

AN ATLAS OF IMAGINED ISLANDS



AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
9th EDITION - 8 November 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR REID

WHOLE SCHOOL BOOK PROJECT

Twice a year we complete our **whole school book projects** where **every year group works on the same book for 2-3 weeks**. The objectives of the projects are to:

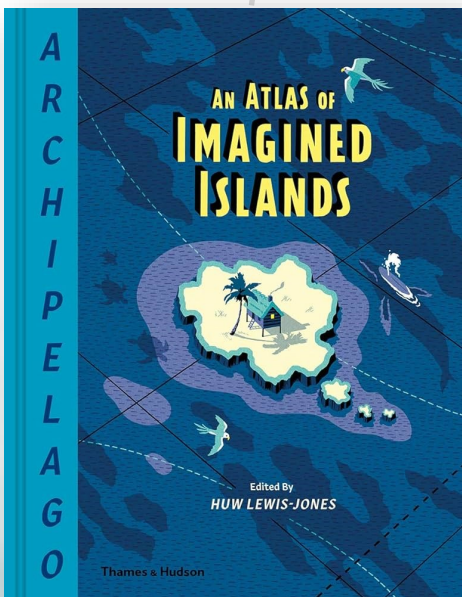
- Create **high quality writing**
- Create **high quality art**
- Develop a **love of books**
- Create a feeling of **whole school cohesion** by having a shared objective

We complete the projects after the **October** and **February** half-terms.

This term's book is *Archipelago: An Atlas of Imagined Islands* edited by **Huw Lewis-Jones**. This will explain why your child might have come home this week talking about strange islands! It is a **wonderful book** that is made up of many **different authors' and illustrators'** imagined islands.

It is one of my favourite times of the year when the projects are taking place. They create a buzz of excitement and anticipation.

I look forward to seeing the **children's writing and art** that will be displayed in the hall, corridors and classrooms over the coming weeks. Displays should be up for parents' evening so please take the opportunity to have a look too.



REMEMBRANCE

It has been wonderful to see **so many children wearing poppies** or other remembrance items this week.

Miss Jones will be leading our **remembrance assembly/service** on Monday.

We will hold our minute's silence at **11.00am** outside after breaktime.



TRAFFIC OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Please could I remind all parents to **park carefully and sensibly outside school** on Witches Lane. As we all know it is **incredibly congested and busy**, especially at the end of the day. If you are parking or reversing out of a space, please **be ultra vigilant of children walking between cars**.

We will also speak to the children about **road safety**. Thank you for your anticipated support.

I hope you all have a good weekend.



Mr Reid

CONTENTS

Message from Mr Reid
PAGE 1

Notices
PAGE 2

Let's Celebrate
PAGE 3

A Bit of Everything
PAGE 4

Community Events
PAGE 5

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 WEEK 11-15 NOVEMBER

11 Nov—NO Chess Club

13 Nov—NO Mandarin Club (extra session 04/12)

Extra session booked for **Little Musketeers** on 02/12



SCHOOL LUNCH PAYMENTS

Please [click here](#) to view this term's menu. 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 - £ 2.65 / Weekly - £ 13.25 / Term 2 - £ 92.75 (35 days)



LETTERS SENT THIS WEEK

Year 4 - Battle Abbey Trip Reminder

Year 5 - Victorian Day

Year 6 - 6A Sevenoaks Science



KEYS FOUND

Keys found on the path through Riverhead Parkland. They have a distinctive keyring and there are 5 keys on it. Please contact Riverhead Infants' School Office.



FOREST SCHOOL— THANK YOU

A BIG thank you to the person/parent/class for the donation of a class-set of forest school gloves! They will be well used.



PANTOMIME— WHOLE SCHOOL TRIP

This is a reminder of the payment for the Pantomime Trip to the Stag Theatre on 17 December 2024. **Payment is now due via www.schoolgateway.com—TODAY 8 November 2024.** Please can you confirm your child's attendance as we need to finalise ticket numbers to **avoid paying for tickets that will not be used.**



12 November	- PTA AGM 7.00pm — 8.00pm (Bullfinch Pub)
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 Consultations (information to follow)
29 November	- Clubs End
2 December	- Year 5 Victorian Day
7 December	- PTA Christmas Bazaar 12.00pm
8 December	- PTA Mini Bazaar
9 December	- Year 4 Christmas Production 2.00pm
10 December	- Year 4 Christmas Production 6.00pm
13 December	- PTA Cake and Hot Dog Sale
16 December	- Secrets Room
16 December	- Carol Service 6.00pm
17 December	- Whole School Pantomime Trip
18 December	- Christmas Lunch
20 December	- Last day of term

AMHERST SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2024
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
12PM TO 3PM

SANTA'S GROTTO
 FESTIVE WONDERLAND
 GAMES & TOYS
 TOMBOLES & RAFFLES
 BBQ, CAKES, REFRESHMENTS
 HAMPERS, GIFTS & MORE...

FREE ENTRY

WE ARE RAISING FUNDS JOIN US!

CHARITY FUN RUN
 21 November
 8.00 am
 School Field
 £1.00 entry
 Everyone welcome!

CHARITY BAKE SALE
 21 November
 3.30pm
 Jubilee Building

Friends For Families
 Sevenoaks

LET'S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Freddy D'A	5A	Artie K
3CL	Amelia D	5HR	Eddy M-M & Greg A
3WH	Freja C	5J	Matthias L-G
4C	Sammy F	6A	Sonny S
4SF	Reuben M	6MW	Lia G-F
4T	George C	6W	Camille S

FOOTBALL



Congratulations to the Amherst football team for another successful round of matches!

We had our first league games of the season, against the traditionally tough opposition of Anthony Roper, St Thomas' and Sevenoaks Primary School. The first match was a convincing 5-0 win against Anthony Roper, followed by a 7-0 win against St Thomas', before beating Sevenoaks 5-0 as well. Not only were the results incredible, with 17 goals scored and none conceded, but the manner in which

the boys played was exemplary. They never took their celebrations too far, as well as checking if players were OK after a hard tackle, and shaking hands with the opposition at the end. It was a fantastic performance all round, with every player playing their part in what is a great omen for the rest of the season.

Well done to: Sydney, William B, Joby, Coby, Josh B, William W-E, Lukas S, Alex B, Joachim, Max L, Richard L and Eden G

JUBILEE LUNCHTIME CLUB



Our Lunchtime Club in the Jubilee Building is open for all children. Often children are doing art or play games and just enjoy the relaxed environment. Congratulations to the winners of the lunchtime club art competition at the end of last term. Your creativity is just wonderful!

POPPY SUCCESS—THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting Josh B's (6MW) fundraising efforts for The Royal British Legion.

Josh and his brother (who sold poppies at Riverhead Infants' School) raised a total of over £600.00.

The boys and their mum want to thank you for your incredibly kind and generous donations.

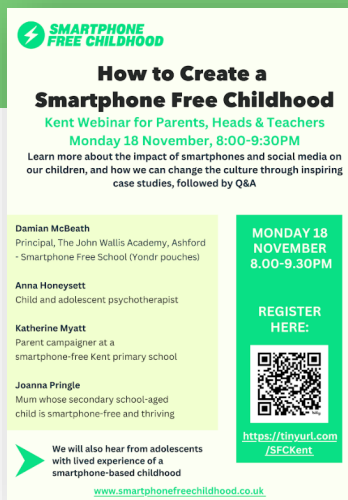


A BIT OF EVERYTHING

SMARTPHONE FREE

Parents are welcome to attend the Kent Webinar on How to Create a Smartphone Free Childhood.

It takes place on Monday 18 November 2024. Please register by [clicking here](#).



SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

How to Create a Smartphone Free Childhood

Kent Webinar for Parents, Heads & Teachers

Monday 18 November, 8:00-9:30PM

Learn more about the impact of smartphones and social media on our children, and how we can change the culture through inspiring case studies, followed by Q&A

Damian McBeath
Principal, The John Wallis Academy, Ashford
- Smartphone Free School (Yondr pouches)


Anna Honeysett
Child and adolescent psychotherapist

Katherine Myatt
Parent campaigner at a smartphone-free Kent primary school

Joanna Pringle
Mum whose secondary school-aged child is smartphone-free and thriving

MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 8.00-9.30PM

REGISTER HERE:



<https://tinyurl.com/SFCKent>

We will also hear from adolescents with lived experience of a smartphone-based childhood

www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

PTA AGM- 12 NOVEMBER

A quick reminder that the **PTA AGM** will be held at **7pm on Tuesday 12th November** at the Bullfinch. You are welcome to join the meeting in person or via Zoom on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86877731138?pwd=2bhfbbrfG4YaVKUqT9UFamH6GRBNan.1>
Meeting ID: 868 7773 1138
Passcode: 3HzZ8J

Please click here for the [Agenda](#).

If you have time to stay after the meeting, we will be discussing **match funding** and **Easyfundraising**.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Your PTA Team

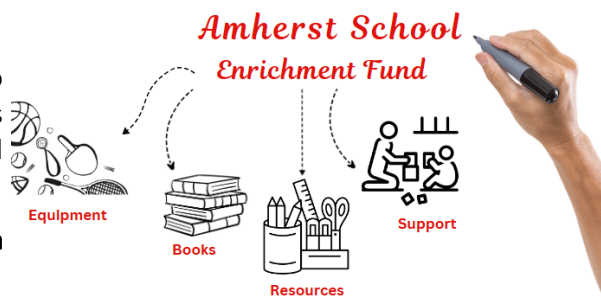
SUPPORTING AMHERST SCHOOL

Every year we ask parents to make a donation to the School's Enrichment Fund. The money raised is spent on enriching opportunities and activities, equipment, extra books and resources.

Amherst continues to be one of the lowest funded schools in Kent per pupil and yet achieves some of the highest academic results. It is a constant struggle to maintain the high level of supportive and adaptive teaching and learning that we provide. Your donation really does make a difference.

This year we are asking parents to contribute £35 per child. All pupils benefit from the Enrichment Fund and your contribution is important.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION via www.schoolgateway.com.



GOVERNOR

The Governing Board is made up of volunteers and helps plan the strategic direction of the school, oversees its financial performance, and supports and challenges leadership.

We are currently seeking a volunteer with a background in finance to join our friendly team so please do get in touch if you (or someone you know in the wider community) might be interested in getting involved. It is a very rewarding way to make a real difference and training and mentoring is provided. We are actively seeking someone for this role so please do get in touch with Emily Grier, Chair of Governors via the school office if this is something you would be interested in finding out more about.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Parents Supporting Parents

A family support group for parents and carers of young people in the Sevenoaks District

Meeting once a week for 8 weeks, this support group will offer a safe space for parents/carers to share their experiences. Participants will gain confidence in talking about mental health, supporting young people engaging in behaviours including self-harm, and understand where to go for support in times of crisis.

When: Thursdays from 6.30-8pm starting 7 November.
Venue: West Kent Mind, 34 St John's Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3LW
For more details and to register, email cyp@westkentmind.org.uk, call us on 01732 744950 or visit our website:

westkentmind.org.uk/parents-supporting-parents



Admission to Junior school in Kent 2025

Apply online at Kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
Opens Tuesday 5 November 2024 and closes at midnight on Wednesday 15 January 2025

For children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, Transferring to Junior 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 Primary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

You can name up to three Junior schools, inside or outside of Kent. You are unable to name Primary schools on this application.

A single, fast, convenient process which opens Tuesday 5 November 2024 and closes at midnight on Wednesday 15 January 2025.

You will first need to set up an online account. The application is yours, 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.

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

On offer day (Wednesday 16 April 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 Wednesday 30 April 2025.

A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email.

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.

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**
- Tuesday 5 November 2024** Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions to register and apply.
 - Wednesday 15 January 2025** Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
 - Wednesday 16 April 2025** Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.
 - Wednesday 30 April 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 schools named on the original application.
 - Tuesday 20 May 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 primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at www.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.
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.



BORE PLACE FAMILY ADVENTURE 2025

Apply now to take part in a year-long programme for families with at least one child with SEN and at least one sibling without additional needs

FREE

- Drop-off fun days for children
- Family sessions
- 2-night getaway for your family!

Scan here for the Application Pack and how to apply

www.boreplace.org/education

CHILDREN IN NEED

The Family Adventure is at Bore Place, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7AR
Commonwork Trust (reg. charity 1160725 & company 09254227)

XMAS TECH CAMP

Virtual Reality, 3D Festive Decorations, Engineering, Rocking Robots

Ofsted Registered

30TH, 31ST DECEMBER & 2ND, 3RD JANUARY
£39.99 PER DAY

Ages 5 - 11, 9 am - 4 pm daily

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.nextthing.education



BESSELS GREEN ART CLUB

Annual Exhibition

Friday 29th November 2024
7 pm - 9 pm

Saturday 30th November 2024
10 am - 4 pm

Church Hall
Bessels Green Baptist Church
TN13 2PS

Admission Free

ART EXHIBITION