



AMHERST NEWS



News No 16 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

18th January 2019

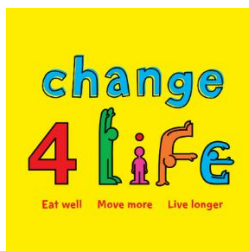
Star of the Week

3A	Ben G	5B	Theo L
3W	Noah W	5H	Lizzie M
3S	Amaia B	5J	Bethan J
4W	Ava S	6H	Nicholas A
4F	Leon K	6P	Felipe F
4C	Joseph NB	6B	Madison H

Ofsted Inspection

As you are aware, we had an Ofsted inspection yesterday. Firstly, thank you to all parents and children who contributed to the surveys. We know many people had issues logging on to the Ofsted site but we still managed to receive 182 responses, which was fantastic. The inspection went very well and the lead inspector (Sir Robin Boshier) recognised and validated many of Amherst's strengths. The children and staff, as always, were brilliant! We will be able to share more detail when the formal letter/report is published in approx. four weeks. Thank you for all your continued support. It is a team effort.

Change 4 Life



Your child will be coming home today with a Change 4 Life booklet which contains clever sugar swaps, healthy recipes, nutritional advice, and top tips and activities to help them stay healthy.

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

Communication at Amherst

We invite parents and carers to take part in a short survey regarding communication at Amherst. This is on our website. Please can you use the link - <http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk/survey/?pid=6&form=17>
Thank you

Message from Kent Police

Dear Parents, please find below a message from Kent Police regarding cyber-bullying:

'A year ago, I wrote to you on behalf of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott. He was interested in finding out more about young people's experiences of cyber-bullying.

Thanks to the support of schools such as yours, he heard back from more than 67,000 pupils from more than 100 schools across Kent and Medway. The survey found that one-in-six young people had been a victim of cyber-bullying, a fact which helped inform Mr Scott's decision to fund more e-safety talks in schools in 2018/19.

I am writing to you now to ask for your support again. This time, as part of his Violence Reduction Challenge, the PCC is looking to learn more about young people's experiences of violent crime. While Kent remains a safe place to live, work and visit, the PCC is open to any suggestions young people may have about what can be done to tackle any local issues. He has created a short survey entitled **Violent Crime and Young People** which is available online at www.kent.pcc.gov.uk/vrc

I am kindly requesting that you circulate this link to your pupils and actively encourage them to complete the survey. Again, the survey is entirely anonymous. Thank you for your support.'

Message from 'The Lost Words' illustrator Jackie Morris

Earlier this week we received a postcard from Jackie Morris:

For the children of Amherst school,

A friend sent Robert MacFarlane and I some photographs of some of the wonderful work you have been doing, around our book The Lost Words. It's really beautiful and so special for us to see. We worked so hard to make a book for you – something that would help you see, look, hear and learn and know about the world, the natural non-human world, the close-up wild world that is all around us.

I enclose a card, with words by Robert, written in ink made from oak galls (that are like small beads that grow on oak trees – not acorns – something else) made by Robert's father.

I hope you enjoyed making your spells, your wild-feathered magpie. With love Jackie Morris

Parent Governor

Emma Adair is the only nomination for parent governor and is therefore appointed.

A25 Road Closures

Dear parents, we have been advised by Highways England of the following road closures. Further information can be found at www.highways.gov.uk

Series of full closures on main carriageway	Dates and timings
Full closure of A25 Riverhead Bridge Eastbound	Thursday 24/1/19 8pm-6am
Full closures of A25 Eastbound and A21 Northbound exit slip to A25 Eastbound	Fri 25/1/19 8pm through to Mon 28/1/19 at 5am (1 weekend closure) 8pm-5am
Lane 2 closures Riverhead Bridge Eastbound and Westbound	Mon 28/1/19 to Thur 31/1/19 8pm-6am
Full closures of A25 Riverhead Bridge Westbound and A21 exit slip to A25 Westbound	Fri 1/2/19 8pm through to Mon 4/2/19 at 5pm (1 weekend closure)

School Gateway App

The App is still 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>

Riverhead Parish Council – Parking

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

Sport

National Schools Under 11 Girls' Chess- Southern Semi-Final

The Amherst team - Tessa H, Violet D and Aoife G competed in this prestigious tournament last weekend. They had some outstanding results, and only missed qualifying for the final by half a point. Well done girls!

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 Annie T has passed her Grade 3 Treble Recorder music exam, with Merit.

PTA News

PTA DATES for your diary:

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

We have been informed that the last tickets for the **SPRING BALL 2019** have now sold. However, if you were interested in booking another table for 10, the committee has the option to add to the numbers. Please contact the PTA Treasurer (amherst-treasurer@outlook.com) or the PTA Spring ball Committee (springballrham@outlook.com) **as soon as possible**.

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 2018/19

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 Gymnastics Club Half Term Club

Held at Trinity School 18-21 February, costs between £43-£74 depending on hours attending each day. Please contact David Miller 07825046605 or david@segym@hotmail.com for further information.

7oaks Multi Sports Half Term Courses

Monday 18th-22nd February, 10am – 3pm.

Our fun-filled February courses will include: Football, Tri-Golf, Tennis, Gymnastics, Kwik Cricket plus more!

£25 per day or £110 for the week.

Please contact Amanda to book or for more information on 07584419283 or www.7ms.co.uk

Chipstead FC Coaching Course

HALF TERM COACHING COURSE School Years 1 to 6.

Monday 18th February & Tuesday 19th February 2019 Time: 1000 - 1530 Cost: £20 per day Venue: Knole Academy 3G Pitch, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3LE Pre-Booking is Required Spaces are limited so book your place early to avoid disappointment.

Players must bring shin pads, packed lunch and a drink in addition to normal kit. To book a place please contact Caroline Davies on 07771 700612 - or at carolinejdavies@googlemail.com

Try out Stagecoach Performing Arts - FREE SESSION and 2 week trials

If your child loves singing, acting or dancing then try out Stagecoach at Kemsing Primary School on Saturday mornings. We offer two week trials but we are also offering a free first session for 6+ year olds to Amherst School students. If you are interested please give the principal Lauren a call or email: 01732 430 387 / otford@stagecoach.co.uk

Sevenoaks School of Dance - 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.

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.

Regular items and reminders – contd

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.

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.

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	billysondrums@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.

Inclusion News

INCLUSION NEWS January 2019

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.

CLICKER 7 – for free

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 Downsview 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 to 13th February
- Managing Children's Behaviour at West Kingsdown Primary School – 31st January to 21st February

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**

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