



# AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 29

## Message from Mr Reid

It has been a busy week following the **government’s announcement that children in Years R, 1 and 6 may be able to return to school on Monday 1st June.** If you have children in those year groups I’m sure you have been keenly anticipating this week the communication that would then follow from schools.

I hope you have all had **a chance to read the letter I sent out yesterday detailing our plan** for the return of Year 6 pupils on Monday 1st June. As you can imagine it has not been an easy task to read, understand and interpret government guidance to schools.

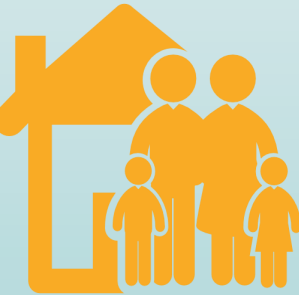
**In this edition:**

- 1. Message from Mr Reid
- 2 PTA.
- 3. Star of the week
- 4. Google Classroom
- 5. Map 38



The return of children to school provokes a **wide range of reactions from parents, children and teaching staff.** I’m sure some Year 6 parents will

have hit the Yes button within minutes of my letter. For others it will be an immediate No. For many of you, you now face a weekend of deliberation.



**Each family faces different pressures.** If you are working from home the ability to send even just one child back to school will be helpful. If you have found a good routine and home learning is working well for you, there may be more caution around sending your child back to school.

We also need to **consider what the children feel.** A key motivation for returning children to school is the concern around children’s mental health and the potential negative impact of not seeing their peer group. School will not be quite as we know it on 1st June but it will provide a wider social group for Year 6 than just their family.

Many of you may feel it is too early to send children back to school. I was fascinated by a teacher who posed the question to Boris Johnson, ‘Why is it OK for me to be in a classroom with fifteen children but I still can’t visit my family?’. **He didn’t really have an answer.**

**Over the next weeks and months we are going to be faced with many challenges around risk taking.** As restrictions are lifted we will all be faced with personal choices whether we wish to take the risk presented by the opportunities created for us as restrictions lift.

I understand that children returning on 1st June will be a risk. The government need society to begin to gradually mix to find out if the infection rate will increase. We all have different personal circumstances and tolerance levels that dictate what level of risk we are able to take. A key message during this period of change, as restrictions lift, is that **we should not judge each other on the decisions individuals make.** We are all doing our best to make the decisions that feel right for our families at each stage.

If you are a Year 6 parent please remember you need to provide us with a response through School Gateway by 9.00am Monday 18th May.

**On a lighter note,** I hope you have been enjoying viewing the five Peregrine Falcon chicks on the Winchester Cathedral webcam.

At the writing of this newsletter all five chicks are doing well. Please be aware you can waste a lot of time on the webcam! Click here: [Peregrine Webcam](#)



# AMHERST PTA

---

## Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that this note finds you and your families well, and that lockdown is being kind to you. Your PTA is now finally coming up for air, and are keen to bring some fun to your children.



## Photography competition!

You may remember that the theme is 'Happiness' and we imagine we could all do with a dose of this, more now than ever! We are therefore relaunching our photography competition.

The competition closing date will be **1<sup>st</sup> June**.

We are looking forward to seeing all of children's wonderful pictures and look forward to sharing them with you.

Please visit [AMHERST PTA](#) for more information.



- Entries must be submitted by Midnight, 1st June.
- Photos will be judged by professional photographers and members of the school community.
- Winners and Highly Commended photographs will be displayed at school.
- The winner will be awarded with the 'Amherst Young Photographer of the Year' Trophy
- There will be 12 awards with all winners receiving a framed copy of their photo, a certificate, a medal plus an invitation to attend a Photography Workshop.
- Please ensure that you have the permission from a person to take their photo as it will be displayed in public
- Please email your photo as a medium file size (150KB) to [Amherst.competitions@gmail.com](mailto:Amherst.competitions@gmail.com)
- £4 per photo (max. 5 entries)
- Please note – NO FEE, NO ENTRY



## Amherst School 1000 Miles Challenge

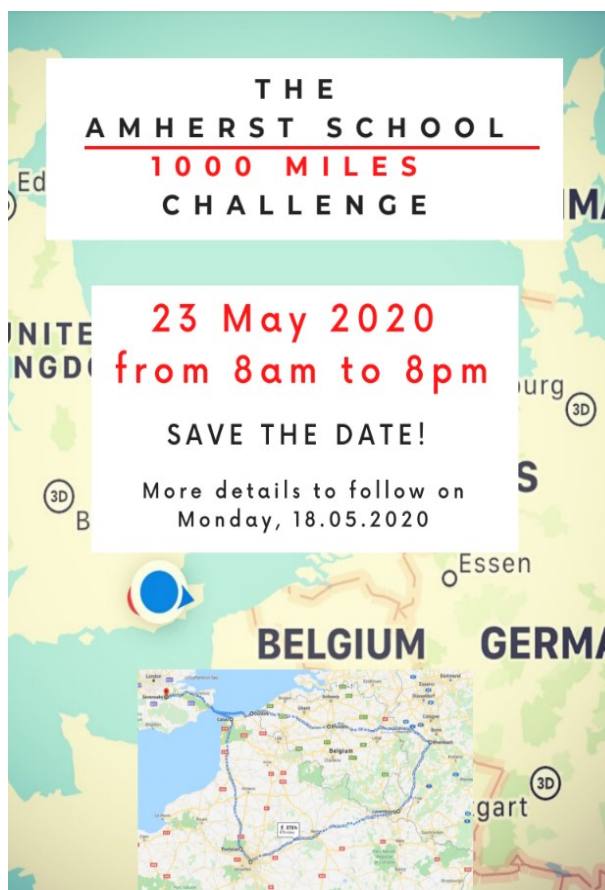
We are very excited to announce that our Amherst School 1000 Miles Challenge will take place on **Saturday, 23rd May from 8am to 8pm!**

We promised a fun Amherst School community event for all the children and families! Each child and their family can take part by walking, running, cycling, skipping, walking the dog, playing football in the garden, doing star jumps, dancing... All these activities will be counted and added up. We have adapted the original event so that it will be possible to do from home and with the current restrictions.

Between us, we will prove that amazing things which can happen when you work together!

More detailed instructions will follow on Monday but until then, **please save the date!**

Thank you so much,  
Your PTA team



# STAR OF THE WEEK



**3A — Eric B**

Eric loves being at home and working hard with his schoolwork, he is also enjoying making pizzas (he has even created his own pizza 'Ericeroni'). He is enjoying video calls with friends, and playing 'Roblox' and 'Minecraft'. He is also loving long walks in the Kentish countryside—he recently walked 6.7 miles!



**3W — Sofia B-W**

Sofia continues to practise her favourites: biking, football and skating on roller blades. She has enjoyed writing an information page about sports and doing arts work for school, and took on a new project of making different mosaics, using tiles, with her Dad. She has also been helping to cook all lunches for us.



**3S — Sven M**

Sven has been doing brilliantly at home, learning about the Romans, making ice cream, and helping out lots with chores! He has learned to meditate and keep calm when things are uncertain. He has been having fun each day running with our new pup. This is him with Mandan.



**4C — Luca R-H**

Luca is enjoying learning to play his Ukulele with his dad! He did his first lesson last week!



**4SF— Emma G**

Emma has been helping out at home by making up learning games for her little brother. She's also been enjoying doing art, creating lovely colourful pictures.



**4W— Hunter G**

Hunter has been keeping up to date with his Google classroom assignments on his Dad's laptop. He's also been learning French and polishing up his typing skills!



**5B — Isabelle P**

Isabelle has adapted well to lockdown and home schooling. She is enjoying the topic of Ancient Greece and has managed to continue all of her hobbies: Piano, Musical theatre and even swimming. Unfortunately swimming is only 'online dry drills' so she is really missing the water, her friends and teachers.



**5H— Emilia K**

Emilia has been working really hard on her schoolwork and has particularly enjoyed building a Trojan horse with her Dad. She has been trampolining, walking her puppy, coding, 'Skyping' friends and family, cycling and making doorstep deliveries of shopping, and giving away her old toys. We're very proud of Emilia's efforts.



**5J— Max R**

The highlight of Max's week was his birthday on Tuesday - he was thrilled with the wall of birthday photo messages from his friends at Amherst, THANK YOU ALL! He was given a tent so he's now a camping expert. Plus he's also become a hairdresser: doing a great job cutting his Dad's hair! He's also continued to work really hard at school and been an all-round superstar.



**6A— James P**

James has been working very hard this week and he's particularly enjoyed the challenge of making a stained glass window with clear plastic and paper. He's also been very helpful in home schooling his little brother!! He has also been the subject of some creative hairdressing!



**6B— Oliver L**

Aside from keeping up with Google classroom work, Oliver has been helping his brother with some of his school work. In free time in the afternoons Oliver has managed to complete his Lego Technics set from Christmas, as well as going out on bike rides and practicing his football in the garden.



**6P— Jack A**

During lockdown Jack was looking for a new challenge and so he started rowing! He found it hard but has persisted and is working towards his goal of 5000 metres.



# OTHER

## Breakfast Club Assistant

Please click on [Job vacancy](#) to apply online and join our team!

**JOB VACANCY**  
**Apply Now!**

## Google Classroom

Thank you for your continued support of our google classrooms. It is amazing to see the children's work as they submit it.



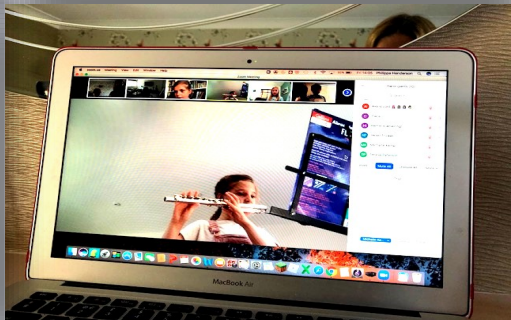
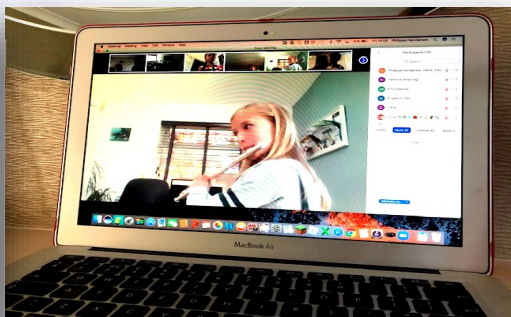
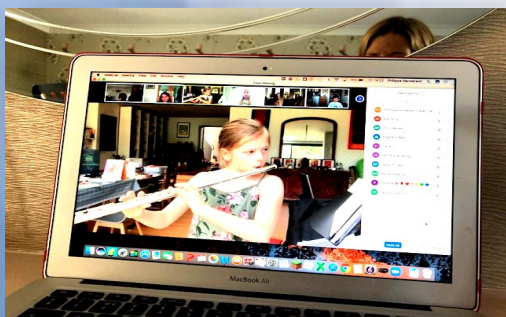
## Assembly

View Mr Reid's assembly of this week here.



## Zoom Music Concert

Mrs Henderson's students took part in a Zoom music concert today, playing their flutes and recorder. They all practised really hard for the concert and all played beautifully. They all introduced their pieces to the rest of the group and gave musical performances.



**ANSWER**

### **Answers to last week's map challenge - Map 35**

Well done to all families who entered. The first family to reply with the most amount of correct answers (only one incorrect answer) was:

**First Place:** The Collins Family

#### **Answers**

1. Five
2. 113
3. Three: spring ('Spr'), reservoir ('Resr') and pool ('Pool')
4. Bochym Enclosure
5. Six (in 'Bridge', 'Dobnas', 'BS' x2, 'B3293' and 'Bochym')
6. Nine
7. 400m

# MAP 38 — SPACE AGE RELIC STILL DELIVERING

## A Walker’s Friend on a Foggy Day

As part of the switch to a national grid by Ordnance Survey in 1936, a retriangulation was undertaken. Eleven stations were reused from the work done a century earlier (yellow line on map), followed by a mammoth task to fix and build 6,500 iconic ‘trig’ pillars often in the least accessible places imaginable. Accurate to 20 metres over the entire length of Great Britain, it required good weather and took until 1962 to complete. In total the re-triangulation had over 30,000 coordinated points, compared to the current satellite-based network OS Net (green squares on map) which performs the same function with just 110 points to an accuracy of 3 millimetres.

## Questions

### Easy

- 1. Which of the four compass points (north, south, east, west) does not appear on the map?
- 2. How many times does ‘shire’ appear on the map?

### Medium

- 3. How many place names contain colours?
- 4. Based on the map. What do the words ‘beacon’, ‘gore’ and ‘horse’ have in common?

### Tricky

- 5. Can you find three above-the-neck parts of the body within the names of places on the map?

### Challenging

- 7. Which trig pillar location is both 1° south of Rollright and 1° east of Cleeve Hill?

