

## MESSAGE FROM MR REID



### Parent Questionnaire

You should have received an email yesterday inviting you to **complete our parent questionnaire**. Please do take the time to complete it as **your feedback affirms the areas that are going well but also helps identify areas to improve**.

If you are able to add any narrative at the end of the form (positive or negative) it really helps gain more detail.

Thank you for taking the time to fill in the questionnaire as I know it can feel like one more thing to do.

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### Sir Linkalot

We were treated on Monday to a whole day visit from Sir Linkalot. In the morning he provided combined **workshops for Years 3/4, Years 5/6** and a **whole school assembly**. The afternoon was spent working with **smaller groups** from each year group.

It was **great for the children to meet him in person** rather than just seeing him on YouTube. As you would expect, they were lively sessions with all children highly engaged by his energy and humour.

The **Sir Linkalot spelling app/website** is just part of our **whole school spelling strategy**. At the end of last year Mrs Archer and Miss Apps created a bespoke spelling progression scheme from Year 3 to Year 6. This details the spelling rules to be taught in each year group and how the Sir Linkalot words can be integrated into this. Sir Linkalot on its own is not enough to enable our children to become confident spellers. The true success measure of any spelling strategy is if the children transfer learnt spellings into their creative/independent writing.



### COVID Update

We continue to have **cases at school**. Today we have **9 children and 3 members of staff** absent who are absent with either a positive lateral flow test or PCR test.

Unfortunately one of the members of staff is myself (confirmed PCR). **I have been absent from school since Wednesday 24th November and will return on Monday 6th December**. At the moment I feel the usual flu like symptoms but hopefully will start to feel better soon. I am **fortunate to have such a fantastic Assistant Headteacher Miss Jones**, who will lead the school superbly in my absence. We also have a **strong wider senior leadership team** consisting of our four year group leaders, Mrs Billing (SENCO) and Mrs Wicks (School Business Manager). **I'm sure the school will operate very smoothly in my absence** which may make me feel slightly redundant!

Myself and Ms Bradley (Headteacher Riverhead Infants' School) have made the joint decision that we will **not mix schools** regarding the attendance of siblings at Riverhead's Nativity plays and Amherst's Year 4 Christmas Variety Show.



Good luck to Amherst Choir tonight who are **singing at the switching on of the Sevenoaks Christmas lights**.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

# NOTICES

## GOVERNOR ELECTION

The ballot closes at 4.00pm on Monday afternoon.



## PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We have sent out our annual parent questionnaire via email this week. Please contact the office if you have not received it.



## PANTOMIME

A reminder of our **Whole School Trip** to the **Stag Theatre** on **15 December 2021**. Please remember to give consent and make payment via [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com).



## MINI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On Friday afternoon children will attend our **PTA MINI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**.

Children will need **£5.00 IN COINS** to spend at the **Chocolate Tombola**, **Gift Bag stall** and **Year 6 games**.

They can come to school dressed in **Christmas Jumpers!**



## DATA COLLECTION

Please be reminded of your **data collection sheet that should be returned today**. Please check the form, amend information if necessary on the sheet, sign and date. Please return the forms by **MONDAY 29 November** at the latest.



## TERM DATES

Please find the term dates for the next academic year on our school website or click below:

[Term Dates 2022—2023](#)

As per last week's communication, please note that the **school year ends on 21 July 2021**.



## ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS

You should have received an email from the school office regarding **SAFEGUARDING** training. Please contact the office if you have not received it.



## FLU VACCINATION— 08/12/21

As per our letter sent on 20/10/21, please complete the NHS' online consent form before 04/12/2021. For your convenience, please click on the following link:

<https://childconsent.co.uk/kchft>



## FUTURE DATES

26 Nov—Choir Sevenoaks Lights  
30 Nov—2 Dec—Year 3 Rocks Workshops  
3 Dec—Christmas Mini Bazaar  
4 Dec—Bazaar Raffle/Hamper Draw **11.00 am**  
6-7 Dec—Year 4 Christmas Production  
8 Dec—Flu Vaccinations  
9 Dec—Year 5 Bread Making  
13 Dec—Whole School Carol Service **6.00 pm**  
15 Dec—Stag Pantomime  
16 Dec—Christmas Lunch



## SCHOOL FUND

This is a reminder of our school fund contribution that is now live on [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com).

The money raised is spent on enriching opportunities and activities, equipment, extra books and resources.



## CHRISTMAS AT AMHERST

**Thank you for all the FANTASTIC GIFT bags that came back to school—filled and ready to bring some joy!**

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

**Thank you for supporting our GRAND DRAW Christmas & Hamper Raffle.**

Remember to complete the ticket stubs with:

- surname (and class)
- telephone number
- return the counterfoils to school (and any unused tickets please!)
- payments in cash or cheque please

Grand draw will take place via Zoom on Saturday 4th December @ 11.00am

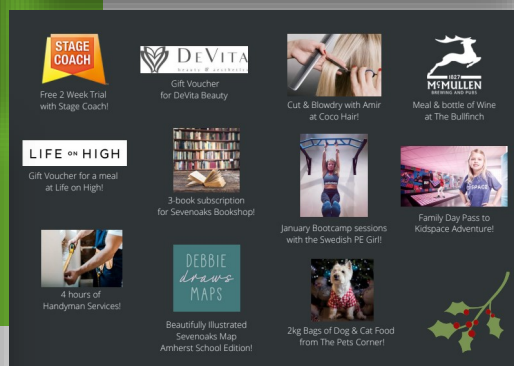
Our **Online Christmas Shop** is **currently open** and closes on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November**  
The link:  
<https://amherst.onlineweb.shop/>



### SILENT AUCTION

Next week we will be launching our **ONLINE Silent Auction**—please look out for the email with link.

There are some **FANTASTIC prizes** to win!!



### MS BRADLEY- LEAVING GIFT

Ms Bradley, Headteacher of Riverhead Infants' School is leaving at the end of Term 2.

You are now able to make a contribution to a leaving gift via the **Amherst PTA Events website**.



# CHOIR GREEN SCHOOL AWARDS

## Green School Awards

The Amherst Choir travelled to Ashford International Hotel this week to perform at the Green School Awards. The children sang a traditional Australian round, *The River Is Flowing*, as well as the beautiful *Homeward Bound*, before kicking off Christmas with a rendition of *Joy to the World*!



## Sevenoaks Christmas Lights Switch-On

The Amherst Choir will be singing at the switching on of the Sevenoaks Christmas lights at 6.00pm tonight. Feel free to come along to support us and to join in with some carol singing.



KM Charity Team

6 hrs · 🌐



KM Charity Team is at Ashford International Hotel. 10 hrs · Ashford · 🌐

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas here at the [#green](#) [#school](#) [#awards](#) @ashford\_international\_hotel. Look forward to congratulating our winning [#kent](#) schools 🌟





# STAR OF THE WEEK



3B	Elias S-T
3MW	Scarlett O
3W	Maddie M
4C	Katie L
4SF	Olivia R
4S	Mia L

5A	Ben L
5J	Daniel S
5S	Caleb L
6B	Jacob D
6H	Amaia B
6SB	Mick H



## SPORT

### NETBALL COMPETITION

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November our netball team played two matches at Knole Academy. The matches consisted of four six minute quarters and the players rotated positions after each quarter. The first match played was against Halstead Primary School. In the first quarter we pulled ahead by 2-1, scored another goal in the next quarter and then leapt ahead with three goals in the next quarter. We finished with a very comfortable 7-2 lead.

Our second match was against Anthony Roper and was a very tight game. Both teams defended well but Anthony Roper went ahead early in the match and at half time the score was 2-4. In the third quarter there were five goals scored and they continued to lead by 7-4. In the final quarter, after some excellence defence and great shooting, Amherst scored a further three goals making the final score 7-8 to Anthony Roper. The matches are part of the Sevenoaks Schools Sports League.

The team played some excellent netball and have improved considerably since the start of term. The team were: Eleanor H, Rina N, Rachel B, Sebastian H, Bronagh M, Olivia W, Connor L, Alice M

Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Warne and Miss Jones.



## SIR LINKALOT VISIT



# EVENTS / COMMUNITY

Please click on the images to find more information.

The Skinners' School is consulting over proposed admissions arrangements for September 2023. For your information, the consultation documents can be viewed via the [link](#).



THE  
SKINNERS'  
SCHOOL



**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**  
20TH - 23RD 29TH & 30TH  
DECEMBER 2021

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...AND MORE!**







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# EVENTS / COMMUNITY



Come and join us on...

## Percy the Park Keeper's winter wander

Join Percy's team of helpers, on our family-friendly trail, **from 4 Dec - 2 Jan.**

**at Emmetts Garden**

Find out more at  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/percy](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/percy)



In association with  
**PERCY**  
THE PARK KEEPER

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*free*

We are working in partnership with Cobra Defence London to deliver 2 FREE C.A.P Workshop in Sevenoaks & Online

The Child Abduction Prevention (C.A.P) workshop doesn't just teach children about 'stranger awareness', it teaches them the differences between good adults and bad adults, how to spot them, how to stop them, and the confidence needed to stand up for themselves.

It teaches them verbal skills and simple self-defence techniques that are effective against an adult. In just a few hours, you will see their confidence soar as they are put through realistic scenarios and come out victorious.

The program is always exciting and fun for both children and parents! It will teach them new and important concepts in an engaging and age appropriate manner.

The workshop is for all children aged 5-11 years. Parent participation is a **MUST!** There are limited spaces so booking is a must. The sessions are on :-

Thursday 2 December 4.30pm—6.30/7pm at Bat and Ball Station Function Room, Sevenoaks, TN14 5AP (40 spaces available - 20 x children plus one parent)

Sunday 12 December 1-2.30pm via Zoom

Book for both sessions via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/COBRAdefenselondon/>

**In just a few hours they will participate and learn:**



- Who can be a threat
- How to respond to a threat
- What not to do and why
- Physical techniques against an adult attacker
- How to verbalize in a threatening situation
- Abduction prevention techniques
- Vehicle Abduction prevention
- Role playing
- 999 scenario drills

**An exciting and empowering way for children to learn life saving skills.**