



# AMHERST NEWS



News No 19 [www.amherst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk)

01732 452577

8th February 2019

## Star of the Week

3A	Kit T	5B	Toby B-H
3W	Dylan D	5H	Jack A
3S	Daniel A	5J	Harry W
4W	Lucas S	6H	Maxwell H
4F	Esme L-F	6P	Sam A
4C	Isabella A	6B	Alex R-H

## Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February – All After-School clubs cancelled!

Dear parents, due to the BBC filming in school on Tuesday, all after-school clubs have been cancelled (**this includes Karate**).

## Forthcoming Events

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
02.04.19	Music Concert <i>Change of Date</i>
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

## 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.

## 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**

\*\*\* SUMMER BBQ COMMITTEE 2019 \*\*\*

Looking forward to sunnier days and warmer evenings, we are still desperately seeking a Summer BBQ Committee as letters need to go out as soon as possible to arrange this key fundraiser, so if you or your class are interested in helping, please contact Debbie Trigg for more details ([amherst-chair@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:amherst-chair@outlook.com))

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

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

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

## Secondary School Open Days

If you intend to take your child to Secondary School open days during school time, **please ensure that a note is sent to the class teacher prior to the visit**. Please see websites for more information and bookings.

Walthamstow Hall – Open Morning Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 9.50am-12pm (new 6<sup>th</sup> Form centre now open)

## Sport

### Sports Achievements

Congratulations to Edie A (4c) who has recently passed her Grade 1 Tap exam with merit.

### Under 11 Boys Kent Hockey Champions!



On Tuesday 5th February our U11 boys hockey team travelled to Kent College Canterbury to compete in the Kent Cup.

The boys were raring to go, despite the early start, and won their first game against Ashford Prep 3-0 with goals from Ed Karsak, Oliver Gallagher and Isaac Dale. Even though he was injured during the first game, Isaac returned halfway through the second match against Sutton Valence and scored the only goal to seal a vital 1-0 victory. Amherst went through top of their group and went on to face Eltham College in the Semi Final. The boys played their best hockey of the day - winning decisively 3-0 with 1 goal from Ed Karsak and 2 from Isaac Dale.

In the final they faced their toughest opponents of the day, on their home turf, Kent College Canterbury 'A' Team. Louis Brooks-Read put Amherst up 1-0 early on in the game, followed by 2 goals from Isaac Dale. The final scoreline was an impressive 3-1 to Amherst. The boys only conceded one goal all day due to the tight defensive team of Nicholas Alexander, Harry Lewis and James Parker and also excellent goalkeeping from Toby Royle.

Amherst will now represent Kent in the U11 South East Regional Finals. What an amazing achievement for our school as we were the only state school in the competition!

Huge congratulations again to: Isaac Dale, Ed Karsak, Harry Lewis, Toby Royle, Louis Brooks-Read, James Parker, Oliver Gallagher and Nicholas Alexander and thank you to head coach Duncan Parnis.

*Miss Steptowe*

### Sportshall Athletics County Finals



On Tuesday 5th February, our Year 5 and 6 Indoor Athletics team took part in the Kent County finals of the Sportshall Athletics at the Medway Park in Gillingham.

Having won the Sevenoaks and West Malling District competition, Amherst were representing this area of Kent at the finals, alongside 14 other schools from other districts in Kent.

All the children competed in at least two track and two field events. The children were all incredible athletes and they all demonstrated superb skill, strength, determination and teamwork. They were a real credit to the school.

Our team came twelfth overall, which now means we are the twelfth best primary school Indoor Athletics team in the whole of Kent!

A huge congratulations to: **Millie T, Gigi P, Harry M, Yiannis P, Sam A, Charlie T, Ethan T, Freddie M, Freddie S, Blake R, James P, Maya K, Izzy E, Caoimhe M, Lois M, Eva G, Vivien R and Holly D.**

Thank you to the parents who supported and transported the children.

Mrs Wheeler and Mr Barratt.

### Tennis



Well done to the pairs that competed in the Orange Girls Doubles on Saturday 2nd February at The Sennocke Centre, Sevenoaks School.

## Sport - contd

Ava Dungan paired Connie Coquelin & Emilia Kozlowski paired Olivia Walker. Both pairs did incredibly well to qualify through to the knock-outs against a very strong field.

Emilia & Olivia managed to secure a place in the semi-finals after both Amherst pairs unfortunately had to face each other in the quarters.

Olivia & Emilia narrowly lost out on a place in the final and went to take 4th place after a close battle for bronze with Stock's Green. It's worth noting that both Ava and Olivia were two of the youngest competitors in the Orange event so a really great achievement to compete as well as they did! Looking forward to seeing what the girls can achieve in the Summer events at Bromley!

For more information on tennis at the school please email: [adam@artennis.co.uk](mailto:adam@artennis.co.uk)

### 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

### Boostfit

...Is a new kind of fitness class. A fun, no pressure environment to boost your mood and leave you feeling physically and mentally stronger. Suitable for any age, size and fitness level. One hour, no need to book! 1<sup>st</sup> class is free. Check out [www.boostfit.com](http://www.boostfit.com) for more information or call 07852 256 353/email: boostfit.com

### 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](mailto:amy@sevenoaksdance.co.uk)

### 7oaks Multi Sports Half Term Courses

Monday 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.7ms.co.uk)

## Events in the local community - contd

### 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.multisportswaald.co.uk](http://www.multisportswaald.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](mailto:david@segym@hotmail.com) for further information.

### 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](mailto: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 contact Lauren: 01732430387/[otford@stagecoach.co.uk](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 To book please email: [amy@sevenoaksdance.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.barracudas.co.uk) or call 01480 467567 for more info.

## 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>

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

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk)).*

## **Term Dates for the academic year 2019/2020**

**FINISH:** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
**TERM 4**

**START:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
**FINISH:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
**TERM 5**

**START:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019  
Staff Inset Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
**FINISH:** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019  
**TERM 6**

**START:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019  
**FINISH:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019  
**TERM 1**

Staff Inset Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019  
**START:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019  
Staff Inset Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
**FINISH:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
**TERM 2**

**START:** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
**FINISH:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
**TERM 3**

**START:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
Staff Inset Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
**FINISH:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020