



# AMHERST NEWS



News No 1 [www.amherst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk)

01732 452577

7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Star of the week

3A	Isla C	5B	Rocco Y
3W	Alex E	5H	Ava H
3S	Joseph H	5J	Eva G
4W	Eva P	6H	Isaac D
4F	Edie G	6P	James H
4C	William C	6B	Scarlett R

## Welcome Back!

The children have made an excellent start to the new school year. Well done to all our Year 3 children and new children in other year groups that have had such a successful first week. It can be quite daunting starting at a new school, so it has been wonderful to see so many happy smiley children! Well done to Year 6 that have embraced their role as Buddies so enthusiastically and enabled Year 3s to enjoy such a positive start to life at Amherst.

Welcome to 3S



Welcome to 3A



Welcome to 3W



Welcome also to new staff:

Michelle Parish – TA in Year 6  
 Georgina Tallboy – TA in Years 3 and 4  
 Jo Mais – TA in Year 4  
 Anelle Skein – Admin Team  
 Elaine Sayers – Cleaning Team  
 Zafa Zaheer – Breakfast Club

Just like the children, all have made an excellent start during their first week!

We have had very positive feedback regarding the new Planners. Thank you to Miss Jones for their introduction as it was her initiative and hard work to put them together. Please sign your child's planner weekly and also when you have heard them read. Teachers will check the planners once a week so if a message is urgent please contact the office rather than using the planner.

Finally, I hope we have another happy and successful year at Amherst and I look forward to sharing the children's many achievements.

*Mr Reid*

## British Heart Foundation

At the end of last term, the British Heart Foundation came in to make presentations to the boy and girl who had raised the most and the class that had raised the most. Congratulations to Max Pound, Ella Taylor and 6B! The school last year raised the incredible sum of £8760 and over the last forty years the phenomenal sum of £170,000! This year's sponsored swim takes place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September. A letter with all the details will be sent home today. Thank you to Mrs Warne for all her hard work organising this event.



## Meet the Teacher - Years 4, 5 & 6

Please add the following dates to your diary:

Meeting the Teacher - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September  
Year 6 in the hall 4.00pm  
Year 4 in the hall 5.00pm  
Year 5 in the hall 6.00pm

These sessions will be led by the year group teaching team and will be an opportunity for them to explain routines, homework, curriculum etc. There will also be a chance for you to visit your child's classroom and see where they are learning each day.

## Y3 Parents' Evening

Year 3 Parents' evening will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September. This will be a ten-minute consultation and give you a chance to meet your child's new teacher one to one and for them to give feedback on how they have settled after the first two weeks. This will take place in your child's classroom. Details will follow shortly regarding online booking.

## 3rd Sevenoaks Scouts Carnival, Witches Lane, Riverhead - Sun 16th September (12-4pm)

Do come along!

Activities and stalls incl. inflatable fun, bungee trampoline, egg throwing, cakes and lots more.

Enter your pooch in the Dog Show & receive a goody bag.

Amherst & Riverhead schools will also be hosting the 'Locked Box' stall...with a chance to win an [Amazon Echo Spot, Smart speaker and screen with Alexa](#) (white), worth £120 (1 key for £1 / 3 keys for £2.50). Keys can also be bought in advance at both schools next week.

## Amherst Junior Football Club (AJFC)

Amherst Junior Football Club (AJFC) will be starting again tomorrow Saturday 8th September from 9.00am to 10.45am at Amherst School. The session will be for all previous members of the club who wish to continue playing this season as well as anybody interested in joining. We will be doing a few drills as well as playing a number of friendly matches. The club is open to both boys and girls of all abilities from all years of the school. If you require any further details about the club you can drop us an email at [amherstfc@gmail.com](mailto:amherstfc@gmail.com) or visit the club website at: [www.amherstfc.co.uk](http://www.amherstfc.co.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.

## A Message from Riverhead Parish Council

'REMEMBERING THOSE WHO WERE KILLED FIGHTING FOR OUR COUNTRY DURING WORLD WAR ONE'



To commemorate the 100 Year Anniversary of the end of the First World War (1918-2018), Riverhead Parish Council and St Mary's Church, together with our residents would like to arrange a memorable display of poppies in Riverhead to honour those who lost their lives for their country. The idea is to replicate the poignant and eye catching arrangement of knitted poppies which are now displayed around The Vine gardens. To create such a fitting tribute, we need at least 2,000 knitted poppies; so please help us create a display for all of us to 'remember'.

Here is a simple knitting pattern:

*Using Size 7 or 8 needles and red double knitting wool cast on 60 stitches.*

*Knit 2, Purl 2 – repeat to the end of row*

*Repeat this pattern for 7 more rows*

*Slip 2, Knit 1, Passover. Repeat to end of row.*

*Thread wool through all stitches, pull together and sew seam*

*Sew a black button into the middle of the poppy to create the inner flower*

*If you can't find black buttons - just knit the last two rows and cast off in black wool*

Your finished poppies can be left at Batchelors the butchers, Londis, Day Lewis Pharmacy, Riverhead Parish Council Office, or brought along to any of our church services. We hope to begin assembling the village memorial display in early October but do keep knitting up until November – and we would be grateful for as many as you can possibly knit! Thank you Caroline Penollar - Parish Clerk

## 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>

## SPORT

### Amherst Sports T-Shirts

Please could all children return any Amherst T-Shirts they used last term.

### PE & Games Kit

Please ensure that your child has the correct *named* kit in school for Games and PE lessons, including trainers and football boots as we no longer have spares.

**Please ensure** that all uniform is named, whilst we are happy to return named items to children, any unnamed uniform will be placed into the Salvation Army Clothing Bin weekly.

### 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.

#### St Gregory's Open mornings:

9.00am – 11.00am (last tour at 10.15am)

Wednesday 26 September 2018, Thursday 27 September 2018,  
Wednesday 17 October 2018 Thursday 18 October 2018

#### St Gregory's Open evening:

Thursday 27 September 2018 – 4.30pm to 7.30pm (last tour at 7pm)

## EVENTS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

### Riverhead Carnival

Riverhead Carnival (organised by 3<sup>rd</sup> Sevenoaks Scouts) will be taking place on Chipstead Common on 16<sup>th</sup> September from 12-4pm. Admission is free and there are loads of activities and stalls including the usual bouncy castles and slides, coconut shy, tombolas, bungee trampolines, sand art and the ever-popular egg throwing. New stalls for this year are gluten free patisserie, party supplies, tutor doctor, crafts and plants. The Scouts will be running the BBQ (burgers and sausages provided by Batchelors butchers) and a refreshments stall selling tea, coffee, wine, prosecco, beer, cider and soft drinks. Sevenoaks Animal Feeds are sponsoring the dog show again this year with lots of fun classes to enter your dog into for the chance to win one of their great prizes and fantastic goodie bags.

### Sevenoaks Young Readers

**Sevenoaks Book Shop introduces Sevenoaks Young Readers Festival Day on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

We are so excited to be bringing a host of much-loved **children's authors** to Sevenoaks for talks, storytelling, music, craft, and so much more!

Booking opens 28 July

Tickets available via our website or [www.sevlitfest.com](http://www.sevlitfest.com)

## MUSIC

Congratulations to the following children who have passed their violin examinations:

Tabitha S – Grade 1 with merit

Alannah B – Grade 1 with distinction

Daniel H – Grade 2

Congratulations to Lara M who has passed her Grade 1 Modern Theatre Dance with distinction.

### 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:billyisondrums@gmail.com">billyisondrums@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	07708 288543
	<a href="mailto:connieg@talktalk.net">connieg@talktalk.net</a>	
Brass	TBC	TBC
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).

## PTA NEWS

### PTA DATES for your diary:

AGM and PTA Meeting - 11 September 2018

CHRISTMAS Bazaar - Saturday, 1 December 2018

### AGM & PTA Meeting

At Amherst all parents are automatically part of our PTA!!

Everyone is most welcome to join us on Tuesday, 11 September 2018 in the school's staff room for our AGM and PTA meeting. Please come and join us for a coffee and chat – we aim to finish by 21:00.

Looking forward to meeting you all!!

### NEW PTA

**2018/19 – Our school needs us!**

It is clear that in the coming year Amherst School is in need of the PTA's contribution in order to keep providing the quality education our children currently enjoy.

## PTA NEWS - contd

Please consider taking on one of the following roles – the school has never needed the PTA more.

To function in the best possible way (with least amount of work for any single parent), we suggest the following:

5 team leads:

1 Chair (or 2 co-leading)  
2/3 Vice Chairs  
Marketing – Newsletters  
Marketing – Website  
Data Controller  
Secretary

**THANK you** to the 33 parents who signed up to be our CLASS REPS for 2018/2019!!!

Please contact Anelle Skein ([amherst-chair@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-chair@outlook.com)) or your current class reps if you need more information / are interested to volunteer your time and skills.

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR COMMITTEE 2018

We are in need of a NEW BAZAAR committee and the reason for asking **NOW**, is that **letters for Silent Auction and Grand Draw** has to go out to local businesses to ensure their support and generosity in terms of gifts and prizes.

If you are interested in helping us with this, please contact Anelle Skein ([amherst-chair@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-chair@outlook.com))

### IF YOU WANT TO SUPPORT THE PTA ONLINE:

Our easy fundraising link is below:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

code (Amherst School PTA – Sevenoaks)

## INCLUSION NEWS

### \*\*\*INCLUSION NEWS SEPTEMBER 2018\*\*\*

#### Welcome to the new term!

By now your children should be settled in to their new classes and, for year three and others across Amherst, their new school. If you have any worries about your child's wellbeing – whether emotional or educational – please feel free to come to my parent drop-in, or alternatively phone or email me, and I will do my best to help.

#### Playtime club

Mrs Rees runs 'Playtime Club' every lunchtime. This is aimed towards those children finding our long lunch break challenging, for whatever reason. If your child is expressing worries about the playground at lunchtime, please tell them to ask the dinner ladies or their teacher to show them to playtime club, open 12.30-1.10. There are games, puzzles, paper and crayons, Lego and a warm welcome.

#### LEGO Thank You

Thank you to Georgia (5B) for the amazing bag of Lego, which will greatly enhance our Playtime Club collection.

#### TTRS Typing

Typing for invited children will be starting along with all other clubs on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September**, at 8.10AM in the ICT suite.

#### Barrington Stoke books

If anyone has borrowed and finished with any of these books, paperbacks printed on yellow/cream paper, could they please return them to me at school, or better still come to my room and swap for a new one!

#### Parent Drop-ins

I am available every Wednesday afternoon 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)).*

## 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.

#### Riverhead Parish Council – Parking

Riverhead Parish Council request that you *please* park responsibly when dropping off and collecting your children

## ASK – AMHERST SCHOOL KITCHEN

**Dinner Money** – If your child would like to start having school lunch or you wish to make any changes to your child's lunch arrangements, please notify the school office on [officer@amherst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:officer@amherst.kent.sch.uk) Menus are on the school website – look for School Meals under the Parents tab.

(Daily charge £2.35)

Weekly	£11.75
Term 5	£68.15
Term 6	£84.60
Both Summer terms	£152.75

Payment can be made via [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com) where you are also able to check your balance. If you have any problems paying electronically, please contact the school office.

**Free School Meals** - Please be advised that if you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, you can apply using the following link:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/> All applications are dealt with in confidence.

**Snacks at breaktime** - Please could we remind all children that they should only be eating fruit or vegetables as their snack at playtime. The school provides fruit and milk to purchase or children may bring in fruit from home. Please be reminded that chocolate and sweets are not permitted as a break time snack.

**Fruit at breaktime** - Our school kitchen offers a variety of fruit at morning break including melon, raw carrot, apples, orange segments and bananas. Cost is 30p per portion. Please send in the correct change with your child.

**Milk at breaktimes** - Small cartons of milk in various flavours are available at morning break at a cost of 30p per carton. Please send in the correct change with your child on a daily basis.

## TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19

### TERM 1

Staff Inset Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
**FINISH:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### TERM 2

**START:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
**FINISH:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### TERM 3

**START:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
Staff Inset Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019  
Staff Inset Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
**FINISH:** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### TERM 4

**START:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
**FINISH:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### TERM 5

**START:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019  
Staff Inset Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
**FINISH:** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

### TERM 6

**START:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019  
**FINISH:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

18.09.18	<b>'Meet The Teacher'</b> Year 6 - 4pm Year 4 - 5pm Year 5 - 6pm
19.09.18	<b>Year 3 Parents Evening</b>
19.09.18	<b>Astrodome for Year 5</b>
20.09.18	<b>Year 3 Parents Evening</b>
24.09.18	<b>Clubs Start</b>
28.09.18	<b>British Heart Foundation Swim Fundraiser</b>
10.10.18	<b>Year 5 – Museum of Kent Life</b>
18.10.18	<b>End of Term</b>