



# AMHERST NEWS



News No 22 [www.amherst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk)

01732 452577

8th March 2019

## Star of the Week

3A	Tommy J	5B	Mujtaba K
3W	Jacob J	5H	Tabitha S
3S	Heidi S	5J	Toby H
4W	George H	6H	Cailyn M
4F	Hattie R	6P	Harry E
4C	Liliya D	6B	Thomas P

Also a special mention and thank you to all the staff who dressed up. We had the Year 3 farmers from Fantastic Mr Fox, the Year 4 Crayons from the Day the Crayons Quit, the whole 'Holes' gang from Year 5 and Year 6 were characters from the Hungry Caterpillar.

We hope the children enjoyed the day.

Miss Apps and Mrs Wheeler

## World Book Day 2019

Once again, the children's book day costumes were fantastic and very creative. A huge thank you to all the parents for the effort and time spent organising costumes. The children enjoyed an assembly with guide dogs, real animal heroes – linking to our whole school book 'Heroes'.



The assembly ended with two children from each class being presented with a book token for their costume.

Here is a photograph of the winners this year:



Yr 3 Shabd L, Aimee H, Matthew P, Rosie-Anne M, Daniel A, Rachel B

Yr 4 Andrew G, Ava S, Edward C, Isabella A, Matthew P, Sharon O

Yr 5 Blake R, Tessa H, Daniel Q-H, Maria D, Charlie B, Ellen J

Yr 6 Benjamin S, Mae C, Ben W, Bonnie L, Oliver G, Abi B

## Inter-House Book Day Quiz

Congratulations to Wolfe who won the inter-house book day quiz.

### Read with your child

Just a reminder of how important it is to read with your child for twenty minutes every day!

Fascinating facts about reading:

*Read With a Child  
It's the Most Important  
20 Minutes of Your Day*

Child "A"  
reads **20 minutes**  
each day  
3,600 minutes  
in a school year.

Child "B"  
reads **5 minutes**  
each day  
900 minutes  
in a school year.

Child "C"  
reads **1 minute**  
each day  
180 minutes  
in a school year.

1,800,000 words  
  
90th percentile

282,000 words  
  
50th percentile

8,000 words  
  
10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade, Child "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Child "B" will have read only 12 school days.

Which child would you expect to have a better vocabulary?

Which child would you expect to be a proficient reader?

Make the commitment today to read with a child; it makes a difference.

Source: Nagy & Herman, 1987



## Forthcoming Events

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
02.04.19	Yr3 Easter Performance 2.00pm
02.04.19	Music Concert <i>Change of Date</i>
05.04.19	Term Ends

## Year 5 - Gallipoli Murphy story

Year 5 are using the story about Murphy, the incredible donkey who helped to save the lives of many soldiers in the Battle of Gallipoli during WW1 as their writing stimulus for our book Heroes. To help the children to write through the donkey's eyes, and to learn more about this amazing animal, Elliott, the donkey paid us a visit last week. Elliott is quite used to crowds as he attends the Remembrance Celebrations in London every year to represent the animals who sacrificed their lives during wartime.



## Eggciting News!

Our clutch of eggs have all hatched and we now have six baby ducklings in 5J that we are all looking after. The eggs were delivered on Tuesday and by Wednesday morning we had four baby ducklings with the last two making it out their eggs on Wednesday. There is great excitement in the class and a lot of quacking!! The ducklings all like being held and made a fuss of. Next week it will be swimming duty as we need to teach them to swim!!



## Charity Work at Amherst

A group of girls from 5J have been inspirational by wanting to raise some money for a charity that is very dear to their hearts. The charity is called 'Holding on Letting Go' and it supports grieving children and their families by helping them to let go of their sadness and hold on to precious memories that have of a loved one. The girls independently organised a raffle, collected prizes and ran the raffle at break and lunch times. The whole school supported them by raising a staggering £167.05. Caroline Gaskin who works for the charity visited school to personally collect the money and talk to the children about what their money would be used for. This charity is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Caroline explained to the girls that their money would be used to buy lots of special treasures for children to make memory boxes when they attend residential camps. Thank you to everyone who brought a raffle ticket and to our amazing team of fundraisers.

Lara M, Sofia VE, Bethan J, Gitte M, Isabella B, Connie F & Josie H.



## Music

### Looking to learn an instrument?

Our new clarinet teacher Mr Harper led an assembly last week, demonstrating the instrument and entertaining all with his excellent sense of humour! Mr Harper is one of the country's top clarinetists, having played in many prestigious London orchestras. Over 60 children stayed behind afterwards to try out the clarinet. If your child would like to sign up to lessons, Mr Harper may be contacted at [andrewharper44@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewharper44@hotmail.com).



## 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.

## PTA News

### PTA DATES for your diary:

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION:** DUE TO LAUNCH SHORTLY

**RIVERHEAD & AMHERST SPRING BALL:** Saturday 23 March 2019

**\*\*\* RIVERHEAD & AMHERST SPRING BALL – SATURDAY 23 MARCH \*\*\***

During the evening, there will be a **silent auction** when guests will be able to bid on a wide range of one-off gifts, experiences and events. We are **URGENTLY** looking for more donations for this auction!

The previous Ball raised around **£7000 for EACH school**, with all monies raised from the sale of these prizes going towards enhancing the schools' facilities and equipment, so we **thank you in advance** for any donations you can offer.

The ball is the perfect platform for you to market and/or trial your ideas so why not offer your services at the auction? All tickets have been sold, so it is promises to be a **FANTASTIC evening!**

If you can offer any lots or ideas for the auction, please email [springballRHAM@outlook.com](mailto:springballRHAM@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))

## Sport

### Kent School Games Excellence Award winners

We are delighted that Amherst have been awarded an Sports Excellence Award. We are one of only 15 schools in Kent that have been recognised as showing outstanding commitment to the Kent Schools Games programme over the last few years. Amherst has participated in a huge number of sports festivals and represented the Sevenoaks and Malling District in many Kent School Games finals.

Mrs Wheeler and Mr Barratt attended an award ceremony at Canterbury University to receive the trophy from Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council.

Thank you to all the staff, coaches and parent helpers for their hard work and commitment to school sport, which enables the children to have fantastic opportunities and success. Well done to the children for all their wonderful achievements across a range of sports.

### Tennis - Orange Boys Doubles

On Saturday 9th February, Neev & Ben, Ed & Oliver, Isaac & Leo all took part in the Orange school Doubles event at The Sennocke Centre, Sevenoaks School.

The competition was very strong and the boys played some great tennis. Ben & Neev didn't quite make qualification, but played some really good tennis together against some very experienced competitors. Isaac & Leo and Oliver & Ed qualified through to the quarter-finals (Oliver & Ed unbeaten in their box). Both pairs unfortunately got knocked out in the quarter-finals in very close matches (10-8 in both)!

A great effort from all of the boys who were a credit to the school- we look forward to the competitions in the Summer at Bromley next!



### Chess

#### Kent Junior Chess Grand Prix

The following children spent last Sunday at the 6th GP of the season at Hayesbrook School: Ben H, Violet D, Lucas T, Harry W, Noah T, Karl P and Dylan P. They each played 6 tough matches, scoring points individually and for Amherst in the Primary Schools League. Congratulations to all our players, in particular to Dylan who came joint 2nd in the Under 11 section out of 37 children. The next GP is on 14th April- to enter please go to [www.kjca.org](http://www.kjca.org).

## Sport - contd

### Amherst Players selected for Kent

We are very proud of the following children who have been selected to play in county teams:

Dylan P- Kent U11

Violet D- Kent U9, Kent Girls' U11

Tessa H- Kent Girls' U11

Aoife G- Kent Girls' U11

## 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.

## Events in the local community

### **Easter Tennis Camps at Chipstead Place Lawn Tennis Club**

With team coach Adam Reavely (ARTennis Ltd).

8-11 April & 15-18 April (Monday-Thursday inclusive).

Times 9am-12pm (ages 5-9 years) and 3.30-5.30pm (10-14 years).

Costs: 3 hour camp £50 members/£55 non-members (price for all 4 days), 2 hour camp £40 members/£45 non-members (price for all 4 days).

Please contact: [adam@artennis.co.uk](mailto:adam@artennis.co.uk) to book!

### **Toaks Easter Multi-Sports Course**

At Sevenoaks Primary School, Bradbourne Park Road. Mon 8<sup>th</sup>-Fri 12<sup>th</sup> April, Mon 15<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> April. 10am-3pm.

Our fun filled Easter Multi Sports Course activities will include: Football, Tri Golf, Tennis, Gymnastics, Kwik Cricket, plus many more! Please contact Amanda for more info:

07584419283 or [www.7ms.co.uk](http://www.7ms.co.uk)

### **Chipstead FC Sevenoaks – Easter Coaching**

Venue – Chipstead Recreation Ground, Chevening Rd, Sevenoaks.

School years 1-6, Mon 8<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 10am-3.30pm.

Cost £20 per day (early bird booking fees available) please contact [carolinejdavies@googlemail.com](mailto:carolinejdavies@googlemail.com) for further information.

### **New Circuit Class on the Common**

For all Amherst and Riverhead mums. 9am Tuesdays and Thursdays. Suitable for all. First session free. Contact 07730 252228 for more info.

[www.obstaclemudrunner.co.uk](http://www.obstaclemudrunner.co.uk)

### **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/>

### **Let's Learn Spanish! with Colorines Language School**

At Otford Village Memorial Hall. For children 4-12 years.

Small classes, maximum 12 per group, high quality activity books and CDs, improves self-confidence, make new friends, and have fun whilst learning! Please email

[belen@colorines.co.uk](mailto:belen@colorines.co.uk) or 07815063582 for more info.

### **Family Dog Workshops in Canterbury**

25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Held at Dogs Trust Canterbury, Radfall Road, CT5 3ER.

Workshops for parents/carers of a child between 3-16 years old with a clinical diagnosis of autism.

Family Dog Workshops are ideal if you:

- Are at the early stages of considering getting a dog to help your autistic child;
- Know that you want to get a dog and are looking for help choosing and handling a dog;
- Already have a pet dog but would like training ideas and support

The series of 3 day workshops use a combination of practical demonstrations, discussions, hands on learning and course handouts. Ongoing support is available to families. For more info contact [www.dogsforgood.org/family-dog](http://www.dogsforgood.org/family-dog)

## 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:billysondrums@gmail.com">billysondrums@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@gmail.com">etkecraig@gmail.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 MARCH 2019\*\*\*

### Stressed or anxious children?

Worried about your child's or teenager's behaviour or mental health? You're not alone. Call the YoungMinds Parents' Helpline free on 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm) or email [parents@youngminds.org.uk](mailto:parents@youngminds.org.uk). The website has some great advice, too. Visit <https://youngminds.org.uk/> and go to 'for parents' under the 'find help' tab.

### Rapid Readers Books 1 and 3 are missing...

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.

### 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).

## 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.

## Term Dates for the academic year 2019/2020

	<b>TERM 4</b>
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>
	<b>TERM 5</b>
<b>START:</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019</b>
Staff Inset	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019</b>
	<b>TERM 6</b>
<b>START:</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019</b>
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019</b>
	<b>TERM 1</b>
Staff Inset	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019
<b>START:</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019</b>
Staff Inset	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b>
	<b>TERM 2</b>
<b>START:</b>	<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b>
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b>
	<b>TERM 3</b>
<b>START:</b>	<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>
Staff Inset	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b>