



AMHERST NEWS



News No 20 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

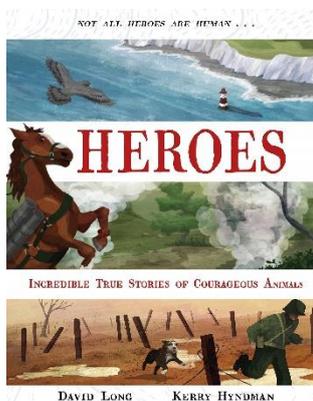
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15th February 2019

Star of the Week

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------|
| 3A | Logan M | 5B | Alexandra C |
| 3W | Poppy-Grace D-L | 5H | George B |
| 3S | Taylor H | 5J | Tessa H |
| 4W | Carina M | 6H | Harry B |
| 4F | Imogen D | 6P | Hugo S |
| 4C | Edie A | 6B | Ella W |

Heroes



Our next whole school book project text will be 'Heroes' by David Long and illustrated by Kerry Hyndman. This book contains incredible true stories of courageous animals. Not all heroes are human ...! Each year group will be studying Heroes for 2-3 weeks after half term. Our book projects have become an outstanding feature of our English and art curriculum. The projects generate exceptional outcomes and create a sense of fun and excitement across the whole school. I look forward to seeing the amazing writing, artwork and displays this project will produce. I highly recommend purchasing this book for your child, you won't regret it! David Long has also written 'Survivors' which is another excellent recommendation. *Mr Reid*

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 |

Young Choir of the Year



We are delighted to announce that the Amherst Choir have been chosen as one of five schools nationally to take part in the Songs of Praise *Young Choir of the Year*. The BBC visited earlier this week to film and interview the choir in school, and the children will be travelling up to Bolton on **Saturday 9th March** to take part in the competition. The show will be broadcast on BBC One in April. If any non-choir families are keen or have contacts near Bolton who might like to come and support us, please get in touch with the office as we have a few spare 'supporter' seats in the venue.



Music

Amherst Music Concert

Due to a clash with a local dance festival, we have had to change the date of our annual music concert to **Tuesday 2nd April at 6.00pm**. This will include all children in the Amherst Orchestra, Training Choir, Amherst Choir, Drumming Club, and individual instrumentalists who will be informed by their music teachers.

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 7th March 9.50am-12pm (new 6th Form centre now open)

PTA News

PTA DATES for your diary:

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

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION: DETAILS TO FOLLOW AFTER HALF TERM

SCHOOL DISCO: Friday 8 March 2019

RIVERHEAD & AMHERST SPRING BALL: Saturday 23 March 2019

*** SCHOOL DISCO – FRIDAY 8 MARCH ***

Tickets go on sale **TODAY** for the **School Disco** taking place on **Friday 8 March**. Tickets are **£3.50** each, and can be purchased at www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta – there is no need to print out ticket/s. Ticket sales will remain open until Wednesday 6 March, unfortunately any attempt to book after this date will not be accepted on the system. Please ensure contact details and allergy information are provided when booking – this is vital for our volunteers on the night.

SUMMER BBQ COMMITTEE 2019 – SATURDAY 6 JULY

Looking forward to sunnier days and warmer evenings, we are still desperately **seeking a Summer BBQ Committee** to coordinate this key fundraiser, so if you or your class are interested in helping, please contact Debbie Trigg for more details (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.

Sport

Table Tennis

AMHERST REACH FINALS OF BUTTERFLY NATIONAL SCHOOL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Amherst School Boys Under 11 table tennis team reached the finals of the Butterfly National School Team Championships on Saturday on Day 1 of the Southern Region finals at Bristol Academy of Sport. They had qualified for the event by winning the Kent Schools Under 11 Boys' title and coming in as runner up at the Zone 7 finals.

Two teams of four players from each of Zones 5 – 8 covering the whole of the Southern Region from Kent to Cornwall compete over two days, two Zone runners up and two winners on each day. Each match consists of eight sets, each playing competing in two sets. Amherst Yiannis Papadopoulos, Sam Arnott, Felipe Fujimori and Daniel Henderson were in a group with Millfield Prep (Somerset), the winners of Zone 6, the runners up from Zone 5 Chalfont St Peter's CE Primary and the winners of Zone 6 Coldfall Primary, Muswell Hill, all play all.

In Round 1 Amherst beat Millfield Prep 8-0 which wasn't as easy as it appears on paper and Chalfont St Peters 6-2 in Round 2. Sam and Felipe were unbeaten with Yiannis and Daniel picking up one win each. Their toughest opponents were expected to be Coldfall. It was in effect the final. Amherst had four points in the bag from their two wins but Coldfall had lost to Millfield so Amherst needed only one point to get to the National Finals. The first set was lost. However, Yiannis got the team back on terms and, despite many close games, Amherst surged forward to a 7-1 win. Felipe was unbeaten on the day, a most creditable effort. Amherst hadn't expected to qualify but turned in an absolutely magnificent performance. Losing just three sets during the entire day is a quite remarkable achievement.

The boys have been coached by David and Janet Field since Year 4. Two former Amherst pupils, Thomas Arnott and Ben Jakes, have given up a lot of time to assisting at the after school club and without doubt have been an inspiration to the team. Thomas was there to support them. As multi Southern Region finalist and National Team finalist with Tunbridge Wells GSB himself he was able to call upon personal experience to help guide the boys through a tough day.

Sport - cont

Two teams qualified from the Northern Region and two from the Southern. The second team to qualify from the Southern finals were Earls Hall Primary, Essex, who beat Amherst in the Zone 7 final. The National Finals are to be held in Hinckley, Leicestershire on 23rd March.

National Primary Schools Chess Championships

Amherst sent four teams to the first round of this annual competition, held at Anthony Roper School last Saturday. It was a very tough competition against some strong teams, but all the Amherst players showed terrific determination throughout their 5 matches. The U11A team came first in their section and won gold medals and the U9A team won bronze- these teams both qualified for the Southern Semifinals at Camber Sands. The U11B and U9B missed out on qualifying, but we were immensely proud of all of them. Thank you to all the parents for giving up a day of their weekend, and especially to Jon Terry, Nick Heard and Kathryn Woodward for being team managers. The teams:

| U11A | U11B |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1 Dylan P | 1 Harry W |
| 2 Karl P | 2 Arek G |
| 3 Tessa H | 3 Anoushka G |
| 4 Aoife G | 4 Aydan V H |
| 5 Noah T | 5 Oliver L |
| 6 James H | 6 George F |

| U9A | U9B |
|--------------|------------|
| 1 Violet D | 1 Dylan R |
| 2 Benjamin H | 2 Daniel B |
| 3 Ben H | 3 Mick H |
| 4 Lucas T | 4 Shabd L |
| 5 Max R | 5 Ava T |
| 6 Ryan V H | 6 Henry O |



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>

Events in the local community

John Heurman Tennis Academy

The John Heurman Tennis Academy have released their dates for their Easter, Half Term and Summer holiday camps at Hollybush in Sevenoaks. The Tennis Academy have camps available for all ages and abilities with coach:pupil ratios of 1:8. To view the dates please see their website <https://tennisacademy.org.uk/holiday-courses/>

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! 1st class is free. Check out 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

Colorines and La Jolie Ronde Spanish lessons

At Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Last five lessons of the spring term for only £30 and £5 discount on book and audio material link. PLUS 10% off your next term! Please email belen@colorines.co.uk, tel. no. 07815 063582 and secure a place for your child at Otford Village Memorial Hall on Tuesdays. Years 3 & 4 at 4.35 pm, Years 5 & 6 at 5.10 pm. Limited spaces! Gracias!

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

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.multiportswaald.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.

Events in the local community - contd

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 contact Lauren:
01732430387/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.

Little Musketeers Fencing Skills Day

Friday 22nd Feb 2019; 10am - 2pm @ Knole Academy.
Experience the unique thrill of the Olympic sport of fencing
with the Little Musketeers Fencing Skills Day. Designed and
founded by Olympic fencer James Beevers, children will
learn the basic skills of fencing through a variety of fun
games and exercises that are guaranteed to challenge both
the mind and the body.
BOOK ONLINE NOW! Cost £25 per child; Ages 4-11; Packed
lunch required. Go to www.littlemusketeers.com for more
information.

Happy's Circus is Coming to Chevening Primary School!

On Friday 26th 6-8pm (Big Top opens from 5.15pm).

Tickets are now on sale at the 'early bird' rate of £8 each
(under 2's are free if sat on a parent's lap - please note no
buggies are allowed in the big top). The early bird rate
finishes on Friday 15th February, when ticket prices are
then £10.

Further information regarding this event can be found on:
<http://www.chevening.kent.sch.uk/circus>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/559051117838871>
email cheveningpta@gmail.com Promotional footage of the
circus can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/jbbTHnkqvs0>

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.

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 |
| | 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.

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 |