



AMHERST NEWS



News No 2 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

14th September 2018

Star of the week

3A	Steffan d T	5B	Keira H
3W	Oliver B	5H	Oliver L
3S	Louis R	5J	Albie D
4W	Lucas T	6H	Abigail S/Maxwell H
4F	Amy A	6P	Bonnie L
4C	Leo G	6B	Dylan P

Clubs

Your child will be bringing home today a list of autumn and spring term clubs that are running at Amherst. We are very fortunate to have over forty clubs running each week. Talk with child about which clubs they may wish to attend. A major change this year is we are going to trial booking clubs online. A message from School Gateway will come tonight at 7.05pm. Please do not return the clubs list to school as a form of booking. All booking must be completed online. Like all new systems there will be a few teething problems so please be tolerant and patient as we fine tune the system!

Meet the Teacher - Years 4, 5 & 6

Please add the following dates to your diary:

Meeting the Teacher - Tuesday 18th 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 19th September and Thursday 20th 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.

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

UK Chess Challenge - Southern Challengers

Well done to the Amherst players - Violet Davies, Tessa Holland, Dylan Paterson and Karl Peters - who played in the Southern Challengers at Guildford on Sunday. Qualifying for this competition was a brilliant achievement, it was down to the last few hundred children out of 40,000 who entered nationally. Huge congratulations to Dylan who won 5/6 matches and came first in the U10 section.



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.

MUSIC

Congratulations to Dylan L who has passed his Grade 1 Piano 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	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	billysondrums@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
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.

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)

Radnor House Open day:

Saturday 13th October 2018

The Hayesbrook School

Open evening (6pm)

Thursday 27th September 2018

Open mornings (starting at 9.30am)

3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th & 11th October 2018. To book a place please go to www.hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk/openbookings

The Judd School

Year 6 open morning tours (9.30-10.30am)

16th, 17th, 18th October 2018

The morning tours are for Y6 students and parents only. Bookings are essential www.judd.online

Year 5 & below open evening, Thursday 4 July 2019 4.30-8pm, no booking required.

EVENTS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Riverhead Carnival

Riverhead Carnival (organised by 3rd Sevenoaks Scouts) will be taking place on Chipstead Common on 16th 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 28th 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.sevilitfest.com

PTA NEWS

A HUGE THANK YOU to all parents who have contributed to PTA events in 2017/18.

We have had a fantastic year and raised £35,000.00 for the school!

Please join us in thanking all of the PTA lead team who make this achievement possible, with particular thanks to those who are stepping down – Chair Anelle Skein, Vice Chair Carolyn Taylor and Secretary Fiona Mahadeo – you have been amazing. A new school year brings a NEW PTA and we are happy to announce (after Tuesday's AGM meeting) the new lead team:

Chair	Debbie Trigg
Vice	Michelle Sadler (Marketing/Newsletters)
Vice	Sandy Shirras (Data Controller)
Treasurer	Bradley Shirras
Secretary	Charlotte Lynch
Secretary	Pia Harold

PTA DATES for your diary:

RIVERHEAD CARNIVAL: Sunday 16 September (12.00–4.00pm) The PTA will have a stall at the carnival – please come and say hello and support our fundraising!

CAKE & UNIFORM SALE: Friday 5 October

HARVEST FESTIVAL: Thursday 11 October

BANGERS AND BINGO: Friday 12 October

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Saturday 1 December

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR COMMITTEE 2018

We are in need of a **NEW BAZAAR committee URGENTLY**, as letters for Silent Auction and Grand Draw have to go out shortly to local businesses to ensure their support and generosity in terms of gifts and prizes. This event was our biggest fundraiser last year but needs 1/2 members to lead it, so if you are interested in helping, please contact Debbie Trigg asap! (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

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Clicker 7 for free

To parents of new children at Amherst: we have a whole site licence for a child-friendly word-processing (and more) programme – google Clicker 7 to see what it does. If you would like to have this for use at home, please email me with your child's name and class, and I will give you your unique number to download it.

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.

TTRS Typing

Typing for invited children will be starting on Monday 24th 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).

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.

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 Menus are on the school website – look for School Meals under the Parents tab.

(Daily charge £2.35)

Weekly	£11.75
Term 1	£77.55
Term 2	£89.30
Both Autumn terms	£166.85

Payment can be made via 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 19th October 2018
FINISH: Thursday 18th October 2018

TERM 2

START: Monday 29th October 2018
FINISH: Wednesday 19th December 2018

TERM 3

START: Monday 7th January 2019
Staff Inset Thursday 3rd January 2019
Staff Inset Friday 4th January 2019
FINISH: Friday 15th February 2019

TERM 4

START: Monday 25th February 2019
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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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