



MESSAGE FROM MR REID



House Update

At Amherst we are very proud of our four Houses which are **Amherst**, **Bradbourne**, **Wolfe** and **Knole**.

Awarding house points is the common **currency of reward** across the school. We try where possible to focus on **rewarding effort**, as it is a fair reward system. **All children can try hard, do their best and not give up.** These are great life skills to develop and help avoid perfectionism.

The house system is far greater than just awarding house points. Year 6 children have the opportunity to become **house captains and vice-captains**. Miss Jones helps support them by running a wide range of inter house competitions. The house captains were selected at the beginning of the year by the children in their house. Each gave a speech to say what they could offer the house if they were chosen. We have been particularly impressed with how the house and vice captains have taken their roles very seriously and all contributed to the organisation of the events. They have given up their playtimes to design quizzes and helped run events across the whole school. We hope that the children will be gaining valuable interpersonal skills by having these opportunities to support others and lead events. **The house system helps promote a sense of teamwork for all children**; understanding that your individual contribution helped support all the other children in that house.



Inter-House Competition this week

On Wednesday morning **128 children took part in the house activities**. Years 5 & 6 took part in speed bounce, skipping, long jump and overhead ball throw. Year 3 & 4 did team games such as over under and crossing the river. Each term the house captains organise a **sporting competition** and a quiz.

- The quizzes so far have been a **treasure hunt, Christmas quiz** and **brain teaser puzzles**.
- The sports have been **handball, bench ball** and **indoor athletics**.

Throughout the year class teachers will **ensure that every child has represented their house** at an activity. There are a wide range of activities available to ensure there is something **fun for everyone**. The aim is to **encourage great teamwork** across all the year groups with some **healthy competition** between the houses.

The house with the most house points each term is rewarded by being able to come into school on the **last day term wearing their house colours**. Well done to **Knole** who are this term's winners. Termly House points winners this year so far:

Term 1 – Bradbourne

Term 2 – Wolfe

Term 3 – Knole



		Interhouse Competitions 2024-2025				
		Amherst	Bradbour	Knole	Wolfe	
Term 1	Treasure Hunt	250	300	275	175	
Term 1	Handball	200	175	200	275	
Term 2	Christmas Quiz	50	100	25	75	
Term 2	Bench Ball	200	250	250	350	
Term 3	Athletics/ Team games	300	250	200	200	
Term 3	Brain Teasers	100	100	75	75	
Total		1100	1175	1025	1150	

I hope you all have a wonderful **half term** whether you are staying at home or going away. I am looking forward to Sunday 16th February as I am having the opportunity to complete the **Formula 4 drivers' experience at Brands Hatch**. A birthday present from November. I have promised to share with the children how I get on in an assembly.

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 24 - 28 FEBRUARY 2025

All clubs are expected to run as normal the first week after half term.



BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

If you are in need of wraparound care, please complete our [booking form](#). We have open spaces on the following days:

- Breakfast Club** —All days
- After School Club** —Mondays and Fridays



REMINDERS & LETTERS SENT

- Year 3 - Apron Art T-shirt letter - please remember to bring one in after half term
- Year 5 - Whole school book 'A River' - please bring in a food magazine
- Year 5 - Rainforest Roadshow & DT - March 2025
- Year 5 - Bushcraft Trip - next instalment due on 28 February.
- Year 6 - Trip to Parliament
- Year 6 - Reminder for last order of Leavers' Hoodies by 26 February.
- Whole School - Gift Aid letter
- Amherst Choir Letter



AMHERST MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Amherst Music Concert will take place on **Tuesday 1st April at 6.00pm**. This annual concert will include all children in the Amherst and Training Choirs, School Orchestra and individual instrumentalists chosen by the music teachers. If your child learns an instrument out of school and plays to a high level and would like to take part in the concert, please can you let us know by completing the following [registration form](#).



PTA – 2ND HAND UNIFORM & UPCOMING EVENTS

We currently have a glut of second hand uniform, which is becoming difficult to store or manage. **Please** can you **limit any donations to the following** until further notice:

- Team Amherst hoodies
- Good quality Amherst logo items
- Any brand new items
- Ties

World Book Day Costume Sale!
Friday, 28th February
3.00pm

In preparation for World Book Day (6th March), we will be holding a second hand WBD costume sale! If you have any preloved costumes to be donated, please bring them into the school after half term. Sale will be Friday the 28th at the gate from 3.00pm.

SCHOOL DISCO

28TH MARCH 2025

YEARS 3 & 4 | 4.30 - 6.00PM
YEARS 5 & 6 | 6.00 - 7.30PM

BOOKING VIA PTA EVENTS
CLOSING MIDNIGHT 25 MARCH
£5 PER CHILD

SQUASH & SNACKS INCLUDED BUT PLEASE BRING OWN WATER BOTTLE



24 February	First day of term 4
27 February	Year 3 - Roman Day 3WH
28 February	Year 3 - Roman Day 3CL
5 March	Year 3 - Roman Day 3B
6 March	World Book Day
11 March	Science Day
14 March	Clubs end
14 March	Open Afternoon - 2.45pm
17 March	Year 6 - Parliament Trip 6A
19 March	Year 6 - Parliament Trip 6MW & 6W
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

LET'S CELEBRATE



STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Hugo H
3CL	Teddy B
3WH	Iris L
4C	Georgina N
4SF	Yannike N
4T	Vihaan G

5A	Aria G
5HR	Prakruti H
5J	Rebecca R
6A	Freddie K
6MW	Lucy T
6W	Matilda W

CHESS

Well done to the boys who represented Amherst at a chess tournament in Orpington over the weekend. The boys all played 5 matches but only managed 3 draws and a win from Richard in the very last match—stiff competition from private schools gave the boys some good experience. They did not give up, tried their best throughout and kept their cool! Well done to William, Linus, Jasper, Henry and Richard! A big thank you to Mrs Amos who helped organise the team on the day!



LACROSSE

On Thursday morning, the lacrosse team attended a tournament at Poverest School in Orpington. It was a large event with many schools attending. It was a brilliant chance to play lots of different teams and learn many new skills. Some of these teams have been playing for a long time but both teams still managed to win half of their games. They should be very proud of their achievement!



PE TIMETABLE

Please find below the PE Timetable for next term.

Term 4 – PE Timetable 2024/25

Indoor PE sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10 – 10.10			3WH Gymnastics		6MW Gymnastics
11 – 12					
1.35 – 2.30	5HR Indoor Athletics (Coach)	5A Indoor Athletics (Coach)	3CL Gymnastics	4SF Indoor Athletics (Coach)	6A Gymnastics
2.30 – 3.25	4 Indoor Athletics (Coach)	5J Indoor Athletics (Coach)	3B Gymnastics	4 Indoor Athletics (Coach)	6W Gymnastics

Outdoor PE sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10 – 10.10					
11 – 12			6W Handball		
1.30 – 2.30		4T Football	6A Handball	5A Netball	5J Netball
2.30 – 3.30		4C Football	6MW Handball	5HR Netball	3CL Netball
2.00 – 3.00 (Extra class)		4SF Hockey		3WH Football	3B Tag rugby

YEAR 5 - BROADCASTING

... from the Rainforest!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

BRICK WRECKS

SUNKEN SHIPS IN LEGO® BRICKS

8 MARCH TO 31 AUGUST 2025

EXHIBITION PRODUCED BY

MU SEA UM AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM WAM WA MARITIME MUSEUM Ryan McNaught LEGO Certified Professional

Let the adventure begin with
We're a Mum and two daughters team creating educational, history based fun Quiz Trails!

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Love the Game UK

Football Coaching

FEBRUARY HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

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

Ages 5-16 | 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

Tunbridge Wells
Tuesday 18th February - Wednesday 19th February

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

TWGSB
Sevenoaks Campus
Seal Hollow Road
Sevenoaks
TN13 3BN

Skinner's Kent Academy
Sandown Park
Tunbridge Wells,
TN2 4PY

Sevenoaks **Tunbridge Wells** **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

Instagram Facebook TikTok

OTFORD NETBALL CLUB

RECRUITING PLAYERS IN Y4, Y5, Y6

Do you love netball or want to try it out?

Are you available on a **Tuesday night from 5pm-6.15pm for regular training (to start this term) and when match ready**

available on a **Saturday to play league matches (both at Trinity School Sevenoaks)?**

TASTER SESSION
Email our membership secretary who will arrange a date to come along and try it out!

Spaces are limited, please register with our membership secretary Paula on membership@otfordnetballclub.com

GS GA C GD GK

FREE OPEN SESSION

SCHOOL YEAR 1- YEAR7

This is your chance to have fun, develop your skills, and showcase your talent—with professional club scouts watching!

FEB 21ST

12:45PM-2:30PM

LOCATION
Meridian Sports Ground,
Charlton Lane, SE7 8QS

CONTACT
+44 7847 125357
@invictusdevelopmentcentre

HALSTEAD PLAYERS PRESENT ★

THE PANTO Cinderella

'It's a kinda magic'

THU | FRI | SAT 20-22ND FEB AT 7.30PM
PLUS MATINEE SAT 22ND 2.30PM
(DOORS & BAR OPEN 30 MINUTES PRIOR)

HALSTEAD VILLAGE HALL TN14 7EX

TICKETS £13 CHILDREN £6 AVAILABLE FROM
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK OR CALL 0333 666 3366

HALSTEAD.PLAYERS1968@GMAIL.COM REGISTERED CHARITY 297267