



## MESSAGE FROM MR REID

### The Benefits of Sport

During Monday's assembly we were treated to two presentations from Little Musketeers and Lacrosse Club. Fencing and lacrosse are not the most common sports. It was inspiring to listen to the journey that both club leaders had been on in their sporting careers with them representing their countries at the Olympics.

### I firmly believe that there is a sport for everybody.

Sports such as football can be very dominant and often the first and only sport some children experience. If football is not your sport, children can make an early decision in their life that sport is not for them.

Sport is such a valuable part of a child's development.



It doesn't matter which sport you play, the benefits gained can be the same. If your child is yet to find their sport, I would encourage you to explore other sports such as fencing, chess, handball or lacrosse. Our clubs list is a good starting point.

Finally, I would like to share a true story of an ex Amherst pupil:

*She was always a keen footballer but had never tried hockey. I asked her to play in goal for an upcoming hockey tournament as we were short of a keeper. She took a risk and said yes. She was incredibly nervous but found she really liked it and was rather good. She is now representing England as a hockey goalkeeper in her age group.*

We continue to have a range of sports coaches supporting the PE curriculum. Currently we have coaches from local clubs coaching alongside the class teacher in handball, athletics and hockey.

### Earrings

Please could you remind your child and check that they are only wearing stud earrings to school. Hoop or dangly earrings can cause injury to the wearer (if caught or pulled) in a school environment such as the playground. Thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Reid

## CONTENTS

Message from Mr Reid  
PAGE 1

Notices  
PAGE 2

Let's Celebrate  
PAGE 3

Community Events  
PAGE 4

# 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 20 – 24 JANUARY 2025

All clubs are expected to run as normal next week.

## CLUBS – PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

For those who haven't yet signed up, a limited number of spaces are still available. Don't miss out on the opportunity for your child to join in on the fun and learning!

- To sign up, please [click here](#) to tell us which clubs your child would like to attend.
- Once we finalise the club lists, we will confirm your child's place via email.
- We have spaces in:

**'NEW' Lacrosse Club / Little Musketeers / Gymnastics / Cross Country / Story Time / Orchestra / Training Choir**



## LUNCH MONEY

Please remember to top up your child's lunch money accounts on [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com). Costs for this term are: Daily - £ 2.65 / Weekly - £ 13.25 / Term 3 - £79.50 / Term 4 - £79.50 / Term 3 & 4 - £159.00



## NUT FREE SNACKS & CEREAL BARS

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



24 January	PTA Meeting - 1.45pm
4 February	Year 6 - Young Voices Trip
6 February	PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Sale 3.30pm
7 February	PTA Cake and Hot Dog Sale 3.30pm
14 February	Last day of term 3
24 February	First day of term 4
27 February	Year 3 - Roman Day
28 February	Year 3 - Roman Day
5 March	Year 3 - Roman Day
6 March	World Book Day
14 March	Clubs end
14 March	Open Afternoon - 2.45pm
17 March	Year 6 - Parliament Trip
19 March	Year 6 - Parliament Trip
21 March	PTA Meeting - 1.45pm
21 March	PTA Cake and Hot Dog Sale 3.30pm
22 March	PTA Spring Ball
24 March	Year 6 - Love to Dance Show - Stag Theatre
25 March	Parent Consultations
27 March	Parent Consultations
28 March	PTA School Disco
31 March	Year 3 Easter Production - 2.00pm
1 April	Year 3 Easter Production - 2.00pm
1 April	Amherst School Music Festival - 6.00pm - 8.00pm
4 April	Last Day of Term 4

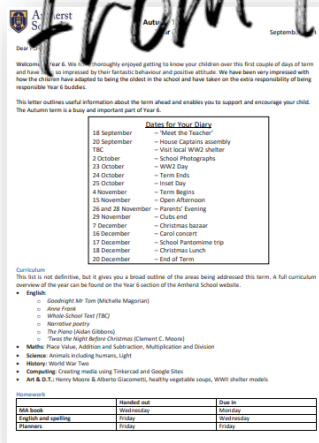
# From the Teachers

# BE INFORMED

## SPRING TERM YEAR GROUP LETTERS

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

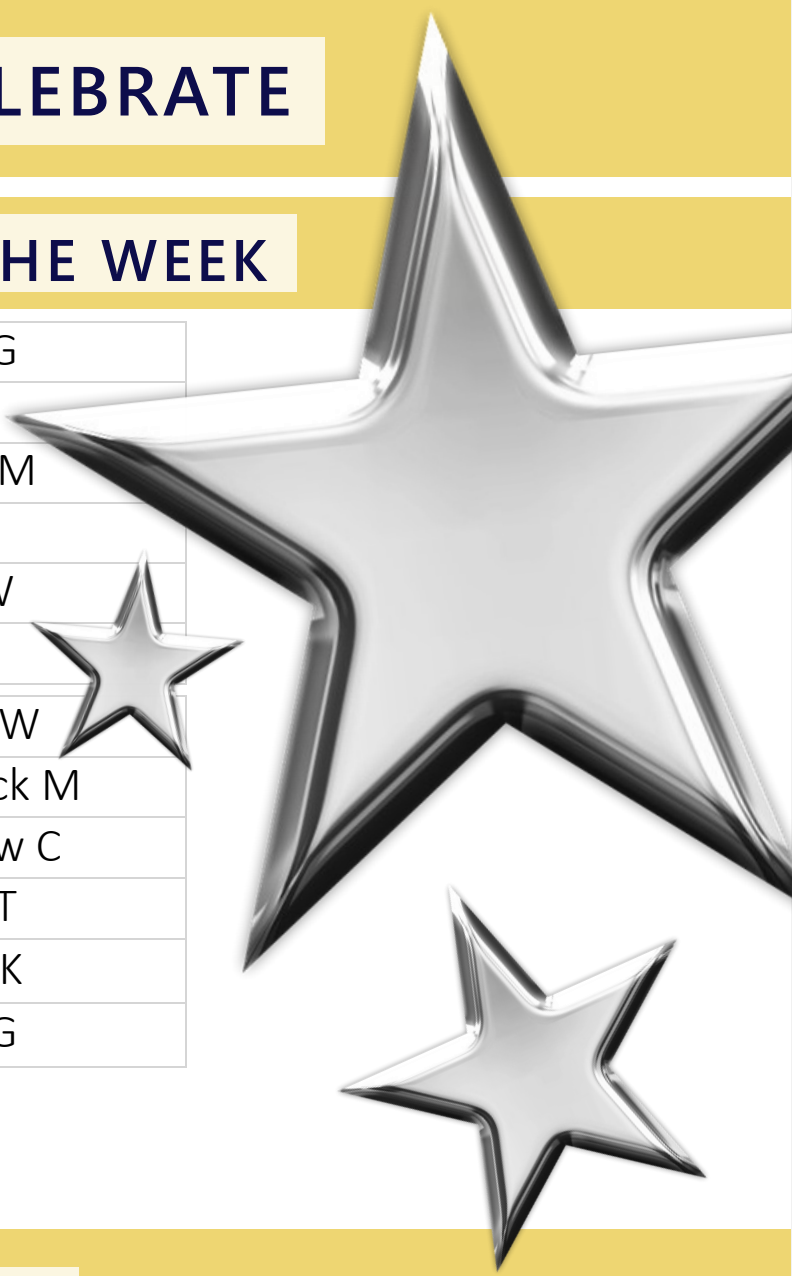
[Year 3 Letter](#)   
 [Year 4 Letter](#)   
 [Year 5 Letter](#)   
 [Year 6 Letter](#)



# LET'S CELEBRATE

## STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Lawrie G
3CL	Ethan C
3WH	Minnie M
4C	Nelly S
4SF	Soren W
4T	Jack P
5A	Xander W
5HR	Maddock M
5J	Matthew C
6A	Amelia T
6MW	Nikolas K
6W	Alex O-G



## FOOTBALL

On Wednesday 15th January, a group of Year 5 boys took part in a football match against Seal Primary School.

Considering the team had never played together before, they displayed some fantastic attacking football, teamwork skills and managed to impressively win the match 5-1. We then mixed the teams up with Seal so that they played an extra friendly and it was lovely to see the two schools play collaboratively.

Huge congratulations to Linus (5J), Dexter (5J), Raph (5J), Zac G (5J), Charlie (5HR), Arthur (5HR), Maddock (5HR), Artie (5A) and Jacob (5A). We hope they all enjoyed the afternoon.

Mr Barratt and Mr Hafford-Robson



# THE POWER OF READING



Reading is one of the most important and valuable skills you can give your child. Children should be able to not only read the text in front of them, but also understand the meaning and take pleasure from the stories they read. This page aims to help you achieve this at home.

## Top Tips for reading with your child

1. Read aloud regularly - try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.
2. Encourage reading choice - give children the chance to read a wide variety of literature to read, not just books.
3. Create a cosy and comfortable environment to read.
4. Make use of your local library.
5. Talk about books - don't just read the story. Ask questions, discuss the front cover, talk about how the book makes you feel.
6. Bring reading to life - you could cook a recipe together that you've read. You could act out the characters and their story from the book you're reading.
7. Make reading active - play games to create connections, such as a treasure hunt.
8. Engage your child in reading in a way which suits them - what matters most is that they enjoy it.

## No Shelf Control

This blog is produced by a primary school teacher and he releases monthly book newsletters full of book recommendations.



<https://misterbodd.wordpress.com/no-shelf-control/>

## Bedtime stories

Reading to your child for just 10 minutes a day/night can improve their vocabulary, encourage them to read independently and can also improve your relationships. Older children love a bedtime story too (even if they won't always admit it!)

## 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



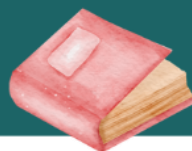
### Student B

- 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!!!**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**The New Beacon**  
EX FUMO DARE LUCEM



## CRACKING CREATIVES

A FREE community event for young creatives

**SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY**  
9AM - 11AM

READY FOR ALL THINGS CREATIVE



FULLY PREPARED.  
[newbeacon.org.uk](http://newbeacon.org.uk)



**The New Beacon**  
EX FUMO DARE LUCEM



Calling children from  
Years 3 to 6  
JOIN US FOR  
**Cracking Creatives Saturday!**

Date: Saturday 8th February 2025

Time: 9.00am - 11am

Location: The New Beacon School, Brittains Lane, Sevenoaks, TN13 1PB

This FREE event will include:-

Engaging music & art workshops led by skilled instructors. Refreshments provided.

Don't miss this opportunity for creativity, enjoyment, and collaboration.

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

[RSVP HERE > by Friday 24th January.](#)



## Love the Game UK

Football Coaching

### FEBRUARY HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

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

Ages 5-15 | Boys and girls of all abilities

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

£26 per day, £13 for half day or £45 for two days.

**10AM - 3PM**

**Sevenoaks**  
Camp 1 - Monday 17th - Tuesday 18th February  
Camp 2 - Thursday 20th - Friday 21st February

**TWGSB**  
Sevenoaks Campus  
Seal Hollow Road  
Sevenoaks  
TN13 3SN



Mon/Tues 

Thurs/Fri 

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](mailto:camps@lovethegameuk.co.uk)



# BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!!



SCAN ME!

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN **2025!**  
EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE **SCHOOL10** FOR AN EXTRA £10 OFF YOUR BOOKING! SAVE UP TO £110!

\*Minimum 2 days. \*Not to be used in conjunction with other offer codes.

- 4½ to 14 year olds!
- 80+ Activities!
- Choice each session!
- Specialist Courses!
- Flexible bookings!



OFTSED REGISTERED



[barracudas.co.uk](http://barracudas.co.uk)  
01480 467 567

