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## MESSAGE FROM MR REID

### Christmas Events

It has been a wonderful last week of term with much to celebrate and be proud of. The week began on Monday evening with our **Carol Service** at St. Mary's. It was great to see the church so full and for families to attend a traditional carol service. The choir sang beautifully and enjoyed the opportunity to sing in a church and



experience different acoustics.

Well done to our Year 6 readers that read with confidence and clarity. It is not easy to stand in the pulpit in front of a full congregation and hold your nerve!

### Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday we enjoyed a fantastic Christmas lunch. Thank you to our amazing kitchen team that prepared such a delicious meal for 366 children and 55 staff. Thank you also to the PTA for helping set up the hall and then serving the children. We all really enjoyed it.



### 'Not Trafalgar Square!'

Due to the heavy rain yesterday, we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the trip to Trafalgar Square to sing in front of the Christmas tree. It always amazes me how in life something wonderful can come out of what initially feels sad. Mr Clarke was determined that a performance for Training Choir and Amherst Choir should still take place. At the last minute, a **wonderful impromptu concert was put together in the school hall**. It became an example of the Christmas spirit and Mr Clarke's dedication and passion for children to experience the joy of singing.



I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and get the chance to spend time together as a family. We look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed on Monday 5th January.

*Mr Reid*

## PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

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 below to access the questionnaire:

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



**Thank you!**

...to everyone who came to the Christmas Bazaar.  
**We raised over £8k!**

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE, CLASS REPS, MRS RAWLINGS, YEAR 6 STUDENTS, THE TEACHERS AND TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED ITEMS OR VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME.

# NOTICES



## REPORT ABSENCES

Please complete the quick [Daily Absence Form](#) on our website before 9.00am for **every day** your child is off school. The form should also be used for medical appointments, holiday requests and school visits.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL INITIATIVE – TABLE MANNERS

A reminder of our focus next term on **manners in the school dining hall**. The things the midday supervisors and kitchen staff will be praising the children for are:

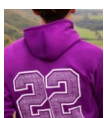
- children using a **knife and fork** to cut up and eat their food
- keeping their **mouths closed** whilst eating
- **talking quietly** to the people around them
- and trying to **reduce waste** by eating the food on their plates.

We would really appreciate your support with this by encouraging all of the above at any mealtime opportunities over the Christmas holidays. Good table manners are lifelong skills and something we wish to foster at Amherst.



## LETTERS SENT

Year 3 — [Intended Learning](#)



## YEAR 6 – LEAVERS HOODIES

Please find below the details of how to order your child's leavers hoodie:

**Website:** <https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/>

**Our School Unique ID is:** J05564YR626

**Order deadline:** 15/1/2026

**There will only be one order;** you will not be able to place orders after 15/01/2026.



## SCHOOL LUNCH

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](http://www.schoolgateway.com). Costs for term 3 and 4 are as follows:

Daily - £ 2.85 / Weekly - £ 14.25 / Term 3 - £ 85.50 (30 days) / Term 4 - £ 82.65 (29 days) / Term 3 & 4 - £ 168.15



## READING VOLUNTEERS

We would like to welcome all reading volunteers back from **5th January 2026**.



## CLUBS START – WEEK BEGINNING 12 JANUARY 2026

We have open spaces in **FRENCH** and **SPANISH** Clubs—please sign up [here](#).



## YEAR 6 – LOVE TO DANCE REHEARSALS

Our first rehearsal after Christmas is Wednesday, **7 January 2026**.



## VACANCIES

Please see more information on [www.kent-teach.com](http://www.kent-teach.com).

# FUTURE DATES

CALENDAR DATES 2025-2026		** Red dates added this week
CHRISTMAS		
05-Jan	TERM STARTS	
12-Jan	Clubs Start	
16-Jan	PTA Meeting - 1.45pm - 2.45pm	
23-Jan	PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Sale - 3.30pm	
04-Feb	Inter House Competition	
06-Feb	PTA Cake and Hot Dog Sale - 3.30pm	
13-Feb	END OF TERM	
HALF TERM		
23-Feb	START OF TERM	
23-Feb	Young Voices 2026	
27-Feb	PTA Fancy Dress Costume / 2nd Hand Uniform Sale - 3.30pm	
05-Mar	World Book Day	
9 - 13/03	Year 6 Assessment Week	
10-Mar	Science Day	
16 - 20/03	Year 3-5 Assessment Week	
20-Mar	Red Nose Day	
20-Mar	Clubs End	
20-Mar	Open Afternoon - 2.45pm	
23-Mar	Year 6 - Love 2 Dance	
24-Mar	Parent Consultations	
25-Mar	BUDDY: Riverhead Shared Books and Playtime	
26-Mar	Parent Consultations	
30-Mar	Year 3 - Easter Production Dress Rehearsal - 2.00pm - 3.00pm	
31-Mar	Year 3 - Easter Production - 2.00pm - 3.00pm	
31-Mar	Amherst Music Festival - 6.00pm	
02-Apr	LAST DAY OF TERM	
EASTER		

# LET'S CELEBRATE

## MUSIC

**Congratulations** to the following children on your music exams results:

- Evie P (4HR) has achieved distinction in her Initial Grade piano exam.
- William (6DT) recently passed his Grade 3 viola exam with merit.



## YEAR 6

Thank you to our year 6 children who made decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Riverhead.

# TERM 3 PE TIME TABLE

### Indoor PE sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10 – 10.10					
11 – 12			4HR Gym		5A Yoga
1.35 – 2.30	6A Indoor Athletics (coach)	6DT Indoor Athletics (coach)	4C Gym	3WH Fitness (coach)	5CS Yoga
2.30 – 3.25	3B Fitness (coach)	6N Indoor Athletics (coach)	4SL Gym	3FB Fitness (coach)	5J Yoga

### Outdoor PE sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10 – 10.10					
11 – 12			5CS Handball (coach)		
1.30 – 2.30	3WH Netball	4C Football	5A Handball (coach)	6A Hockey (coach)	6DT Football
2.30 – 3.30	3FB Tag rugby	4HR Netball	5J Handball (coach)	4SL Hockey (coach)	6N Tag rugby
2.00 – 3.00 (Extra class)				3B Football	



# PTA

YOUR AMHERST PTA



## UPDATE

December 2025

## FOR YOUR DIARIES

### LOOKING AHEAD

16th January - PTA Meeting



4th July - Amherst Summer BBQ



As the autumn term draws to a close, we would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone in our school community for all of the support you have shown the PTA already this school year... from attending fundraisers to providing generous donations and invaluable time, ensuring the continued success of our much-loved events.

With your help we have already raised in excess of £10,000! We have lots more fun planned for the New Year to bring Team Amherst together, whilst at the same time continuing to raise much needed funds. Keep your eyes peeled in January for the return of Quiz Night - top prizes and wooden spoons already being prepared!

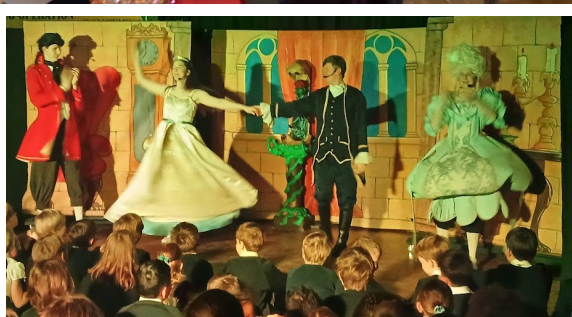
We sadly say goodbye to our Chair, Lydia and Secretary, Mili at the end of this term. A huge thank you to you both for their hard work, new ideas and enjoyment they have brought to the team.

Amanda Pearce has offered to fill the Chair role for the remainder of the year, but we are looking for a new Secretary to join us in January. The role can be as involved or streamlined(!) as you would like to make it. Please email [amherst-chair@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-chair@outlook.com) if you would like to find out more.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year... and we look forward to seeing you in 2026!

*Your PTA Team*

# CHRISTMAS @ AMHERST



## Pantomime



## Orchestra



## Choirs