



AMHERST NEWS



News No 23 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

15th March 2019

Star of the Week

3A	Diego Q	5B	Ethan T
3W	Rosie F	5H	George F
3S	Lucas D	5J	Sofia V-E
4W	Jasper H	6H	Lane S
4F	Zoe H	6P	Annabel P
4C	Jake A	6B	Maya F

Social Media

Please could we remind all parents to be respectful of parent and children's permissions when placing photos on social media. If you do not have the permission of every child in a group picture, you should not be posting it.

Forthcoming Events

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

Amherst Choir BBC Filming



On Saturday 9th March the Amherst Choir travelled up to Bolton to take part in the televised Songs of Praise 'Young Choir of the Year' Competition. When we finally arrived in Bolton, we stopped at a car park to collect the children who came by car so that the BBC could film us all arriving at The Victoria Hall.

Before the show, we had spent lots of time practising our two songs, *Chariot's Comin'* and *The Lamb* (only sung if we proceeded to the final). After a quick lunch, it was time to practise *My Jesus, My Saviour* together with the other four choirs. Not long after that, the first school choir stepped up

to the stage to perform their Semi-Final song. After many performances, it was finally our turn to perform in front of the judging panel of Carrie Grant, Russell Watson and JB Gill...

...To find out how it went, you can watch the Junior Semi-Final show on BBC One on Sunday 19th May! We would like to thank everyone for all their support and particularly for the amazing banners and flags (made by the helpful Grier family). We would like to thank everyone who participated, mostly Mr Clarke. And well done to the many children who woke up at 5.00am or even earlier and arrived back home at roughly 1.00am in the morning!

By Zara Frangos and Amelia Halton



Violin & Flute Assembly

On Thursday, Mrs Da Silva and her pupils performed in an assembly for the whole school. The children were brilliant, playing a range of pieces, and should be really proud of all their hard work preparing for the performance. Many thanks to Mrs Da Silva for organising and leading this assembly.



Kent Recorder Day

A day for young recorder players (from Grade 3+) is being held at Sevenoaks School. More information at <https://www.nyro.org.uk/whats-on/detail/kent-recorder-dya-2019>

British Heart Foundation Swim – September 2018



Many thanks for all your donations and support. The school managed to raise £8,030.80!

Parents Consultations

Parent consultations will take place on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March. Parents will be available to book using www.schoolinterviews.co.uk and input code kzmsp from 7.00pm on Monday 18th March.

Absence from School

Just a reminder that need to take your child out of school for any holidays please remember to complete the online absence form.

Head Lice

We have been made aware of a few outbreaks of head lice in the last week.

Please if you could check your child's hair and follow these steps:

Detection:

Wash hair and apply conditioner. Use a wide toothed comb to straighten hair.

Switch to a fine toothcomb and draw down from roots to ends of hair.

Check comb after every sweep.

Rinse out conditioner and repeat the combing.

Check all family members.

If lice are found, treat all those affected and check again for baby lice after 3 – 5 days.

Treatment:

Lotions can be purchased from your local chemist or any supermarket.

For advice please contact your pharmacist, practice nurse or GP.

Once treated, your child may return to school.

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.

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

Sevenoaks Netball Tournament

On Saturday, a team of 7 netballers took part in the Sevenoaks tournament. The girls who took part played brilliantly throughout their heats and successfully managed to win every game with the exception of one, which they drew 1 all. This then led us to win our group which meant Amherst had gained a place in the final. In the final match,

Sport – contd

Amherst played Churchill School. Due to their excellent teamwork and great determination, the team were able to score 3 times resulting in a final score of 3-1 to Amherst. Overall, this meant we won the tournament! It was a fantastic and exciting morning; the team stayed focused and demonstrated great teamwork throughout. They were a pleasure to take to the event and thank you to all the parents who came along to support us.

The team were: Francesca B, Kelsey M, Cailyn M, Anna C, Holly D, Milly T and Isabel M



Therefore, we progressed through to the next round after winning our group. In the semi-finals, we faced Edenbridge and played brilliantly as a team, winning the game 2-0. In the final we then played Chevening; once again, we battled hard and eventually won the game 2-0 becoming the tournament winners! Man of the tournament was Harry B. Well done and congratulations to Harry B, Louis B-R, Isaac D, Harry L, Yiannis P, Nicholas A and James P. Mr Barratt

Football League Competition

On Monday the 11th of March, Amherst played against Sevenoaks and Churchill in the football league competition. In a tough opening game against Sevenoaks, Amherst battled hard as a team to win the game 1-0. In our second match against Churchill, Amherst played some fantastic football to win the game 4-1, scoring some brilliant goals in the process. These were our final games of the season - we are awaiting other results to see whether we have finished 1st or 2nd in the league! Well done and congratulations to Harry B, Louis B-R, Maxwell T, Matthew B, Joe S, Anthony P, Yiannis P, Aydan H and TJ D. Mr Barratt

Hockey Success!



On Wednesday 13th March our Under 11 Boys hockey team entered the UKSA tournament held in Burgess Hill. The boys played superbly well and only conceded one goal throughout the tournament. Having won their group, the team then faced a round robin final stage. After drawing 1-1 with Ardingly, the boys went on to beat Cumnor House 2-0 to win the tournament. A great achievement! Well done to Toby R, Nicholas A, Harry L, Charlie T, Isaac D, Ed K, Oliver G and James P. Good luck to the team for next Friday, when they represent Kent at the Southern Finals in Woking. Thank you to Duncan Parnis for all his help and support coaching the team.

Sevenoaks Schools Football Tournament

On Saturday 9th March, Amherst participated in the Sevenoaks Schools football tournament. In our group, we played against Churchill, St. Thomas', Anthony Roper and Seal. After losing our first game against Churchill, we went on to win our next three games – 4-0, 2-0 and 1-0.

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.

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.

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>

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.

Skinners Kent Academy – Tuesday 26/3 (tour at 10am)

Skinners Kent Academy – Monday 29/3, (tour at 10am)

Skinners Kent Academy – Thursday 23/5, (tour at 10am)

Hugh Christie – Friday 7/6, Year 5 experience afternoon 2-5pm

Cranbrooke School – Wednesday 12/6, Yr7,9,12 open am 8.45-11am

Skinners Kent Academy – Wednesday 12/6, (tour at 10am)

Hugh Christie – Friday 14/6, Year 5 experience 2-5pm

Weald of Kent – Tuesday 18/6, Yr 5 Taster Day

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 to book!

Toaks Easter Multi-Sports Course

At Sevenoaks Primary School, Bradbourne Park Road. Mon 8th-Fri 12th April, Mon 15th – Thurs 18th 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

Chipstead FC Sevenoaks – Easter Coaching

Venue – Chipstead Recreation Ground, Chevening Rd, Sevenoaks.

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

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

Family Dog Workshops in Canterbury

25th, 26th and 27th 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

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.

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. 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 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.*

Term Dates for the academic year 2019/2020

TERM 4

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