



AMHERST NEWS



News No 26 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

5th April 2019

Star of the Week

Due to Easter activities, there is no star of the week this week.

We hope you all have a great Easter holiday. If you are stuck for things to do, don't forget the PTA photography competition and 'Things I can do Before Leaving Amherst School' listed in your child's planner! Term starts again on Tuesday 23rd April.

Forthcoming Events

- 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 Yr 5 Kent Test and Hilltop mtg 7.00pm

Parking

We have received several complaints from residents 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.

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)

The Maths Challenge

An account by some of the children who took part...

'At the Maths challenge we were provided with a sheet of rough paper and a pencil. After that, we were given some starter questions to warm our brains up. Once everyone had arrived, we started the first round. It was difficult but we succeeded. After a short break, we started the puzzle round. We separated our table and worked in pairs. We had to split the questions and use the previous answer to answer our question. The final round was the relay where pairs of the same group were put on another table. For this to work, we had to complete our question and then take the next question to the other pair. We found this enjoyable and that it stretched our maths knowledge. The participants were; Ella, Lizzie, Max & Felipe'

Sport

Table Tennis



Congratulations to the Amherst School table tennis team that came second at the National Finals on Saturday 23rd March. The tournament took place in Hinckley and the boys played brilliantly. This is the first time Amherst have reached the national finals and we are very proud of their achievements. Thank you to Janet and David Field for coaching and preparing the team. Thank you also to all parents involved for their support.

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.

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/>

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.

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 Achievements

Congratulations to Annie T who has passed her Grade 4 music theory exam.

Music

New Brass Teacher

We are delighted to welcome professional trombonist Ian Fasham to our peripatetic music staff. Mr Fasham is a busy working musician, having played recently on the soundtracks for films including *Paddington 2* and *Johnny English Strikes Again*. He will be taking over the brass in school after Easter, teaching trumpet, trombone, euphonium and other brass instruments. If your child would like to sign up to lessons, Mr Fasham may be contacted at ian@littleturret.co.uk.

PTA News

PTA DATES for your diary:

Cake & Uniform Sale thanks!

Thank you to those who supported us yesterday, we raised £190.30.

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 and payment made online at 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)

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)

Music – contd

New Clarinet Teacher

Our new clarinet teacher Mr Harper still has spaces available for clarinet lessons. Mr Harper is one of the country's top clarinetists, having played in many prestigious London orchestras. If your child would like to sign up to lessons, please contact Mr Harper at andrewharper44@hotmail.com.

Amherst Music Concert

Well done to all the children involved in our Music Concert last Tuesday. Featuring individual soloists and various musical ensembles, over 90 children took part in the evening, many of whom were performing on stage for the first time. Well done to the children for their hard work and thank you to the music teachers for preparing their students so well.



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
	Ian Fasham	ian@littleturret.co.uk
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

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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

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.

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.

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).

Events in the local community

SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Clubs

SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Clubs will provide girls with regular opportunities to play football and take part in organised sessions in a fun and engaging environment created exclusively for girls.

Each SSE Wildcats club will be run in conjunction with local County FAs and utilise qualified coaches and local facilities to offer girls a location nearby where they can get involved.

At Chipstead FC we already have a number of boys from the school playing in our youth teams, and currently have a few of our 18 girls in our girls group, which has run for three years now.

Events in the local community - contd

The Hockey Academy Easter Hockey Camps 2019

The camps are open to boys and girls, years 5 to 10. Camps start at 10am (registration open from 9.30am) and finish at 3.30pm. The camps are open to all abilities, from those that are complete beginners to junior international players! All based at Hollybush Lane astro, TN13 3UX. The camps will help improve game play, their athletic potential (speed and agility) and their technical hockey skills. All within a fun and safe learning environment! All the coaches are expert players and or certified coaches. 10th/11th/12th April and 15th/16th/17th April. Cost £40 per day or book 3 days in the week for £100. To register please contact duncan@thehockeyacademy.co.uk

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: 27th April – 27th 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 or 01732 430 387

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 Kemsing Cricket Ground). Starting May 2019 – register at 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 for further information.

St Gregory's Multi-Sports

Multi sports courses will be taking place again at St Gregory's over the Easter Holidays.

Dates are: 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th April. 10am-3pm. Cost is £15 per day, if two or more siblings then £12.50 each day.

Please bring a packed lunch, plenty of fluids and snacks. It is also advisable to pack sun cream and hat. Please contact Noel Bradbury nbradbury@sgschool.org.uk for further info.

Term Dates for the academic year 2019/2020

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