



AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

11th EDITION - 24 November 2023



MESSAGE FROM MR REID



Assembly Update

As part of this term's value Kindness, Monday's assembly focussed on diversity. We explored what diversity is, understanding that this could be a person's race, gender or age.

We discussed that there is **so much diversity in our school and country**. A diverse population leads to a range of different types of identities. **Identities are unique to each person** based on their background and interests. We spent time exploring that it is **important that everyone is treated equally**, whatever their identity and how much we can learn and **celebrate** from each other.

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Match Funding

With the Christmas Bazaar fast approaching it is a good time to **highlight the positive impact of match funding**. You will hopefully be aware of **the fantastic work your PTA are doing to raise funds for our school**. We wanted to take this opportunity to **remind you about the match funding scheme** and how a **little bit of your time could double the funds that the PTA raise for our school**.

If you work for an organisation that has a match funding policy, any money you raise could be matched by your employer. Companies may match the fundraising total for an event, or for the stall that their employee is working on. Usually, the employee will need to supply them with a letter from the PTA detailing the date and nature of the event, together with the total raised.

We understand that the high street banks, building societies, supermarkets and large corporations are likely to do match funding, but these schemes are not exclusive to the major corporate giants. If you work for an independent company, they may be interested in charitable giving through match funding too.

We would be grateful if you could see if your employer has a match funding scheme, or if they are willing to match fund any of our events. If you can't help out this time, but you know the company you work for has a match funding policy, **please let us know**. This could be a really large source of income for the PTA and help us raise money for the Christmas Bazaar and other future events.

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

If you are able to help us this way, **please contact Hayley Hansford** (our PTA Chair— amherst-chair@outlook.com) and we can discuss your companies' requirements.



Book Fair

Thank you for supporting our Book Fair this week. The school receives rewards to the **value of 60%** of all sales. We are already selecting books for our class book corners!!



Sevenoaks Lights—Tonight

We hope to see you in town tonight supporting the Amherst Choir who will be **performing at 6.05pm** on the main stage of the 'Christmas Lights Switch On'!

Have a good weekend everyone.

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.



VACANCIES

Please click on www.kent-teach.com to see our current list of vacancies.



BAZAAR COLLECTION – Next Week

1 December - Toys, Book Sets and Games collection day—from 2.00pm



DECORATE A BISCUIT– BAZAAR

As usual, Mrs Rawlins will be running her 'Decorate a biscuit (or cake)' stall at the bazaar. She would **welcome donations of plain biscuits (preferably Christmas shaped) and small plain fairy cakes**. These can be brought in to school any time **next week or on the day itself**. Please could they be marked for the attention of Mrs Rawlins. Many thanks.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH– MENU

Please make sure to let us know via www.schoolgateway.com if your child is having a **MAIN** or **VEGETARIAN** meal or **Packed Lunch**. We need finalised numbers by 1 December.



CLUBS WEEK 27 Nov—1 Dec:

No 28/11 Table Tennis Squad (due to Parents Evening)

No 29/11 Year 3 Table Tennis

No 29/11 Year 5 Tennis —postponed until 6 December

No 30/11 Amherst Choir (due to Parents Evening) / postponed until 7 December

No 30/11 Basketball Club

No 01/12 Year 6 Tennis—postponed until 8 December

No 01/12 Orchestra—postponed until 8 December

Yes 01/12 Cross Country—**7.50am prompt start**—wear something **Christmassy!** 

Last Day of Clubs—1 December



SECOND HAND UNIFORM

Thank you for all the donations of uniform—we have so much to give away. Going forward, we will only be **looking for uniform items with the school LOGO** on it. Many thanks for your generosity.



FUTURE DATES

28 & 30 November - Parents Evening

1 December - Clubs End

1 December - PTA's Amherst Festive Bake Off

1 December - Year 4 Christmas Performance—Dress Rehearsal 9.30am

2 December - PTA Christmas Bazaar 12.00—3.00pm

4 December - Year 4 Christmas Performance—Matinee 2.00pm

4 December - PTA Mini Bazaar 9.00—11.00am

5 December - Year 4 Christmas Performance—Evening 6.00—7.30pm

11 December - Flu Vaccinations 9.00am

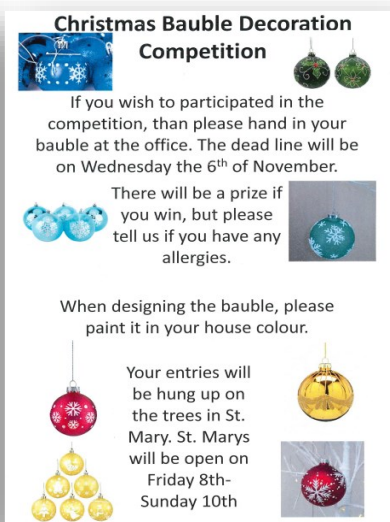
11 December - PTA Secrets Room 2.00—3.30pm

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



PTA—CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

AMHERST SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!

Games, Grotto,
tombolas,
toys & more!

Saturday 2nd
December
12-3pm

This week is a donation week!

Just a friendly reminder that we will be collecting the following items below for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar. There will be **collection boxes** in the **reception** area as you enter the school, between the double doors.

Friday
1st Dec

TOYS, GAMES & BOOK SETS Day

Gently used or new toys in good condition. Teddies, games & puzzles (in good condition with all the pieces!)

Children's Book Sets appropriate for primary school children.

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

HAMPERS

Hampers can also be left in the reception area **after 2pm** or bring along to the bazaar on the morning of the 2nd December. Unfortunately, we can't collect or store the hampers any earlier due to most them containing alcohol bottles (which can't be left in the school.)

Hamper & Grand Draw Raffle Tickets—COMING HOME TODAY!

Your child will be sent home today with an **envelope containing 20 raffle tickets for the draw**. Each ticket is £1.00. You can sell to family, friends, neighbours or choose to purchase some yourself! Please could you fill out any sold counterfoils, and **return to the school with the corresponding cash in the sealed envelope no later than Thurs 30th November**. We ask that you also return any unsold tickets too. Our grand draw prizes and Christmas hampers raffle will take place the afternoon of our bazaar!

AMHERST FESTIVE BAKE OFF!! IT'S COMPETITION TIME!

Do you have what it takes to be the next **Star Amherst Baker**?

Gather your friends and family around the table and whip up some sweet treats in support of your school. Whether you're a baking pro with a go-to recipe or eager to try something new, the possibilities are endless!

And what's a competition without prizes? There will be a First Prize winner for the most festive Christmas cake or cupcakes, and runner-ups for each year group. All cakes will be sold at the bazaar, so your creations won't go to waste and will help support your school!

Please bring your delicious decorated creations to the office on the morning of:

Friday 1st of December

Please make sure you label your cake clearly with your name and class. The cakes will be judged by the PTA Committee and **prizes will be given out in assembly on Friday morning**.

The only rules are the cakes have to be homemade (no store bought please), be creative.... and to have fun!!

GOOD LUCK!

**No NUTS
Please**

A huge effort goes into making this event successful for our school fundraising, and **fun and memorable** for the children! We can't **thank you** enough for your continued support and generosity!

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AMHERST SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!

Saturday 2nd
December
12-3pm

Games, Grotto,
tombolas,
toys & more!

COINS

**Remember to collect
small change
to use at the bazaar
next
Saturday!**



CAN YOU FIND THE KEY
THAT OPENS THE
MYSTERY BOX TO WIN A

PLAY STATION 5!!!

KEYS £5 EACH

ON SALE AT THE BAZAAR OR
AFTERSCHOOL ON TUE 28TH NOV
AND FRI 1ST DEC UNTIL 4PM



DON'T MISS THE GRAND
OPENING AT 2.30PM ON
SAT 2ND DECEMBER!

**Advent Christmas Raffle Tickets
on sale next week after school**

MONDAY & TUESDAY

£1 for 2 tickets

£2.00 for 5 tickets



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LET'S CELEBRATE

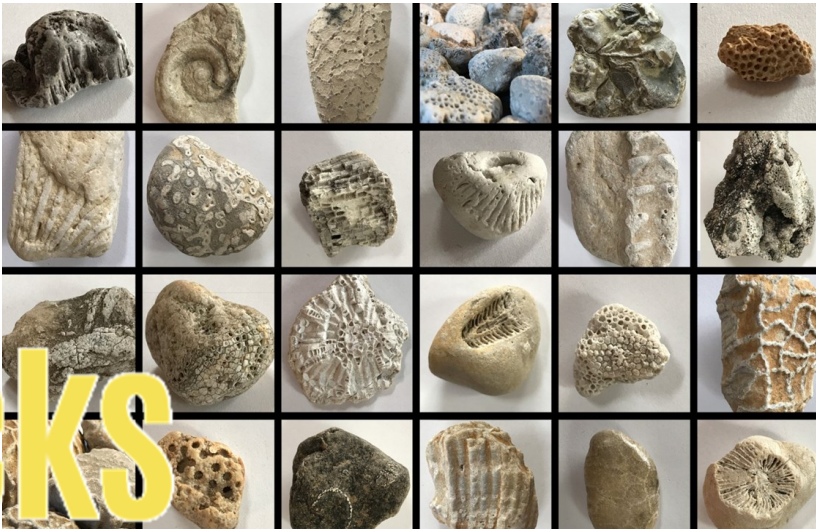
STAR OF THE WEEK



3CL	Emily F
3H	Rowyn L
3W	Jasper D
4C	Xander W
4S	Juliet H
4SF	Isla D

5A	Naomie C-W
5HR	Alex O-G
5J	Matilda P-S
6A	Kimi M
6B	Alex P
6W	Imogen H

YEAR 3 ROCKS DAY



Rocks Day



COMMUNITY EVENTS

AUDITIONING NOW!

AGES 5-18

A Musical Tale of The Ugly Duckling

Performed by

SHOWTIME

Showtime Performing Arts are looking for talented students to take part in our production of **HONK!**

Honk! will take place on **Sunday 9th June 2024 at the Stag Theatre, London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ.**

Trial Date:
SATURDAY 25 November and 2 December at Sevenoaks, Weald of Kent, Sevenoaks Annexe, TN13 3SN

Previous experience isn't vital, just willingness and enthusiasm to take part. You must be part of Showtime to audition for a **main part**.

Please contact **hello@showtime.london** with your child's name, DoB, contact number and saying which date/venue you would like to attend. The time is from 10am to 1pm, you must wear suitable clothing (i.e. t-shirt & leggings) to move in and bring a snack and drink.



THE READING AGENCY

Winter Mini Challenge

Join the Ready, Set, Read! Winter Mini Challenge

1 December 2023 - 19 February 2024

Get rewards for your reading

wintermini.org.uk

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

YOUTH SPORT FUND

READING

Kent Libraries

Admission to Junior school in Kent 2024

Apply online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Opens Friday 3 November 2023 and closes at midnight on Monday 15 January 2024

For children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, Transferring to Junior school in September 2024

What to do

Choose a school	Apply for a school place	Receiving your offer
<p>It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form.</p> <p>Read the guide to Primary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.</p> <p>You can name up to three junior schools, inside or outside of Kent. You are unable to name Primary schools on this application.</p>	<p>A simple, fast, convenient process which opens Friday 3 November 2023 and closes at midnight on Monday 15 January 2024.</p> <p>You will first need to set up an online account. The applicant is you, the parent/carer; you will then need to add your child's details before starting an application. You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted correctly.</p> <p>You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.</p>	<p>On offer day (Tuesday 16 April 2024) an email will be sent after 4pm informing you of your offer. You must accept or decline the school place. You have been offered by Tuesday 30 April 2024. A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email.</p> <p>If it has not been possible to offer your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list.</p>

Key dates

Friday 3 November 2023	Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions to register and apply.
Monday 15 January 2024	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk .
Tuesday 16 April 2024	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.
Tuesday 30 April 2024	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of schools named on the original application.
Tuesday 14 May 2024	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals . You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk or kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.

The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.

Sevenoaks CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Specsavers

MANAK SOLICITORS

BLIGHT'S MEADOW

FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER

EVENT STARTS

6:00pm - 8:30pm

ROAD CLOSURE

5:00pm - 9:30pm

Live music, carols, carnival rides, attractions, street market, streetfood and much more...

