

MESSAGE FROM MR REID

CAROL SERVICE

Well done to Amherst Choir and the Year 6 readers that performed so well at our Carol Service on Monday. The readers read with clarity and confidence. It can be quite daunting standing in front of a large congregation. The Amherst Choir were fantastic and it was wonderful to hear them sing again. Mr Clarke and the children have worked so hard since September to enable the choir to perform to such a high standard.

The BBC recorded the choir singing Silent Night during their rehearsal in the church which will be broadcast on BBC South East Today - please see Mr Clarke's insert for specific timings.

COVID UPDATE

Please be aware there has been a **change this week in guidance regarding daily testing and close contacts**. Please [click here](#) to read the full guidance.

If there is any change in guidance for schools over the Christmas holidays I will do my best to inform you as soon as possible.

Anyone aged 5 years and over, who has been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate, is now strongly advised to take a rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. If any of these LFD tests are positive they should self-isolate in order to protect other people.

The public health advice for people with symptoms of, or a positive test result for COVID-19 remains the same for everyone.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

We have made it to the end of a long and successful term. I would like to thank all staff for their hard work and continued commitment to Amherst. I am fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated team.

I hope you all get the chance to have a break. Amongst all the present buying and busy build up to Christmas it is good to reflect that things children will remember in 20 years time will not be this year's game or gadget, but the time spent together as a family, building relationships and sharing experiences.

Don't forget to enjoy it!

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

CONTENTS

1. Mr Reid's message
2. Notices & Star of the week
3. Christmas Lunch
4. Choirs
5. Community Events

NOTICES

PTA SWEET BAG

The PTA would like to **wish every child a happy Christmas** and as a little gift each child in school has received a sweet bag today. (*Free from* to those with allergens)

Merry Christmas everyone!

PTA MEETING & NEWSLETTER

The next PTA meeting will be on the 11 Jan 2022 8PM at the Bulfinch Pub.



Amherst PTA Meeting

11 Jan 2022 8PM

Bulfinch Sevenoaks

Please [click here](#) to read the PTA's December 2021 Newsletter.

GAMES & PE— JANUARY 2022

Please note that Games and PE lessons change from January 2022.

YEAR 3

PE indoor (**Dance**) - Wednesday

PE kit needed

GAMES lessons (**Hockey**) - Thursday

PE kit, shin pads, gum shield needed

YEAR 4

4S - PE indoor (**Yoga**) - Tuesday

4C & 4SF - PE indoor (**Yoga**) - Thursday

PE kit needed

GAMES lessons (**Football/Rugby/Netball**) - Monday

PE kit, trainers, football boots, shin pads needed

YEAR 5

PE indoor (**Gymnastics**) - Monday

PE kit needed

GAMES lessons (**Football/Rugby/Netball**) - Friday

PE kit, trainers, football boots, shin pads needed

YEAR 6

PE indoor (**Curling**) - Friday

PE kit needed

GAMES lessons (**Handball**) - Wednesday

PE kit, trainers needed

VACANCIES

Please find a **list of our current vacancies** on the [KENT TEACH](#) website.

Vacancies

FUTURE DATES

4 Jan— Inset Day

5 Jan— Inset Day

6 Jan— Term Starts



LUNCH MONEY

Please arrange payment for **Term 3 & 4** Lunch money in **advance** via www.schoolgateway.com. Cost are as follows:

Daily - £ 2.35

Weekly - £ 11.75

Term 3 - £ 63.45 (27 days)

Term 4 - £ 70.50 (30 days)

Term 3 & 4 - £ 133.95

CHOIR ON BBC ONE

We are **delighted** to announce that the Amherst Choir will feature on BBC One next **Wednesday 22nd December** at around 6.50pm



★ STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Eitan D	5A	Sol H
3MW	Matilda P-S	5J	James R
3W	William G	5S	Daniel H
4C	Gabriel K	6B	Ivy W
4SF	Amelie P	6H	Taylor H
4S	Theo H	6SB	Joelle P

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thank you to our **FANTASTIC** kitchen team for a brilliant Christmas lunch enjoyed by all!



AMHERST CHOIR ON



AMHERST CHOIR ON BBC one!

We are delighted to announce that the Amherst Choir will feature on BBC One next **Wednesday 22nd December at around 6.50pm**. The children spent Monday afternoon with a team from BBC South East, recording a version of *Silent Night* to air at the end of the final full news programme before Christmas. We are so pleased to have been invited to be part of this high-profile performance. The programme will be available to watch on iPlayer afterwards.



CAROL SERVICE

Our school Carol Service took place last Monday in St Mary's Church. Based on a traditional service of lessons and carols, the choir were accompanied by talented young organist Adam Field and enjoyed singing all the classic descants, from *O Come All Ye Faithful* through to *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*! The service felt particularly special after its absence last year.



TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Over 60 children from the Boys, Training and Amherst Choirs travelled up to Trafalgar Square on Thursday to perform carols for an hour by the famous Christmas tree. The children sang a selection of traditional carols alongside modern favourites, and we were so pleased to raise **£453.34** for the British Heart Foundation. Thank you to Miss Foinette and Miss Runting for their musical support on this trip.



AMHERST FLUTE CHOIR

The Amherst Flute Choir had a wonderful 1.5 hrs of busking in Sevenoaks town on Saturday 11 December 2021 and had quite an audience listening to their carols.

They raised a fantastic amount of £247 for the British Heart Foundation - well done to the girls: Eleanor H, Lilian K and Ava T, for surviving cold hands to play for so long so well!

We saw quite a few Amherst children and parents — thank you for showing your support!



A special thanks to Mrs Henderson for organising the event and accompanying the children.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please click on the images to find more information.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

20TH - 23RD 29TH & 30TH
DECEMBER 2021

HILDENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL
RIDING LANE HILDENBOROUGH
TONBRIDGE TN11 9HY

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF)
*For eligible children currently
in receipt of free school meals.*

**OVER 50 ACTIVITIES, BOUNCY CASTLES,
FUN GAMES, NERF WARS, ARCHERY,
TEAM SPORTS, ...AND MORE!**

**Book on our website:
(HAF Programme)**





SOUTHEAST KIDS CAMPS

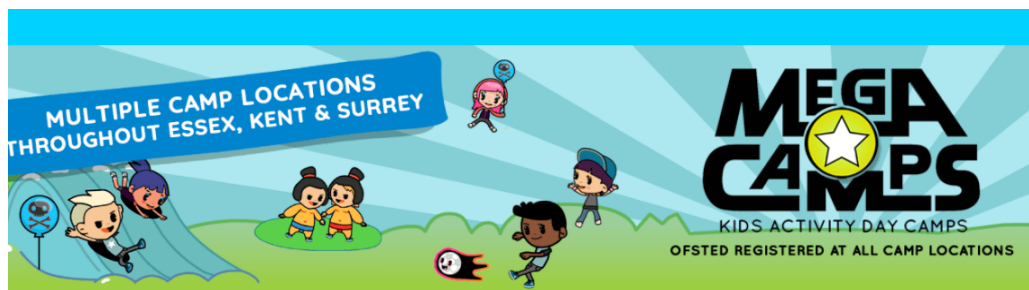


SOUTHEASTKIDSCAMPS.CO.UK

01444 461 889



COMMUNITY EVENTS



If your child is currently eligible for benefit-related free school meals then the Holiday Activity & Food Programme (HAF) this Christmas Holiday at Mega Camps is an option for you.

The HAF programme entitles children that currently receive **benefits-related free school meals** to attend our Mega Camps Sevenoaks location next week completely free of charge. As part of this programme Mega Camps we will be providing lunch and snacks each day and promoting the importance of a healthy lifestyle, nutrition, and physical activity alongside a wide range of activities.

We have some Mega activities lined up this Christmas including Bungee Trampoline, Nerf Wars, Inflatable Fun, Archery, Sports, Winter themed Arts & Crafts plus much more.

We accept children aged 4 - 14.

Mega Camps is offering **2 fully funded days per child** next week at our Sevenoaks location.

Sevenoaks Venue Address

Mega Camps Sevenoaks, Trinity School, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3SL

Dates Options

Option 1: 20th and 22nd December 2021 (2 days)

Option 2: 21st and 23rd December 2021 (2 days)

Camp Times

Drop off at 9am - Collection at 5pm latest

How to book?

To request a place for your child on the HAF programme with Mega Camps simply click on the application form link below:

<https://www.megacamps.net/HAF-Application.php>

Once your application has been received a member of the Mega Camps team will contact you to notify you if your space has been confirmed.

On the application form it will ask you for your eligibility code. Please enter your **Wonde Voucher Code**. You should have received this code from your school. The Wonde Voucher code is evidence that you are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals and that your child is eligible for the HAF programme.

If for whatever reason your school isn't able to provide you with a Wonde Voucher Code then please use the below code instead depending on what Mega Camps location you are booking for:

Sevenoaks Mega Camps eligibility code: **SX21**

Please note that these HAF spaces are limited, so please book fast to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

Mega Camps Team



Donation to local Schools

As in previous years, we would once again like to offer a £2.00 donation to your School for every Christmas tree bought by families and staff. If you would like to participate, please include a suitable article in your next school newsletter explaining this and pointing them to www.stonepitts.com for details and directions. The parent or staff member should produce proof of your newsletter article when buying a tree and this will count towards the final donation to the school, a cheque for which will be sent to you after Christmas or preferably a bank transfer, if you would kindly supply the account details.