



Message from Mr Reid

Welcome to our **new style newsletter** whilst the school is closed. The main purpose of this weekly update is to enable us to stay connected as a school community.

The lack of social interaction for children and parents is proving to be the area of greatest impact. We have been open each day for children of critical workers and now have a small team of teachers and TAs on a rota system. Slowly a routine is emerging.

I hope you have all survived your **first week of home learning!** Feedback so far has been positive regarding the CGP workbooks as it has avoided the need for printing worksheets out at home. Our initial intention was to provide enough work to get through to the Easter holidays. As it is becoming clearer that school closures will continue beyond Easter, we are now preparing and planning a different format for after the holidays. This will involve a daily structure with tasks being set by teachers. We are looking to utilise our subscription to MyMaths and exploring the possibilities of Google Classroom. We are all having to be creative and find different ways of working.

In this edition:

1. Message from Mr Reid
2. Star of the week
3. Rescue Writing & Art
4. Map 18
5. Inclusion News
6. "Last week" in school

HOME LEARNING

On the school website, there is now a page for home learning under each Year Group section.

Please **click on:**

[Home Learning Year 3](#)

[Home Learning Year 4](#)

[Home Learning Year 5](#)

[Home Learning Year 6](#)



Star of the Week is continuing but in a new format. The teachers will identify one child in their class (who has not received it this year) and we will email you at the beginning of the week. Please could you let us know by 3.30pm on Thursday something fantastic they have achieved at home that week. Photos welcome!

Map Challenge

I am also going to be setting a weekly map challenge. Each week in the newsletter you will find a map and a series of questions. The answers will be published the following week. If you like an element of competition, please email your answers to: office@amherst.kent.sch.uk

The first email received with all the answers correct, will be mentioned the following week, this includes staff!

Finally my advice regarding home learning is don't put too much pressure on yourself or your child. At school we have the advantage that children do what we ask them to do. It is not quite the same at home! Maintaining positive relationships is just as important as work that is completed. As the novelty wears off, a good idea will be to change the routine. Just swapping the morning and afternoon routine can make a difference. I'm sure you are all trying your hardest to make this work and doing a great job.

Best Wishes

Mr Reid

MA BOOK ANSWERS

We have now added a section on the school website to contain **MA BOOK ANSWERS**. Please remember we would like you to follow the normal homework pattern of how many pages each week. Please don't complete the whole book in a few weeks!

STAR OF THE WEEK



3A — Hunter H

Hunter has been great and has adapted very well to our new life. He has a desk set up in his room with all his books and stationary from school. He has also planted seeds for a mini garden on his windowsill. He has designed and built a shelf with his dad, learning about angles and woodwork.



3W — Edward H

Edward has adapted amazingly well to life at home. He's remained cheerful, helpful and is trying really hard with his school work. He's even helping out his little brother with learning letters! Another great thing he did this week is help me to make dinner (one of his favourites - salmon spaghetti)!



3S — Alex L-G

"I have been learning some anatomy this week. We first traced my body onto paper and then learnt about the vital organs. My mummy helped me and we also looked in books. I then had to draw the body organs in the right place inside the body!"



4C — Riley P

Riley has worked really hard on his Minecraft coding this week, solving problems with conditional iteration.



4SF— Poppy G

Poppy has been a great friend by lifting everyone's spirits online. She's been super helpful around the house, doing all her homework and helping her brother with his. She also organised the NHS clapping for all our neighbours.



4W—Amber H

Amber is so happy to hear she is star of the week that's awesome and she has been just that. Amber has been dedicated, willing and eager to learn despite what's happening around us and she has done well completing school work as well as lots of work around the house to help.



5B — Charlotte A

Charlotte embraced home schooling. She attended her Dutch School lesson on Skype, and really enjoyed it! She works hard at all her lessons, and scores in the top quartile for the Netherlands. She has been practicing her piano, and will continue with that and French on Fridays & we have all really enjoyed PE in the morning with Joe Wicks :)



5H— Edie G

Edie has been so positive as we adapt to our new home based way of living. She structured the days with her timetable and tutored her younger cousins via Skype + done her own maths. We are part of Gareth Malone's Home Choir, Joe's PE Group, Family Games Night and Edie's Hockey Academy to name a few clubs she has on offer for us!



5J— Connie C

Amongst other things, such as lots of Joe Wicks, MA Maths, tennis, baking for her vulnerable grandparents, and a power point on the Stone Age, Connie has had a busy week making a scrapbook / journal about her experience of being isolated due to the Coronavirus which she hopes to show to future generations.



6A— Jack P

This week Jack read a lot & completed his text books. He wanted to help the elderly people in our apartment block and baked a lovely carrot cake to give out to them. We planted apple seeds end of last week and have discussed photosynthesis. Jack has watched a few Netflix films with his dad and wrote his own script/story of Oceans 11.



6B— Josie H

Josie has planted a herb garden (botany,) become a basketball ace shot (PE), done some wonderful art (thanks to you tube tutorials), been practicing her French numbers and colours, and doing lots of flute and guitar and just learnt all about the Norman invasion! Total star!



6P— Elspeth L

She's been very disciplined in doing her homework—but that's not all! She's been on a few family bike rides in the sunshine as part of our daily exercise. The photograph was taken in front of Chevening church. She made her parents happiest though when she used a spade to scrape off all the moss from our front-door step.

PROJECT WHOLE SCHOOL

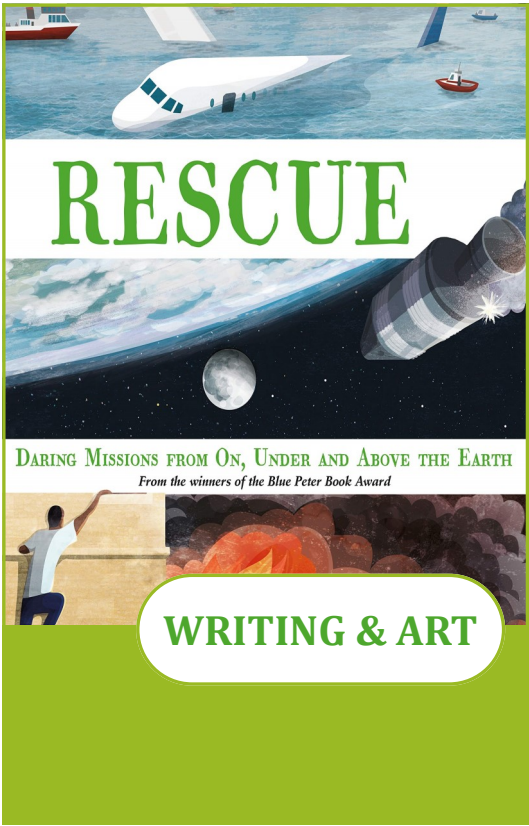
As you will be aware the children were completing the whole school book project Rescue by David Long just before school closed.

The children and staff were looking forward to sharing the amazing outcomes at Open Afternoon.

The children worked so hard and it is shame you didn't get a chance to see them in person.

If you would like to see more pictures please visit the gallery on the school website;

[Rescue Gallery](#)



Year 3



Year 4



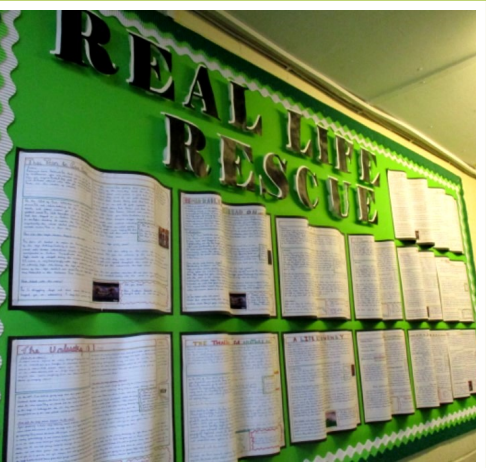
Year 4



Year 5 / 6



Year 5 / 6



Year 6

MAP 18 – COLD HARBOUR, LINCOLNSHIRE

Place names are a remnant of the past, revealing a history that has otherwise been forgotten or lost in the mists of time. Cold Harbour is thought to refer to abandoned settlements or dwellings used as refuges by travellers in Anglo-Saxon times. A handful of Cold Harbour names remain around the country as modern place names. This one near Grantham certainly supports the idea, with the important London to York ‘Old North Road’ running through it. While the Roman name for this road is not known, it is called Ermine Street (‘Earninga Straete’ in Old English) after the Earningas tribe.

Questions

Easy

- 1.Which place name on the map includes the name of a major capital city?
- 2.What is the highest number that appears on the map?

Medium

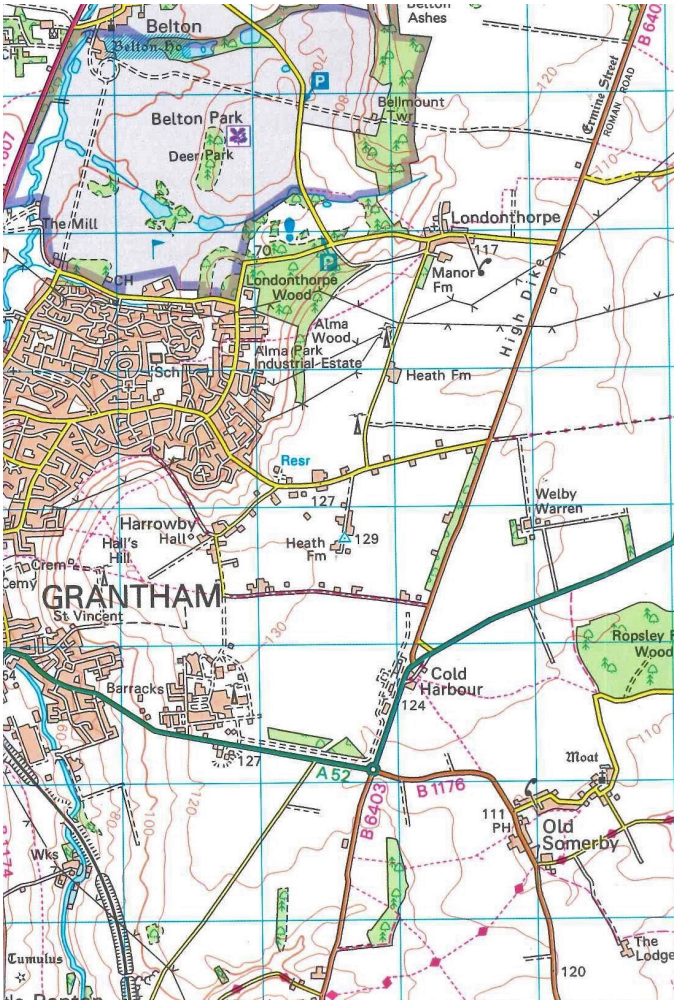
- 3. Which mast, indicated by a triangle with a zigzag on top, is furthest from a marked phone box?
- 4. Which of the following would you expect to be able to do in this map region?
 - A. Play golf
 - B. Visit a castle
 - C. Visit a National Trust site

Tricky

- 5. Which is the closest location to Cold Harbour that is labelled with something designed to contain water?
- 6. And what is the second-closest location to Cold Harbour that is labelled with something designed to contain water?

Challenging

- 7. Which location sounds like it could be an instruction to fasten your seat re-straint after stopping your car?



INCLUSION NEWS

March / April 2020

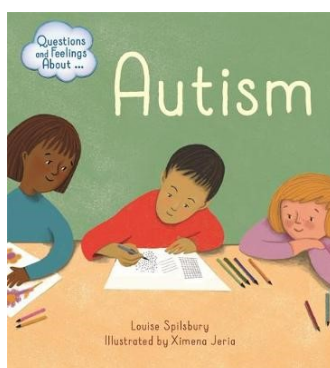
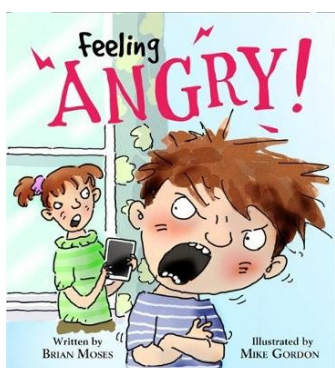
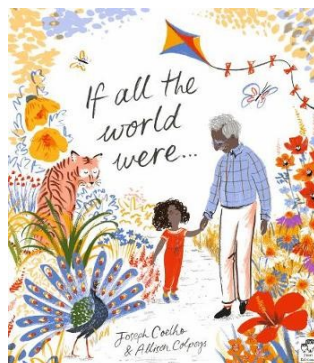
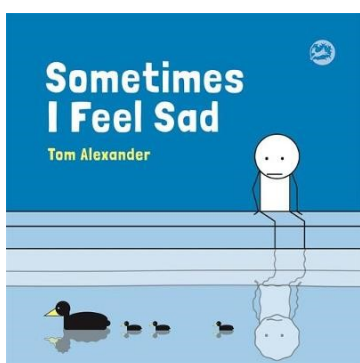
Children with anxiety or ASD may be helped by this specially written Social Story

<https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemics-and-the-Coronavirus.pdf>

It is written by Carol Gray, an expert on Social stories, for the National Autistic Society.

BRILLIANT BOOKLIST FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

If you are looking for books to support your child's wellbeing, here is a fantastic list of 33 books – chosen by children and parents - categorised according to need. The booklist is mainly focused on children in Key Stage 2 (aged 7-11), but includes titles aimed at a wide range of reading levels to support less confident readers, and to encourage children to read together with their siblings and parents/carers.



The six topics addressed by the range of books are: *Healthy minds / Worries / Feelings / The World around you / Dealing with tough times / When you have a condition*. Just go to <https://reading-well.org.uk/children>

I hope you have a peaceful Easter with your families.

Helen Holmes, Inclusion Manager
(helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk)



LAST WEEK IN SCHOOL

FOOTBALL

On Saturday 14th March, seven children participated in the Sevenoaks Schools tournament at Knole Academy. Amherst were against three other teams in the group stages - Chevening, Edenbridge and Kemsing. Amherst won all three group games: 1-0, 7-0 and 3-0 respectively. The team's confidence was high as a result of their fantastic attacking football and also maintaining a 'clean sheet' during each game! We were through to the knock-out stages.

In the semi-final, we played St Katharine's. It was a very tight contest and although Amherst dominated possession, the game ended in a 0-0 stalemate. As a result, it was down to penalties! After 5 superb penalties taken by Amherst, we proceeded through to the final!

In the final, we faced Sevenoaks Primary. After battling hard throughout the game and again playing some fantastic free-flowing, attacking football, the match ended 0-0. It was time for some more anxiously awaited penalties! Once again, Isaac, James, Theo and Ethan all scored brilliantly, ensuring that Amherst were the eventual tournament winners! Congratulations to James P, Luke M, Lucas S, Theo L, Rocco Y, Ethan T and Isaac M. Thank you to all the parents for their support.

Mr Barratt



NETBALL

On Saturday 14th March, a team of 8 children took part in the Sevenoaks District Netball Tournament. In the initial stage, the team faced three different games. As Amherst won all three of these group games, they then won their group meaning they progressed to the final stage. After playing two very competitive and challenging games against Lady Boswells and Anthony Roper, Amherst were declared the winners and proudly lifted The Winners Cup! This is an amazing achievement and the team played consistently well in all the matches. They worked fantastically well as a team and all their hard work practising shooting at break and lunch times this year definitely paid off!

The children who took part were: Anais K, Lily S, Ellen J, Caoimhe M, Eva G, Charlie T, Georgia L, Isabella H

Thank you to all the parents who came to support us and cheer us on during the morning.

Miss Parish and Miss Jones



AND MORE ...

CHESS

Kent U9 Team Success

Last Saturday Ben H played for Kent in the East zone Under 9 Team qualifier. He won all 3 of his games, and Kent won the zone, qualifying for the national final. Well Done!



UK Chess Challenge 2020

During the last 2 terms, everyone in Amherst Chess Club has been playing in the UK Chess Challenge- the largest children's chess tournament in the world. The first round is held in schools around the country, where each player plays 7 games, against a different opponent each week, and wins points and prizes along the way. The highest scorer from each group wins a trophy and qualifies for the next round, the Megafinals, and in addition those with 15 points or more also qualify for the Megafinals, to be held in September. Due to chess being cancelled this week, organisers have been given flexibility in allowing children who have missed sessions to still qualify for the Megafinals. The trophies will be presented when we return next term. The final results are as follows:

Year 3

Trophies: Rory S, Toby W, Fred K

Megafinal: Dane R, Harry D, Ewan S, Ethan W, Summer J

Year 4

Trophy: Ben H

Megafinal: Dylan R, Mick H, Daniel B, Isaac H, Edward O, Shabd L, Dylan D, Ava T, Emma G, Henry O, Taylor H

Year 5

Trophy: Lucas T

Megafinal: Max R, Benjamin H, Ryan H, Nicholas B, Jake A, Joseph NB, William M, William S, Nye B, William R

Year 6

Trophy: Noah T

Megafinal: Tessa H, Aoife G, Harry W, James H, George F, Oliver L

Girls' Lunchtime Chess

Trophy: Ava T

Megafinal: Ellie H, Elspeth L, Lizzie M, Lois M, Laila, Lilian K

