



AMHERST SCHOOL



Message from Mr Reid

We are all delighted that children will be returning to school from Monday 8th March!

As communicated earlier in the week, I will send out next week the full return to school letter but I wanted to give you a **few important headlines today**:

We will be following the same systems, procedures and protective measures as the autumn term. Please don't worry if you have forgotten some of the timings and systems as December really does seem a long time ago! My letter next week will provide all the necessary information as was sent out in September.

A vital new protective measure introduced in January was the twice weekly lateral flow testing of staff. This will continue until the government informs us otherwise. For me, this was a significant change and provides us with much reassurance that asymptomatic cases in our school community would be caught early.

It has also been reassuring that since January, we have only had one positive case (with no close contacts identified) in our school community. This period was during the height of the second wave and is therefore immensely encouraging.

It may be useful to check your child's school uniform and PE kit this weekend to ensure you can find it and that it all still fits. This will allow you a week to order items if needed.

Some other points to note are:

- **Instrumental music lessons** will commence week beginning 15th March
- **Sports coaches** (Handball, hockey, football and rugby) will be able to attend from 8th March to enable us to continue to provide a high quality PE curriculum
- **Breakfast Club and After School Club** will be open from 8th March
- **Full menu** to be offered by the school kitchen from 8th March



I am aware that for some children the **return to school** may make them feel **anxious** and **nervous**. Some will have got used to working independently at their own pace in a **quiet space** at home and will need to transition back to the classroom environment.



Some children will be **anxious about the social dynamics** that school brings. Many children have missed being together with their friends where as for some the return to the intricacies and challenges of childhood relationships will worry them.



Try to make time next week to give them opportunities to talk about their return to school. I'm sure they will share things they are looking forward to and maybe some things they are anxious about.

All children will have had a **different experience** working remotely at home depending on their personal circumstances. Staff are acutely aware of this and will provide children with opportunities to discuss and share their experiences as part of their transition back to school.

Some Key Worker children who have been in school throughout this period of closure may find it hard to adjust to the full school being back. The playground will be busier and classrooms will be fuller.

We will ...

do all we can to support the children during this transitional phase.

The vast majority of children will take the return in their stride and I'm sure by the end of the first couple of days it will feel very normal again.

We will ...

also do all we can to support children if there are gaps in their learning due to this period of school closure. We will be completing assessments before the Easter holidays which alongside day to day classroom performance will help identify any gaps in their English and maths subject knowledge.

Parent Consultations

We will be holding Zoom parent consultations the weeks beginning 26th April and 4th May to provide you with an update on your child's academic, social and emotional progress.

Friday 5th March—NO Registration and Lessons

To enable teachers to fully prepare for the children's return we have decided that on Friday 5th March there will be no Zoom registrations & live lessons or comments /questions answered on Google Classroom.

This will provide the teachers with the time to prepare their classrooms ready for Monday 8th March.

World Book Day 4th March postponed

Due to World Book day falling during a period of school closure we have postponed the event to **Thursday 10th June**. The children love coming to school in their costumes and it would be such a shame for this to be lost. The weather will also be a little warmer which helps with certain costumes! We will give out the £1 book vouchers when the children return to school.

I hope you have a good weekend and get to enjoy the sunny weather.



THIS WEEK’s NOTICES

<div>VACANCIES</div> <div>We have the following vacancies at the moment:</div> <div>ICT Network Manager - Part-time</div> <div>Click here for more information.</div> <div></div>	<div>MR REID’s assembly</div> <div>Please click on the picture below to view Mr Reid’s assembly of this week.</div> <div></div>
<div>CHESS CLUB</div> <div>This week’s tournament was a terrific contest between 10 players. Well done to everyone who took part: Ben H (1st), Lucas T (2nd), Owen P (joint 3rd), Ed C (joint 3rd), Leon K (joint 3rd), Poppy Grace DL, Harrison P, Fred K, Dylan D and Mick H.</div> <div>Next week is the ‘1st Spring Primary Schools Team Battle’ on Wednesday 3rd March at 5pm. This has been organised by Kent Junior Chess coach Grandmaster John Emms. There are 10 schools taking part, and we encourage as many Amherst players as possible to enter.</div> <div>Good Luck!</div>	<div>SCHOOL CALENDAR</div> <div>Please subscribe to our school calendar by clicking on the SUBSCRIBE button on the website here</div> <div></div>
<div>FIRST NEWS</div> <div>Have A Read Of This Week’s Copy Here</div> <div></div>	<div>PTA MEETING</div> <div>Tuesday, 2nd March at 8pm via Zoom</div> <div>Join Zoom Meeting—click here</div> <div>Meeting ID: 726 2100 8824</div> <div>Passcode: 1qMn52</div> <div>Everybody welcome!</div> <div></div>
<div>BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB</div> <div>We have a few spaces available in our clubs and they are filling up fast!</div> <div>Please contact the school office:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">If you have previously declined a space but are now in a different position.Even if you have never before contacted us about before or after school care.</div> <div></div>	<div>JUDD SCHOOL—Open event</div> <div>Please click on the link to Judd’s virtual tour of the school.</div> <div>For all year 5 parents, please find their determined admissions criteria for year 7 here.</div> <div></div>



STAR OF THE WEEK



3A - Millie P

Millie has worked very hard this week and particularly enjoyed doing her Jack and the beanstalk puppet show. She has also made the most of the lovely weather and played in the garden.



3S— Harris G

Harris has been working so hard with his home schooling. He has been incredibly thoughtful and kind helping his younger brother with his reading. He has enjoyed learning about the Roman soldiers and has demonstrated great focus and attention when making a Roman soldier helmet out of cardboard.



3W—Eleanor O

Eleanor has loved the chance to create puppets for a puppet show of Jack and the Beanstalk and made all of the cast, props and beanstalk with felt! She and her brother loved putting on the show. She's also been out on her scooter and has practiced her cello, learning how to play rounds with London's Burning and Frere Jacque, and has enjoyed playing with her 'Hufflepuff' Lego Book.



4C— Caleb L

Caleb has become so independent over the past weeks; getting on with his work and submitting it by himself! He is very good at looking after his cat, who will sit with him when he works. He has kept busy practising his football skills on & off the trampoline in the hope of being able to play football for Spurs one day with his favourite player in the world - Harry Winks!



4SF— Freddie F

Freddie has been enjoying baking on screen free afternoons. He's looking forward to coming back to school soon as he's really missed everyone. He is also looking forward to playing football again.



4W—Sofia B-W

Sofia has worked consistently and has been of great help to her little brother with his maths. She has been developing her cooking skills and is looking forward to go back to school, football and hockey!



5A—Jacob D

Jacob has had a great week and especially enjoyed the fire descriptive writing piece in English. He has also taught himself to play a new song on the piano, enjoyed drawing Anime characters with his sister, and has spent some time with his pet guinea pig called Boo!



5B—Isaac H

Isaac has worked so hard, he has an excellent attitude to all his learning, producing some excellent pieces of work especially his pieces of writing. He is a kind and caring friend and he has been helping others who have found lockdown hard with his great sense of humour!



5J— Amaia B

Amaia has shown effort and resilience in her home-schooling. She has enjoyed the tasks set in relation to the books Explorers and Holes. She has also been enjoying the Do it Together Wednesdays building Lego and creating a dolphin out of toilet rolls.



6B—Rose P

Rose is looking forward to going back to school on 8 March but has enjoyed doing dance in her non screen afternoon, walking around the common with friends and playing with her dog Coops.



6P— Robert T

Robert has been very sporty this week: hiking, playing football and also doing strength and stretching exercises outdoors. Additionally, Robert has been cooking at home sushi and cakes.



6D—Issy M

This week Issy has been enjoying learning how to skateboard at a skate park, learning a few tricks but mostly the basics! Issy has been enjoying calling and playing games with friends and the recent class topic lesson she found really fun!