



MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Year 4 Christmas Performance

Well done to all Year 4 children for such a fantastic Christmas performance. It was so enjoyable to watch the children perform a range of songs, dances, gymnastic routines, boomwhackers, bell ringing, poetry recitals and jokes with such confidence and enthusiasm. I definitely felt very Christmassy by the end. It is so important children get to experience performances such as this as they are a memorable part of their Amherst journey. I know the things I remember from school are trips, performances, sporting events and individual teachers. Not necessarily the lessons attended! Thank you to the Year 4 team for all their hard work to enable the children to perform to such a high standard. [Click here](#) for more photos.

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Christmas Bazaar

It was great to see so many of you at the Christmas Bazaar. The event had a lovely atmosphere and felt like the official beginning of the Christmas period. Well done to all the Year 6 children that created such a brilliant range of stalls. Thank you to the PTA and in particular the Christmas Bazaar committee (Hayley Hansford, Nicole Miles, Emily Pegg, Victoria Burton, Lydia Sage, Leanne Otti, Beth Harrison) for organising such a superb event. We are very lucky to have such a committed PTA team and generous parents who attend the events. As mentioned before all funds raised will go towards the outdoor area development project.

Parent Questionnaire



As you will have seen, an email was sent earlier in the week regarding completing our annual parent questionnaire. If you have not yet had the chance to look at it please do. We really value your feedback to help validate the good work we are doing but also identify areas for improvement. Links to the questionnaires are on page 3.

Last week Christmas Arrangements

It promises to be a busy week! Please make sure to diarise our Secrets Room and Carol Service on Monday, Pantomime with packed lunch on Wednesday and Christmas Lunch with jumpers on Thursday.

Winning House



Well done to Wolfe who were the winning house again, amassing the most house points over the last seven weeks. Remember the winning house can wear non-uniform on the last day of term and where possible include an item of their house colour.

I am looking forward to putting our tree up at home this weekend.

I was always quite resistant to outdoor Christmas lights around our house but this year I have followed my children's wishes and secretly I quite like them!

I hope you all have a great weekend.

ROAD SAFETY

We are always concerned when parents, carers or neighbours tell us about near-misses with traffic close to our school. Over the past term, the Amherst School Council has been campaigning for better road safety during drop-off and collection periods. They would like to encourage anyone who drives to watch these videos and to share them with other local drivers.

HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL NEAR ROADS?

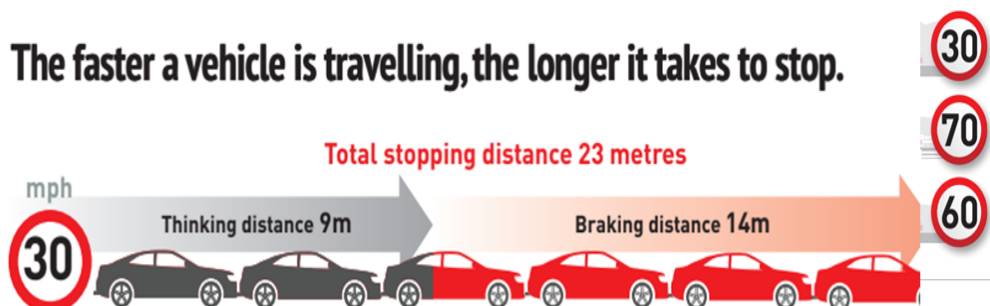


SAFE SYSTEMS IS CHILD'S PLAY —[click here](#)



The science of speed

The faster a vehicle is travelling, the longer it takes to stop.



20's plenty on roads near schools

25% of parents say traffic is too fast for their children to walk to school

20 Brake is calling for 20mph speed limits around all schools in the UK⁶



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.



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES 2023

Please can you complete our **annual parent** questionnaires on the following links:

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)



LETTERS SENT THIS WEEK

- Pantomime Packed Lunch for FSM children
- Year 6—Young Voices ‘expiring’ Homework Link—please try this one: <https://yvmusicroom.com/parentRegisterReferral?code=NDgxMS8xNzAxNzgwNjgw>
- CAROL SERVICE

You are invited to attend our **Carol Service at St. Mary’s Church on Monday 11th December at 6.00pm**. The service is a children's version of lessons and carols rather than a school performance. You will sit as a family with your children as part of the congregation, joining in the singing as with a traditional carol service.

It is always a particularly festive occasion and we encourage families to consider coming along, whether they are involved with the school choir or not.



PTA SECRETS ROOM

Please remember to sign your child up for the **PTA Secrets Room on MONDAY 11th December**. This is where your child can choose a gift for 2 adults in their family priced at **£2.50 per gift**.

Payment is through [PTA Events Website](#).



DONATION OF ADULT T-SHIRTS

We would appreciate any donations of old adult t-shirts for our **art cupboards** in school.



HOUSE POINT WINNERS

Congratulations to Wolfe who are the winners again this term! They are able to **wear something yellow** on the last day of term!



VACANCIES

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

- Breakfast Club Manager - Part-time
- Midday Supervisory Assistant - Part-time
- Teaching Assistant - Full-time/Part-time



LUNCH BANDS PLEASE

We’d appreciate it if all lunch bands (making their way home) be returned to the school—especially 3W and 4SF.



FUTURE DATES

11 December	- Flu Vaccinations 9.00am
11 December	- PTA Secrets Room 2.00—3.30pm
11 December	- Christmas Carol Service 6.00—7.00pm (St Mary’s Riverhead)
13 December	- Whole School Pantomime + Packed Lunch —Stag Theatre 10.15am
14 December	- Christmas Lunch (children can wear their Christmas Jumpers)
15 December	- Term 2 Ends
2 January	- Inset Day
3 January	- Inset Day
4 January	- Term Starts



We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one for your time and effort in making our **AMHERST CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** a huge success!

We raised just shy of **£12,000.00** and are awaiting match funding contributions to add to the total.

Thank you to those who have taken the time to arrange match funding this year. We will release final figure in the new year.

Your PTA Team

PTA SECRETS ROOM!

The secrets room is when the children will have the opportunity to choose a gift for their parents/carers (up to 2 max.) All gifts are wrapped and ready to take home to the recipients!

Price is £2.50 per gift. **Every child will be included.** If you have trouble making payment, please do not worry, your child will still go home with a gift.

Please click here to pre-pay on PTA Events Website:
www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta

LET’S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3CL	William R
3H	Elizabeth K
3W	Imogen H
4C	All of Year 4
4S	All of Year 4
4SF	All of Year 4

5A	Josh B
5HR	Ella B
5J	Lauren S
6A	Noah W
6B	Lexi F
6W	Theo H



BASKETBALL YEAR 3

This week **Amherst** took part in the year 3&4 basketball tournament at **Knole Academy**. Due to the Year 4 Christmas performance we took a team of **Year 3** children. They were just **fantastic; showing resilience and determination despite being the youngest team** and not having played basketball together yet. We had a wonderful time and are already planning for next year's tournament.

Well done Charlie G (3CL), Joseph L (3CL), Ava B (3H) Panos K (3H), Imogen H (3W), Henry S (3W) and Holly C (3W)!



GIRLS FOOTBALL WINNERS

2 hours of pounding rain didn't dampen the **spirits of the Amherst girls** on Monday 27th November at the annual Sevenoaks girls football tournament.

The team did **fantastically well in all our matches**. Everyone played so well and it was topped off by **the team winning the tournament!**

Congratulations to:
Maddie H (5A), Ella B (5HR), IsabeN(5HR), Lottie P (5J), Samantha C (6A), Phoebe D (6A), Florence D (6B), Jessica M (6B), Millie P (6B), Diya P (6W)
Super effort all around from all the girls!



INTER HOUSE COMPETITION



This week some children from each year group have taken part in competitions representing their house.



DODGEBALL:

The winning house for the dodgeball competition was Wolfe, Knole came 2nd, Amherst 3rd and Bradbourne 4th. Congratulations Wolfe!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNING HOUSE OF THE TERM:

Well done to **Wolfe** for winning the house points competition again this term. There will be competitions every term with the aim that every child will have represented their house at something throughout the year.

Look out for more competitions next term!

GYMNASTICS WINNER

Annie R (6W) came first in the London Trampoline & Tumbling Club and Challenge Cup over the last weekend of November.

She performed three different sequences - one of which included executing a backflip followed by two back handsprings called a round off 2 flicks - to come first in the Tumbling Club 4 Mixed 11-12 category.

Annie stayed calm and focussed, and still had a lot of fun, despite being nervous. She only joined the tumbling squad in September, but we have been really proud of her commitment and positive attitude toward training all term.

Well done Annie!



CROSS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS RUN

Thank you for joining us on our last cross country club run before Christmas. Dressed like Santa, we can run anywhere!!



CHESS COMPETITION

Well done to the **Amherst Chess Team** for participating in the Sevenoaks School Partnership Chess Tournament on Tuesday 28th November. Our teams played 3 rounds and were up against some incredibly tough teams, but all children showed great determination, resilience and strategy.

Out of the 13 teams playing:

Amherst A Team came 4th place.
(Ronav D, William G, James J, Mark G, Joey S, Richard L).

Amherst B Team came 3rd place.
(Ethan S, Nikolas K, Jasper F, Jake R, Vihaan G).

Well done to all the children taking part and thank you to Mr Taylor and parents for accompanying the children.



CHOIR



Maidstone Music Festival

Last Saturday, the Amherst Choir won the ‘Under 12’ choir class of the Maidstone Music Festival for the fifth time. The choir sang two songs, *Poppa Piccolino* and *Pure Imagination*, which were highly praised and given 'Distinction' by the adjudicator. Thank you to Miss Payne for accompanying us on the piano.

Christmas Song Competition Winner

Congratulations to Charlie G (Year 3) and Grace G (Year 6) for winning this year's 'Christmas Song Competition'. We had so many wonderful entries from across the school, making the selection process a real challenge for all the teachers. Charlie and Grace have been working with Mr Clarke over the past week to set their words to music and the completed carol, *The Christmas Tree*, will be performed at the school Carol Service on Monday 11th December.

Christmas Lights Switch-On

On Friday 24th November the Amherst Choir performed at the main Sevenoaks Lights Switch-On. We performed a range of Christmas songs that included *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *Sleigh Ride*, *You're a Mean One, Mr Grinch* and some traditional carols. The children were absolutely brilliant, singing with enthusiasm and acting as a real credit to the school. We are looking forward to performing carols in Trafalgar Square from 4.00-5.00pm next Thursday 14th December, which anyone is welcome to come and support.



EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS EXPLAINED

Thank you for completing our Clubs Booking Form for the MINI Spring Sign Up. We will be working on your bookings and emails and will be in contact shortly.

OUR AIM

We aim to give each child an opportunity to attend one extra-curricular club in Autumn/Spring and in Summer.

POPULAR CLUBS



i.e. chess, arts and craft, forest school, athletics

With popular and oversubscribed clubs, it is likely that your child will only be allocated a place in one of the three terms to give all children the opportunity to participate.

CLUBS BOOKING FORM

The Clubs Booking Form is available via the school’s website all year long.

Please complete this and if there is a space open in a club, it will be allocated to you.

AUTUMN AND SPRING CLUBS LIST (winter & indoor clubs)		SUMMER CLUBS LIST (summer & outside clubs)									
<ul style="list-style-type: none">New Sign upClubs list sent to parent by end of SeptemberParents sign children up via the Clubs booking formClub allocations are communicated for:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">New Sign upClubs list sent to parents before EasterParents sign children up via the Clubs booking formClub allocations are communicated for:									
AUTUMN (Term 1 and 2) Starts 3 week of term to end November	SPRING (Term 3 and 4) Starts 2 nd week of term to mid March	SUMMER (Term 5 and 6) Starts 2 nd week of term to end of June									
CHESS CLUB EXAMPLE: 80 children chose Chess as 1 st choice club in September <ul style="list-style-type: none">30 children were allocated a place in Autumn (T 1&2)30 children were allocated a place in Spring (T 3&4)The rest will go on the waiting list for when a space opens up 		ATHLETICS CLUB EXAMPLE: 60 children chose Athletics as 1 st choice club in March <ul style="list-style-type: none">30 children were allocated a place in 5th Half term30 children were allocated a place in 6th Half termThe rest will go on the waiting list for when a space opens up 									
END OF DECEMBER <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reminders for Autumn club attendance coming to an end are sent outReminders for Spring term attendance from January are sent outMINI SIGN UP<ul style="list-style-type: none">For clubs with changes or with open spacesThose clubs already allocated in September will be blacked out on the updated clubs list.<table border="1" data-bbox="87 2462 257 2513"><tr><th>Club</th><th>W Group</th><th>Booking availability</th></tr><tr><td>MONDAY</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Minecraft</td><td>Spring - Year 3</td><td></td></tr></table><ul style="list-style-type: none">The booking form will show only the open and available spaces		Club	W Group	Booking availability	MONDAY			Minecraft	Spring - Year 3		
Club	W Group	Booking availability									
MONDAY											
Minecraft	Spring - Year 3										

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TIME FOR FAMILY, TIME FOR FRIENDS

BOOK YOUR CLASS CAMPING TRIP TODAY!



Hi Parents, Guardians, Teachers!

Welcome to Pop Up Campsites (near Hastings). We offer camping breaks for Primary school classes and would love to welcome you and your family / class friends for a relaxing and fun, nature-rich getaway at our beautiful site!

We have over 20 acres of meadows and woodland. We're a safe, car-free site so children can be free to roam and explore and parents can take time to relax and socialise around a cosy campfire! Perfect for recharging batteries.

We even have freshly-made wood-fired oven pizzas on a Friday evening!

Sound good? Get in touch to book your break:

Website: popupcampsites.com/class-trips
Email: info@popupcampsites.com
Phone: 07812 605094



THE 'ADVENT' ADVENTURE ... WITH PUPPETS!!!

Android, Tablets & iPhones

Season 1

Countdown Christmas

WHAT! I can't have aliens in this year's nativity?!

Have you thought about looking in the Bible?

Oh Mella... let's look it up on the internet

Mr Fredericks
History Teacher

Miss Dramaticus
Drama Teacher

Dorothy
School Secretary

This Christmas!

The fun and exciting advent calendar continues!



"NO SCREENS, JUST GOOD FUN IN NATURE"

XMAS HOLIDAY CLUBS

"Childcare during the holidays they want to go to"

Fresh air. Fresh activities. Fresh attitude.

DUNTON GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONDAY 18 DEC
MEGA GAMES, SNOW MAKING, S'MORES & PAINT MURAL
We love to play! A day of mega games, woodland adventures & a wild time as we toast s'mores around the campfire to recharge between mega games. There'll be a 'snow' ball making session before we come together to design a massive Paint Gun Mural!

TUESDAY 19 DEC
BAD SANTA & SNOW BALL NERF: CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
Join us for an energetic day of Nerf dart dodging with tactical & team based games. There's an imposter dressed as Santa & they are out to steal Christmas - we need help to save our stockings! Come along for battling bad Santa & a game of snowball assault. (due to the nature of this day 6+ is recommended)

WEDNESDAY 20 DEC
NEW MINECRAFT DAY WITH TOOLS & MODEL WORKSHOP
The kids will be building & maintaining their village using bushcraft equipment, while earning reward pixels & protecting their village from the Creeper! They will have to collect their elements & using the crafting table, build their tools, before our Minecraft paper pixel character modelling workshop

THURSDAY 21 DEC
DROP PANCAKES, S'MORES, PINE NEEDLE TEA & FIRE LIGHTING
Christmas Edition! We will make our own drop pancakes, master the art of brewing pine needle tea, & hone your bushcraft fire lighting skills. Oh yeah - then head to the campfire once again for some tasty s'mores.

FRIDAY 22 DEC
XMAS CRAFTS: BIRD FEEDERS, EMBROIDERY ART & CANDY CANE HUNT
Today we'll be enjoying a wintery Christmas craft day appreciating the beautiful season of winter. We'll be helping our feathered friends out as we craft some bird feeders. We'll create our own floss embroidery art & there'll be a hunt for the candy canes Santa's elves have left out for us!



For more info on dates, locations and how the clubs run & to book: www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk

THE SEVENOAKS PLAYERS PRESENT...

A Tom Whalley Pantomimes' Script

Directed by Claire Tilley



Cinderella

Offord Village Hall

Friday 8th December - 7:30pm

Saturday 9th December - 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Friday 15th December - 7:30pm

Saturday 16th December - 12:30pm & 5:30pm

Tickets Cost £14 (Concessions £8)

Tickets are available at www.sevenoaksplayers.co.uk (or via Ticketsource)



Registration for- How Mainstream Primary Schools Support Children with SEN- 12/12/23

Training for parents and carers of children with SEND in Primary mainstream educational settings.

Date: Tuesday 12 December 2023
Time: 10am to midday