



AMHERST SCHOOL

Message from Mr Reid

WELL DONE FOR MAKING IT TO HALF TERM!

We have continued to be so impressed with the commitment the children have demonstrated since January. The children have shown such high levels of enthusiasm to engage and complete their online learning.

Amongst the successes I am always aware of the challenges that home schooling presents. **Be proud of what you and your children have achieved and don't let the times that it hasn't gone so well be your defining memory.**

Well done to all the Key Worker children that have been attending school each day. They too have been following the same lessons on Google Classroom and have been a pleasure to work with. It has been great to have so many smiling faces in school.

HALF TERM WILL PROVIDE A BREAK FROM HOME SCHOOLING

but not an escape from being at home! Children will need occupying without the structure of home schooling.

• **Getting outside everyday is a must.**

• **Don't be afraid to create a half term timetable** that lists alternative activities to home schooling that still have some purpose. **A good starting place is the list** in your child's planner of **Things I can do Before Leaving Amherst**. Have a look at the list with your child and get them to tick off all the things they can do already. From the items left over, maybe pick one to do each day of the holidays. Examples are:

			
Bake a cake and ice it	Go geocaching	Sew on a button	Ride a bike
			
Polish my own shoes	Know four classical composers and recognise their music	Identify 10 British birds	Learn the national anthem
			
Learn to skip with a rope	Recognise 2 constellations	Make a simple meal for the family	Know simple map symbols on an Ordnance Survey map

Without some structure or purpose the tendency will be to play computer games or watch TV/YouTube. There is nothing wrong with those activities in moderation and children do need down time. However too much each day is a bit like junk food, tastes great at the time but can make you feel a bit sick when consumed in large quantities!

THANK YOU FOR THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK REGARDING THE CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS. It was great to see lots of snowy activities taking place this week. We will continue to have a screen free Wednesday afternoon after half term.

WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED AS SOON AS WE HAVE ANY NEWS REGARDING THE CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL. We will hopefully find out straight after half term. Just a reminder that term starts on Monday 22 February for Key Worker children to return to school and remote learning to continue on Google Classroom beginning with Zoom registration at 9.00am.

EXCITING NEWS

As some of you may already be aware, Mr Barratt and Miss Parish (6P) were due to be getting married next week during the half term break. Unfortunately, as a result of the latest lockdown, they have had to postpone their wedding at this time. However, we would like to share some positive and very exciting news that they are expecting their first child this summer. I'm sure you will join me in sending them our **congratulations!**



I HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A GOOD HALF TERM BREAK.

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

NO NUTS

We have children in school who have severe allergies to nuts. Please do not send any form of nuts in for children's snacks or packed lunches. Please also note that nuts should not be brought along to any event held in the school. Thank you.



VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies at the moment:

Midday Supervisor - March start

[Click here](#) for more information.



APPLY NOW

CHESS CLUB



On **Wednesday** we played a friendly 'Arena' tournament which had many exciting games.

Well played to everyone who took part: Ben H, Lucas T, Poppy Grace DL, Arnav T and Avani T.

For those who would like to play during half term, we have an Amherst friendly on **Tuesday 16th Feb at 5pm**.

Also, there are 2 planned inter-school tournaments during **March**, provisional dates 3rd and 17th.

FIRST NEWS

Activity sheets for [First News Issue 764](#) - please click below:

- [Level 2 Crossword puzzle](#)
- [Four Stories Comprehension](#)
- [Debate - Space](#)



STATIONERY in school

If your child is currently attending school as part of the Key worker class, please can you make sure they have the correct stationery with them— especially GLUE STICKS!

Many thanks for your support.



MR REID's assembly

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

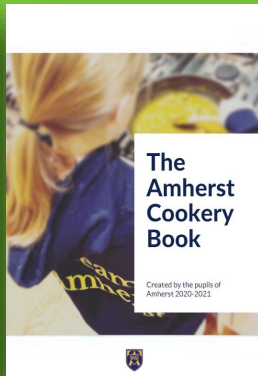
Would You Rather ...

PTA NEWS

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Amherst Curry Club – we have had some lovely feedback and it sounds like there was a lot of lovely dinners in Sevenoaks last Saturday!

We also want to say thank you for taking part in the Valentines Chocolate Raffle!

Congratulations to our winners!



No doubt you are as pleased as we are to move into half term!

During this week, please don't forget that the ...

- * Amherst Cookery Book** is still running (closes 23rd Feb) as is
- * Amherst goes does under** (closes 24th Feb). We are also running the ...
- * Amherst Den Building** where your children are invited to build an awesome den, send us a picture and we will judge and give awards to the best entries (deadline for this is 22nd Feb).
- * Bested cressed competition** – thank you for your entries. We are extending the deadline to hand in your fabulous creations until 23rd February to give your class a bit longer to grow!

Have a relaxing and well earned break.
Your PTA Team

STAR OF THE WEEK



3A - Harrison P

Harrison has worked hard throughout the whole term uploading all his work and is always enthusiastic on the Zoom calls. Here is a photo of Harrison with his Diwali Lantern that he made this week.



3S—Arthur H

Arthur has really impressed us with how well he is getting on with home schooling. He is really enjoying Maths and English and surprises us with his great imagination. He enjoyed writing his magic box poem. He's been going for runs with his dad for exercise and loved going sledging in the snow this week.



3W—Sebastian G

Sebastian has enjoyed being a statistician this week and has worked hard on his maths challenges. He loved writing a poem inspired by the things in his magic box and chose to do a puzzle as a screen free activity on Wednesday. He has had great fun having snowball fights and playing football in the snow!



4C— Georgia C

Georgia has continued to work hard this week with her very positive and independent attitude to home-schooling. She particularly enjoyed performing her Narnia monologue in a snowy landscape and making an obstacle course with her brother. She has also had lots of fun playing in the snow this week.



4SF— Paige W

Paige has worked really hard this week to get all of her lessons finished early so she could enjoy snow time. She has particularly enjoyed her english lessons about The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.



4W—Teja V

Teja has been working incredibly hard on her home schooling this week. She has been going for daily runs, walks and sledging to keep active and has been doing lots of artwork in her spare time.



5A—Olivia W

Olivia has had another action packed week and really enjoyed the fun project day as well as the do it together Wednesday assignment, where she chose to build her dream school in Lego! She has also indulged in sledging in the snow this week and keeping us all entertained as usual.



5B—Shabd L

Shabd enjoys zoom calls with Mrs Carver and his class-mates. He has been doing all his lessons independently. He especially enjoyed PTA curry evening - cooking cauliflower korma for the whole family dinner.



5J— Ava T

Ava has been working very hard at home, and especially enjoyed making her replica of Camp Greenlake for DT this week, as well as playing in the snow. Ava is missing all her friends and teachers and is looking forward to coming back to school when we are allowed again.



6B—James A

James has had great fun in the snow, sledging & taking his dog for lots of winter walks. We have been so impressed with his enthusiasm for the Macbeth topic, & how hard he has worked on his persuasive letter to Lady Macbeth, using ambitious vocabulary & Shakespearean language! In Art, his aboriginal picture was very detailed & effective.



6P— Jasper H

Jasper is really enjoying home schooling, especially with the arrival of the snow this week! He has loved the Aboriginal Art project, learning more about The Great Barrier Reef and the English topic Macbeth has been a hit too! He is looking forward to being able to travel again and Australia is at the top of his list!



6D—Imogen D

Imogen has really embraced the return to home schooling, she especially enjoys seeing her class mates at registration! This week she has loved producing the aboriginal art and learning about the Great Barrier Reef. Away from school work she is enjoying art, face timing friends and zoom cookery with her grandparents.