

MESSAGE FROM MR REID

The Importance of Reading

Last weekend I read a very interesting article in The Times on Saturday about reading. The headline was ‘Children in the UK are reading fewer books than before.’

According to a new report, children in the UK are reading fewer books than before, with experts pointing to post-Covid school absences and social media. According to the study called ‘What Kids Are Reading’, this decline is particularly acute by the time children are in secondary schools.

The link between childhood reading and future earnings is well established. Last year researchers at Cambridge University found that children who read for pleasure have better mental health as they get older. But with smartphones offering them a more appealing, and addictive, alternative, **how can we encourage our children to keep reading?**

Here are some top tips that the article recommends:

⦿ **Read more yourself**

Research from the Book Trust found that children are 40 per cent more likely to read if their parents do. If you want your child to read books, then you have to read books yourself.

⦿ **Try to understand what your child might actually want to read**

Spend time talking to your child about books they may like to read. Go to bookshops, talk to their class teacher and librarians to find out what other children are reading that your child may like too.

⦿ **It doesn't have to be fiction**

Encourage your child to read a range of books. Reading is reading, it doesn't always have to be a fiction book. Audiobooks are also a good gateway to get teenagers back into reading.

⦿ **Don't stop reading to them - even when they are older**

The benefits of reading to babies and young children are wide ranging and include better academic performance, stronger family bonds, and better self-esteem and mental well-being.

⦿ **Take to the pressure off - it's not a chore**

Don't turn books into another battleground. Take the pressure off. If you continuously nag your child to read they are going to do the opposite.

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WHY READ FOR 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A

- 20 minutes of reading a day
- 3600 minutes per school year
- 1 800 000 words per year
- scores in the top 10% in standardised tests



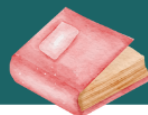
Student B

- 5 minutes of reading a day
- 900 minutes per school year
- 282 000 words per year
- scores average 50% in standardised tests



Student C

- 1 minutes of reading a day
- 180 minutes per school year
- 8 000 words per year
- scores in the bottom 10% in standardised tests



If a child starts reading 20 minutes per night in kindergarten, by the end of year 8, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days and Student C will have read for 3.

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER?

GOOD!

START READING!!!

I hope you all have a good 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.



CLUBS

All clubs should run as normal.



KCC BIKEABILITY– YEAR 6

We are fortunate to have been able to secure 24 spaces for our year 6 pupils to take part in the KCC Bikeability Cycle Training during the May half term break. A letter was sent to all year 6 parents on 14 October. If your child would like to attend this training, please register your interest via www.schoolgateway.com by no later than Monday 21 October 2024.



LETTERS SENT THIS WEEK

Year 6 — Bikeability Letter
Year 3 — Rocks Day Workshop Letter



VAN COLS– SCHOOL PHOTOS

The photographs have now been released to the website. The website for ordering is www.getphotos.co.uk. The online cut-off date for orders to be placed for free postage back to the school is **23rd October 2024**.



FOREST SCHOOL– DONATION REQUEST

If anyone has any childrens gardening gloves that are no longer needed Forest School are in desperate need and would really appreciate these.



FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Please can you ensure your children bring in **healthy snacks** to school.



ANNUAL CONSENTS

Either consent or decline via www.schoolgateway.com with regards to the use of photos, medical, walking home and local area visit consents.



VACANCIES

Please visit www.kent-teach.com to view our current vacancy for a Clerk to the Governors.



YEAR 6 - APPLY BY 31/10/24

Parents, please ensure to submit your child's secondary school application before the end of the month. More details below. Please [click here](#) to complete the form.



Admission to Secondary school in Kent 2025

Apply online at kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
Opens Monday 2 September 2024 and closes at midnight on Thursday 31 October 2024

For children born between
1 September 2013
and **31 August 2014**,
Transferring to Secondary
school in **September 2025**

What to do

Choose a school | **Apply for a school place** | **Receiving your offer**

It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form.

Read the Guide to Secondary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions. You can name up to four Secondary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.

A simple, fast, convenient process which opens **Monday 2 September 2024 and closes at midnight on Thursday 31 October 2024**

If you already have an account set up from the Kent Test process, please use these login details.

You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted correctly and that the LA has received it.

You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.

On offer day (**Monday 3 March 2025**) 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 **Monday 17 March 2025**. If we have not offered 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 if your child is eligible for admission.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you have queries relating to this, please email the team on one of the email addresses below.

Key dates

Monday 2nd September 2024 Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions to register and apply.

Thursday 31 October 2024 Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Monday 3rd March 2025 Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.

Monday 17th March 2025 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 eligible schools named on the original application.

Monday 31st March 2025 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 kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
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.
Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council if the child resides at a Kent address. If your child does not reside at a Kent address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.

21-23 October	- Year 3 Rocks Workshop
23 October	- Year 6 - WWII day
24 October	- Year 6 WWII Shelter visit - Chipstead
24 October	- Last Day of Term
25 October	- Inset Day
4 November	- Term 2 starts
5 November	- PTA Match Funding Evening 7.00pm
12 November	- PTA AGM 7.00—8.00pm
15 November	- Open Afternoon 2.45pm
18-20 November	- Book Fair
21 November	- Charity Fun Run - 8.00am
22 November	- Charity Bake Sale - 3.30pm
25 November	- Amherst Choir Barnardo's
26 & 28 November	- Parents Evening
29 November	- Clubs End
7 December	- PTA Christmas Bazaar 12.00pm
9 December	- Year 4 Christmas Production 2.00pm
10 December	- Year 4 Christmas Production 6.00pm
16 December	- Carol Service 6.00pm
17 December	- Whole School Pantomime Trip
18 December	- Christmas Lunch
20 December	- Last day of term

LET'S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Sophia B
3CL	Luca D B V
3WH	Iris L
4C	Jamie H
4SF	Henry C
4T	Fatheha C

5A	Ella A
5HR	Jasper P
5J	Valentina C-G
6A	Thomas K
6MW	William B
6W	William G

DANCE

Congratulations to the following girls who completed their dance exams and passed with outstanding marks.

- Elliott H - grade 1 modern exam
- Phoebe B - grade 1 modern exam
- Lyla B - grade 1 modern exam
- Penelope N - grade 1 modern, pre 2 tap and grade 1 acro exam.

On Sunday they performed some exercises at the Oak Theatre at Knole Academy from their recent exam session and were presented with their certificates and awards on stage.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you the girls are an absolute pleasure to teach and work extremely hard, not to mention they are very talented.

Mrs Noad



PTA NEWS

Amherst PTA invites you to its CHARITABLE CHUMS & FIZZ EVENT

TUESDAY 5TH
NOVEMBER
7PM - 9PM



AMHERST
SCHOOL HALL

*Come along and learn how to support your
school while enjoying a glass of
complimentary fizz.*



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Girl Guides runs for girls aged 10-14yrs, and we hold weekly meetings during term time on Friday evenings at Chevening Church Hall.

We are currently a small unit and are hoping to grow our numbers by connecting with local schools to give Year 6 girls the opportunity to come along to our opening evenings to find out about Girl Guiding and the activities we do as a unit. On the open evenings we'll be running games and craft activities, as well as providing information for parents/carers on Girl Guiding. We would be most grateful if you could distribute some invitations for our open evening to your Year 6 girls.



Best wishes,
Nicola and Katie
Leaders - 1st Chevening Guides



Wishing three of our students all the best for their performance of Annie this coming weekend! If you would like to support them, please find the details of the production at the Stag Theatre by clicking on the image.

Good luck — Macey, Ruby and Tilly from 6W!!

MARTIAL ARTS

CLASSES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL TODAY!
KICKBOXING + SELF DEFENCE

LITTLE SOLDIERS	CADETS	TEENS & ADULTS
AGE 4-7	AGE 8-12	AGE 13+

Helps younger children to focus and improve their attention span whilst having fun and keeping fit.

Military style martial arts teaching discipline, teamwork, communication, self control and respect.

Kickboxing in military style, focuses on fitness, community, and pushing yourself to the limit!

CONTACT US: 07849249881 DAVID@LM-BMMA.COM

TONBRIDGE - SEVENOAKS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS

[britishmilitarymartialartskent.com](https://www.britishmilitarymartialartskent.com)
bmma_kent

OCTOBER HALF TERM FOOTBALL 2024

Chipstead FC's Holiday Football Course
*****Skills, drills, tournaments & medals*****

Monday 28 & Tuesday 29 October 2024 (2 days)
10.30am-3.00pm - Knole Academy 3G

Please book early to avoid disappointment
Book via the link to secure your place

<https://chipsteadfc.org.uk/courses/holiday-courses/>

STONEPITTS CHRISTMAS TREES

Stonepitts Farm, Watery Lane, Seal Chart, TN15 0ER

We are once again approaching the Christmas Season.

Donations to schools
As in previous years, we would like to offer a £2.00 donation to your School for every Christmas Tree bought by families and staff. Please produce proof of this newsletter article when buying a tree and this will count towards the final donation to the school.

Supporting Charities
We will also make a donation per tree sold to Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

The UK's favourite holiday activity camp !!!

LOCAL OCTOBER CAMP!
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT
EXTRA £20 OFF!

USE CODE: SCHOOL20
*Min 2 days booking. Can't be used in conjunction with other offer codes.

1 WEEK TO CAMP!
OPEN 28 OCT - 1 NOV

- 4½ to 14 year olds!
- Choice each session!
- Use Tax-Free childcare!
- Flexible bookings!
- Boost Confidence!

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