



AMHERST SCHOOL

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Message from Mr Reid

The government announced this week that schools would not be reopening before **Monday 8th March**. I know children, parents and staff will be very disappointed by this news.

As schools are to be given two weeks' notice we should have further information on Monday 22nd February as to whether we are to reopen on 8th March. I will keep you updated.

This week has felt a **Pivotal week** having completed four weeks of home schooling/Key Worker provision and the knowledge there is a minimum of four further weeks ahead of us.

The **SUCCESS** of the Reading Den afternoon on Wednesday highlighted the need to **do some activities for fun** that don't involve being on a screen. The whole school approach enabled **siblings to work together** on the same afternoon which was wonderful to see. From a parents' perspective it was also an easier activity to coordinate even if it did create a bit of mess! We will **continue to look for similar opportunities** to coordinate an activity across the whole school that give the children a change in routine and some fun.



I am aware that the **legal obligation** placed on schools by the government to provide a minimum of four hours a day of remote learning **increases the demands** of home schooling.

It is fantastic that our children are **keen** to complete the work set each week. However, for some children this has resulted in finishing work over the weekend as they have fallen behind during the week, which is not sustainable. You will know if your child has worked hard so please use your own judgement to decide when to stop.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN ABSOLUTELY need A BREAK FROM HOME SCHOOLING OVER THE WEEKEND!

I'm sure everyone is doing their **Best** to complete as much work as possible to a good standard. You will continue to have productive days and some that are more of a struggle. Children are human beings and have the same frustrations with this situation as adults. The difference is they are still learning how to manage those emotions.

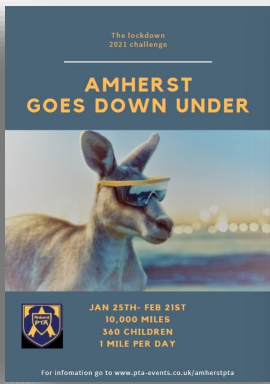
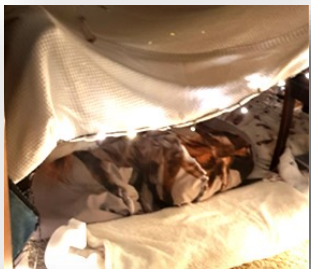
There is no easy answer to the above and I wish I had a **magic formulae** to give you. Parenting can be challenging but hold on to the moments when it goes well. Try and think why it went well and do more of that. Every day is a fresh start and an opportunity to **reset**. You may find you are currently resetting every few hours at the moment. Remember to stick to the basics when times are hard:

- A good quality **sleep** routine is vital for children and adults
- A healthy balanced **diet** - eating habits can change during lockdown so maybe keep a food diary for a few days. It might be quite revealing.
- **Fresh air** and the chance to connect with nature every day

I remain ever optimistic that all children will be able to return on 8th March.

A new protective measure that is now in place is voluntary lateral flow testing for staff. Since Monday 25th January we have begun testing twice a week for staff that are on site. Although voluntary, I am pleased that our uptake has been high. Lateral flow testing, which is completed at home, will pick up any staff that are asymptomatic. This provides another measure to help stop transmission and keep staff and families safe.

I hope you all have a good weekend and remember to be **KIND** to yourself.



PTA NEWS

WELL WE ARE IMPRESSED!

Who knew how creative one could get with some toilet roll tubes!!!! Thank you to all who took part and we will be sharing the winners of our Toilet Roll Craft Competition with you in our monthly PTA newsletter!

AMHERST GOES DOWN UNDER

Is now well underway – we hope your children are enjoying getting their miles in - we just wish it was a bit drier for them! Still, if you don't like the weather, change your clothes, right!

We also have **FAMILY BINGO** tomorrow so we will look forward to seeing you all there for a bit of old school family fun. Good luck to all of our families that are taking part.

NEXT WEEK IS A BUSY WEEK – here are the key dates for you:

Monday 1st – Best Cressed Competition starts

Thursday 4th – booking deadline for our Online Curry Cookery Club

Saturday 6th – Curry Cookery Club happens

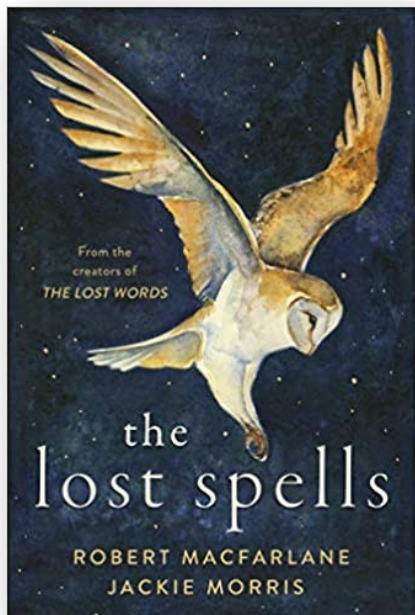
Please, please, please don't forget to buy your tickets [here](#) for the **Valentines Chocolate Raffle**, book your places [here](#) for the **Family Escape Room** and if you can, donate a few pounds – all of this can be done via PTA Events.

Have a great weekend!

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

BOOK Recommendation

If you enjoyed *the lost words* which we used as a whole school book project in October 2019, you will love *the lost spells*. Please note this book is not as large as *the lost words* and much more compatible for reading in bed!



CHESS

On **Wednesday** we tried a new format- a Swiss tournament- which consisted of distinct rounds rather than random pairings. **Well done** to the six players who took part: Lucas T (1st), Ben H (2nd), Dylan D (3rd), Mick H, Poppy Grace DL and Benjamin H.

The advantage is that you play a different opponent each round, like a face to face chess tournament. We will try this again on **Tuesday 2nd Feb**.

MR REID's assembly

Please click on the link below to view Mr Reid's assembly.



ZOOM CHOIR (optional)

Please join Mr Clarke Zoom Choir 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.

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies at the moment:

- ICT Network Manager - March start
- Midday Supervisor - March start
- Class Teacher - September start full time

[Click here](#) for more information.

 **APPLY NOW**

FIRST NEWS

Activity sheets for [First News Issue 762](#) - please click below:

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

Please have a read on Page 23 where **our own Toby W (year 4)** has submitted his book review on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

WELL DONE TOBY!!



STAR OF THE WEEK



3A - Florence D

Florence has continued to work hard with her home learning this week. She has been keen to develop her ICT skills by making a fantastic PowerPoint about dogs - changing fonts, and adding pictures and even sound! She has also shown great determination with her story editing her own chapter for Fantastic Mr Fox.



3S—Charlotte T

Charlotte is working hard with her home schooling, and has really enjoyed writing her 'Fantastic Mr Fox chapter' and making a den under her bed. She has also made good progress practising with her flute. She's been keeping active by doing lots of gymnastics at home and going on daily bike rides.



3W—Amelia B

Millie has been enjoying herself in the Kitchen this lockdown and has made many chocolate brownie mug cakes for the family and special cinnamon raisin sponges for her brother. She has really enjoyed learning about Roman art work and making her own mosaics.



4C— Daniel H

Daniel has been enjoying reading Harry Potter & building his reading den. He has liked doing the school work about mountains this week. He has also been working hard at learning all the times tables & getting some good results on Hit the Button.



4SF— Ben L

Ben has been enjoying reading about Narnia this week and has worked so hard at his English. He is missing his weekend sports but was pleased to be able to go sledging on Sunday. He enjoys watching the school assemblies and lessons, and in his spare time he is going on lots of muddy walks with his family.



4W—Dane R

Dane has been working extremely hard during the lockdown, completing all his assigned tasks.

His favourite activity is art on Friday afternoons while listening to audio stories. We are very proud of his perseverance and achievements.



5A—Xander W

Xander has loved learning how to broadcast from the Amazon rainforest for his Shark News production on the Yanomami tribe. He loved playing in the snow at the weekend and hanging out with his cats, Ginny and Maud.



5B—Aimee H

Aimee is doing really well getting on with her school work. She is missing school and her friends but thankful to be able to see them on screen. She has been keeping busy by learning to code with a microbit-robot that she got for Christmas and enjoys discovering fun things that she can make it do.



5J— Lucas D

Lucas has continued to embrace home schooling and is trying very hard with his presentation skills; making it more colourful and engaging for the teachers. He is keeping up with his physical activities and is doing online hockey everyday with his hockey club Knole Park.



6B—Jake A

Nothing like murder and witchcraft to heighten the senses! Jake has really enjoyed the Macbeth module this week and is most proud of his Three Witches poem.



6P— Lewis O

Lewis has been working incredibly hard on his home schooling and is really enjoying his topic work on Australia. He has been going for daily runs and walks to keep active and has been doing lots of artwork in his spare time.



6D—Amy A

Amy has been working her way through an entire bookcase and playing lots of Roblox with her friends.