



AMHERST NEWS



News No 15 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

11th January 2019

Star of the week

3A	Lexie G	5B	James P
3W	Jacob D	5H	Amy J-H
3S	Martin J	5J	Blake R
4W	Ava D	6H	Louis B-R
4F	Ryan V-A	6P	Ben W
4C	Edward C	6B	Mae C

School Lunches

It has been a week of new changes regarding school lunches! The increased amount of choice has been very popular and we have had record numbers of children having school lunches this week. Feedback from the children has been incredibly positive. The children have enjoyed the greater level of independence such as serving themselves salad at the salad bar, serving their own pudding and scraping their own plates! A huge thank you to the kitchen and midday supervisor teams who have worked hard to implement the new changes successfully. We will continue to review and strive to improve the lunch experience for the children.

Forthcoming Events

28.01.19	Young Voices to O2
07.02.19	School Orchestra Afternoon
06.03.19	Zoolab Year 5 visit
07.03.19	World Book Day
15.03.19	Open Afternoon, 2.45pm

School Gateway App

The App is currently not working on smart phones. Please could parents go on the computer when accessing School Gateway, thank you.

Mobile Phones

If your child walks to school (mainly Year 6) and has a mobile phone, please remember it is school policy that the phone must be handed into the school office each day. We also need a written letter from home explaining that your child will be bringing a phone to school. Mobile phones or any electronic device must not be kept in a child's bag or locker. Thank you for your support.

Amazon Gifting

To help generate much needed income for the school we have set up an Amazon Gifting link. If you are purchasing on Amazon please follow the link below or the link on the homepage of the school website. The school receives a small percentage for each transaction, so the more people that use it the greater the monthly donation! Please share with friends and family. <http://bit.ly/amherstschool> School website link:
<http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk/page/?pid=178>

Clubs

Please note all clubs start next week (unless previously advised).

Riverhead Parish Council – Parking

Riverhead Parish Council request that you please park responsibly when dropping off and collecting your children.

Sport

Kent Junior Chess Grand Prix

Violet D and Ben H spent last Saturday at the 4th Grand Prix of the season. They each played 6 matches, scoring individual points and points for the school. So far Violet is in 7th place (and highest placed girl) and Ben is in 11th place in the Under 9 competition out of 71 children, and Amherst is currently 4th in the Primary School league out of 45 schools. Congratulations to both. The next Grand Prix is at Sevenoaks School on Sunday 17th February- see www.kjca.org to enter.

Amherst Sports T-Shirts Please could all children return any Amherst T-Shirts they used last term.

Uniform, PE & Games Kit Please ensure that your child has the correct named kit in school for Games and PE lessons, including trainers and football boots as we no longer have spares. Likewise, all school uniform should be named.

Music

Congratulations to Edie G who has passed grade 1 violin with merit.

PTA News

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL, WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST FOR 2019!

PTA DATES for your diary:

CAKE & 2ND HAND UNIFORM SALE: Friday 18 January 2019

SCHOOL DISCO: Friday 8 March 2019

RIVERHEAD & AMHERST SPRING BALL: Saturday 23 March 2019

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION: DETAILS TO FOLLOW SHORTLY

****RIVERHEAD & AMHERST SPRING BALL – Saturday 23 March****

Final few tickets available for the biennial Spring Ball.

WHERE: **Westerham Golf Club**

TIME: **7.00pm–12.30am**

EARLY BIRD TICKETS: **£50pp until end-January** (available online at www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta), thereafter £60pp

Gather together 10 friends for each table, for an evening to include a drinks reception with canapes, two-course meal with tea/coffee afterwards, DJ, interactive silent auction, raffle and table games ... don't miss out.

SUMMER BBQ COMMITTEE 2019

Looking forward to sunnier days and warmer evenings, we are seeking a **Summer BBQ Committee** as letters will have to go out shortly to arrange this key fundraiser, so if you or your class are interested in helping, please contact Debbie Trigg ASAP! (amherst-chair@outlook.com)

AMHERST WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY CALENDAR 2018

There are some calendars remaining with images taken by entrants to last year's wildlife photography competition. If you would like to purchase one as a memento, they are available at the reduced price of **£1.00** from the school office.

EASYFUNDRAISING

easyfundraising turns your **online shopping into free donations**. How? Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal – our easy fundraising link is <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> code (Amherst School PTA – Sevenoaks)

COMMUNICATING WITH THE PTA

Chair: **Debbie Trigg** (amherst-chair@outlook.com)

Vice Chair (Events & PTA website): **Sandy Shirras** (amherst-events@outlook.com)

Vice Chair (Marketing): **Michelle Sadler** (amherst-marketing@outlook.com)

Treasurer: **Bradley Shirras** (amherst-treasurer@outlook.com)

Events in the local community

Sevenoaks School of Dance - Exciting New Cheerleading Class!

This will be held at Riverhead Infants School, on Mondays from 5:15-6pm. For children ages 6 – 11 years

Offering a free taster on Monday 14th January 2019

To book please email: amy@sevenoaksdance.co.uk

Barracudas Activity Day Camps

Bookings now open for 2019 clubs (prices held from 2018). Fun activity days and weeks for ages 4½-14 years, with over 80 exciting adventures. From £3.64 per hour. Visit www.barracudas.co.uk or call 01480 467567 for more info.

Music Lessons

Music lessons are available for many instruments at Amherst. The tutors currently teaching at Amherst are –

Clarinet	Andrew Harper	07912 304 256	andrewharper44@hotmail.com
Cello	Catherine Brooker		catherinebrooker@ymail.com
Violin	Jo Kiely	01732 465743	joanna.kiely@btinternet.com
Violin/Viola/Flute	Penny da Silva	07763 204109	pennydasilva@hotmail.co.uk
Flute/Fife/Recorder/Piano	Mark Underwood	07985 563063	mcunderwood@me.com
Drums	Billy Cunningham	07751 881706	billyisondrums@gmail.com
Guitar	Tom Murray		tomrmurray@hotmail.co.uk
Singing	Wendy Chown	07785 968647	wendychown@outlook.com
Piano	Connie Brooks	01622691212	customerservices@kent-music.com
Piano	Simon Proctor	01622691212	customerservices@kent-music.com
Brass	Becky Craig		etkecraig@googlemail.com
Piano/Oboe	Sarah Harper	07501 332102	sarahlucyharper@yahoo.com

Please contact these tutors directly if you are interested in lessons. Please note that any child can only sign up for one instrument lesson during school time. Instrument hire is available from Guy Saunders on 01732-740755 and further details can be obtained from his website at: www.saundersmusic.co.uk.

Regular items and reminders

No nuts in School!

We have children in school who have severe allergies to nuts. Please do not send any form of nuts in for children's snacks or packed lunches. Please also note that nuts should not be brought along to any event held in the school. Thank you.

School Hall Hire

The school hall is available to hire for long term lets, dance groups, sports clubs etc. If you are interested or know anyone looking to hire a hall, please contact Jo Sims, School Business Manager.

Stationery

Stationery packs are available from the school office for £8.00. We also have ink pens for £4.00.

Communication

If you wish to speak to your class teacher urgently at drop-off or collection time, please enquire at Reception or the School Office. Please do not go directly to the classroom. Teachers are often available at the gate at the end of the day, when often a quick word is all that is needed.

Weekends

Please note that school is not open at weekends. Whilst there may be music tutors, builders etc. in the building they are not authorised to allow admittance to the school.

Regular items and reminders contd

Letterbox

We have a silver letterbox in the school lobby. If you do not need to speak to somebody in school, please pop any correspondence into the letterbox. It will be emptied regularly during the school day. We, of course, prefer letters to be sent in via your child's book bag.

Inclusion News

INCLUSION NEWS DECEMBER 2018

CLICKER 7 – for free

Don't forget, if you would like to access Clicker 7 for use at home, just drop me an email with your child's name and class to helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk and I will send you a unique log-in and password.

FAMILY COURSES

If you would like more information about the following courses taking place in early 2019, please ask Mrs Holmes:

- Managing Children's Behaviour at Downview Primary School – 21st January to 11th February
- Parents Towards Employment at St Mary's Primary School – 21st January to 11th February
- Managing Children's Behaviour at New Ash Green Primary School – 22nd January to 12th February
- Managing Children's Behaviour at Edenbridge Children's Centre – 23rd January – 13th February
- Managing Children's Behaviour at West Kingsdown Primary School – 31st January – 21st February

BOOKS PLEASE If your child borrows Barrington Stoke books or Rapid Readers (graphic books) from Mrs Holmes's office please have a look at home and bring them back, and swap for a new one. The bookshelf has a few gaps at the moment.

ASD drop-in dates for parents and carers of children with ASD

Thursday 31st January 2019, Swanley Youth Hub, (next to St Marys School) St Marys Road, Swanley

Wednesday 12th June 2019, Hope Church, The Mill Lane Centre, Mill Lane 128 Seal Rd, Sevenoaks

1pm to 3pm – Pop in any time and stay as long as you like. This will be a regular opportunity to

- Ask questions,
- Talk through any issues you are having with a professional
- Meet other parents and have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat
- Meet professionals who may be supporting you and your child
- Discuss next steps including possible courses.

These people will usually be available to talk to: ~Specialist Teachers, ~Kent Autistic Trust, ~Speech and Language Therapist, and ~Information, Advise, Support Kent (IASK). **Please phone Sevenoaks Specialist Teaching & Learning Service On 01959 560592 for further information**

TTRS starts again on Monday January 14th 2019

Parent Drop-ins I am available most Wednesday afternoons (sometimes Tuesdays) from 2.30 to 3.30 for a chat about any concerns you might want to share in an informal way. Just phone the school office for an appointment. *Thank you. Helen Holmes, Inclusion Manager (helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk).*

Term Dates for the academic year 2019/2020

FINISH: Friday 15th February 2019

TERM 4

START: Monday 25th February 2019

FINISH: Friday 5th April 2019

TERM 5

START: Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Staff Inset Friday 24th May 2019

FINISH: Thursday 23rd May 2019

TERM 6

START: Monday 3rd June 2019

FINISH: Tuesday 23rd July 2019

TERM 1

Staff Inset Monday 2nd September 2019

START: Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Staff Inset Friday 18th October 2019

FINISH: Thursday 17th October 2019

TERM 2

START: Monday 28th October 2019

FINISH: Wednesday 18th December 2019

TERM 3

START: Tuesday 7th January 2020

Staff Inset Monday 6th January 2020

FINISH: Friday 14th February 2020