



Newsletter – Friday 21st May 2021

Dear parents,

Happy International Tea Drinkers Day – a world-wide celebration of one of my top four favourite hot beverages. Until I did a quick internet search on the significance of 21st May I had no idea about this, so have had little time to make any preparations. I hope you are having a marvellous day, celebrating the wonderful taste, stimulation and diuretic properties of our nation's favourite drink.

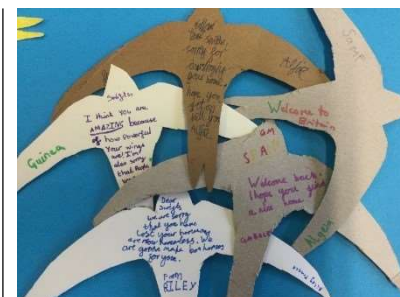
Back to school, and as you know the national Covid-19 guidance changed on 17th May. However the guidance for primary schools remains much the same as before. We will therefore stick to our current routines and practices for the time being, although I am hopeful that after 21st June we can begin to open the school up and return to something closer to a normal summer term. We are therefore beginning to pencil in some dates, but these are all subject to change.

I imagine that those of you lucky enough to be able to, are thinking about your summer holiday. I usually go camping in France in the summer (long drives, crowded motorways, uncomfortable beds and mosquito bites) , but this year have decided to spend significantly more money to spend a bracing week in a rain battered flat in Scotland (all the above but with the variety of midges instead of mosquitos). However, in those moments when the fog clears, we are very excited about immersing ourselves in the stunningly beautiful Scottish countryside. I am sure my children will relish the long walks – if there is one thing that lockdown taught us, it is that children can never get fed up with going on long walks.

Swift Day

Thank you to everyone for your enthusiasm and support for our first ever Swift Festival at St James, where we welcomed our population of swifts back to Tunbridge Wells after their winter in central Africa. They have been flying back here over the past few weeks and arrived on the dot on 9th May as they do every year. Through the generosity of St James' families we will be able to buy several special swift nesting boxes which will replace some of the thousands of swift nesting places in Britain lost through demolition and renovation of old buildings.

The children have produced beautiful art inspired by swifts – some classes practised their pencil shading skills and others used the colours of the flags of countries that the swifts fly over during their migration. Some children wrote messages to the swifts too. We look forward to welcoming swifts to raise their chicks in our very own swift nesting boxes before too long!



Drop off and pick up etiquette

Please can parents keep their children under close supervision at all times. After school there are many children from different year groups running amok and playing together all over the car park. In school we spend a huge amount of time carefully keeping bubbles apart, sanitising surfaces and maintaining the integrity of our bubbles.

Please stick to the staggered pick up times, collect all children at once and then immediately leave the site. If parents arrive too early this results in crowding. Remember that in the mornings you have a full 20 minutes to drop off (between 8:40 and 9) so there is no need to rush.

If a single child tests positive, we still need to contact trace, isolate and potentially close bubbles so we must do all that we can to keep the children in school.

Covid testing

Just a quick reminder, as some people have (understandably) forgotten which test should be used in which situation.

If you or your child have symptoms of Covid then you need a PCR test which can be booked online and requires a visit to a test centre (or you can order a postal test which then needs to be posted back).

If you do not have symptoms and are just doing a routine check, then a lateral flow test (available online or through a pharmacy) is the correct test to use.

If the person requiring a test has symptoms, a lateral flow test (where you carry out the test yourself and get a quick response via one or two lines on a test strip) is not adequate.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

We have all been impressed with the children's engagement in, and enjoyment of, reading during this term so far and celebrate this week's winners below:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
Divit in Fox Class	Divit in Fox Class	Osprey Class
1,531,574 words	80 quizzes	5,864,810 words

Many congratulations to these winners and a big well done to all the children for making every word count. Please keep encouraging your child to read and complete their quizzes.

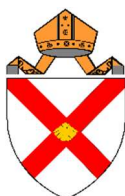
Ms Simpson

Greek Myths

Year 3 have written their own Greek Myths based on their own mythological creatures. They then made their creatures out of clay. Here are some of Badger Class's creations.



Mrs King



Butterflies



Our caterpillars are now all beginning to change into Chrysalis. They will hang from the inside of the lid of the food pot and then shed their exoskeleton and form chrysalis. We will move them into a butterfly habitat to wait as the transformation takes place. Hopefully, we will have butterflies in a week or two.

Mrs Jones

Wildcats Football for Girls

Tunbridge Wells Girls are looking for new players to join their Wildcats!

Wildcats is all about getting more girls involved in football. It is completely non-competitive and for those who want to give it a go for the very first time or want to play with other girls their own age. Most importantly, it's all about having loads of fun and meeting new amazing friends!

The sessions run from 5:30 to 6:30pm every Thursday, starting 27th May until 9th September at Ridgeway playing fields in Southborough (TN4 0AA). Any girl aged 5-11 can attend and it is completely FREE! For more information or to register interest please contact ladies@tunbridgewellsyouth.com

A Team Football

We finally managed our first football fixture of the year yesterday afternoon and made the short trip to St John's. After a positive start, St John's broke down the left on the counter attack and a neat ball into the middle was finished off smartly by their striker. St James' began to get back into the game, with both Hardy and Alex coming close on occasions. St John's scored a second from a corner, headed home by their tall defender. Again St James' came back, but failed to find the back of the net - the St John's goalie pulling off some good saves. 2-0 at half time. The second half continued in the same fashion, but chances came and went before St John's scored their third goal, a long clearance latched onto and finished neatly by the striker for 3-0. We finally got the goal we deserved, Ozi's corner deflecting in off a defender to make it 3-1. St James pushed and pressed, but could not get the vital second goal. St John's scored their 4th on the break again, before Hardy scored a goal all of his own making; hassling the defender into a mistake, driving forward, taking the ball round the keeper and calmly slotting home. The game finished in a 4-2 defeat. A hardworking performance, but not to be on this occasion. Lots of games coming up in the weeks before the year ends to make amends. Man of the Match was Alex for his determination and pressing from the front; a top performance.

Mr Hodges

Have a lovely weekend and thank you all, as always.

John Tutt
Headteacher



**Looking for fun things
to try this May Half
Term, whether rain
or shine?**



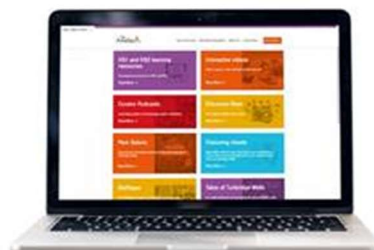
Find videos and ideas at www.theamelia.co.uk
or follow The Amelia on social media.

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Video content includes:

- Learn how to make Victorian inspired biscuits
- Take a virtual tour of the toys in The Amelia collection
- Track down historical local buildings
- Have a go at our weird and wonderful objects quiz
- And much more!

Inspired by the history of the local area, our videos
are packed full of things to do inside and outside
during the school holidays.



The Amelia is Tunbridge Wells' new and exciting cultural and learning space. It will bring together books, objects, documents, photographs, and visual art in a vibrant revitalised building, named after the suffragist and Tunbridge Wells resident Amelia Scott. The Amelia will reopen in Spring 2022.

