



# AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

9th EDITION - 10 November 2023



## MESSAGE FROM MR REID

### Remembrance Day

There was lots of 'Poppy' excitement in school this week in support of Remembrance Day tomorrow. Children were able to buy poppies and other RBL items in advance of tomorrow and we observed a minute's silence at 11.00am.

### Whole School Book Project

The children have completed a fantastic first two weeks of our whole school book project, *The Dam* by David Almond. I have seen such a range of impressive writing and artwork that the book has inspired.

**Year 3** have been creating a first person recount for their writing imagining that they had lived in the village and then revisit the area once the reservoir had been created. In art they have worked on pencil sketches of the village buildings and watercolours.

**Year 4** have been creating poetry with an emphasis on the effective use of figurative language. I have been amazed at the depth and quality of the poetry produced. In art they have completed beautiful drawings of flowers found around the reservoir and created 3D sculptures using Modroc of the spirits.

**Year 5** have taken a mysterious direction, writing their ghost stories inspired by the spirits that feature in the story. They have become experts at building suspense through their writing and daring the reader to read more. In art they have experimented with watercolours and silhouettes of figures.

**Year 6** have been creating a diary entry pretending to be the young girl in the story. In art they have explored and learnt about photography taking images of the natural world.

What an amazing range of skills and outcomes that continue to be covered while completing the project. It has been wonderful to hear and see how inspired the children are. I look forward to seeing the finished displays of the children's work which will appear in the coming weeks.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

## CONTENTS

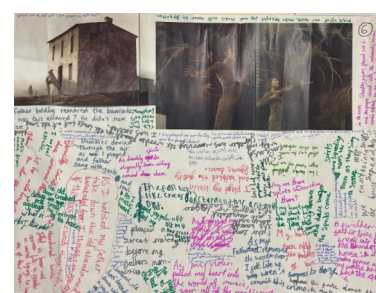
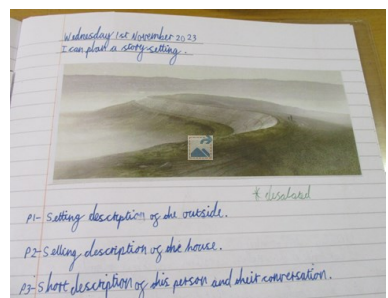
Message from Mr Reid  
PAGE 1

Notices  
PAGE 2

Let's Celebrate  
PAGE 3

PTA  
PAGE 4

Community Events  
PAGE 5



# NOTICES



## CHRISTMAS CAROL COMPETITION

Think you have what it takes to write your own Christmas song? Why not enter our Christmas Carol Competition by writing the lyrics to your very own carol. You could make it about anything Christmassy: Winter, the Nativity Story, Snowmen, Santa....the choice is yours! The winning child's carol will be sung in our school's Carol Service on Monday 11th December.

**The Rules:** Just focus on words as we will work with the winner to come up with a tune. Try to write at least two verses. Hand your completed lyrics in to Mr Clarke or at the school Reception Desk. The deadline is **Monday 20th November**.

## PANTOMIME

Please **confirm by Monday 08.00am at the latest** (via [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com)) if your child will be attending the Whole School Trip to see the Pantomime at the Stag.

**We need to finalise ticket numbers in order not to pay for children who will not be attending.**

## CLUBS

**WEEK 13—17 Nov:** **No** Hockey / **No** Girls Football/ Orchestra **is ON!**

## FUTURE DATES

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 17 November       | - Children in Need (Charity Run @ 8.00am and Cake Sale after school) |
| 17 November       | - Open afternoon for Amherst parents 2.45—3.15pm                     |
| 17 November       | - Year 6 Height & Weight Measurements                                |
| 20—22 November    | - Book Fair  |
| 20—22 November    | - Year 3 Rocks Days @ school   |
| 24 November       | - PTA Christmas Jumper Sale  |
| 28 & 30 November  | - Parents Evening (booking information will be sent a week before)   |
| 1 December        | - Clubs End  |
| 1 December        | - Year 4 Christmas Performance—Dress Rehearsal                       |
| <b>2 December</b> | <b>- PTA Christmas Bazaar 12.00—3.00pm</b>                           |
| 4 December        | - Year 4 Christmas Performance—Matinee 2.00pm                        |
| 4 December        | - PTA Mini Bazaar 9.00—11.00am                                       |
| 4 December        | - Year 4 Christmas Performance—Evening 6.00—7.30pm                   |
| 11 December       | - Flu Vaccinations 9.00am  |
| 11 December       | - PTA Secrets Room 2.00—3.30pm                                       |
| 11 December       | - Christmas Carol Service 6.00—7.00pm                                |
| 13 December       | - Whole School Pantomime—Stag Theatre 10.15am                        |
| 14 December       | - Christmas Lunch (children can wear their Christmas Jumpers)        |
| 15 December       | - Term 2 Ends  |



### Cross Country Run

8.00am on the school field. Children can **dress up in something spotty** or yellow like Pudsey. It will **cost £1 minimum** to enter and money can either be donated online or coins dropped in the charity buckets on the field.



### Cup Cake Sale (PM)

We welcome as many donations of cup cakes as possible for our sale. If you are able to make some cakes please bring them into Reception on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> in the morning. This will be a cash sale after school & children will need to have **£1 coins** for a cake.

**Parent helpers are welcome.**



# LET'S CELEBRATE

## STAR OF THE WEEK




3CL	Evie H
3H	Alice R
3W	Leo K
4C	Jasper F
4S	Leela P
4SF	Ainaha A

5A	Jessica P
5HR	Roman H
5J	Nell C
6A	Alex F
6B	Olivia R
6W	Hector B


## JOSH B—POPPY FUNDRAISER




Joshua B has raised a fantastic £189 in aid of Scotty's Little Soldiers so far and had requests for more poppies everyday. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause through all your poppy purchases and orders.



### Joshua's Poppy of Remembrance



In aid of Scotty's Little Soldiers



My Mum was in the Army for 8 years, and this charity helps the children of some of her friends who died.

She and my Great Grandmother have been making felt poppies, that are eco-friendly, and are an important sign of remembrance.



Lots of people think of World War 2 soldiers at remembrance but it's about thinking about all soldiers.

This special charity helps children and I think that's important.

You can also donate by scanning the QR Code, using the link below or searching Joshua's Poppy of Remembrance on Justgiving.com

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/josh-poppy-of-remembrance?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fjosh-poppy-of-remembrance&utm\\_source=copylink&utm\\_campaign=pfpr-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/josh-poppy-of-remembrance?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fjosh-poppy-of-remembrance&utm_source=copylink&utm_campaign=pfpr-share)

Thank you.  
Joshua Brind 5A



Click here for Josh's Just Giving Page:

# JustGiving

## HOCKEY

On Monday 6th November, 6 children from Year 4 took part in a **hockey tournament** involving 12 schools from the Sevenoaks district. **After playing well and gaining wins** in the early rounds, we got through to the final round to play for the shield against two other schools, putting us in the top 3 teams. **Amherst ended up coming second overall**, narrowly losing 1-0 to the eventual winners - Lady Boswells. **The children should be really proud of how well they did and the way in which they represented our school.**

Well done to Jacob L, Xander W, Billie-Jean S, Prakruti H, Felix S and Valentina C-G. Mrs Stafford



# PTA—CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Your PTA Team is very excited to present upcoming Christmas fun,  
the highlight being our Amherst Christmas Bazaar!

Your time and donations, participation and input is highly valued as the school community—TEAM AMHERST— comes together to create **fun for our children** and **raise money for our school**.

For collections, we are doing things a little differently this year to make things easier for you. Introducing: **DONATION WEEKS!** You can drop all these things off at the same time during the week. There will be crates in the lobby and boxes in classrooms.



## CHOCs, BOTTLES & BEAUTY BITS Week

**Chocolates** (big or small, bags or bars...it doesn't matter!) We are a nut free school, so please **NO NUTS** or any containing alcohol!

**Bottles** - ANY sort! A variety of both alcohol & non-alcoholic would be great!

**Beauty Bits** - Pamper items such as soaps, lotions, creams, makeup, perfume, etc... to help fill the stockings. Can be for men, women, teens or pets!

13th - 17th  
November

## MYSTERY BAG Week

Each child will be sent home with **2 bags** (which can be decorated!) to be filled with small gifts and/or treats (max 5/ bag).

Please try to recycle **UNUSED** items that you have around the house, rather than purchasing all new.

Some ideas: Toiletries (bath bombs, lip balms, lip gloss, etc...);

Fun stationary (pencils, rubbers, little note pads, stickers etc...);

Games (cards or puzzles, temporary tattoos);

A sweet treat such as Haribo or wrapped candies (**NO nuts please!**)

20th - 24th  
November

Friday  
1st Dec

## TOYS, GAMES & BOOK SETS Day

Gently used or new toys in good condition. Games & puzzles (in good condition with all the pieces!) Children's Book Sets appropriate for primary children.

**NB** We are **NOT** collecting books for adults this year and **NO DVDs** please, as they don't seem to sell.

We are limiting this collection to the **1st December** so we can load it all into the classroom for the bazaar the next day!

## MATCHFUNDING

Please let us know if you are able to help us boost our fundraising efforts.



Has had a huge impact on our fund-raising ability.



Please do speak to your employer to see if they offer Match Funding



If they do, please email us and we will sort the rest:

[amherst-chair@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-chair@outlook.com)

You



Your Employer



**MATCH IT**

We look forward to celebrate  
Christmas with you!



# FOREST SCHOOL CLUB

At Forest School with Year 6 this term we have been **whittling sticks, knot tying** and making **bushcraft** bracelets.

We have been really enjoying the sessions which involve lots of exploring and learning new skills.

We are looking forward to **den building next week** and also **creating some Christmas decorations** over the next few weeks. Here are some photos of us learning some knots which we will use in next week's session.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**The Football Coaching Group provides football coaching for boys and girls aged 5-12**

Our specialist coaches cater for all abilities aged 5-12 and provide the children with the opportunity to get active, learn new skills and enjoy the game.

- First Session FREE
- Boys & Girls Aged 5-12
- Weekly 90 minute session
- Fun & Safe Learning Environment

**Venue**

Mondays: 5.30pm - 7pm  
Weald of Kent School, Seal Hollow Road, TN13 3SN

[www.thefootballcoachinggroup.com/signup](http://www.thefootballcoachinggroup.com/signup)

**#EnjoyTheGame**

## E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



**Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?**

**No, it's Illegal...**

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

**Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?**

**No, it's Illegal...**

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

**What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?**

**The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.**

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent Police**

**Think before you buy:**

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities. For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit [www.kent.police.uk/road-safety](http://www.kent.police.uk/road-safety)

**Dear friends at Amherst Primary School,**


Sevenoaks Loaves and Fishes Foodbank would like to thank you for your very generous donation from your Harvest Festival this year. Please would you pass on our thanks to all the children, parents and staff who have contributed.

We very much appreciate your support, which in turn enables us to continue to support our clients in the local community.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

With all best wishes,

Glenda Newholm for Sevenoaks Loaves and Fishes Foodbank



**Sevensoaks Foodbank**