



AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

16th EDITION - 12 January 2024



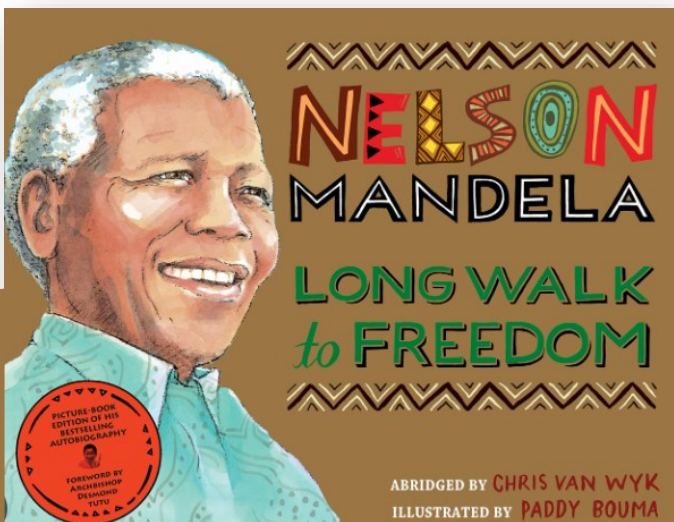
MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Determination

During assembly on Monday and Tuesday I shared with the children the **incredible story of Nelson Mandela**. The children were **inspired by his determination** to end apartheid and the struggles that he endured. I used the **excellent book** by Chris Van Wyk which tells **Nelson Mandela's story in a child friendly way**.

The children were amazed how a little boy could grow up to fight apartheid, spend 27 years in prison and then **become South Africa's first black president** and **campaign for freedom and justice** throughout the world.

We ended Tuesday's assembly by **watching the original footage of Mr Mandela's release** and then learnt more about his **positive impact on the world** before his death aged 95 in 2013.



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Screen Time

As parents, **getting the right balance for screen time** with children and us as adults can be **really hard to achieve**. Please **see the next page of the newsletter** for a very useful **poster with some top tips**. They include advice on:

- Try a timed trial
- Go digital detox
- Lead by example
- Agree tech-free zones
- Take a family tech break
- 'Park' phones overnight
- Socialise without screens

This can be an **area of contention** and please don't be surprised if your child reacts with the phrase **'you are the only parents that do this'**. You will not be alone in trying to get a healthier balance.

Often habits from the holidays continue in January, especially when the weather is not so inviting. I would encourage you to **stick with it**, as **good habits set now** will have a **positive impact** as they get older. Parenting can be challenging at times but don't forget we are the adults who have the **big picture** in mind. **It is ok to say no!**

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.



STAR OF THE WEEK

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The
National
College®



**National
Online
Safety®**
Wednesday

#WakeUpWednesday

 @natonlinesafety

 /NationalOnlineSafety

 @nationalonlinesafety

 @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.01.2023

3CL	Nelly S
3H	Alex T
3W	Bertie D-L
4C	Tomas B-W
4S	Dexter S
4SF	Lydia K

5A	William B
5HR	Camille S
5J	Matilda C
6A	Lucas I-C
6B	Lola-Rose H
6W	Annie R

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.



LUNCH MONEY

As always, you should please pay for your child's school meals in **ADVANCE** (either weekly or termly). Please make payment via www.schoolgateway.com. Costs for the new term are as follows: Daily - £ 2.55 / Weekly - £ 12.75 / Term 3 - £ 68.85 (27 days) / Term 4 -£ 73.95 (29 days)



CLUBS

- Week 15-19 January 2024: All clubs running
- Open spaces available - please complete our [booking form](#) here
Ceramics—**3** / Street Dance—**2** / Spanish (Yr 4-6) - **5** / Table Tennis (Yr 4) - **1** / Mandarin - **8** / Boardgames—**8**



YEAR 6 – YOUNG VOICES – PRE-ORDER VIDEO

VIDEO

If you would like to pre-order a video of your child's performance on 30th January 2024 please use the discount code **'PREORDER'** on this link yv24film.co.uk. Pre-ordering the YV24 concert video will be at an exclusive discounted offer for just £9.99 (usually £12.99). [Click here](#) for a short example of the video.

SPECTATOR TICKETS ORDERED

Parents should have had an email from AXS Tickets and need to accept their online tickets by following the instructions on the email. Please note that you will have to show your tickets on the door at the O2 to enter the building.



SPRING YEAR GROUP LETTERS— please click on the links below

- [Year 3 Spring Term Letter](#)
- [Year 4 Spring Term Letter](#)
- [Year 5 Spring Term Letter](#)
- [Year 6 Spring Term Letter](#)

IMPORTANT!
Information



VACANCIES

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

- Breakfast Club Manager - Part-time / Term time
- Midday Supervisory Assistant - Part-time / Term time
- After School Club Assistant - Part-time / Term time
- Business Manager—Full-time / All year round



LEAVERS HOODIES— YEAR 6

Please complete your [order form](#) by **17 January 2024**. Payment should please be made via www.schoolgateway.com, ideally by **30 January 2024** but at the latest by **14 February 2024**.



FUTURE DATES

- 26 January - PTA Cake Sale and 2nd Hand Uniform Sale
- 30 January - Year 6 Young Voices @ the O2
- 7-9 February - Year 3 Roman Days
- 9 February - PTA Valentine's Raffle
- 9 February - Wear something RED with school uniform. (fundraising for National Heart Month)
- 9 February - Term 3 Ends
- 19 February - Term 4 Starts
- 12 March - Year 6 Love to Dance Show @ the Stag Theatre
- 15 March - Clubs End
- 15 March - Open Afternoon
- 19 March - Parent Consultations
- 20 March - Year 6 Parliament Trip
- 21 March - Year 5 Rainforest Roadshow
- 21 March - Parent Consultations
- 22 March - PTA School Disco
- 28 March - Term 4 Ends
- 6 July - Amherst Summer BBQ (Save the Date)



Your guide to applying for a

Primary school
in Kent 2024

Reception year
for children born
between 1 September
2019 and 31 August 2020

Year 3 (Junior school)
for children born
between 1 September
2016 and 31 August 2017

Apply Online

Go to Kent Online Admissions
kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

A simple, fast and secure way to apply for a Primary school place in Kent. Opens on Friday 3 November 2023 and closes at midnight on Monday 15 January 2024.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FOSTER
FOR
KENT



Come join us!

03000 420 002
kentfostering.co.uk



Join our team!

66

Foster carers have the unique opportunity to make a real difference to a child or young person's life, supporting them and working to help them develop and achieve their potential. Becoming a foster carer helps children, young people and their families to rebuild and reunite, whilst protecting a young person's safety. Our foster carers support and care for vulnerable children and young people in Kent whilst their birth parents are unable to, or are given the necessary help and support they need to progress.

Fostering is one of the most varied, challenging and rewarding jobs you can do and as a foster carer you will need to be patient, supportive, nurturing, loving, understanding and kind. Age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion and disability have no impact on a person's ability to become a foster carer with Kent Fostering, only the ability to provide a loving and supportive home alongside the right motivation, knowledge and skills.

We are looking to recruit, train and support more new foster carers in Kent from all different backgrounds, and hope that this way all our children and young people's time in care will be the best that it can possibly be.

Our children in Kent need local Kent-based foster carers and we'd love to hear from you! If you would like to learn more about the advantages of fostering with Kent Fostering, please get in touch with our enquiries team today!

Nicola Anthony & Mark Vening, Heads of Fostering at Kent Fostering

The fostering process

From enquiry to approval, our process helps ensure a positive fostering experience for everyone involved. The fostering assessment process is something which every potential foster carer will need to undergo before they can become a foster carer with Kent Fostering. We always endeavour to complete the process within six months, and for foster carers transferring from another fostering agency this will usually be completed within three to four months.

You will be guided throughout the entire fostering process by our dedicated and friendly Fostering Assessment team. Initially, we will need to find out a bit more about you, performing some statutory checks and if successful, one of our team will come and visit you. There will be initial training and a full assessment that will include all household members. Once you have been approved to become a foster carer, we will then go through the next steps to help you welcome a child or child into your home.

What Kent Fostering offers

Being a foster carer is not only rewarding because of the difference you can make to a child, but we also offer our carers great support and training:

- A weekly payment package.
- Additional payments for skills.
- Regular local training and opportunities to gain qualifications.
- 24-hour support.
- An informative induction and your own foster care mentor when you start.
- An allocated mentor during your first year of fostering and beyond.
- Access to local support groups.
- 14 nights' holiday entitlement (16 as a Skilled or Advanced Level Carer).
- Foster Talk and Kent Foster Carer Association membership.
- Access to Virtual School Kent.
- Access to the Children and Young People's Council.
- Participation in appreciation and activity days.
- Kent Rewards (providing discounts both locally and nationally off well-known retailers).

MEGA CAMPS

KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

EARN THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

AGES 17+

WE'RE RECRUITING

MAKE A DIFFERENCE & BECOME PART OF THE MEGA CAMPS TEAM





MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT ESSEX, KENT & SURREY



FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET/JOBS/
OR CALL 0333 012 4378 (OPTION 3)



MEGA CAMPS

KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

WE ACCEPT CHILD CARE VOUCHERS

CHILD CARE FROM 8am - 6pm

AGES 4 - 14

FEBRUARY CAMP 2024

EARLY BIRD OFFERS END 2ND FEBRUARY

CHECK WEBSITE FOR DATES & LOCATIONS



DIFFERENT MEGA ACTIVITIES EACH DAY AS WELL AS FOOTBALL, ARCHERY, DOODGEBALL, BOUNDERS, KWIK CRICKET, BASKETBALL, TEAM GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT ESSEX, KENT & SURREY

VISIT WEBSITE FOR A FULL LIST OF 2024 DATES & LOCATIONS



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





Locality Model for SEN Inclusion

Public consultation

Have your say by 24 January 2024

www.kent.gov.uk/localitymodel



You will be aware that KCC has launched a public consultation on the Localities model for SEN Inclusion. There has been a healthy response to the consultation to date, but we would like to focus our attention for the next few weeks on **engaging with parents and supporting them to complete the consultation**

You will find in this email a link for four online parental meetings which will take place next week (15th/16th/17th and 18th January 2024) which have been organised with parent groups. It would be much appreciated if you could send the link to the parents of children with SEN who attend your school, either who have an EHCP or who are on the SEN register. Parents only need to attend the session of their choice. The content is identical, and it will be led by KCC officers to explain the Localities model, encourage parents to complete the consultation and gather questions.

- 15th January- [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- 16th January- [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- 17th January- [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- 18th January- [Click here to join the meeting](#)

FEBRUARY SOCCER SCHOOL

• LENHAM
• GILLINGHAM
• WROTHAM

#NEXTLEVEL



BOOK HERE  DECIMO



February half-term Sports Camp

MONDAY 12TH, TUESDAY 13TH & WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY
RIVERHEAD INFANTS SCHOOL
10AM - 3PM / £25 PER DAY OR £70 FOR ALL 3 DAYS

TO BOOK CONTACT AMANDA ON 07584419283