



AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 12

Message from Mr Reid

We have been considering for some time how we can **enhance children's playtimes and lunchtimes** at Amherst. In the past we have explored options such as a new adventure play structure. Being a large school I have always been concerned that whatever new playtime equipment was introduced it would not enable all children to use it everyday.

Since returning to school the children have been amazing but I am aware that playtimes and lunchtimes are somewhat restricted due to the zones. They used to have full access of the site but now each year group has a designated area.

Whilst I was on a run last weekend I **was considering how to improve playtimes for all children** and what is it they really want. The answer then became clear - **toys**! The children really want toys to play with at playtime and lunchtime.

This led to the concept of **Toy Pods**. A year group pod that contains a wide range of small toys for the children to play with. **Toys such as ...**

Lego, Top Trumps, DOBBLE, ACTION FIGURES, PLAYMOBIL, Lego Friends, CARS, mini magnetic chess sets, MONSTER TRUCKS, Rubix Cubes, DINOSAURS, VORTEX HOWLERS



Toys, games and puzzles facilitate play and encourage children to work collaboratively, they provide pleasure and the opportunity to share an interest with another child.



The introduction of Toy Pods will provide the children with higher levels of enjoyment and ensure playtimes and lunchtimes are pleasurable for everybody.

Year group Toy Pods provide the opportunity for a variety of toys, games and puzzles that are age appropriate, although there are plenty of Year 6s who will enjoy playing with cars!

We are in the process of ordering the storage, toys, games and puzzles to enable us to launch this new strategy in January. I believe it will provide an exciting start to the new year for all children.

As you can imagine to complete this project successfully, and for it to have the desired impact, **we are ordering a lot of toys, games and puzzles.** As mentioned, the **school is purchasing all the storage and the majority of toys** but some of you may be keen to contribute to this exciting project. We have placed a selection of these **items on an Amazon wish list** that you are welcome to purchase as a donation.

The list can be found at <https://amzn.eu/4ElfPUP>

- Please add **Amherst School, Witches Lane, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2AX** as the address for delivery. Your purchases will then be sent directly to school.
- If you use **Amazon Smile**, don't forget to choose Amherst School PTA as they will benefit from your shopping.

Finally, thank you to the PTA for their continued amazing work creating virtual Christmas events. Please read **page 4** of today's newsletter for updates and some changes of deadlines. I hope you all have a **good weekend!**

Important THIS week!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas lunch is scheduled to take place on the **16th December 2020**.

Please indicate on www.schoolgateway.com if your child would like to have a **MAIN** meal or **VEGETARIAN** option.



LIBRARY BOOKS

Please can you have a look around your house to see if there are any **Amherst School library books** that needs to be **returned to school**. We are currently re-organising the library and would love to have all books back in.

Please note that this request does not refer to the reading books children borrow from class libraries.



PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Parent Consultations will be taking place via **telephone appointments**.

Year 3 — 30 Nov & 1 Dec

Year 4 — 9 Dec & 10 Dec

Year 5 — 2 Dec & 3 Dec

Year 6 — 7 Dec & 8 Dec



NUT FREE

Amherst is a **nut free** school.

Please can you make sure that **all break-time snacks** and **packed lunches** are nut free / without traces of nuts.



ROAD CLOSURE

We were informed that **Bullfinch Lane** will be closed from **30 November to 3 December**. Please bear this in mind when you plan your journey.



HEAD LICE

We had a few reports of head lice and would like to ask you to please check your child's hair and treat appropriately.



CHRISTMAS TREES

If you are considering buying a real Christmas tree this year, **Stonepitts Farm** will donate £2 to Amherst School for every tree purchased with an additional donation to The Stag Theatre Charity.

You will need to produce a copy of this article when purchasing your tree. Please refer to their website for further details and directions [click here](#)



COVID-19



Tier 3 restrictions apply across Kent from **Wednesday 2 December**.

Please remember to maintain social distance at drop off and pick up.

Children must not attend school if they have a **high temperature**, **loss of taste/smell** or a **new continuous cough**, or if a member of their household has COVID symptoms and is awaiting test results.

Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to all our stars of this week!

3A	Nelly T
3S	Annie R
3W	Sebastian G
4C	Bluebell S
4SF	Ralph M
4W	Daisy W-E

5A	Emily B
5B	Emma G
5J	Lilly M
6B	Max R
6D	Nye B
6P	Carina M

MUSIC

Congratulations to the following children on their music exam results:

Isla P - grade 1 flute - merit
Carla F - grade 1 flute - merit
Lilian K - grade 1 flute - merit
Ava T - grade 2 flute - distinction
Toby W - grade 1 recorder - pass
Henry Fr - grade 1 recorder - merit
Eleanor H - grade 2 piano - distinction
Charlotte A - grade 1 piano - merit
Georgia C - grade 2 clarinet - merit



Well done 6B !

Daisy R, Lilya D, Elliot C and Madison R raised £33.65 for Children in Need by running a class competition.



30 YEARS

Congratulations to Mrs Hodges who reached and AMAZING milestone yesterday!

Thank you for being such a valuable member of our team. What an accomplishment — we truly appreciate your dedication.



CHESS CLUB

This week we played a friendly Amherst- only tournament on Tuesday.

Thank you and well done to everyone who entered: Ben H (1st), Jake A (2nd), Dylan D (3rd), Lucas T, Poppy-Grace DL, Heidi S, Owen P, Harrison P and William R.

Next Wednesday we are hoping to compete in the second Primary Schools battle (to be confirmed).

PTA NEWS



Just WOW!!!!!!

We have so much going on as we approach Christmas and your support is just amazing!



We had to change a few of the deadlines in order to make the logistics for the PTA Team easier and it would be really helpful that if you would like to join some of the PTA fun that you book sooner than later please, thanks so much!

Amherst Virtual Christmas Fair

So we have made over 150 sales and have raised over £3000 for the school – thank you for all your shopping!!!! Please do remember that the fair is live **until midnight Saturday, 28th November**. We do still have some wonderful items left to buy so please don't forget to take a look!



Amherst German Christmas Market Experience

Do join us in bringing the festive markets to your home on 5th December with this wonderful experience! Details can be found on PTA Events – **deadline for purchasing midnight 1st December**.

Christmas Raffle / Grand Draw

Lots of beautiful hampers which have been put together by our families and other fantastic prizes are ready to be won! So please do hop onto www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta to buy **your tickets until midnight 30th November** – we kindly ask you to return all counterfoils & unsold tickets to the school office by **1st December 2020**.

Advent Calendar Raffle

A chance for your children to win one of the many advent calendars we have up for grabs – tickets can be purchased on PTA Events – **deadline is 6pm on 28th November**

Silent Auction

We are currently preparing the online Silent Auction – so many fantastic items for you to bid on!! We will send out the Silent Auction brochure on Wednesday morning with the Auctions being open from **2nd December 8pm until 5th December 8pm**.

Secrets room

The preparation for the Secret Room is also going on behind the scenes for the children to choose 2 presents for their parents/carers on **Friday, 11th December** at school. More details to follow.

We know there is a lot here so thank you for your **absolutely amazing support!!!**

Have a wonderful weekend.

Your PTA



PTA Events has allocated 20 FREE advertising and local business directory slots to promote businesses in support of our school and local community. More details can be found in the attached guidelines ([click here](#)) and if you have a business to promote, please do let us know by 2nd December please. If we receive interest from more than 20 businesses, we will ask the school to pick 20 names out of a hat.

Many thanks, Your PTA team

