

Christmas at Amherst School

AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

14th EDITION - 13 December 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to parents who have already completed the annual questionnaire. If you have not yet had the opportunity to do so please could I encourage you to do so. We have had quite a low response rate so far (21%) and even if you are happy with your child's experience at Amherst, completing the questionnaire is still incredibly helpful. **Your views and opinions** of your child's experience really **help inform us regarding our strengths and areas to improve**. If you have a child in more than one year group, please complete a questionnaire for each year. Please click on the correct year group to access the questionnaire: [YEAR 3](#) [YEAR 4](#) [YEAR 5](#) [Year 6](#)

CONTENTS

Message from Mr Reid
PAGE 1

Notices
PAGE 2

Panto & Let's Celebrate
PAGE 3

Bazaar & Clubs Sign-up
PAGE 4

Community Events
PAGE 5

Year 4 Christmas Performance

Congratulations to all the children and staff for two amazing performances this week. I thoroughly enjoyed both performances and **felt so proud** watching the children perform **with confidence and enthusiasm**. The opportunity to perform in front of an audience is such an **important experience for each child and one they will always remember**.

I was impressed with the quality of singing, dancing, gymnastics and acting. **The level of musicality demonstrated during the retelling of *The Snowman* was outstanding**. It is not easy to count, wait and have the correct timing for when to deliver your lines or act out a mime. To sustain this for approx. 20 minutes was incredible. **Thank you to Mr Clarke and the Year 4 teaching team for all their hard work preparing the children so well and enabling them to perform to such a high standard**.



Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to the PTA Team (Lead Team, Christmas Committee and Class Reps) that helped make the Christmas Bazaar such a success. Thank you to all parents for attending and supporting the school so **generously**. As mentioned in my Headteacher's Letter earlier in the week, the money raised will be going towards the **IT hardware upgrade** we are completing over the coming months. **Every child will benefit from this upgrade**.

A Reminder ...

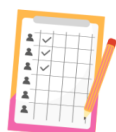
This time of year is so busy at home and school. It can be **easy to feel slightly overwhelmed** with all that must be done in the run up to Christmas.

As we enter the last week of term please remember that **the newsletter** is our weekly one point of contact. If you are not sure what is going on or have forgotten what is coming up (Consent forms, PTA events, payments, etc) check the newsletter as it will have all the details needed. You can always find previous newsletters on the school website rather than searching through your old emails.

I hope you all have a good weekend and find some moments to enjoy the Christmas build up!

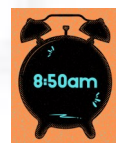
Mr Reid

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.



LATENESS

Please could I remind all parents that the school day starts at 8.50am. Please ensure your child is on time every day as being late is disruptive for the child and the rest of the class. Thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.



YEAR 5 – BUSHCRAFT RESIDENTIAL TRIP

For those parents who were unable to dial into the zoom meeting, please click on the link below to access the **recording of the meeting** held on 4 December 2024.

[Year 5 Bushcraft Parent Meeting](#)



YEAR 4 - CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW

If anyone still wants to make a donation to our retiring collection on behalf of Hospice in the Weald, please log on to www.schoolgateway.com.



WHOLE SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

You are invited to attend our **Carol Service at St. Mary's Church, Riverhead** on **Monday 16th December at 6.00pm – 7.00pm**. 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. Our organist on Monday will be Alexander Trigg, former Organ Scholar of St John's College, Cambridge and St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

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.



LETTERS SENT

Please make sure to take time to read Mr Reid's **headteacher's letter** for the autumn term as well as:

- Carol Service Invitation
- Final Pantomime Arrangements



ELFRIDGES

Please ensure you make payment to the PTA for Monday's **Popup Christmas Shop** where **each child can choose two gifts** for someone in their family.

Some children will be out for the Choir's Carol Service rehearsal. They will be able to choose their gifts on Tuesday at breaktime.

ELFRIDGES
POPUP CHRISTMAS SHOP
MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER

It's one of our favourite Christmas activities – watching big eyes filled with love and the spirit of Christmas Giving as they choose the best gift for the special adults in their lives.

Our elves have been very busy sourcing local, handmade, sustainable, and branded items for the children of Amherst School to choose from in the Elfridges PopUp Christmas Shop!

ALL CHILDREN WILL TAKE PART IN SCHOOL TIME, CHOOSING TWO GIFTS THAT WILL BE WRAPPED, LABELLED AND TAKEN HOME TO BE SQUIRRELED AWAY UNDER THEIR CHRISTMAS TREE!

£5 PER CHILD FOR TWO GIFTS
visit www.pta-events/amherstpta for tickets



WINNING HOUSE – WOLFE

Congratulations to children in Wolfe House who won this term's house point competition. You are welcome to wear something yellow on the last day of term.



16 December	- Elfridges (formerly known as the Secrets Room)
16 December	- Carol Service 6.00pm
17 December	- Whole School Pantomime Trip - coaches leave at 9.15am
18 December	- Christmas Lunch - Children can wear a Christmas Jumper with their uniform
19 December	- Amherst & Training Choirs to Trafalgar Square - 2.20pm
20 December	- Last day of term



PANTOMIME - 17 DECEMBER

We are looking forward to our whole school trip to see the Pantomime—Snow White on Tuesday. Please see below the arrangements for the day:

- All children come in to school as normal.
- The coaches will leave school at **9.15am** for the start of the performance at 10.15am.
- We ask that **all children bring a packed lunch** as there will be **no school lunch that day**. The packed lunches will then be eaten when we return from the theatre at approximately **1.30pm**.
- Children will be provided with a **juice drink during the interval**.
- If children do not like juice, please can they bring a small water bottle that can **fit in their pocket**.

Due to lunch being later, **children should bring a small snack** to accompany their juice during the interval. Please no sweets or crisps. A chewy bar or cereal bar that can fit in the pocket of their coat would be ideal. Please ensure all snacks are **nut free**.



LET'S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Agnes Mck	5A	Madeleine K
3CL	Lowen T	5HR	Jake R
3WH	Olive M	5J	Raph H
4C	All of year 4	6A	Joby C
4SF	All of year 4	6MW	Oliver B
4T	All of year 4	6W	Daisy V

HOCKEY

Jessica P (6MW) had a wonderful time in Barcelona with her Sevenoaks HC U12 girls hockey team last week. The girls played fantastically. They finished 2nd in their group of 5 teams having drawn their first match and won the rest. This meant that they went into the playoff for 3rd and 4th place, against the team that finished 2nd in the second group, which just so happened to be Guildford! After a tensely fought match our girls won 1-0 and were delighted to come home with a bronze medal.

Congratulations Jessica!



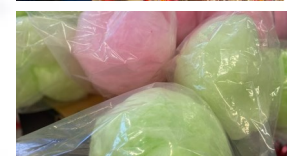
MUSIC

Congratulations to Henry W (5J) who passed his grade 1 piano exam with a Merit.

FOOTBALL

The Amherst football team continued their incredibly successful run this year with another two wins in the league. In cold and wet conditions, we played first Lady Boswell's (last years league winners) and Edenbridge. After a closely fought first half, the team went in at half time with the score at 1-1. The team came flying out in the second half, scoring another 3 goals to finish 4-1, scoring an incredible team goal with a series of one touch passes. In our second game against Edenbridge, the team went 1-0 due to some sloppy passing. This seemed to wake the team up, as they ended running out as comfortable 3-1 winners. They have now won 5 from 5, with just two league games to go!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SUCCESS



CLUBS-MINI SIGN UP-SPRING



Amherst
Extracurricular
Clubs
SPRING
2025

Your child will be coming home with a paper copy of the Spring Clubs list today. If you have previously requested a Spring term club place (in September), you should have received an email in the last week, confirming your child's participation.

- There is a limited number of spaces still available. Don't miss out on the opportunity for your child to join in on the fun and learning!
- To sign up, please complete the online form by the **latest Monday 16th December 2024 at 12.00pm.**
- Clubs start week commencing **13 January 2025** and end **14th March 2025.**

CONFIRMATION OF PLACES

Once we finalise the club lists, we will confirm your child's place via an email from the office.

COMPLETE THE CLUBS FORM ONLINE

Please [click here](#) to tell us which clubs your child would like to attend.

PLEASE [click here](#) for more information on our extra curricular clubs.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

CHRISTMAS WITH THE SEVENOAKS PLAYERS

OTFORD VILLAGE HALL
DECEMBER 13TH - 19:30
DECEMBER 14TH - 14:30
DECEMBER 14TH - 19:30

BOOK YOUR TICKETS AT:

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/7OAKSPLAYERS

A CHRISTMAS STYLE CABARET WITH A BAR - TICKETS £12.50

Xmas Dance Workshop

Last minute Xmas shopping to do...?
Why not leave your children with us to have a day of Festive Fun, Singing, Dancing and making Xmas Crafts!

One Day Workshop
Monday 23rd December
10am-3pm, 4 - 11 years

At Riverhead
Infants school,
Worships Hill
Sevenoaks
TN13 2AS



Contact: amy@sevenoaksdance.co.uk



MUSIC

14 DEC 2024

THE SNOWMAN WITH LIVE MUSIC

13:00 - Pamoja Hall

St Cecilia Wind Symphony presents a wonderful and magical Christmas experience featuring the full-length presentation of the iconic and beloved...

BOOK NOW

READ MORE

Love the Game UK Football Coaching

CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL CAMPS

Fun, games, goals, saves, technical sessions, penalty shootouts, tournaments and more.

Ages 6-15 | Boys and girls of all abilities

Coaches are first aid and safeguarding trained, DBS checked, and some even have Premier League coaching experience.

Week 1 - £26 per day, £13 for half day or £45 for 2 days.
Week 2 - £26 for the day

10AM - 3PM

Week 1 - Monday 23rd -
Tuesday 24th December

Week 2 - Monday 30th
December

TWGSB
Sevenoaks
Seal Hollow Road
Sevenoaks
TN13 3SL

23rd/24th



30th



To book -

- Follow the QR code, taking you straight to our booking site.
- Go to our website, find Holiday Football Camps, and book your place there.

See website for more details or email: camps@lovethegameuk.co.uk



ENROLLING FOR THE NEW TERM

STAGECOACH OTFORD,
RIVERHEAD & SEVENOAKS NORTH

Singing, dancing and acting classes for 4 - 18 year-olds

Giving children and young people the Creative Courage to stand up on stage for over 35 years.

<https://www.stagecoach.co.uk/otford>

07362314698

otford@stagecoach.co.uk



TRAFALGAR
1875-1876

BOOK NOW

