

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the Christmas break with your families and feel rested for 2026. This letter is to give you some key information about the upcoming Spring term. Should you have any further queries, you are of course always welcome to book an appointment at the school office to see your child's teacher at any time.

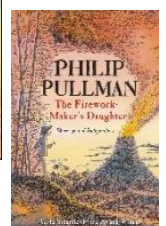
### CALENDAR DATES 2026

12-Jan	Clubs Start
16-Jan	PTA Meeting - 1.45pm - 2.45pm (Bullfinch Pub)
23-Jan	PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Sale - 3.30pm
04-Feb	Inter House Competition
06-Feb	PTA Cake and Pancake Sale - 3.30pm
06-Feb	PTA Quiz Night - 8.00pm
13-Feb	END OF TERM
HALF TERM	
23-Feb	START OF TERM
27-Feb	PTA Fancy Dress Costume / 2nd Hand Uniform Sale - 3.30pm
03-Mar	PTA Meeting - 7.00 - 8.00pm (at school)
05-Mar	World Book Day
11 - 13 Mar	Year 3 - Roman Day
13-Mar	Open Afternoon - 2.45pm
20-Mar	Red Nose Day
20-Mar	PTA - Cake Sale
20-Mar	Clubs End
24-Mar	Parent Consultations
26-Mar	Parent Consultations
31-Mar	Amherst Music Festival - 6.00pm
02-Apr	LAST DAY OF TERM
EASTER	

### Topics

This list is not definitive but it gives you a broad outline of the areas being addressed this term. In order to aid your child's research, our topics for the Spring term are:

- **English:**
  - *Little Red Riding Hood* (newspaper recounts)
  - *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe\** (C.S. Lewis)
  - Whole-school text (to be revealed later this term)
  - *The Firework Maker's Daughter\** (Philip Pullman)



\*Feel free to purchase a copy of these texts for your child to bring in to school, but please wait to read them until we have introduced them in class.

- **Maths:** Multiplication and Division, Length & Perimeter, Fractions and Decimals

- **Science:** Electricity (circuits) and Sound
- **Geography:** Mountains
- **Computing:** Touch Typing (using typingclub.com) and PowerPoint Skills
- **RE:** Christianity – Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?
- **Art:** Hokusai's *Great Wave* and *Mount Fuji*
- **DT:** Gears and Pulleys using K'nex

A full curriculum overview of the year can be found on the [Year 4 part of the Amherst School website](#).

### Homework and Reading

Lexia, MA and spelling homework will continue each week in the same fashion as last term and are summarised on the additional page at the end of this letter. Please ensure that homework is completed on time, with care and attention to detail, and that Planners are signed by an adult at home.

As a reminder, research suggests that **daily reading is the single most effective daily habit your child can develop** to support learning across all subjects. We encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes every day, choosing books both for enjoyment and, over time, increasingly challenging or high-quality texts, either independently or with an adult.

### School Equipment

**Please can you check with your child that they have all of the necessary equipment in school, including a 30cm ruler, scissors, spare glue and black dry wipe pens.** This term we have started to give out 'handwriting licences' to those children who can demonstrate our school's cursive script accurately and consistently across all work. These children may bring in a fountain or handwriting pen to write in blue ink.

### Games and PE

Children should have their PE kit in school every day; please ensure all items are named. You are welcome to send your child in with joggers, hats, gloves or additional layers if the weather is particularly cold.

4C	4SL	4HR
Football on a Tuesday (field)	Hockey on a Thursday (playground)	Netball on a Tuesday (playground)
Outdoor shoes suitable for muddy ground	Shin pads and gym shield required	Standard trainers suitable for hard surface
Gymnastics on a Wednesday	Gymnastics on a Wednesday	Gymnastics on a Wednesday

Many thanks for your support,

Mr S. Clarke

Mrs G. Lester/Mrs R. Stafford

Mr S. Hafford-Robson

## Homework

Each week, homework will be given out by **Friday**, to be returned at the latest by the following **Wednesday** (apart from Planners, due on Fridays). There are four strands to the Year 4 homework:

### 1. Lexia

You will hopefully already be familiar with Lexia from last year. It is an online resource which supports general Literacy skills in an engaging and personalised way for each pupil. To use Lexia, your child will need access to a laptop, desktop computer or tablet for at least 20-30 minutes each week:

Personalized, targeted, and explicit instruction in all areas of reading.



- Go to [www.lexiacore5.com](http://www.lexiacore5.com) OR install the **Lexia Core5 Reading** iPad app.
- Enter the teacher email: [school@amherst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:school@amherst.kent.sch.uk) (only needed the first time you log in).
- Enter your Username and Password, which we will stick into your child's yellow Planner (the basic rule is: first name followed by two letters of surname, e.g. JohnSm for John Smith, with a password of 'school').

If there is any problem with accessing this homework on a computer each week, please do let your child's class teacher know so they can provide an alternative activity.



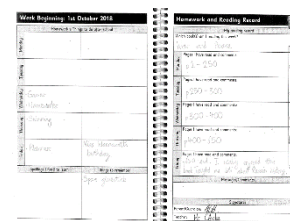
### 2. MA Books

Your child should spend around 20-30 minutes completing a page of their Mental Arithmetic (MA) book each week. It is important that MA corrections are completed before starting a new test: every mistake is an opportunity to learn! In an ideal scenario, your child would be able to complete most of the page independently and some parents will choose to go through questions with the child afterwards, helping them with any tricky ones. Please feel free to include a comment or a \* next

to questions which your child has struggled with as we will try our best to help the children with these one-to-one in class.

### 3. Reading

Your child should be encouraged to read for at least twenty minutes daily whether independently or with an adult. The children should record the book title and the pages read in their school 'Planner'. These books will be checked by an adult each week and if possible should be in school daily.



### 4. Spelling

Your child will bring home an orange spelling homework book in which to spend about 20 minutes practising the 10 spelling words for the Weekly Spelling Test the following Friday. We will expect to see evidence of spelling practice. These 10 words will be drawn from two sources:

- The spelling rule taught in class that week in our spelling lesson.
- The National Curriculum's Year 3/4 'statutory word list'.