

CONTENTS

1. Mr Reid's Message
2. Notices & Star of the Week
3. PTA Notices
4. Community Events

MESSAGE FROM MR REID

GRAND DESIGNS UPDATE

Foundations are beginning to be laid, with concrete being poured next Friday. We continue to be lucky with the weather and **it is great to see how quickly the work is progressing**. Many children enjoying spending their break and lunchtime watching the builders work!



COVID UPDATE

We currently have 10 children and 3 staff absent due to Covid. The cases range across seven classes rather than concentrated in just one class.

GOVERNOR VISIT MORNING

Yesterday morning **we welcomed three members of our governing body into school** to spend time visiting every classroom. This provided an opportunity to see **the school in action**, including our wonderful Thursday Singing Assembly led by Mr Clarke and the chance to stay for lunch. **We are pleased to reinstate onsite governor monitoring visits** this academic year as this was something that was disrupted by the pandemic.

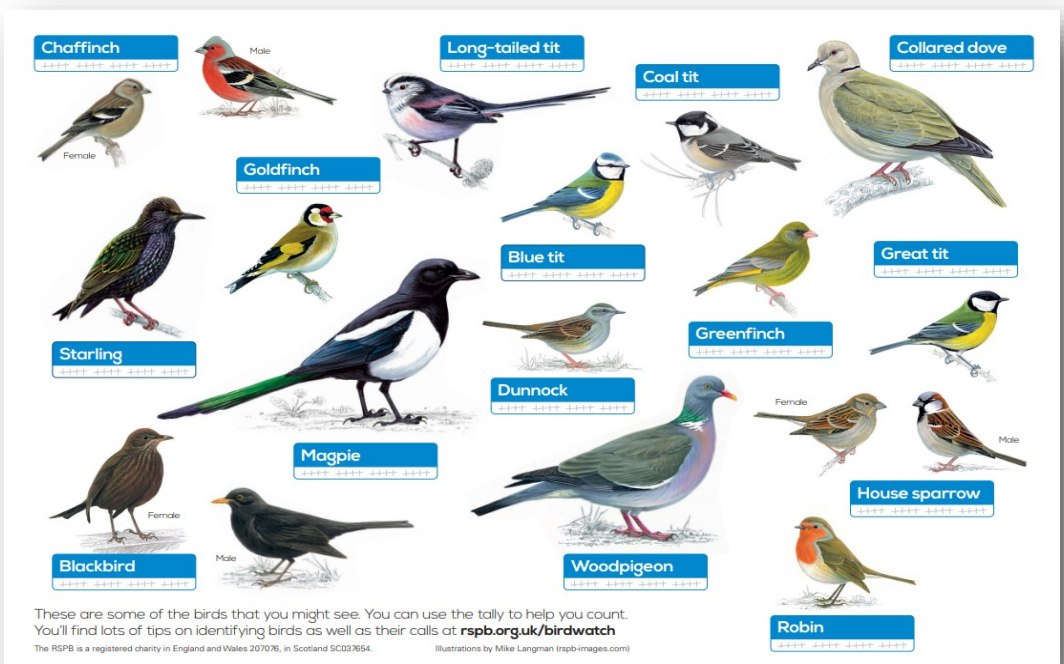
Alongside our general governor visits we also have **Year Group Governor visits**. One governor is assigned to each year group who then follow that cohort through the school **to gain a strong understanding of their four year journey at Amherst**. Year Group Governors visit three times a year and spend time in each classroom, meet with children to share and discuss their work and meet with the Year Group Leader.

We are fortunate at Amherst to have such a committed group of governors who give up much of their time to support the school. Governors have the tricky task of holding the school accountable while simultaneously providing support. The role is best described as a critical friend.

BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH

As a school we would really like to **encourage as many children as possible** to take part in the **Big Garden Bird Watch** this weekend **28th-30th January 2022**.

We've all become more aware of **how important connecting with nature is for our own wellbeing** as well as helping the wildlife around us. Every year, the RSPB launches the bird watch to help them collect data about the birds in the UK. All it takes is **an hour of bird spotting in your own garden**, so why not spend some **quality family time** seeing how many different types of birds visit your garden or local park. You can use the **bird identification sheet below** to help you spot the differences between the various kinds of birds. Once you have recorded your results, [go online at this link and send them in](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch).



NOTICES

FUTURE DATES

31 Jan— Year 5 Rainforest workshop
 04 Feb—PTA Movie night
 11 Feb— PTA Valentine's raffle
 11 Feb—Wear something red (fundraising for Evelina's Children's Heart Organisation)
 11 Feb —Term 3 ends
 21 Feb—Term 4 starts
 23/24/25 Feb—Year 3 Roman days
 24 Feb—PTA meeting



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](#)

SPORTS UPDATE

Amherst was represented at the **Table Tennis English Schools Zone 7 Finals** on Saturday 15th January by Dominic W, Xander R, Josh M and Jonathan B. The team played brilliantly though they weren't able to bring home any prizes. Congratulations on being selected to take part boys!

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



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.



STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Theo H
3MW	Nathan I-C
3W	Andrew P
4C	Phoebe D
4SF	Annebelle W
4S	Stellan B

5A	William K
5J	Sofia B-W
5S	Laura P
6B	Aneesha V
6H	Angeline du T
6SB	Kieran B

PTA NOTICES

We are having a

MOVIE NIGHT

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

£4 VIA
WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/AMHERSTPTA

Films:

- Year 3 - Enchanto
- Year 4 - Detective Pikachu
- Year 5 - Boss Baby 2
- Year 6 - Space Jam, a new legacy

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



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 OR amherst-
treasurer@outlook.com

OTTIE & EID AND THE PTA BRING YOU

Valentine's Craft Kits

PRE-ORDER ON THE
PTA WEBPAGE
BY 4TH 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 NOTICES

RIVERHEAD PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Riverhead Parish Council is seeking to appoint a committed and enthusiastic person to fill the post of **part-time parish clerk and responsible finance officer**. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have experience in administration, financial accounting and budgeting. Training is available.

Applicants should have an interest in the local community and in upholding the positive reputation of the council.

[More information is available at this link.](#)

If interested, please contact Irene Collins, Chairman of Riverhead Parish Council
Irene.collins25@gmail.com.

Closing date for applications: Friday 4th February 2022.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WE ACCEPT
CHILD CARE
VOUCHERS

MEGA CAMPS

KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

CHILD CARE FROM
8am - 6pm

AGES
4 - 14

FEBRUARY CAMP 2022

SAVE ££'s - EARLY BIRD OFFERS END 28th 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, BOUNCERS, KWIK CRICKET, BASKETBALL, TEAM GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT
ESSEX, KENT & SURREY THIS FEBRUARY

BOOK ONLINE NOW!
WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET
OR CALL 0333 012 4378

ALL OUR
STAFF ARE
DBS
checked

Ofsted
Registered

ONE OF THE GIRLS

www.girlsattack.com
girlsattackit@gmail.com

FUN SKILLS TRAINING AND MATCH PLAY.



Netball camps in 2022, age 6-16. Expert coaching, great fun! Based in Oxted, Surrey

- Half term - February 14th / 15th 10am-3pm
- Easter - April 4th, 5th, 6th 10am-3pm
- Summer - July/ August 10am-3pm
 - Week 1: July 25th / 26th / 27th
 - Week 2: August 2nd / 3rd / 4th
 - Week 3: August 15th / 16th / 17th

Minis workshops 1st Sunday of every month - intro & skills development for under 8s

Structured and enjoyable programs run by experienced, enthusiastic England Netball trained coaches.

Book online at www.girlsattack.com

CONTACT THE TEAM AND BE ONE OF THE GIRLS!

England netball

GIRLS
ATTACK

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Twitter

Next Thing

2022
Camps
Open

Create

Code

Learn

TECH HOLIDAY CAMP

FEBRUARY HALF -TERM

THE NEW BEACON SCHOOL, TN13 2PB

£194 FOR FULL WEEK, 9 AM - 4 PM DAILY

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE
www.nextthing.education

FEB HALF TERM 2022

What's on?

Monday
Curious
Coders

Tuesday
Ingenious
Inventors

Wednesday
Virtual
Reality

Thursday
Expert
Engineers

Friday
Media
Madness

Example schedule only, activities at each camp may differ

Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering

14TH - 18TH FEBRUARY LIMITED SPACES

AGES 5 - 11 MULTI DAY BOOKING DISCOUNTS!

Covid-19 Safety Procedures
Providing safe, fun, educational and essential childcare

★★★★★
"My 9 year old son was totally absorbed and loved his day at camp from beginning to end. He still raves about it and has his 3D Darth Vader head, that he printed."
C. French (Parent)

How to book

STEP 1
SCAN THE
QR CODE



STEP 2
FIND YOUR
NEAREST CAMP



STEP 3
USE OUR COUPON
TO GET £5 OFF

5FEB

Ofsted
Registered

W: WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION
E: INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150

THE UK'S FAVOURITE

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AVAILABLE
UP UNTIL
31st JANUARY
2022

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