

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 information about the Spring term, including extra educational activities. 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
09-Mar	Year 5 - Rainforest Roadshow (workshop at school)
13-Mar	Open Afternoon - 2.45pm
20-Mar	Red Nose Day
20-Mar	PTA - Cake Sale
20-Mar	Clubs End
24-Mar	Parent Consultations
25-Mar	BUDDY: Riverhead Shared Books and Playtime
26-Mar	Parent Consultations
31-Mar	Amherst Music Festival - 6.00pm
02-Apr	LAST DAY OF TERM
EASTER	

### Rainforest Workshop – March 9<sup>th</sup>

Linking with our Rainforests topic, each class will have a session with an enthusiastic expert, learning about and meeting some interesting creatures from rainforest climates. Our previous ranger sadly retired last year, however we have been lucky to secure another visitor and we hope he is just as engaging. In the past this experience has included chameleons, snakes, spiders, frogs, and many more! Children are encouraged to touch or hold these when given permission, but it is not an expectation to do so if they are worried. We find that children are always very proud of themselves after these sessions and thoroughly enjoy the experience. A separate email will be sent out closer to the time with payment details.

## 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:

- **Literacy:**
  - *The Explorer* (Katherine Rundell)
  - *The Highwayman* (Alfred Noyes)
  - Whole-school text (to be revealed later this term)
  - Rainforest balanced argument

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, fractions, decimals and percentages, perimeter and area, statistics, and time.
- **Science:** Changes of Materials and Animals and their Habitats
- **Geography:** Rainforests
- **Computing:** Data and Information (Excel) and Programming using Scratch
- **RE:** What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?
- **Art:** Collage. Rainforest art based on the colour wheel.
- **DT:** CAMS

A full curriculum overview of the year can be found on the Year 5 part of the Amherst School website.

## Homework

Homework, consisting of English, MA and spellings, will continue in the same fashion as last term. Please ensure it is handed in on time, planners signed by an adult at home, and work completed with care and attention to detail.

## Classroom Equipment

Please can you check with your child that they have all of the necessary equipment in school, including an ink handwriting pen, 30cm ruler, scissors, spare glue and black dry wipe pens.

## 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 hats, gloves or additional layers if the weather is particularly cold.

5A	5J	5CS
Games on a Wednesday	Games on a Wednesday	Games on a Wednesday
PE on a Friday	PE on a Friday	PE on a Friday

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs A. Archer

Miss P. Jones

Mrs S. Carver

Mrs T. Siddorns