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## MESSAGE FROM MR REID

### GRAND DESIGNS UPDATE

Good progress on the **groundwork** continues to be made and we have been lucky with the weather so far. You can begin to **start to visualise the size and location** of the new building.



### Digital Parenting

This is always an area of concern for all parents whatever the age of your child. A growing theme of conversation is that **families' digital habits have changed due to the lockdowns** and parents are now uneasy with how much time their children spend online and the increased use of social media at a young age.

As we shift into hopefully a life where lockdowns don't happen, **many families will be considering whether new or existing boundaries need to be revisited and agreed.**

There were immense benefits to the increased digital connectivity during lockdowns but a common thread is that parents let children access apps at an earlier age than pre pandemic times.

Vodafone provide a [\*\*fantastic resource\*\*](#) which contains many **tips and guidance** on how to support parents with those difficult decisions. Some of those decisions your child will disagree with but remember you are the adult and have their best interests at heart.

One idea is to create a **Digital Family Pledge** to help set some house rules on how you use tech and behave online. This would include:

- Quality screen time
- Being kind online
- Healthy social media
- Happy gaming

If you are interested in doing this, please [\*\*click on the link\*\*](#) for more information.

To support your child at school we are teaching a **comprehensive Online Safety curriculum** from Years 3—6. This is using the excellent [\*\*Project Evolve\*\*](#) resources. Online Safety lessons are taught as part of the **PSHE** and **Computing Curriculum** following eight themes:

- Self image and identity
- Online relationships
- Online reputation
- Online bullying
- Managing online information
- Health, wellbeing and lifestyle
- Privacy and security
- Copyright and ownership

I know this is not an easy area to parent. I hope today's information is useful and that you all have a good weekend.

# NOTICES

## MUSIC ACHIEVEMENTS

**Congratulations** to Rosie F in 6B who was awarded a pass in her Grade 2 clarinet exam. Well done Rosie!



## STATIONERY

Please can you check with your child if they need to **replenish** any of their personal stationery in class.

## REPORT ABSENCES

All absences should be reported **via our website before 09.00am**. Click on the link and complete the quick form. NO need to email/call any more:

[Daily Absence Form](#)

## VACANCIES

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

# Vacancies

## NUT FREE SNACKS & CEREAL BARS

Please can you ensure your children bring a **healthy snack** to school.



## ART COMPETITION 2022

**Calling all artists...**

Do you have a creative side? What's your chosen medium? Would you like to see your art framed and displayed in school?

School Council is looking for fresh and exciting pieces of art for the Gallery Wall in the Year 4 corridor.

**Requirements:**

**Size:**  
A4 up to A2 sized pieces of art

**Theme:**  
Freestyle - drawing, acrylic, water colour, charcoal, sketching, pastels, flat collage, sewing, cross stitch, photography...

**Medium:**  
Your choice but needs to be flat as winning pieces of art will be framed

**Deadline: Monday 7th February** – art to be handed into school office

## FUTURE DATES

- 25 Jan— Year 4 Science workshop
- 28 Jan— PTA Cookie in a bag sale
- 31 Jan— Year 5 Rainforest road trip
- 11 Feb— PTA Valentine's raffle
- 11 Feb —Term ends



## UNNAMED COATS, HATS & GLOVES

We have a bin bag of unnamed coats, hats and gloves **in the foyer** for parents to look through.



# STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Lia G-F
3MW	Edward S
3W	Tilly W
4C	Charlie K
4SF	Effie D
4S	Isla K

5A	Issy L
5J	Harper W
5S	Ben S
6B	Jacob J
6H	Dom W
6SB	Eliza A

# PTA NOTICES



 **ORDER DEADLINE**  
**25TH JANUARY 2022**

## COOKIE BAG SALE

**Friday 28th January 2022**

pre-order via  
[www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta)  
by midnight 25th January 2022.  
Cookie bags will be delivered to classrooms  
and will be individually wrapped  
Suggested donation per bag is £1 -  
no limit to donation or number of bags you  
can order

## UNIFORM SALE

The uniform sale this week raised over  
£50 for the PTA, thanks for attending.

There will be further sales every term,  
dates will be advertised here.



## Valentine's Chocolate Raffle

Tickets on sale 8th to 10th Feb  
at the school gates - cash only  
£1 per ticket or 6 for £5

Prize draw 11th February 2022

To pay by bank transfer:  
Amherst School PTA  
60-19-02  
76190617  
Ref: child's name & class  
Email confirmation to  
[amherst-treasurer@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-treasurer@outlook.com)





## MATCH FUNDING

Match funding is a simple way to  
maximise fundraising efforts. Please  
check with your employer if they will  
match fund any of our fundraising efforts.

For information please e-mail: [amherst-chair@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-chair@outlook.com) OR [amherst-treasurer@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-treasurer@outlook.com)



We are having a

## MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday 4th February**  
**3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

£4 VIA  
[WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/AMHERSTPTA](http://WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/AMHERSTPTA)



OTTIE & EID AND THE PTA BRING YOU

## Valentine's Craft Kits

PRE-ORDER ON THE  
PTA WEBPAGE  
BY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

£6 EACH.  
DONATION TO THE  
PTA FOR EVERY BOX  
SOLD

One for age 7 and up - make your own  
friendship bracelet, card, origami  
notes and garlands!

One for pre-school & infants with  
decorations, shapes, beads,  
origami, card making and more!

ORDER ONLINE AND WE'LL DELIVER TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM IN TIME FOR FEBRUARY HALF TERM



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

WE ACCEPT  
CHILDCARE  
VOUCHERS

**MEGA CAMPS**  
KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

CHILDCARE FROM  
8am - 6pm

AGES 4 - 14

**FEBRUARY CAMP 2022**

SAVE ££'s - EARLY BIRD OFFERS END 28<sup>th</sup> JAN  
CHECK WEBSITE FOR DATES & LOCATIONS

CLIMBING WALL  
KIDS FAVOURITE  
NERF WARS  
MEGA ACTIVITY  
INFLATABLE FUN

DIFFERENT MEGA ACTIVITIES EACH DAY AS WELL AS FOOTBALL, DODGEBALL, ROUNDERS, KWIK CRICKET, BASKETBALL, TEAM GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT  
ESSEX, KENT & SURREY THIS FEBRUARY

**BOOK ONLINE NOW!**  
Ofsted Registered [WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET](http://WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET)  
OR CALL 0333 012 4376

ALL OUR STAFF ARE  
DBS CHECKED

**MEGA CAMPS**

**PRICES START FROM  
JUST £30 PER DAY!**

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST  
WEEK & SINGLE DAY OFFERS THIS FEBRUARY!  
That's February childcare from JUST £3 per hour!!!

A day at Mega Camps is filled with endless Sports, Arts & Crafts activities and an amazing array of Mega Activities. Suitable for boys and girls aged 4-14yrs! A MEGA TIME is guaranteed to be had by all who attend!

CAMP HOURS 9am-4pm  
EXTENDED HOURS 8am-6pm

EARLY BOOKING DEALS,  
SIBLING DEALS & EMERGENCY  
SERVICE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

SOFT ARCHERY  
MEGA CAMPS  
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
MAGIC WORKSHOP  
ANIMAL WORKSHOP

**BOOK ONLINE NOW!**  
Ofsted Registered [WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET](http://WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET)  
OR CALL 0333 012 4376

ALL OUR STAFF ARE  
DBS CHECKED

HELEN O'GRADY  
DRAMA ACADEMY

**DEVELOPMENT  
THROUGH  
DRAMA**

One of the greatest life skills we  
can give our children is the ability  
to communicate confidently.

ROLEPLAY is vital to a child's development and increases  
social interaction, problem solving and communication skills.  
Through imaginative plays, we explore emotions and feelings  
which helps to boost WELL-BEING and SELF-AWARENESS.

WE GUARANTEE YOUR CHILD WILL DEVELOP EXCELLENT  
SOCIAL SKILLS THEY WILL NEED IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

- SPEAK & MOVE CONFIDENTLY
- ANSWER IN FULL SENTENCES
- FEEL GOOD IN THEMSELVES
- IMPROVE CONFIDENCE &
- ENTHUSIASM
- INCREASE SELF-ESTEEM
- ACT IN PLAYS
- WORK IN GROUP SITUATIONS
- MEET NEW FRIENDS
- DISCUSS SOCIAL ISSUES
- IMPROVE LISTENING SKILLS
- ENCOURAGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Our internationally acclaimed Drama Academy benefits tens  
of thousands of children around the world each week. Each  
class follows a curriculum designed by worldwide experts.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Helen Walls - Principal  
Helen O'Grady Drama Academy Bromley & West Kent  
T:01689 812336 E:bromley@helenogrady.co.uk  
[www.helenogrady.co.uk](http://www.helenogrady.co.uk)

FRIDAYS: OTFORD Village Memorial  
Hall, Sevenoaks TN14 5PQ.  
SATURDAYS: St John's Catholic Comp,  
Gravesend DA12 2SY  
Also in Bromley, Chislehurst,  
Orpington, Petts Wood and Shortlands.

The January/February issue of **Families Kent magazine** is available with lots of useful information and inspiring articles on family-oriented activities and parenting.

## Flu and Covid Vaccinations

Due to increased demand, further community catch-up clinics for flu vaccinations after school and at the weekend are now available.

Appointments or walk-ins are available for anyone aged 4 to 16 who is either at school or home educated in Kent and Medway.

Parents can book a slot [at this link](#).

Parents of children aged 12 to 15 are also being encouraged to book their COVID-19 vaccinations on the [national booking system](#) or by calling 119.

THE UK'S FAVOURITE

**BARRACUDAS**  
Activity Day Camps

BOOST THEIR CONFIDENCE AT CAMP!

FUN AND ADVENTURE  
IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS  
FOR 4½ - 14 YEAR OLDS  
BOOK NOW FOR 2022!

EXCLUSIVE OFFER!

BOOK NOW!  
... for great rates!

BOOK NOW FOR OUR  
LOWEST PRICES  
IN 2022!

OFFER  
AVAILABLE  
UP UNTIL  
31st JANUARY  
2022

EARLY BOOKING  
OFFER  
LAST CHANCE TO SAVE  
OVER £60 A WEEK!

Giving every child such an  
AMAZING  
EXPERIENCE they can't wait to come back!

Trustpilot  
Rated Excellent as of 2021

Ofsted  
Outstanding  
Provider

Ofsted  
Good  
Premises

Visit [barracudas.co.uk](http://barracudas.co.uk)  
or call 01480 467567

# SENCO NOTICES



**KENT EDUCATIONAL  
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE**

## **PARENT CONSULTATION LINE**

**Free 30 minute phone/video  
consultation with an Educational  
Psychologist for parents.**



The aim of this service is to provide advice and guidance to parents and carers to support children's wellbeing and learning.

Topics or areas that you may wish to discuss might include:

- **Social and emotional issues**
- **Concerns about learning**
- **Family relationships**
- **Concerns about behaviour**
- **Daily routines including sleep**

**[kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk)**

If you would like to make use of this service please send a message to the email address above including the following information:

- **your name;**
- **phone number;**
- **a convenient time to call (morning or afternoon)**
- **your child's education phase e.g. early years, primary school, secondary school;**
- **a brief description of what you wish to discuss.**

**We will do our best to respond within  
10 working days but this may be  
subject to availability.**