



AMHERST NEWS



News No 18 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

1st February 2019

Star of the Week

3A	George B	5B	Edward R H
3W	Willow S	5H	Charlie B
3S	Ben H	5J	Lara M
4W	Emilia B	6H	Maisie C
4F	Evie S	6P	Amy P
4C	Rose P	6B	Toby R

Ofsted Inspection

You should have received an email this afternoon with a copy of a letter from Mr Reid and the inspection report attached. We are very pleased with the outcome.

Forthcoming Events

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
22.03.19	Clubs end
23.03.19	PTA Spring Ball
27.03.19	Parents Evening
28.03.19	Parents Evening
01.04.19	Yr3 Easter Performance
05.04.19	Term Ends

Communication at Amherst

We are looking to find the best way of communicating with you as parents.

In order for us to achieve this we would be extremely grateful if you would take two minutes to do the online questionnaire in order to provide us with your opinion.

Please can you use the link -

<http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk/survey/?pid=6&form=17>

Thank you

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 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)

PTA News

PTA DATES for your diary:

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION: DETAILS TO FOLLOW SHORTLY

PTA MEETING: Wednesday 27 February 8.00pm (all welcome to attend)

SCHOOL DISCO: Friday 8 March 2019

RIVERHEAD & AMHERST SPRING BALL: Saturday 23 March 2019

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 still seeking a **Summer BBQ Committee** as letters need 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 still 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)

Staff Car Park

A reminder to parents that the school car park is **for staff use only and disabled bay access**. Please do not use the car park without prior permission from the office first. Thank you.

Music

Young Voices



On Monday, Year 6 were lucky enough to perform at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices Choir. We have been working hard since September to learn all the different songs and this clearly paid off on the night as the children knew the words and were able to take part in some of the more complicated musical arrangements. Overall, we had a fantastic evening singing and dancing as part of a choir made up of more than 8000 children. We hope those parents who came along to watch enjoyed it as much as we did!

London A Cappella Festival



Last Saturday, the Amherst Choir sang at the London A Cappella Festival, performing a set of unaccompanied pieces which included *Down in the Jungle* and *Walk a Mile*. The children did so well and received many positive comments from the audience. A former member of the prestigious ensemble 'The King's Singers' said to me afterwards how impressed he was with the children's confidence using three-part harmony. Well done indeed!

Music – contd

Violin Assembly



On Thursday, Mrs Kiely and her violin pupils performed in an assembly for the whole school. The children played to an extremely high standard, including many graded pieces. Many thanks to the children and to Mrs Kiely for her hard work in organising this assembly.

Musical Achievements

Congratulations to the following children:

Ella W who has achieved Grade 3 with Distinction in her Cello exam. Lucas T who has been awarded Grade 1 Piano (Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance) with Distinction. Edie G who has been awarded Grade 1 Violin (Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance) with Merit.

Sport



Well done to year 3&4 Players who took part in the Mini Red Sevenoaks Schools Doubles competition on the 26th January at The Sennocke Centre, Sevenoaks School.

The girls pairs were as follows: Alice Moffatt & Bronagh Morton, Olivia Walker & Ava Dungan.

The girls played in a very strong box of 7 pairs. The quality of the rallies were absolutely brilliant- Alice & Bronagh showed some great offensive play & Olivia & Ava had a very close game with the eventual winners from Granville (2 of the best red girls in Kent) just losing out 10-7. Ava & Olivia came away with the bronze medal, 3rd overall which was no mean feat with the standard of the pairs in attendance! All 4 girls were a true credit to the school.

The boys followed with the pairs as follows: Shabd Luthra & Dimitri Magoulas, Louis Reaud & Max Rowberry.

The boys entry was a bit bigger with the boys being split

Sport - contd

-into two boxes & the top two pairs progressing to knockout-outs. Shabd & Dimitri didn't quite manage qualification but as a first event together played really well against some very strong competition.

Louis & Max qualified without losing a match demonstrating some fantastic doubles play. The boys progressed through a tough quarter-final before losing in – a close semi-final. They then had a bronze medal match to play which they lost narrowly, just missing out on a medal, but taking 4th place overall. A great effort from all players involved!

To register your interest in tennis at the school, please email: adam@artennis.co.uk

Alternative Sports Festival.



On Tuesday 29th January, 10 children from years 3 to 6 took part in an Alternative Sports Festival at Knole Academy. The children participated in taster sessions of less familiar sports run by various local clubs. The children had experience of the skills required for Fencing, Parkour, Boxing and Karate.

All the children took part with real enthusiasm and enjoyment and developed skills required for these sports. Many of them are now going to join one of the local clubs.

Congratulations to Poppy-Grace D-L, Maxim R, Nye B, Sophia I, Owen P, Lara M, Ella W, Hunter D, Amy P and Allannah B.

If any other children are interested in finding out further details about these sports clubs, please see the flyers on the board within the entrance to the school.

Mrs Wheeler

Amherst Girls in National Chess Final

Our girls' chess team, Tessa H, Violet D and Aoife G have now qualified for the English Chess Federation Under 11 National Final! They are officially one of the top seven teams in the country, and will play the final over two days in April. This is an amazing achievement, congratulations to the girls. Many thanks to their families for all the support they give them, and in particular to Kathryn Woodward for managing the team.

Amherst U11 Boys' Team Reach Southern Region Finals

Boys Under 11 Having become Kent Schools U11 Boys' champions, Amherst (Yiannis Papadopoulos/Sam Arnott/Felipe Fujimori/Daniel Henderson) went to Morpeth School to compete in the English Schools Zone 7 finals on

Sport - contd

19th January 2018. Zone 7 consists of five counties, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, East and West Sussex. There were two groups of three for the Boys' Under 11 event, all play all with two match points available for a win a one each for a draw. In the event of a tie, only the result between the two teams was taken into account, firstly on sets won, then games for and against and if still level, then it is down to the number of points.

Amherst's first match was against St Andrews from East Sussex which they won 8-0.

The second was against Edge Grove who are consistent competitors at the Zone 7 finals so were not likely to be so easy. Amherst won the first three sets and Edge Grove the next three. Sam made sure of four but Edge Grove took the closing set to make it a draw. It thus went to games won which were 18-12 in Amherst's favour.

In the semi finals they played St John's from Hampshire and won all the sets to the seventh. When it came to the eighth, it was realised that two players had played the wrong people but with Amherst already having five in the bag they went through to the final.

In the final they met Earls Hall from Essex. This is a similar set up to Amherst and four sets went the distance. Felipe was the only one to get on the board but Amherst still qualified for the Southern Region finals in Bristol as runners-up.

Janet Field

Girls Under 11



It was the first time that Amherst had a girls team in the competition and they did well to qualify for the Southern Region finals. The girls had a group of five so four matches to be played. Lucy Thresher led the team with Anna Clews, Isabel Morris and Lois Mugford in support.

They won two sets in their first match against Earls Hall from Essex which gave everyone a bit more confidence.

Their second match was against a very strong Abbotswood team from Hampshire who were expected to do well. Isabel managed to win her game.

The girls got their first win of the competition against St Luke's from West Sussex. By now the girls were playing better and although they lost the first two sets in four games, they managed to win the next four. St Luke's won -the seventh so it was down to Lois to make it a win which she did in straight games, much to everyone's delight. Their final match was against Greenway from Hertfordshire. They reached the National Finals last year so it was going to

Sport - contd

-be a tough task. The girls did their best and Isabel was unfortunate not to win but otherwise the opposition had a lot more experience to call upon.

It was great experience for both teams. The boys have two years' training under their belts and it stood them in good stead while the girls, considering they only began playing in October, did very well to win a match. Everyone was well behaved and a real credit to the School.

Janet Field

Cross Country Club

Please could children remember to bring their gloves to the club.

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.

Events in the local community - contd

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 Kensing 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 - 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.

Events in the local community

Sevenoaks School of Dance half term workshop

On Friday 22nd February, 10am-3pm at the Riverhead Infants school. Boy & Girls Ages 4-11 years. Cost: £25.00. The day will include learning: Street Dance, Musical Theatre, making crafts, games and more!

For more info please contact amy@sevenoaksdance.co.uk

MultiSports at Weald of Kent

Saturday sports for boys and girls aged 4-16 of all abilities.

Little Sporties (4-6 years) Saturdays – class times: 9-10.30am or 10.45-12.15pm. An ideal class for introducing your child to sports and physical activity.

Main School (6-16 years) Saturdays – class times: 9.30-12.30pm. A 3 hour class, split into 3 individual sessions, where students work in age specific squads.

Half price sibling discount available.

Contact now to book a trial session (limited spaces – 01293 774051 or www.multisportswald.co.uk

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.

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 you 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>

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.

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 February 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.

TTRS typists

If you access the programme at home, have a look at the new tabs for spellings and key words in maths, science and spellings. You can use the programme to practise them.

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 24 th May 2019
FINISH:	Thursday 23rd May 2019
	TERM 6
START:	Monday 3rd June 2019
FINISH:	Tuesday 23rd July 2019
	TERM 1
Staff Inset	Monday 2 nd September 2019
START:	Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Staff Inset	Friday 18 th 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 6 th January 2020
FINISH:	Friday 14th February 2020