AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

5th EDITION - 6 October 2023

CONTENTS

Message from Mr Reid
PAGE 1

Notices
PAGE 2

Let's Celebrate & Harvest Festival
PAGE 3

Community Events
PAGE 4

MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Boredom

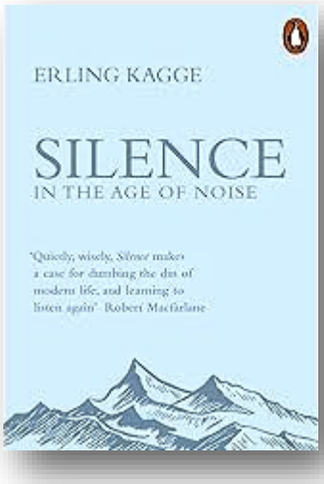
One of the most annoying phrases from my childhood, that I can remember my mother regularly saying, was **'boring people say they are bored'**. This was in response to me complaining that there was **nothing to do** and **I was bored**. I would like to share a quote from an excellent book *Silence In the Age of Noise* by Erling Kagge.

Everyone gets bored now and then. Obviously. When I was young, waiting for something to happen, I got bored to the point where it was almost painful. My mother told me it was healthy to be bored. Only now do I understand what she meant. Today I observe my children when they think there is nothing happening: bored to tears, imprisoned in the themselves, almost desperate. Like my mother, I feel it would be best if they could experience that more often.

If I've forgotten to bring along reading material and sitting claustrophobically in seat 50F on an aeroplane without a film worth watching, or waiting for someone who doesn't show up to a meeting, I start to experience the feeling I had when I was little. What we are experiencing is experiential poverty.

Such poverty may not only be about a lack of experiences, where nothing is happening. An abundance of activities can also create a feeling of experiential poverty. And this last point is interesting . Things just get to be too much. The problem, is that we carry on seeking 'increasingly more powerful experiences' instead of pausing to breathe deeply, shut out the world and use the time to experience ourselves. The idea that boredom can be avoided by constantly pursuing something new, being available around the clock, sending messages and clicking further, watching something you haven't yet seen, is naïve.

The more you try to avoid boredom, the more bored you become.



I experienced an example of this yesterday:

I had a physio appointment (I have a dodgy right ankle having sprained it playing cricket earlier in the season) but had to wait for about 10 minutes in the waiting room. My first response was to reach for my phone, check emails and then go on the BBC website. **I did not take the opportunity to sit quietly for five minutes and be in the moment**. I see it at home with my own children too. **Without encouragement, their default activity, when not busy, is to look at a screen**. I fear that <u>many children have lost the ability to be bored</u> and <u>generate their own ideas</u> as a screen can instantly fill that void.

When are we giving children's imagination the chance to grow? I recently forced my children to not be on a screen when bored and they ended up making a mini golf course in the garden. Yes it has ruined part of the lawn but they gained so much from the experience.

Maybe this weekend **challenge your children to not be on a screen when bored**. It might be **painful** and **they will be frustrated but once those emotions have passed you may be pleasantly surprised with what they end up doing.**

I hope you all have a good weekend and enjoy the forecast sunny weather. I am particularly excited to be going to **Brands Hatch on Sunday** to watch the **season finale** of the **British Touring Cars**. We will be supporting **local driver Jake Hill** and hoping he gets a victory!

NOTICES

REPORT ABSENCES

All absences should be reported **via our website (under Attendance) before 09.00am**. Please click on the link and complete the quick Daily Absence Form .
Please complete the form for **every day** your child is off school.

CLUBS: Week 9-13 October:

All clubs are on this week!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

You can subscribe to our school calendar by clicking here and click on subscribe.

ENGLISH HOMEWORK FOR ALL YEARS

The task for every child in school is to create a poem based on the topic of "This Is Me!". As presented in Thursday's assembly, they are welcome to choose a style of poetry with which they are confident (e.g. acrostic, rhyming, free verse) and should hand the homework in by next **Wednesday 11th**. We understand that some children will be more confident than others at writing a poem, so please reassure them that the main aim of this homework is to celebrate and have fun with poetry. We have sent your child home with a sheet from Mrs Archer and Miss Harvey (attached to this email) which explains the challenge in more detail.

VACANCIES

Please visit www.kent-teach.com to view our current vacancies.

YEAR 5 – KENT LIFE

Please provide consent via www.schoolgateway.com for your child to go on the trip next Thursday 12th October.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION MEETING

For those year 6 parents who did not attend the meeting on 27th September, please click here for the presentation.

LETTERS SENT

Year 3—Matilda Consent for film watched on 13th October
Year 4—English homework on poetry— 'THIS IS ME'!
Year 6—National Child Measurement Programme scheduled for 17th November
Year 6—World War 2 Letter

FUTURE DATES

11 October	- Year 6—World War II day (dress as an evacuee child)
12 October	- Year 5 Kent Life Trip (dress as a Victorian (optional))
19 October	- Harvest Festival—Donations to school (see next page)
19 October	- Term 1 Ends
20 October	- Inset Day
30 October	- Term 2 Starts
17 November	- Open afternoon 2.45—3.15pm
20—22 November	- Book Fair
20—22 November	- Year 3 Rocks Days @ school
28 November	- Parents Evening (booking information will be sent a week before)
30 November	- Parents Evening (booking information will be sent a week before)
1 December	- Clubs End

Year 3 and 6 sharing their work this week.

LET'S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3CL	Tommy M
3H	Elsie A
3W	Zoe M
4C	Lakshmi P
4S	Issy K
4SF	Jasper P

5A	Beatrix D
5HR	Kitty B
5J	Thomas K
6A	Eleanor O
6B	Jensen M
6W	Tommy B

HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the **Year 5 and 6 hockey team** who competed at the Sevenoaks Partnership Festival on Monday.

The children played superbly well winning all five of their matches. The team did not concede a goal and scored 17 goals in total. This resulted in them being the **overall winners** of the tournament.

Congratulations to Annebelle W, Ansh G, Chayila M, Clarissa M, Isabe N, Jessica P, Joey S, Noah W, Oliver K.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We are celebrating Harvest Festival on 19th October and will have time in our Harvest assembly to be thankful for all we have to eat while thinking of those less fortunate. Therefore, we would like to once again support the local food bank, '**Loaves and Fishes'** that operates **from St John's Baptist Church every Thursday**. This charity works with local families across the whole district. We have supported them for the past four years and we know how much the charity values our annual contribution. If you are able to donate some food for our Harvest celebrations please send it in with your child on Thursday 19th October.

The charity is specifically requesting: Hot chocolate, breakfast cereals (but not Weetabix or cornflakes), spices, rice, pasta, tins of tuna, ravioli, beef bolognese, chicken casserole, spaghetti hoops, sweetcorn, mayonnaise, pasta sauces, tea, biscuits, cooking oil, peanut butter, chocolate spread, tin openers and cleaning products.

Please do not send: pet food, baby food, catering-sized tins, bottles of water, cans of drinks, catering-sized bags of pasta, etc

Parental Help Required

If there are **any parents who are able to take the food to St John's on Thursday 19th October we would be very grateful.** Please arrive at Amherst at 11.00am to loads cars with the food and then drive to St John's between 11.30-12.30pm to drop off our donations.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please click on the leaflets to see more information.

Year 5 & 6 Parents

Please complete an absence form if you decide to take your child to visit a secondary school during the day.

Many thanks

The Skinners' School in Tunbridge Wells will be holding Year 6 Open Afternoons on Wednesday 18th October and Year 6 Open Mornings on Monday 30th October. By amending our admissions arrangements, our 2023 catchment grew to 13 miles and we are delighted to once again be welcoming students from the Sevenoaks area! We look forward to showing you and your son what Skinners' has to offer. Visit our website for bookings https://www.skinners- school.co.uk/admissions/visiting-skinners.