



AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 31

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Message from Mr Reid

I hope you had a **good half term holiday** and spent plenty of time outside enjoying the wonderful weather.

It has been **fantastic to welcome back Year 6 children and Key Worker children this week**. On Monday morning we had 84 Year 6 children arrive, all strictly following the staggered start time. It has been a highly successful first week and this is down to the children and staff adapting brilliantly to the new conditions and restrictions. The children have arrived with enthusiasm and really enjoyed seeing their friends again.

The **proposed plan has so far been successful** when put into practice. Children have adapted well to working within a smaller class, shortened school day and playing within their zone at break time and lunchtime. Some have even said they prefer this version of school!



Years 3, 4 and 5 continue to follow **Google Classroom** and engagement is generally very high. Like anything in life, the more you put in, the more you get. I have observed some wonderful dialogues between children, parents and teachers enabling feedback and support. An interesting recent article I read, stated that as **restrictions begin to ease** and there are more opportunities for families to access outside of the home, interest in home schooling may start to diminish. I would encourage you to **keep your children engaged with a regular daily routine**. Once a routine is lost it can be hard to reestablish. Many families find that they are able to have a productive morning and then enjoy other activities in the afternoon.

Regarding the return to school of Years 3, 4 and 5, there has been no recent update from the DfE. I don't get any advance warning and read the news like you to try to find out what might be changing in the future. Press speculation regarding a return of all pupils in July seems to have gone quiet but this doesn't mean there couldn't be a government announcement. We are currently right on the cusp of pupil and staff capacity under the current protective measures that schools have to follow. Until class sizes are restored to 32 pupils I am struggling to see a way forward. If I receive any updates I will let you know.



THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to the children in AMHERST CHOIR who produced an amazing version of 'You Raise Me Up' as a thank you to all staff. It brought many staff to tears when they watched it. Thank you to all the adults involved in its production as its slickness must have required a huge amount of work and effort. Please click on the picture to **listen** to the choir:



YEAR 5 PARENT CONSULTATIONS

As mentioned in the previous newsletter **we will be providing Year 5 parents with a consultation**. Traditionally this consultation is help you make an informed choice whether to enter your child for the Kent Test.

Under the current circumstances, with such little contact between home and school, even if you are not entering your child for the Kent Test you are welcome to book a consultation.



We have decided that the **format of the consultation will be a telephone call**. We will continue use School Interviews as the booking system. Further details will be sent to Year 5 parents at the beginning of next week.

The consultations will take place on **Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th June**. They will still be **ten minutes long**, and strict time keeping will be essential!

Please be aware teachers will not have as much information this year due to not having taught your child since March and also not having **June assessment data**. Most children did complete an NFER assessment just before school closure in March and an assessment in December. However, **we often see a pattern of their June assessment being higher than their March score**. This is not unusual so please do not be alarmed if your child's March score is lower than their end of Year 4 June assessment!

The **Year 5 teachers will do their best to provide some insight** to which type of school your child will be best suited to and where they will thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Ultimately it is **you as parents who decide whether your child sits the test** and we are always **supportive** of all decisions taken.

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

REGISTER



AMHERST PTA

AMHERST 1000 Mile Challenge

We have been so incredibly overwhelmed with the number of families who took part in the Amherst 1000 Mile challenge. **Thank you to you all !!**

Click on [UPDATE](#) to see **all the photos of the day**, contributions made by everyone and to find out **HOW FAR** we travelled!

UPDATE

'Amherst 1000 Mile Challenge' Special

Photographer Competition

We have relaunched the photo competition and moved the **closing date for entries to 19th June**. All other details have not changed but if you do need us to send you the details, please drop us a note (Amherst-chair@outlook.com). The entries we have seen so far have been really fantastic and a real joy to receive – thank you to your children for sharing their ‘happiness’ with us!

AMHERST PTA

AMHERST YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Theme 'Happiness'

ENTRIES TO BE SUBMITTED BY 19 JUNE



PTA Meeting via Zoom Thursday, 11th June at 8pm

Join Zoom Meeting 8-8.40pm

Meeting ID: 716 3756 4037

Password: 0uMd4V

Join Zoom Meeting 8.40 - 9.20pm

Meeting ID: 794 1075 8763

Password: 0xidMd

STAR OF THE WEEK



3A — Jonah C

Jonah is enjoying being at home and has been working hard on his schoolwork - particularly in maths and ICT! He has been helping out at home with chores, playing on his new rope swing, going on family bike rides and playing lots of Minecraft! He has also started reading all the Harry Potter books and is now on the fifth book!



3W — Teja V

This week Teja has been doing lots of learning, exercising and relaxing!



3S — Georgia C

Georgia has been doing her school work, enjoying playing in the garden with our cats and her sisters, having tennis lessons, cooking with grand-ma, having riding lessons and spoiling our horse!! We are also moving back into our house after 10 months next week and she has a whole new bedroom! A lot has been happening!



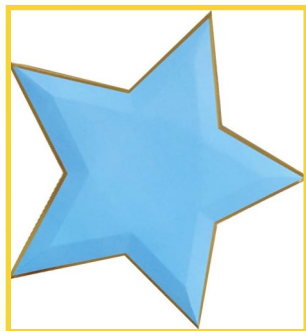
4C — Xander R

Xander has been doing well with his home-schooling, he especially enjoyed writing his dragon poem. He has loved the beautiful weather and loves going out and practicing on his new skate board. He has also been improving greatly with his piano. His smoked salmon and scrambled egg on toast surprise breakfasts he makes for his family have been amazing.



4SF— Isla C

This week Isla has spent lots of time cuddling her new baby sister Alice!



4W— Sophia M

Sophia has been working very hard during her first week back at school. For her history project, she has created a fact file on the Tudor Rose, which includes this model that she baked and decorated.



5B — Gemma R

Gemma has adapted really well in Lockdown, but she misses the school routine and her friends and teachers. At home, she has enjoyed doing art with different techniques and styles and Zoom clubs. We have been having lots of BBQ's, picnics and pancakes as well as keeping in touch with family abroad. She has kept up to date with school work and enjoyed the Greek topic too!



5H— Emily R

Emily has been teaching herself guitar from online videos and had a 'jam' session with her brother - she is aiming to learn Alicia Key's song 'Underdog'. She has been making dinner on Sundays to honour 'Mum's Day Off' and cooked fantastic meatballs and some 'AyMayZing' Brioche. She is really missing her friends and her teachers and hopes that everyone is safe and well.



5J— Tabitha S

Tabitha has enjoyed reading about Greek myths especially as she has Greek heritage! She has created some amazing illustrations at home. During half term Tabitha learned how to fish and caught some whoppers!



6A— Maxwell T

Maxwell has enjoyed playing lots of basketball this week and thrashing me at table tennis most days... and he's been great every morning setting our breakfast for us and even folding napkins. We've all enjoyed getting out after the school run and enjoying the sun on the green. Enjoying pepperoni (his favourite!) pizzas there too on a Tuesday evening.



6B— Toby H

Toby has been busy helping out in the kitchen over the past weeks cooking and baking. Last night he helped prepare dinner for us all. He particular enjoyed making apple crumble!



6P— Daisy B

Daisy has loved going back to school this week and seeing her friends again, and has adapted well to the new routine. She enjoys telling us about lessons on the field, playing cricket and their game of splat! She continues with her 'Boxercise' once home from school, as she enjoys keeping fit and misses PE and school football. She has spent lots of time with our dog Charlie, who misses Daisy not being around!

CHESS



EVERYONE IS WELCOME to join the Amherst School Online Chess Club!

Click on the icon to create an account for your child. Use the **sign in** and then **register button**. You will choose a **username** for your child (please note a username can't be changed once chosen).

Now join the Amherst School team by clicking 'Join Team'.

In the message box, you will see the words, 'Hello, I would like to join the team'.

Within the message box, it's vital to add the **pupil's name** and **class** to confirm he or she is a pupil at the school, as we can only approve membership with this information (a check-

Amherst Chess Tournament

The first Primary Schools Team battle has been organised for **Wednesday 10th June, 4.30pm-5.40pm**. Amherst and 5 other schools have entered so far. Amherst chess club members register in advance - click on [Register now](#) and select 'join'.

REGISTER NOW!

SPORT CHALLENGES



Hockey

Please **click on the icon** to visit the **Sevenoaks hockey club** site to find out about the hockey lockdown skills challenges!

Everybody who enters will be invited to a taster session once hockey resumes, if you enter your e mail address into the form where you enter your scores.



Tennis

Please **click on the icon** to visit the **Sevenoaks tennis academy** website to find the challenges.

To enter, please email tennisacademybookings@gmail.com with the following information :

Participants initials, Year Group or Adult School Category - With Racket / non Racket or if you want to enter both it is not a problem!



Athletics

Please **click on the icon** to visit the **Sevenoaks Athletics Club** website to find the challenges.

Instructions on what to do were emailed to parents earlier in the week.

Answers to last week's map challenge - Map 24

The first family to reply with the most amount of correct answers was:

First Place: The Collins family

Answers

1. Mars (in West Thurrock Marshes)
2. 'Low' in Low Well Wood and 'High' in Mean High Water
3. 'Z' is the only letter that doesn't appear on the map; the first letter not to appear capitalised is 'U'
4. 'V'
5. Seven: pink, white (or transparent), green, orange, black, red and blue
6. 3,750m

ANSWER

Mr Reid's assembly can be found here:

1 June 2020



MAP 6 — HOLDING BACK THE SEA

Thames Barrier, London

The Thames Barrier spans 520 metres and prevents the floodplain of most of Greater London (around 125 square kilometres) from being inundated by exceptionally high tides and dangerous storm surges moving up from the North Sea. It has been operational since 1984 and has been closed (raised) almost 200 times to protect against tidal flooding and for combined tidal/fluviat events. The barrier consists of ten steel gates with the main gates standing as high as a five-storey building when raised.

Questions

Easy

- How many occurrences of the following words (including words that start with these words) are there on the map? A) Mud B) War C) Thames
- Can you find two neighbouring parallel streets that start with opposing compass points?

Medium

- Can you find two roads that are named after animals?
- Can you find a place whose name starts with a chemical element?

Tricky

- Can you find two places that are each named after one half of a very well-known married couple?

Challenging

- Given that the scale of the map is 1:10 000, how far is it as the crow flies from the Thames Barrier Centre to the closest war memorial, to the nearest 50 metres?

