



# AMHERST NEWS



News No 25 [www.amherst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk)

01732 452577

29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Star of the Week

3A	Jonathan B	5B	Lucy B
3W	Ivy W	5H	Lily S
3S	Lilly M	5J	Christina H
4W	Chloe I-C	6H	Louis W
4F	Teddy L	6P	Izzy K
4C	Hannah S	6B	Daniel H

## Forthcoming Events

- 01.04.19 Orchestra Afternoon 1.30pm
- 01.04.19 Netball Tournament at Knole 3.30pm
- 02.04.19 Yr3 Easter Performance 2.00pm
- 02.04.19 Music Concert 6pm
- 03.04.19 6B & 6H to Parliament
- 04.04.19 Primary team Maths challenge 9am
- 04.04.19 Love to Dance
- 04.04.19 PTA Cake Sale
- 05.04.19 Term Ends

- 25.04.19 Year 5 The Highwayman
- 29.04.19 Clubs start
- 03.05.19 Year 5 to The British Museum
- 03.05.19 PTA Movie Night
- 11.05.19 AJFC Presentation Evening
- 13.05.19 SAT's week
- 14.05.19 Year 5 Kent Test and Hilltop meeting
- 7.00pm

## Parking

We have received several complaints from residents this week regarding parking. We understand space outside of school and nearby is very limited. Please avoid blocking driveways or parking on the grass by the common. If you are able to walk to school please do. Another alternative is to drive part of your journey and then walk. We have to work together as a community and this involves being considerate to our neighbours. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

## Lost Keys

Have you lost your keys? A set has been found near the school grounds, these are in the school office awaiting collection.

## Lunch Bands

Please could any lunch bands left at home be brought back into school asap thank you.

## Year 4 Bushcraft

This week, children in Year 4 enjoyed a day of 'Bushcraft' at Valence School, led by local specialist Clare Strange. The children made outdoor shelters, learnt how to make fires safely, cooked marshmallows, hot chocolate and even explored making mud faces! Thank you to Clare and to Valence School for enabling us to use their excellent outdoor facilities.



## 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.

- Skidders Kent Academy – Thurs 23/5, (tour at 10am)
- Hillview Girls School – Thurs 23/5, Fri 24/5 (Yr 5 taster morning 9-12.30pm)
- Hugh Christie – Fri 7/6 (Yr 5 experience afternoon 2-5pm)
- Cranbrooke School – Wed 12/6, Yr7,9,12 (open am 8.45-11am)
- Skidders Kent Academy – Wed 12/6 (tour at 10am)
- Hugh Christie – Fri 14/6 (Year 5 experience 2-5pm)
- Weald of Kent – Tues 18/6 (Yr 5 taster day)
- Radnor House – Tues 25/6 (Yr 5 taster day 8.30am-3pm)
- Hillview Girls School -Thurs 6/6 & Fri 7/6 (Yr 5 taster am 9-12.30pm)
- Hillview Girls School – Thurs 13/6 & Fri 14/6 (Yr 5 taster am 9-12.30pm)

## Amherst Choir Auditions

Children who sing regularly in Training Choir can now sign up to choir auditions at the Reception Desk. Auditions will take place next week and after Easter. Children need not prepare anything!

## 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.

## Sport

### UK Chess Challenge

This term Chess Club has been playing in the first round of the UK Chess Challenge, in which each player plays 7 games and scores points each week (win=3, draw=2, loss=1). Those finishing on 17 points or more, plus the highest scoring girl, qualify for the next round - the Megafinals. The top scorers in each group win a trophy. Congratulations to all our players.

Year 3 Trophy: Dylan R (Qualifiers: Daniel B, Dylan D, Mick H, Arnav T, Ava T, Ben H)

Year 4 Trophy: Benjamin H (Qualifiers: James D, Lucas T, Max R, Eva P)

Year 5 Trophy: tied between Harry W and Tessa H (Qualifiers: Aoife G, James H, Noah T)

Year 6 Trophy: tied between Karl P and Dylan P (Qualifiers: Samuel A, Daniel H, Anoushka G, Aydan H)

Girls' Lunchtime Trophy: Amelia H (Qualifiers: Violet D, Lizzie M, Lois M)

*Helen Peters*

### Tennis



Huge well done to the girls who competed in the Green School Doubles at The Sennocke Centre on Saturday 16th March.

Caoimhe M & Myrto M narrowly missed out on qualification to the semi-finals but went on to win the plate! Isabel M & Anna C battled for bronze and lost a close match against Granville 2 to take 4th overall. Holly D & Lucy T played some fantastic tennis to beat Granville 1 very convincingly 10-2 in the Final winning the 2019 Sevenoaks Green Girls Doubles title for the school.

A tremendous effort from all of the girls who have been training consistently at Chipstead Place LTC & attending lunch time team training on a Thursday throughout the term, very well done!

### Hockey



Congratulations to our Under 11 Boys Hockey team that came second at the Southern Finals last Friday. The finals were held at Woking HC and the standard was extremely high. The boys lost 2-1 in the final against Barrow Hills (Surrey). This officially places the team as the second best team in London, Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Berkshire. An amazing achievement, Amherst are very proud of you! Well done to Toby R, Charlie T, Nicholas A, Louis B-R, Isaac D, Ed K, Oliver G, James P and Harry L. Thank you to Duncan Parnis for his help preparing and coaching the team.

### Hillview Summer School

Each summer, Hillview School for Girls run a Summer School for children, consisting of two separate weeks of musical theatre, dance and drama with performance. It is recommend for children aged between 9-14 years and takes place 10am-3pm on:

Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August 2019 (Week One)

Monday 5 – Friday 9 August 2019(Week Two)

All areas of the Performing Arts is covered, including; singing, dancing and acting, including taking part in some prop making workshops with a Performing Arts Technician. Both weeks cover different performances and won't repeat each other. BOOKINGS OPEN

TODAY. <https://www.hillview.kent.sch.uk/community/summer-school/>

### Mobile Phones

If you 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>

## PTA News

**PTA DATES for your diary:**

**CAKE & UNIFORM SALE: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION: Closing Date – Tuesday 30 April 2019**

**\*\*\* AMHERST WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2019 \*\*\***

The **Amherst Wildlife Photography Competition** was launched on Monday. Your child will have come home with details of how to enter and top tips to help your budding photographers capture a winning shot. There were some amazing entries last year, and this is a great way to get creative, get outdoors and explore ... while raising necessary funds for the school. Entries should be submitted to [amherst.wildlifephotography@gmail.com](mailto:amherst.wildlifephotography@gmail.com) and payment made online at [www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta). The closing date for entries is **Tuesday 30 April 2019**.

### 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))

## 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.

### 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 Achievements

Congratulations to Benjamin S who has passed his Grade 1 drum exam with Merit.

## 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	etkecraig@googlemail.com	
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).

## Events in the local community

### Local Stagecoach School

Unlock your child's potential at your new local Stagecoach School.

Two week trial giving your child the opportunity to experience our classes, meet other local children and start making new friends, whilst channelling energy through creativity expression. Term dates: 27<sup>th</sup> April – 27<sup>th</sup> July '19. Saturdays 9.15-10.45am Early Stages 4-6 years. Show 'Time for Trolls'.

10-1pm Main School (6-18 years). Show '30 Musicals'. Venue Kemsing Primary School (TN15 6PU) Deposit £25 Early Stage & £50 Main School. To book or for more info contact [otford@stagecoach.co.uk](mailto:otford@stagecoach.co.uk) or 01732 430 387

### MSporti Football Academy TECH2 Girls Only!

Free Girls 2 weeks trial! Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March & Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April '19. 6-7pm (Please arrive from 5.45pm). Venue St Gregory's School 3G Football Pitch, Reynolds Lane, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9XL. Girls only ages 9-12. Coached by UEFA & FA qualified coaches. For more info please visit [www.msporti.co.uk](http://www.msporti.co.uk) or email [glyn@msporti.co.uk](mailto:glyn@msporti.co.uk) or [carl@msporti.co.uk](mailto:carl@msporti.co.uk)

## Events in the local community - contd

### Sevenoaks Gymnastics Club

Free Gym Sessions (excluding current members). Venue Trinity School, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3SL. Wed 10 & 17 April 5.45-7pm (5 years +) recreational and intermediate & trampolining. Sat 6, 13 & 20 April, 8.45-9.30am & 9.30-10.45am. Recreational Gymnastics & trampolining 10.45am-1pm Intermediate and Advanced. Sun 7 & 14 April, 9.30-11am (3-5 years) 9.30-10.30am, recreational & trampolining. Contact David Miller david.segym@hotmail.com 07825046605/01732750976 for more info.

### All Stars Cricket

All Star Cricket gives children the chance to play, learn great skills and meet new friends.

An 8 week, fun active programme for girls and boys aged 5-6. Play at your local All Stars Cricket Centre (centres at Holmesdale, Sevenoaks Vine and Kensing Cricket Ground). Starting May 2019 – register at [allstarscricket.co.uk](http://allstarscricket.co.uk)

### Ultimate Activity at The New Beacon School

Outstanding activity day camps for 4 to 14 year olds this Summer! Over 40 activities, something new every day! With over 25 years' experience, we know how to make holiday camps fun, exciting and safe for children of all ages. Mon-Fri, drop off 8.30-9.30, collection 16.30-17.15, extended pass available. Contact [www.ultimateactivity.co.uk](http://www.ultimateactivity.co.uk) for further information.

### Family Dog Workshops in Canterbury

25th, 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)

## Inclusion News

\*\*\*INCLUSION NEWS APRIL 2019\*\*\*

### Wanted!

If you have bought any Barrington Stoke books for your child that you no longer want, my shelf would love to make a home for them. Please drop in to school marked for Mrs Holmes.

CLICKER 7 – for free

## Inclusion News - contd

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.

### 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.

### Barrington Stoke and Rapid Readers Books

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.

### 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. If these times are impossible, please let the office know and I will do my best to organise a different appointment.

*Thank you, and best wishes for Easter. Helen Holmes, Inclusion Manage ([helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk)).*

## 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>