



AMHERST SCHOOL

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Message from Mr Reid

I **hope** you have had a **successful week**. Now we have completed a **full week of home schooling** I'm sure you have a better understanding of the positives and negatives. It has been **really helpful to receive feedback** this week from parents on how home schooling is working for them. We have such a wide range of circumstances at home:

- Both parents working
- Single parent working
- One parent available to help with home schooling
- Key worker children attending school part time
- Wide range of ages and number of children at home
- Children that are highly motivated and work independently
- Children that are not able (or don't want to) work independently
- Children that have Special Education Needs

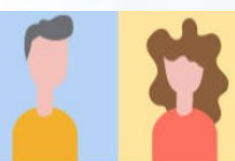


The list could be far longer. **Each set of family circumstances matter** and have an **impact** on that family. Mrs Reid is home schooling our three children (Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6) and I am acutely aware of the joys and challenges that this week has brought. **We have good sessions and not such good sessions!**

I **hope that our approach to remote education is enabling all families to be successful**. It is a challenge to get the balance right for every age group, number of siblings and set of family circumstances. I feel I am often dealing in opposites. The need for live Zoom sessions but also prerecorded lessons to provide flexibility for when the content can be accessed. We will continue to provide a blend of both. **Engagement levels continue to be extremely high so thank you for supporting your child's home schooling with such commitment**. I am aware we have increased the levels of accountability (live Zoom sessions and uploading work) but this was done to provide more purpose to the children's work and stay connected with their class teacher.



A development in the **Reid household** this week has been the **introduction of Grandma** to the home schooling programme on Zoom. She now completes a weekly spelling dictation, times table test and shared reading. She has really enjoyed this new role and it enables the children to see Grandma more. **I think she could secretly be a YouTube sensation!**



Further feedback this week has highlighted that so many children miss working with a friend/learning partner as they would in the classroom. Many parents have told me that they now **link with a chosen friend on Zoom to complete some lessons collaboratively**. This is a **great idea as children normally use their peers for support both emotionally and academically**. I would not recommend Zoom all day with a friend as the amount of work completed might be limited!



Google Classroom

Submitting work is really important as it enables the teacher to provide feedback.

YouTube Assemblies

I have returned to completing a **weekly online assembly**. The YouTube link will always be on your child's Google Classroom stream and appears from 8.00am on Mondays. Please view this week's here: [Assembly Monday 11 January 2021](#)

Cubcam

Three lion cubs were born at Port Lympne Animal Reserve on Wednesday night. There is a fantastic cubcam you can follow to watch their progress (click on the photo). More to follow in Monday's assembly!



I hope you all have a good weekend.

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

LATERAL FLOW TEST

Rapid-result coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for people who don't have symptoms is being rolled out across Kent.

The testing will find people who don't currently have symptoms, who may be unknowingly spreading the virus in the community and the sites are part of a rolling programme to help reduce the rates of transmission in Kent. [Click here](#) for more information.

Tests

TERM VALUE

DETERMINATION



MUSIC

Congratulations to Daniel A with his fantastic music exam results:

Grade 2 Musical Theatre - distinction

MUSIC

CHESS

Our first tournament of 2021 was a friendly Amherst battle, with some really exciting clashes. Well done to everyone who took part:

Ben H (1st), Lucas T (2nd), Dylan D (3rd), Jake A, Poppy Grace DL, Mick H, Arnav T and Avani T.

CHESS

ZOOM CHOIR (optional)

Mr Clarke will be trialling a weekly Zoom Choir for **any Amherst child**, from 3.00-3.30pm on **Mondays**. Please only join if you are keen to participate and can promise to sing along from your home! **Zoom login details** can be found on your child's Google Classroom page under the 'Music' topic.

To access the song lyrics and backing tracks, you can also sign up to our separate Music Classroom by [clicking here](#) or by using the classroom code lhd7i2y.

ZOOM Choir

VACANCIES

We have a vacancy for an enthusiastic and talented **KS2 teacher** to join our team in September 2021— please [click here](#) to find out more.

We are also looking to recruit an **ICT Network Manager**. Working two days a week, term time only - please [click here](#) to find out more.

Apply now VACANCIES

PTA NEWS

A warm **Happy New Year** from your PTA Team!!!! Not the start to 2021 that we had all hoped for but as you know we aren't ones to let something like a global pandemic and a third lockdown stop us!

We had a really great PTA meeting where we put together a full programme of activities to keep you and your children active, entertained, well fed and connected with friends over the coming weeks – we will be **launching 'Amherst Lockdown – Moments of Light'** on **Monday** so do keep your eyes peeled for the email – we guarantee there is something in there for everyone plus a letter for your children to read where we will be setting them a history making challenge!

PTA NEWS

TERM DATES 2021/2022

For new term dates, please [click here](#)

TERM DATES

FIRST NEWS

Activity sheets for [First News Issue 760](#) - please click below:

- [Crossword puzzle](#)
- [Comprehension](#)



STAR OF THE WEEK



3A—Gabriel D

Gabriel has made a fantastic effort with running and exercise over the weekend, completing runs with determination and good cheer.



3S—Tom L

Tom has adjusted well to home schooling and google classrooms. He has enjoyed all his lessons, especially the new topic of Romans. He is missing PE, so he is going out for runs or a bike ride & he is becoming a master at 'Rummikub'. He also regularly practices his drumming skills.



3W—Grace W

Grace loves the 'Great British Bake Off' and has been learning to bake. This week she worked so hard to make a chocolate 'football' cake for her little brother's birthday! She waited until he had gone to sleep to finish decorating it!



4C—Molly H

Molly has been working really hard with her home schooling. She built a den with her brother in the lounge and slept in it last weekend, she has also been baking for everyone including her grandparents who receive little treats in their food packages!



4SF— Matthew H

Matthew has been working very hard this week and some of his lessons he has been doing with his grandparents over video calls. He has also rebuilt some of his Lego Harry Potter sets and has been practising his commentary skills whilst playing football!



4W—Oscar A

Oscar has been taking advantage of the wet weather this week to work on his roller-blading skills. Although he is missing being in school he is enjoying seeing his friends at registration each day. He has been fantastic at getting on with his home schooling independently.



5A—Imogen F

This week Imogen has been enjoying seeing her friends on zoom. She's been working really hard, creating water cycles, fantastic artwork and has been enjoying her guitar lessons, mastering a song that she's been practicing!



5B—George B

George is absolutely loving the rainforest topic. He created a map of Brazil by drawing it on to a large piece of paper and then cut around it. George then used rainforest animals for display and wrote some interesting facts about Brazil. He is missing seeing his friends at school but enjoys Zoom sessions where he can see his friends and teacher.



5J— Beau S

Beau has really enjoyed learning about the Amazon rainforest this week, especially all the unusual animals that live there. He has enjoyed thinking up creative ways to describe places like the tropical beaches and mysterious rain forests for the Brazil travel leaflet, and now wants to visit himself!



6B—Liliya D

Liliya has been working very hard. The weather has been wet this week, so daily walks have been limited - instead Liliya suggested that she cook a family meal for us. She prepared and cooked a delicious spaghetti Bolognese and also some chocolate crispy cakes.



6P—Violet D

Violet has been learning about the sculptor Henry Moore in class and the types of sculptors he made. This week she had her own attempt at making a sculpture of her own.



6D—Lucy S

Lucy has been busy with her art kit she got for Christmas. She has already created lots of beautiful pictures and ornaments.

OTHER

Please click below to view:



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West Kent

FREE

WEAR A HAT DAY
is coming!
See inside

IN THIS ISSUE

- Education
- Family Health
- Early Years
- New Year Resolutions

Grab Some Winter Comfort!
Subscription Boxes to Give Away
SEE INSIDE

Give away

January/February 2021

Familiesonline.co.uk



Virtual Lego Club

Are you a future creator, inventor or engineer? Show us your creations!

From January 2021, Sevenoaks School are inviting schools to get involved and take part in the Virtual Lego Club. With new themes every month.

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How do I get involved?

Parents can sign their child up to the challenge by emailing
Outreach@sevenoaksschool.org

They will be sent out the theme each month, a link to resources and where to tag their creations online.

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