is working, both events will see families back on site celebrating the children's achievements. Finally, the 19th March is Comic Relief's 'Red Nose Day'; a chance for us all to both contribute to the charity and dress up as super-heroes for the day!

Can't wait to see you all next week.



Warm regards
Mark Stenton
Headteacher

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

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Re: Full re-opening of school on Monday 8th March 2021.

As you will be aware from the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, schools are planning for a full re-opening to all pupils on 8th March. We are delighted that this is occurring and again thank you for your forbearance and tremendous support during this lockdown and the whole of the Covid pandemic situation. You have been magnificent and we have felt very supported by you.

The Department for Education's statutory guidance for full re-opening in March is almost identical to that which we received for full re-opening in September. This is good, in that it means we all come back into routines that are very familiar and which were successful throughout the autumn, enabling school to feel as normal as possible whilst observing sensible systems of control and protective measures to keep everyone safe. As such, we will continue with:

- Socially distanced queuing at the entrance and a one-way system with no loitering.
- Children having normal whole class teaching but mixing within the wider school 'bubble' at playtime and lunchtime.
- Allowing bags and coats but limiting the amount of items travelling between school and home.
- Coming to school in Mead sports kit for PE lessons (Y1-6).
- Frequent hand washing routines throughout the school day.
- All adults wearing protective face masks in communal areas of school, including all parents when entering the school grounds to queue.
- Good ventilation at all times (external doors and windows when warm enough to do so, windows and internal doors on colder days).
- Normal school uniform (with extra layers if needed due to the increased ventilation requirements).
- Before and After School Care will resume but still be in the restricted format we had in the autumn term as we have to limit bubble mixing.

We very much look forward to having all of the children back. Please contact us if you have any urgent questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely
Mark Stenton

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 (including over the weekend and during school holidays).

For all other communication, (Covid or otherwise), please email wingfieldoffice@themead.wilts.sch.uk
Thank you for your assistance in helping us keep everyone safe.

INSET DAYS 2020 - 2021: 7TH JUNE 2021

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Wingfield Updates

Staffing update

Mrs Sarah Penny will be leaving the Wingfield team on Wednesday 10th March. We would like to thank her for all she has done in support of our school community over the last 6 months and wish her well for the future. We are currently looking at how we cover the office role at Wingfield over the coming weeks and months and I hope to be able to give you more details about how we will move forward with this next week.

Wingfield office email address

I wanted to take this opportunity to ask all of you to please use the wingfieldoffice@themead.wilts.sch.uk email address. If you use office@themead.wilts.sch.uk, your email is received by the Hilperton office and then sent internally back to us; consequently there may be a delay in us getting a response to you. The 'Wingfield office' email address is monitored throughout the day and any questions can be answered promptly. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Returning to school from 8th March

We have seen the first signs of Spring in the last week and it has been so wonderful to have the sun shining after such a dark and cold winter. The weather will continue to be changeable over the coming weeks, so please ensure that your child still brings a coat to school every day. They will also need to bring their wellies or field shoes, if you have had these at home.

Please bring reading books back to school on Monday 8th March. Current reading books can be kept in your child's bag to read at home and at school. Copies of class texts also need to be returned so that they can be used for lessons in school from 8th March. Thank you.

Please also bring children's exercise books that they were using at home. There will be boxes for these to be collected, in order to be quarantined before being reviewed by staff.

Please contact us via wingfieldoffice@themead.wilts.sch.uk if you have any queries.

As we come to the end of this period of Lockdown and we can fully reopen our wonderful school again soon, the staff and I wanted to send our thanks and appreciation for all you have done to support your children with their learning during this time. You have all been incredible and the dialogue between staff, children and families has been personalised and purposeful. We feel extremely grateful to be working with such a supportive parent community.

Take care and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday. Please look out for this wonderful new piece of art near the gates when you arrive; it has been created to celebrate our full reopening and help us remember this unprecedented time in our community's history.

Best wishes,

Miss Emma Holton
Head of Site



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How to create a 'calm place' for your child

A 'calm place' represents an area where your child can go to help regulate their emotions. It is a place your child can feel calm, safe, cosy and where their feelings are validated.

Find a spot in your house that is quiet and not too busy. This could be a corner in a room or an area in your child's bedroom.

Here are a few ideas of things you can use to create your child's calm space:

- A child's tent
- Attach a canopy
- Lay out a blanket or a mat



Next, focus on making the space cosy! Add some cushions, pillows or extra blankets and some soft toys.

When you have created the space, it's good to have a calm place basket or box. This has lots of things to help your child regulate their emotions. The basket/box could include:

- Paper/colouring pencils/mindfulness colouring sheets
- Bubble wrap to pop
- Squidgy ball/fidget cube
- Feathers
- Bubbles to blow
- Favourite cuddly toy
- Paper for ripping
- Lego bricks
- Playdough/pot of slime
- Puzzles
- Dot to Dot
- A way to listen to music
- Books



Your child will need some support with understanding when to use their calm place to start with. Useful phrases you might use to encourage this would be:

"I am wondering if you are feeling; sad, angry, scared, worried" etc.... "Do you need to take a break and go to your calm place?"

Name and validate the feeling, so your child can start to recognise the feelings/emotions they are experiencing.





Looking after yourself...

In order to care effectively for our children, our number one priority is to care for ourselves first.

To help you with this during the Covid-19 lockdown, read these ideas for getting started:

- Remind yourself that you are a parent and not a superhero. You don't have to do extraordinary or exciting things for your child to feel safe and happy. Find some simple ways you can enjoy being together, without the pressure of leading activities or 'entertaining' your child.
- If you're sharing the care of your child with another adult, create your own space in the house that you can withdraw to in order to rest and recharge. Let your child know where you will be, how long you will be away and when you will be back. Use your own special space daily. Allow yourself to do this without feeling guilty.
- If you're sharing the care of your child with another adult, and you are working from home, try to limit interruptions. Be clear with your child about when you are available and when you are unavailable. Setting boundaries around your work time will make it easier for you to be more present with, and emotionally available to your child when you do spend time with them.
- Make a plan for each day with your child. Keep some key parts of each day the same – for example begin the day with a fun exercise and end the day with a familiar bedtime ritual. At the end of each day, reflect on one good thing that you and your child shared during the day.
- Use time with friends and family (in person and/or online) as a source of support, reassurance and as a resource for new ideas
- Manage demands by being clear about what you can realistically do, rather than thinking about what you 'should' or 'ought' to do. Don't compare yourself with what you see other people doing on social media. If when looking at this, you end up feeling inadequate or unhappy...then don't look.
- Sometimes it is difficult to say 'no' to your child and keep to it. When you don't this can be confusing for your child and harder for you. Be open about when you feel you cannot do anything more than you are doing. Trust yourself that you are doing your best. You are good enough.
- Make sure you have some fun!

"When you do an activity with a child you fill their time. When you are connected with your child, you fill their heart" Viv Trask-Hall, Thrive Principal Trainer.

Remember to be kind to yourself.