

AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

3rd EDITION - 20 September 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Smartphones



Thank you for the overwhelmingly **positive response** to the decision to trial children not bringing smartphones to school from Monday 23rd September. I cannot remember a change of school policy which has been met with such enthusiastic parental support. The timing is right for the change and hopefully it will have the intended positive impact.

CONTENTS

Message from Mr Reid
PAGE 1

Notices
PAGE 2

Clubs, PTA, Books &
Star of the Week
PAGE 3

Circle Time



I wanted to **update you on an initiative** we have introduced this year for all classes. Your child may have come home mentioning Circle Time. Circle Time is nothing new (something we used regularly all those years ago when I was a class teacher) as a strategy but maybe has been forgotten as a useful tool to build children's confidence, empathy, resilience and class cohesion.

All classes are having a **weekly Circle Time slot, led by their teacher**, which can address any current classroom or playground issues as a group if needed. The sessions always contain **simple fun games** which the **children really enjoy**. Over time these sessions help build a sense of community within the class and help children value and respect each other, celebrating their unique skills and personalities. From first hand experience it can be highly successful in **enabling children** to be more tolerant and learn to **rub along together** through all the normal ups and downs. **This sadly is something that we see children finding difficult at the moment and look forward to teaching children how to rediscover this important life skill.**

Clubs



Hopefully your child has been able to **find a club** they wish to attend from next week. We are very lucky to have such a wide range on offer. **Thank you to all staff and volunteers** who are giving up their time so willingly. It makes a real difference to what we can offer outside of the normal curriculum.

Playleader Playleaders' Training



On Wednesday 18th September twelve Year 6 children and Mrs Pound attended **Playleaders' training at Sevenoaks School**. The children will now set up at lunchtime a **range of games that they can teach and play with younger children** on the playground. They are very excited to get started!



Secondary Application meeting

Reminder that I will be hosting a secondary application meeting for Year 6 parents next week on **Wednesday 25th September 7.15pm**. The meeting will explain the application process and will last approx. 45mins.



I hope you all have a great weekend.

Mr Reid

NOTICES



REPORT ABSENCES

Please complete the quick [Daily Absence Form](#) on our website before 9.00am for **every day** your child is off school. Please complete for **ANY** appointment during the day.



SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS – YEAR 5 & YEAR 6

Parents, please familiarise yourself with the [secondary school open days](#) currently being hosted. **Please complete an absence form** if you would like to take your child to view a school.



CLUBS START MONDAY

Monday Minecraft - postponed until **Thursday 12.40pm** for one week only

**** Please ensure that prompt payment is made to outside club providers. Thank you.**



BREAKFAST CLUB SPACES AVAILABLE

We have spaces available if you are interested. Please complete our [booking form](#).



NO SMART PHONE TRIAL

Just a reminder that the 'No Smartphone In School' trial starts on Monday 23rd September. Many thanks for your support.



VACANCIES

Please apply on [Kent Teach](#) for the vacancies we have: Middy Supervisor Assistant



PARENT READERS / VOLUNTEERS

We are still looking for **YEAR 5 parent readers** please—if you can spare even an hour it would be much appreciated. Please indicate on [www.schoolgateway.com](#) your availability.

**** ALL PARENT READERS (with a valid DBS) ARE WELCOME TO START NEXT WEEK! We look forward to welcoming you back!**



HILLTOP – YEAR 6

Please note that the next Hilltop payment is due end of September.



YOUNG VOICES – YEAR 6

We will be finalising the orders for spectator tickets and t-shirt packs next week.

Please ensure you have indicated if you need any via [www.schoolgateway.com](#).



FUTURE DATES

23 September - Clubs start

24 September - Year 6 Child Measurement Programme

25 September - Year 6 Secondary Application Meeting—7.15pm
(slides available afterwards / no childcare available)

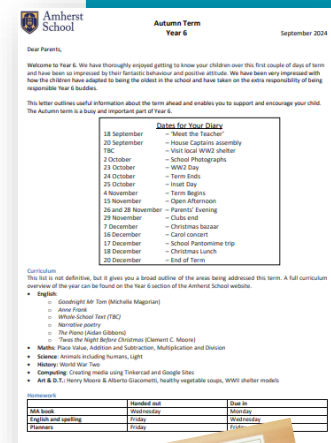
2 October - School Photos

23 October - Year 6 - WWII day

24 October - Last Day of Term

25 October - Inset Day

From the Teachers BE INFORMED



AUTUMN TERM YEAR GROUP LETTERS

Please click on the links below for info on Curriculum, Trips, Homework and more

[Year 3 Letter](#)

[Year 4 Letter](#)

[Year 5 Letter](#)

[Year 6 Letter](#)

MEET THE TEACHER

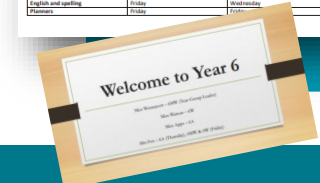
PRESENTATION SLIDES

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)



Amherst Extracurricular Clubs

AUTUMN / SPRING
2024 - 2025

We still have open spaces in the following clubs:

- Little Musketeers 6
- Curling 2
- Ceramics Wednesday** 4
- Gymnastics Thursday 4
- Board Games 10
- Disney Club 4
- Coding 5
- Story Time—Year 5&6 4



AMHERST SCHOOL CLUBS Autumn & Spring 2024-25						
Club	W Group	Location	Cost	Years	Days	Notes
Autumn						
Little Musketeers	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Tuesdays	
Curling	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Wednesdays	
Ceramics	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Wednesdays	
Gymnastics	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	
Board Games	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	
Disney Club	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	
Coding	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	
Story Time	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	
Spring						
Little Musketeers	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Tuesdays	
Curling	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Wednesdays	
Ceramics	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Wednesdays	
Gymnastics	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	
Board Games	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	
Disney Club	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	
Coding	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	
Story Time	Y5 & Y6	Amherst School	£100	Y5 & Y6	Thursdays	

Please sign up by clicking on our [booking form link here](#).

PTA NEWS

Dear Parents

A massive **thank you** for supporting us at the **RIVERHEAD CARNIVAL** last weekend—it was lovely to see you. For those who helped on the day, **THANK YOU** — we raised a substantial amount of money and could not have done it without you!

We will shortly be in touch with our plans for 2024-2025 ... so

WATCH THIS SPACE
WATCH THIS SPACE
WATCH THIS SPACE

LIBRARY BOOKS



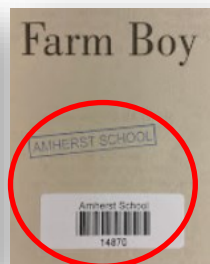
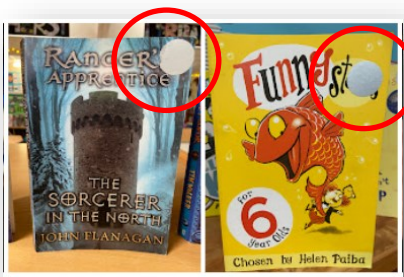
Parents, please can all school library books promptly be returned once your child has finished reading it.

School books are often recognisable by the following:

Silver Stickers

Reading band coloured stickers

School Stamp & Barcode



STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Izzy W
3CL	Evie P
3WH	Cassia D
4C	Lily M
4SF	Sam H
4T	Kitty I

5A	Max P
5HR	Jonny G
5J	Issy K
6A	Albert M
6MW	Maddie H
6W	Henry A

