



AMHERST NEWS



News No 5 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

5th October 2018

Star of the week

3A	Emma G	5B	Ollie W
3W	Emily B	5H	Tom S
3S	Thomas M	5J	Caoimhe M
4W	Isabelle P	6H	George B
4F	Matthew P	6P	Brooke S
4C	Lia F	6B	Sophie A

Matilda



On Wednesday 3rd October, Year 3 enjoyed a wonderful trip to see Matilda at the Cambridge Theatre in London. The children's behaviour was superb and thank you to the Year 3 teaching team for organising such an inspiring trip.

Hair Gel

Please could you ensure that your child does not wear hair products to school, this includes hair gel. Save the fancy hairstyles for the weekend! Please support us in this policy, as it is unfair if some children do and some children do not.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be visiting on Friday 12th October. Siblings will be photographed together unless the school office is notified by email that they should be photographed individually. (office@amherst.kent.sch.uk) The photographer will be available from 8.20am until 8.50am to take photos with other members of the family, but no pets please.

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.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Assembly is on Thursday 11th October, during assembly time. Once again we are planning to support the local charity, **Loaves and Fishes Food Bank**. The foodbank operates from St John's Church Hall and is currently supporting up to 40 families with young children by giving them a large bag of non-perishable food every week of the year. The food is distributed on Thursday afternoons – volunteers sort the food from 1pm and families collect between 2-4pm.

If you are able to support us by donating some non-perishable food items, then please send them into school with your child on Thursday 11th October. Items will be collected in your child's classroom.

The following items are some of those suggested from their website:

- Breakfast cereals (but preferably not porridge oats or muesli).
 - UHT milk, Fruit juice (long-life), fruit squash.
 - Rice, Curry sauces/Sweet & Sour sauces.
 - Tomato ketchup/brown sauce/mayonnaise.
 - Tinned meat for hot meals (eg minced beef & onion, stew/casserole, chicken in white sauce), Fray Bentos pies,
 - Tins of ravioli, macaroni cheese, hot dogs, spaghetti/baked beans with sausages.
 - Tins of meat for cold meals (eg ham, luncheon meat, corned beef).
 - Tinned vegetables (preferably peas/carrots/green beans) and fruit, custard/Rice pudding.
 - Savoury biscuits, Sweet biscuits/cereal bars.
- Coffee/hot chocolate, Sugar, Honey/jam/marmalade.
Toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet rolls.
Tissues/kitchen roll, Washing-up liquid and laundry cleaning products.

Music

New Music Teachers at Amherst

Our new brass and clarinet teachers have plenty of space for new students. Both teachers are extremely experienced and happy to take on pupils for trial lessons. Please contact Mr Clarke if you would like any advice regarding learning an instrument.

Clarinet - Andrew Harper - andrewharper44@hotmail.com

Brass - Becky Craig - etkecraig@googlemail.com

School CDs

We still have some copies of the school CD available to buy for £10 from the office. The CD features all the children in school in addition to pieces sung by the Amherst Choir.

Music - contd

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

For children looking for high quality singing opportunities, the NYCGB is currently holding auditions for its national girls (Year 6+) and boys (Years 5/6+) choirs. Booking closes on 18th October and more information can be found at www.nycgb.org.uk/audition.

Music Mark

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded 'Music Mark' school membership. Our application was requested and supported financially by Kent Music, in recognition of the high value we place on music at Amherst.

Events in the local community

Chipstead FC Half Term Coaching Club

22nd & 23rd October, 10am-3.30pm. £20 per day. Venue, Knole Academy 3G Pitch, Bradbourne Vale Rd, TN133LE. Players must bring shin pads, packed lunch and a drink in addition to normal kit. Cheques should be made payable to Chipstead Juniors FC. Please contact Caroline Davies, for info and booking carolinejdavies@googlemail.com 07771700612.

Sevenoaks Multi-Sports Half Term Club

Monday 22-26th October 10am-3pm at Sevenoaks Primary, School, Bradbourne Park Road, TN133LB. £25 per day, £110 for the week. Fun filled activities to include Football, Tri Golf, Tennis, Gymnastics, Kwik Cricket, plus much more! Contact Amanda for more info 07584419283/www.7ms.co.uk

Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra presents 'Around the World'

Family Concert, at the Stag Theatre, Sunday 14th October at 4pm. Come with SSO on an exciting musical tour, including the Toreador's March, an Argentinian Tango, Beethoven's Turkish March and an 'Amazing Margic Carpet' ride with orchestral accompaniment. £8.50 standard ticket, concessions available. Contact the Stag Box office for more info.

The Rock Club Sevenoaks

The Rock Club is an after school club currently held at Weald of Kent Grammar Annex, teaching children guitar, bass, drums and singing. The club is for children aged 7-18 years. It is run every Tuesday during school term time. Please contact sevenoaks@therockproject.com for more information.

Bore Place – Pumpkin Fun!

Tuesday 23rd October 10-13.30pm. Harvest your own pumpkin from our market garden and carve a spooky jack-o'-lantern. Bake delicious cheese scones to enjoy with pumpkin soup for lunch. Come and meet our herd of organic dairy cows afterwards, if you like! Best suited 5-11 yrs. £20 for child (accompanying adults free), children must be accompanied. To book contact www.boreplace.org

PEP Half Term Hockey Camp

This coaching camp will be held at Dartford Tech, DA1 2LY, from 25-26th October, 10-3pm. It is suitable for 8-17 year olds, all abilities. Price £40 per player, discount for siblings. Please contact pepinfo@yahoo.com for further information.

Dunton Green Street Dance

Classes for 8-16 year olds. Every Wednesday, 5.15-6.45pm (term time only) at Dunton Green Pavilion, off London Road, TN132UR. £3.50 per session (discount available). To book contact 01732 227000 or communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk

St Gregory's Multi Sports

If your child is aged 6-11 years and enjoys a range of sports including, football, netball, tennis, rounder's, cricket badminton and more, they may like to attend the courses being held at St Gregory's School Reynolds Lane, TN49XL. Wed 24th, Thurs 25th, Fri 26th October. 10-3pm, cost is £15 per day. Discount to £12.50 per day if two or more siblings attend. Please contact Noel Bradbury nbradbury@sgschool.org.uk for more info or to book.

Sport

Kent Junior Chess Grand Prix

The following Amherst players spent Saturday at Tonbridge Grammar School in the first Grand Prix of the season: Ben H, Violet D, Noah T, Harry W, Tessa H, Karl P and Dylan P. They each played 6 matches against some of the best players in Kent. Amherst is currently 4th in the Primary School league out of 25 schools. Congratulations to all our players. Please see www.kjca.org/Event for details of forthcoming training days and tournaments. *Helen Peters*

Thomas Trophy Cross Country Event.

On Friday 28th October, a team of Year 5 and 6 children went to Sevenoaks Preparatory School to compete in a cross country running competition.

This event is the most grueling and challenging of all the running competitions that the school enters, because the course is very undulating.

All of the children displayed determination and strength to complete the course and the boys and girls achieved some impressive positions within a large field of athletes.

Congratulations to Harry M, Oliver G, Sam A, Olives A, Ethan T, Charlie T, Holly D, Saya B, Amelie T, Caoimhe M, Ella W and Tessa H.



Amherst Sports T-Shirts

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

Uniform, 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. Likewise, all school uniform should be named.

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.

St Gregory's Open mornings:

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

Wednesday 17 October 2018 Thursday 18 October 2018

Radnor House Open day:

Saturday 13th October 2018

The Hayesbrook School:

Open mornings (starting at 9.30am)

3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th, 11th, 17th & 18th 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.

Weald of Kent Grammar School:

Open Mornings (9.30-11.30am) Tuesday 9th October, (Tonbridge site), Friday 12th October (Sevenoaks site), Wednesday 17th October (Tonbridge site). For further information visit:

www.wealdgs.org

Tonbridge Grammar School

Open Days at Tonbridge Grammar School (TGS) will take place on 9th, 16th and 18th October. www.tgs.kent.sch.uk for further info.

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	
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.

Riverhead Parish Council – Parking

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

Inclusion News

INCLUSION NEWS OCTOBER 2018

CLICKER 7 – for free

Don't forget, 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.

TTRS Typing

Typing for invited children has started. Don't forget to practise and I'll see you Mondays and Wednesdays at 8.10AM in the ICT suite.

Rapid Reader and Barrington Stoke books

If anyone has borrowed and finished with any of these books, (Graphic novels or paperbacks printed on yellow/cream paper, could they remember come to my room and swap for a new one.

Young Minds Helpline

Are you 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

Inclusion News – contd

some great advice, too. Go to www.youngminds.org.uk and go to the 'for parents' tab.

Playtime club

If your child finds our long lunch break challenging, please tell them to ask the dinner ladies or their teacher to show them to playtime club, run by Mrs Rees, and open 12.30-1.10. There are games, puzzles, paper and crayons, Lego and a warm welcome.

Parent Drop-ins

I am available most Wednesday afternoons 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).

PTA News

PTA DATES for your diary:

HARVEST FESTIVAL: Thursday 11 October

BANGERS & BINGO: Friday 12 October

PTA MEETING: Tuesday 30 October, 8.00–9.00pm (all parents welcome to attend)

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Saturday 1 December

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We would be grateful if 4 parents could help us transport the food from school to Sevenoaks food bank on Thursday 11th October at 1.15pm for around 45 minutes. If you are able to help please could you send an email to amherst-events@outlook.com Thank you.

** BANGERS & BINGO – Friday 12 October 2018 **

Tickets are on sale for our Bangers and Bingo event, this event is always popular so book early to avoid disappointment.

WHERE: **School Hall**

TIME: **3.30–5.00pm**

TICKETS: **£3.50** (available at www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta)

Children have the chance to win prizes, eat delicious bangers, and play bingo with their friends. Don't forget to indicate at checkout if you are willing to be a parent volunteer on the day.

PTA EVENTS & PARENT REGISTRATION

Please visit our website www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta and ensure you register to receive newsletters and stay informed of events for the children and all our fundraising efforts.

MATCH FUNDING

Company matched giving is a very simple way of raising money for the school. A large number of businesses and organisations offer their employees a chance to raise funds for the charity of their choice through matched donations or pledges, with the potential to give our fundraising a massive boost. We encourage you to check if there are any charitable schemes offered by your workplaces that may be beneficial to our fundraising, please contact amherst-treasurer@outlook.com for further information.

PTA News - contd

EASYFUNDRAISING

easyfundraising turns your everyday 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

Debbie Trigg (amherst-chair@outlook.com) – general assistance/feedback/fundraising suggestions, etc.

Sandy Shirras (amherst-events@outlook.com) – events assistance and PTA website queries (registration/online payments)

Michelle Sadler (amherst-marketing@outlook.com) – event marketing requirements

Bradley Shirras (Amherst-treasurer@outlook.com) –

funding/monies raised from events/match funding queries

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.

Forthcoming Events

09.10.18	Year 6 Height & Weight Morning
10.10.18	Year 5 – Museum of Kent Life
11.10.18	Harvest Festival
12.10.18	School Photographer
12.10.18	PTA 'Bangers & Bingo' 3.30-5pm
18.10.18	Open Afternoon 2.45pm
19.10.18	Inset Day
07.10.18	WW2 Relatives Morning 9.15am
12.11.18	Year 5 Rainbow Theatre Visiting
19.11.18	Book Fair this week
21.11.18	Egyptian Day Y4
22.11.18	Egyptian Day Y4
23.11.18	Egyptian Day Y4
27.10.18	Flu Immunisations Years 3,4,5
30.11.18	Clubs End
01.12.18	PTA Christmas Bazaar 12pm-4pm
03.12.18	PTA Mini Bazaar
10.12.18	PTA Secrets Room
12.12.18	School Christmas Lunch
17.12.18	Evening Carol Service
18.12.18	Whole School to Stag Pantomime
19.12.18	Last Day - School Finishes 3.30pm

Term Dates for the academic year 2018/2019/2020

	TERM 1		TERM 6
Staff Inset	Friday 19 th October 2018	START:	Monday 3rd June 2019
FINISH:	Thursday 18th October 2018	FINISH:	Tuesday 23rd July 2019
	TERM 2		TERM 1
START:	Monday 29th October 2018	Staff Inset	Monday 2 nd September 2019
FINISH:	Wednesday 19th December 2018	START:	Tuesday 3rd September 2019
	TERM 3	Staff Inset	Friday 18 th October 2019
START:	Monday 7th January 2019	FINISH:	Thursday 17th October 2019
Staff Inset	Thursday 3 rd January 2019		
Staff Inset	Friday 4 th January 2019		
FINISH:	Friday 15th February 2019		
	TERM 4	START:	TERM 2
START:	Monday 25th February 2019	FINISH:	Monday 28th October 2019
FINISH:	Friday 5th April 2019		Wednesday 18th December 2019
	TERM 5	START:	TERM 3
START:	Tuesday 23rd April 2019	FINISH:	Tuesday 7th January 2020
Staff Inset	Friday 24 th May 2019	Staff Inset	Monday 6 th January 2020
FINISH:	Thursday 23rd May 2019	FINISH:	Friday 14th February 2020