



AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

18th EDITION - 24 January 2025



MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Circle Time Update

You may remember that one of our **School Improvement Plan** top priorities this year was to **introduce Circle Time to all classes**. The motivation was to **help improve children's ability to play together and resolve conflict when it arises**. Circle Time increases the levels of **mutual respect** among peers and enables classes to **feel like a family** by supporting each other in a positive manner.

This initiative has been **highly successful** so far. The school is settled and calm with so many children playing together in a positive manner. Yesterday I was on lunch duty in the playground and it **was wonderful to observe and feel the positive atmosphere**. Children were playing happily and when **disagreements** happened children were demonstrating **higher levels of tolerance and resilience** to resolve the issues themselves.

Teachers enjoy Circle Time too as it is a weekly opportunity to play games with their class and help build positive relationships. **We all need a bit of fun!**

It was interesting to note this week when reading the Spring edition of the Headteacher Update that there was an **article on Circle Time written by Jenny Mosely** (the creator of Circle Time thirty years ago). It was **affirming** to read our gut instinct in September of how to help children and staff in this area was the right direction to follow. The article details the value of Circle Time and that schools have forgotten its many benefits. She states:



Genuine, vibrant circle times create a weekly space where children and their teachers sit without any curriculum demands and freely engage as a 'family' in its widest sense, i.e. a group of people who support you and in whom you can confide and trust. Circle time is a time when children and staff come together to talk, play games and spend time building these relationships.

Please take the time to **ask your child about Circle Time**.

IT Hardware Upgrade

It was a busy week last week with the our IT hardware upgrade being completed. We have successfully replaced the desktops in the IT suite and for the admin team as well as all pupil and teacher laptops. We are now utilising Windows 11 and ready for Microsoft not supporting lesser versions of Windows from October 2025. **Thank you to the PTA and all parents** for the fundraising which has enabled this upgrade to take place. It will have a positive impact on every child and adult in the school.

Smartphones

Please remember that children are **not allowed to bring a smartphone to Amherst School**. The **parental response has been very positive** to this change in policy. If you are purchasing a smartphone for your child please remember that they will not be able to bring it to school. Just to clarify, a smartphone is a phone that can connect to the internet.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

Mr Reid

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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 27 – 31 JANUARY 2025

All clubs are expected to run as normal next week.



LUNCH MONEY

Please remember to top up your child's lunch money accounts on 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



PARKING

Parents, please consider our neighbours and children walking to school when parking at drop off or when collecting your children from school.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please click on the **subscribe** button to add school dates to your personal calendar. [Amherst School Calendar](#)



REMINDERS & LETTERS SENT THIS WEEK

- Year 6 — Young Voices Trip — Final Arrangements
- Year 6 — Love to Dance — Final Arrangements, costume information & tickets
- Class 6MW — Sevenoaks Science — Please respond to the request for help with transport
- Year 3 — Roman Day Arrangements



PTA TEAM

The PTA is currently looking for a new secretary to join the team. Please contact amherst-chair@outlook.com or amherst-treasurer@outlook.com if you would like to join the team in making a difference for Amherst.



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

Amherst School

Autumn Term
Year 6
September 27

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this letter. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you and your children over the last year. We are pleased to have been able to support you in your role as a parent and to have been able to share with you the progress of your child's learning. We are also pleased to have been able to share with you the progress of your child's learning. We are also pleased to have been able to share with you the progress of your child's learning.

This letter is a useful tool for you to use to help you to support your child's learning. We are also pleased to have been able to share with you the progress of your child's learning. We are also pleased to have been able to share with you the progress of your child's learning.

Key Dates

- September
 - 1 September – House Captains assembly
 - 10 September – Visit from WVC teacher
 - 23 October – School Photographs
 - 23 October – WVC Day
 - 24 October – Term Ends
 - 25 October – Inset Day
 - 4 November – Term Begins
 - 12 November – Open Afternoon
 - 26 and 28 November – Parents' Evening
 - 29 November – Club night
 - 7 December – Christmas bazaar
 - 16 December – Carol concert
 - 17 December – School Performance trip
 - 28 December – Christmas Lunch
 - 29 December – End of Term

Curriculum

This list is not definitive, but it gives you a broad outline of the areas being addressed this term. A full curriculum overview of the year can be found on the Year 6 section of the Amherst School website.

- **English**
 - Goodnight Mr Tom (Michelle Magorian)
 - Animal Farm (AS)
 - Narrative poetry
 - The Plague (Albert Camus)
 - "Tears the Night Before Christmas (Clément C. Moore)
- **Maths** Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division
- **Science** Animals including humans, Light
- **History** World War Two
- **Computing** Creating media using TinkerCad and Google Sites
- **Art & D.T.** Henry Moore & Alberto Giacometti, healthy vegetable soups, WW1 shelter models

Homework and more

Year 3 Letter Year 4 Letter Year 5 Letter Year 6 Letter

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	Benson S
3CL	Daniel T
3WH	Tamara H
4C	Stevie A-C
4SF	Bertie D-L
4T	Elizabeth K
5A	Ernie M
5HR	Seb H
5J	Ethan H
6A	Ollie P
6MW	Sydney H
6W	Isabe N



WATER POLO

On Wednesday 22nd January, a team from Year 6 participated in a Water polo competition at Sevenoaks School.

This was a new sport for all the children and they all demonstrated real strength, determination and skill. They played 6 matches and, as a result of brilliant team work, defence and shooting, they won 5 of the games. Amherst came second overall in the competition and the result came down to goal difference for first and second place.

The children represented the school superbly. Huge congratulations to Lyra, Richard, Lia, Polly, Nathan and Jack.

Many thanks to the parents for transporting and supporting the children.
Mrs Wheeler



YEAR 3 & 6 BUDDY WORK

Year 3 and Year 6 did some buddy work this week creating fact files about The Celts.



YEAR 4 - NORMAN SHIELDS



Year 4's colourful Norman Shields!

COMMUNITY EVENTS



World Oral Health Day
20 March

World Oral Health Day

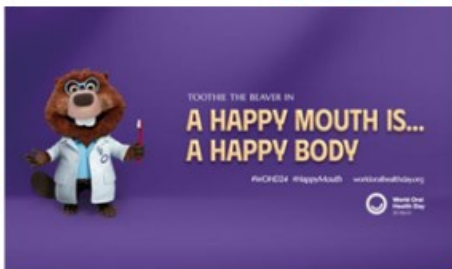
Free Webinar presented by
KCHFT NHS Oral Health Team
on Tuesday 25th Feb 2025
at 11am & 3:30pm (2 x sessions, same presentation)

For your invitation email:
kentchft.oralhealthkent@nhs.net

Aimed to help support those working
with 0-19 year olds



NHS
Kent Community Health
NHS Foundation Trust



FEBRUARY HALF TERM WORKSHOP

Monday 17th
£40 per day

Age 4 - 11 years

Team work makes the dreams work!

Half Term Dance Workshop
Dancing, Games, Crafts and more...
At Amherst School, 10:00am - 3:00pm

To Book please contact: amy@sevenoaksdance.co.uk

ESCAPEROOMS AT DONNINGTON MANOR

Half-Term offer!
Escape for 10% less
Code - HFT10

TRAIN CARRIAGE SEATED GAME
BIRTHDAY PACKAGES
TEAM - BUILDING ACTIVITY

More Information ☎ +44 (0)1732 468511 📧 Escaperooms@donningtonmanor.com



St Gregory's Multi-Sports

If your child is aged between 7 and 14 years of age and enjoys a range of sports such as Football, Tennis, Netball, Rounders, Cricket, Basketball, Badminton, Dodgeball and more, perhaps he/she would like to attend
St. Gregory's Multi-Sports

WHERE:
St Gregory's School, Sports hall entrance, A26 St John's Road, TN4 9TX

WHEN:

Monday 17 February 2025
Tuesday 18 February 2025
Wednesday 19 February 2025

TIME: 10 am - 3 pm
COST: £20 per day, if two or more siblings then £18 each per day.
Please make payment direct to:

Account name **BSPORTS**
Account **49877763**
Sort **30-98-97**

WHAT TO BRING: A packed lunch, plenty of fluids and snacks. It's also advisable to pack some sun cream and a sun hat.

WHAT NEXT:

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please complete and sign the form below. You will receive booking confirmation of your child's place via email. Please book early to avoid disappointment - places are limited.

CONTACTS:
bsportscoms@yahoo.com (If you have any queries or further questions)



St Gregory's Multi-Sports

Name.....
Age.....
Emergency contact numbers
.....
Parents email address (Only if you wish to be contacted about future courses)
.....
Medical information.....
.....
Parent signature.....
Please put 'X' in the box next to the date(s) that you wish your child to attend

Monday 17 February	
Tuesday 18 February	
Wednesday 19 February	

Please book early to avoid disappointment!!!!