



AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 30

Message from Mr Reid

I hope you have all had a good week and had opportunities to enjoy the sunny weather.

Regarding the proposed return to school for Year 6 on Monday 1st June, a separate letter is being sent today to all parents.



As you are aware, we have been asked to plan for the return of Year 6 children on Monday 1st June, subject to the government being satisfied that their criteria for re-opening schools has been met. We expect the government to make this decision on Thursday 28th May.

After the government announcement on 28th May, Amherst Governing Body need to provide final approval that they are satisfied with the risk assessments completed and the proposed plan to expand pupil numbers by admitting Year 6. This meeting will take place during the morning on Friday 29th May. The outcome of this meeting will be communicated to all Year 6 parents immediately on Friday 29th May. As you can appreciate, this is an ever-changing dynamic situation and plans can change at very short notice.

SCHOOL'S OUT

Today is the final day of Term 5, with next week being half term. Well done for completing a whole term of home learning. We have been so **impressed with the quality and quantity of work the children have submitted on Google Classroom** and the level of engagement.

We are all in agreement that it would be far better if the children had spent Term 5 in school but it is clear that so many of **you have done an amazing job educating your children at home**. They will have experienced a **wide range of learning opportunities**, many that would not have been possible in school.

The children and you deserve a **break from Google Classroom over half term**. I'm sure many of you have to continue working from home over the holiday but hopefully you will get the chance to have a break.

I would like to **share with you a quote that has guided me** throughout my time as a headteacher, written by Mike Brearley (ex England cricket captain):

We could speak of antinomies of leadership: passion and detachment, vision and common sense, an authoritarian streak and a truly democratic interest in team and points of view. One requires conviction, but also the capacity not to rush to answers but to be able to tolerate doubt and uncertainty.

I have a copy of that quote framed on my office wall (written by my father who is a keen cricketer and excellent at calligraphy!). During the last two months I have read it many times. The ability to tolerate doubt and uncertainty has been especially needed.

Please take the time to read the letter that will be sent out today providing information about the possible return of Year 6 after half term.

UPDATE



Year 5 Kent Test Update

Please see below an update from Matt Dunkley
CBE Kent County Council Corporate Director,
Children, Young People and Education:

Dear Parents,

We understand that many of you with children in Year 5 are very anxious to know what will happen about the Kent Test when the new school year starts in September. We are carefully considering what might be deliverable, depending on advice from central government as the pandemic runs its course and decisions are made about the easing of lockdown for children of primary school age.

Many factors could change between now and the end of term and this means that we are currently unable to tell you exactly how we will assess children for grammar school in the new academic year. We can confirm, however, that we will need some way to identify which children are eligible.

Testing has the benefit of being available to the thousands of grammar school applicants we normally assess every year, however recently they have arrived in Kent and wherever they usually study, even if they are home educated, so it would be the most straightforward option if it is possible. Whatever is decided, though, we need to be confident that we can keep the risk to children and their teachers as low as possible, allowing grammar schools meet their legal obligations in a fair and transparent way, while allowing KCC to stay within the national timetable for coordinating school admissions.

We appreciate that everyone of school age is missing classroom teaching, but it is fortunate that there are many excellent resources available through schools and education sites for children. Familiarisation material for the Kent Test can also be found in the “Test Paper” tab below.

We will update the website for everyone’s benefit when we have received further guidance from the Department for Education and there is a clearer understanding of what arrangements may be possible. In the meantime, we would ask that parents monitor the Kent Test page for updates, rather than sending individual enquiries. We do understand that uncertainty is difficult, especially for children, but KCC is unable to confirm what arrangements will be in place until there is a clearer understanding of how children are likely to return to school in greater numbers.

Registration 

Registration for the Kent Test will proceed as normal between 1st June - 1st July. Please go to [KENT TEST REGISTRATION](#) to register your child for the Kent Test.

We will be organising a parent consultation for all Year 5 parents. This will not be face to face. We are yet to confirm the format or dates but it will be within the registration window.

As a **parent of a Year 5 child myself this year I acutely understand your worries.** I understand why KCC can not give greater detail at this stage of any possible changes. My advice would be to continue as if the test is going to take place in September. Try and keep calm and not transmit your anxieties to your child. **Easier said than done!**

AMHERST PTA

Amherst School 1000 Miles Challenge

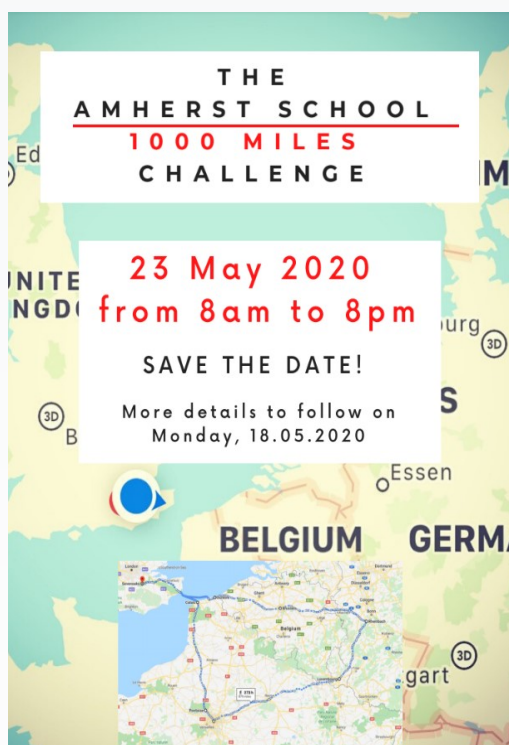
We are very excited to announce that our Amherst School 1000 Miles Challenge will take place on **Saturday, 23rd May from 8am to 8pm!**

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



FUNDRAISING THANK YOU

A huge thank you to **Mrs Terry** for supporting the school with a fantastic initiative of making curries for families in return for a donation to the school. Apparently it is the best curries in TOWN!!



BREAKFAST Club Assistant

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

JOB VACANCY
Apply Now!

ANSWER

Answers to last week's map challenge - Map 38

Well done to Mrs Savage, first member of staff this week!
Well done to all families who entered. The first family to reply with the most amount of correct answers was:

First Place: The Stanger family

Answers

1. East (north in Northampton, south in Southampton/South Gloucestershire, and West in West Berkshire/Westbury Down
2. Eleven
3. Four: Redditch, White Horse Hill, Wingreen and Blackdown Pillar
4. They all precede 'Hill'
5. Nose in Dunnose, mouth in Bournemouth and head in St Alban's Head
6. Butser, at 51° N and 1° W

STAR OF THE WEEK



3A — Max P

Max has been enjoying the sunshine this week in between home school sessions. He has particularly liked his art projects and creating a dinosaur information text.



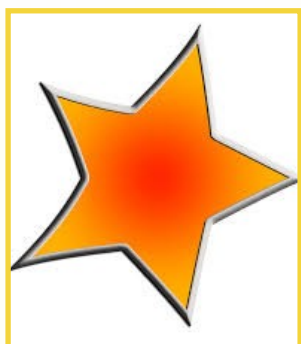
3W — Oscar A

Oscar has been a true star this week, getting on with his work independently while Mum and Dad are working. He created a fabulous piece of information writing on the computer and has been busy learning new skills and writing games on Scratch and Zu3d. He has been playing with brother Albie in the garden (and teaching him a quite a few cheeky new habits).



3S — Lauren D

Lauren has been coping well with home learning and she loves learning to bake and cook. She helped make afternoon tea as the weather was glorious and we were having a picnic in the garden. She did really well, especially baking the scones which are a firm favourite of hers!



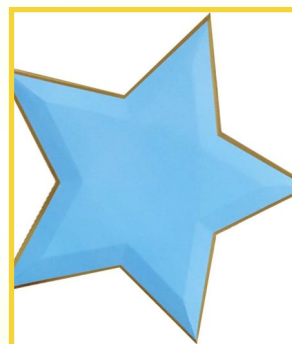
4C — Martin J

Martin is enjoying his home schooling experience, in particular the tuck shop and his daily maths assignments. On Wednesday, he decided to quickly do 14 'MyMaths' lessons in one go because it was so much fun. He has been practising the piano, helping with gardening and lots of tasks around the house, including entertaining his 5-year-old sister.



4SF— Arnav T

This week Arnav has been busy writing poems and building Lego creatures! Here he is with one of his inventions his Lego 'War machine'.



4W— Alex E

Alex has been very busy completing all the homework tasks as well as practicing piano and singing on zoom. She keeps herself occupied by playing outside, on FaceTime with friends and family, and doing lots of arts and crafts. We are very proud with how Alex is coping with the lockdown, she keeps us smiling every day.



5B — Abi F

Abi has adapted well to home schooling although missing her friends and teachers. She is really enjoying learning all about Greece and loved drawing the Greek mythical beasts. She is also busy keeping in contact with friends and doing clubs like ballet, street dance and cubs via Zoom.



5H— Elizabeth S

Elizabeth has been working hard at her schoolwork this week and she's also been learning helpful tasks around the house. She has been cycling a lot, including with no hands, but her biggest achievement of lockdown though has been mastering unicycling!



5J— Hannah S

Hannah has been working very hard this week and remaining positive. She has been very determined in her schoolwork and has been setting a good example to her younger brother Ben, which has been a great help! She has been enjoying chatting to friends on Zoom and has indulged us by baking some lovely biscuits too! She has been enjoying daily bike rides with the family and lots of fresh air.



6A— Genevieve D-P

Genevieve has been an absolute star with her school work and helping out at home looking after her baby brother while Mum and Dad work from home. She says senior school will be a doddle after this lockdown experience! She is very much looking forward to being back at Amherst very soon.



6B— Sofia v E

Sofia has been an absolute star in the kitchen - she has baked birthday cupcakes and helped to create a delicious pasta dish inspired by Jamie Oliver. She has also been diligently sticking to her school work schedule and has won most netball shooting contests in our house!



6P— Lily S

Lily completed a great persuasive speech on deforestation. She's enjoying her home schooling and taking a very grown up approach to organise her work independently.

MAP 24 — WHEN RETAIL THERAPY STRIKES

Lakeside Retail Park, West Thurrock

With rising living standards and greater car ownership, the out-of-town retail centre has come to dominate our shopping and leisure habits over the last 30 years. Lakeside in West Thurrock is not only a great study for the geographer, but has grown to be the largest retail area in Europe and a tourist attraction in its own right. Despite being a former chalk pit and located near industrial areas, good communication links have encouraged the growth of housing, making it a desirable place to live too. So maybe it isn't quite as out-of-town as it was!

Questions

Easy

1. The name of which planet appears on the map, either in its own right or within another world?
2. Which two words on the map are direct opposites of one another?

Medium

3. Which letter of the alphabet is the only one that doesn't appear on this map? And what is the first letter of the alphabet, working from A to Z, that doesn't appear on the map capitalised?
4. If you were to draw a path joining all of the schools marked on the map, reading from west to east, what letter would this most closely resemble?

Tricky

5. In how many different colours do numbers appear on the map? Count both shades of orange as the same colour.

Challenging

6. Given that the scale of the map is 1:20 000, how far apart are the two most distant places of worship, to the nearest 250 metres as the crow flies?

