



AMHERST NEWS



News No 6 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

12th October 2018

Star of the week

There is no star of the week this week due to whole school photos.

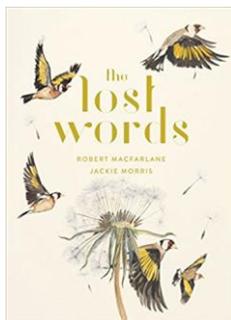
Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Harvest Festival yesterday and to the parents who helped us donate the food to the Loaves and Fishes food bank. The food bank is currently supporting more than forty families. If you wish to donate again, their time of greatest need is in the summer. Items can be donated every Thursday from 1.30pm and need to be delivered to St. John's Church at the end of Quakers Hall Lane.



Half term Homework (or lack of!)

We hope you are looking forward to the half term break and spending some time with your family and making the most of the beautiful autumnal weather and colours. We would like to encourage all our families to spend some quality time together learning something new. Therefore this half term there will not be any formal homework set by your child's class teacher as we would like the children to look at the lists in the back of their planners and find some activities/ topics that they would like to know more about, or master a new skill. Parents can then tick the boxes to keep a record of their new learning and children can chat to their class teachers after half term.



Also our new whole school book that we will be studying after half term is called 'The Lost Words' by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris. The stimulus for the book has derived from the fact that these words have been lost from the new printed edition of the Oxford Children's Dictionary, as many of them are no longer a part

of children's everyday language. Sadly, many of the words that are described in the book are all connected with nature, for example: bramble, conker, fern, acorn, adder, newt, king fisher, raven, bluebell, weasel, starling, otter and magpie. The words have been replaced by words such as blog, chatroom and celebrity. If families do go out on any walks in the countryside, perhaps the children could try and find some of these natural objects or spend some of their time learning about British Wildlife. As a school we feel that wildlife is a very important part of our lives and would hope that our children do appreciate it and are able to recognise different species of animals and plants.

It is a wonderful book of poems and artwork. I would encourage you to purchase a copy for home!

Enjoy your holidays.

British Heart Foundation Swim

Just a gentle reminder to return any outstanding donations to the school office. Many thanks.

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.

Lost Rucksack

Has someone lost a rucksack? One has been found on Witches Lane and is in the school office awaiting collection.

Events in the local community

Half Term Slime Workshops run by 'The Amazing Craft Company'
Thursday 25th October, 10:00am & 11:30am Session. Are your kids crazy about slime? We're back by popular demand for another half term of slime making! This workshop is taking place at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, which is located on Cramptons Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN. Our slime workshops are suitable for ages 4+ and start at 10am & 11:30am and we recommend that you pre-book as they sell out very quickly! Our workshops are open to all abilities and the venue offers access to all. We kindly ask that adult folk stay and be on-hand while your child makes - they really do love to show you as they go and will sometimes need some extra help from you. To book your place and for further information visit

www.theamazingcraftcompany.co.uk

Half Term Sevenoaks Sports Camps @ Sennocke Centre

22 October – Futsal and Rugby League Taster Day.

23-25 October - Junior Multi-Sports, Hockey, Netball, Rugby,

Events in the local community – contd

Shooting & Squash Skills Development Camps.

Sevenoaks Sports Camps are for children from 8-18, and are held during the school holidays and are open to all. For dates and bookings please visit www.sevenoakssportscamps.co.uk

YPSA Hockey Development Half Term Camp

Held at Hollybush Lane 22-24th October. Sessions are 10-12pm, lunch, then 1-3pm. Children will need to wear sport appropriate clothing (shin pads/gum shields etc) and bring own lunch if staying all day. £95 for 3 days (pay in advance), £70 for 2 days (pay in advance), £40 daily/£25 half daily charge (pay as you go). Places are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis. Please contact www.ypsa.co.uk for more info and to book.

Sevenoaks Halloween Pumpkin Hunt

Come and join in this ghoulish adventure hunting pumpkins through Sevenoaks.

Thursday 25th October 1.00-4.30pm, at Bligh's Meadow.

Open to children aged 3-11 and costs just £5 to join.

Grown-ups are free, under 3s are too, but will not be able to collect goodies. To register and choose your event time slot (when you make your booking) contact www.demelza.org.uk/pumpkin-hunt

Halloween at Rivermere

We at Rivermere would love to welcome 'Trick or Treaters' this year (in costume of course) from 3.45pm until 5pm on 31st October. A group of residents would be on hand to dish out the goodies, and there would be hand-decorated cakes on offer for the parents! You don't have to let us know you are coming – just turn up! After all, the more the merrier (or should I say scarier)! Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you then!

Nina Innes, Activities Coordinator.

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. 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

Change 4 Life

On Wednesday 10th October, 9 children from Year 4 participated in an exciting Sports festival at Knole Academy.

The children took part in a range of fun and engaging activities which involved hand- eye coordination and stamina. All the events enabled the children to use the values of honesty, team work, respect, self-belief, passion and determination. Amherst was awarded the title of the school which demonstrated the most 'passion' during the activities throughout the afternoon.

The children were an absolute delight and represented the school beautifully.

Congratulations to Abigail F, Abigail K, Ava S, Daisy R, Esme LF, Anna- Lotta, Max R, James C and George H.



Tag Rugby

Over the last four weeks, a group of year 6 children have been participating in a Rugby Festival at Knole Academy.

Each week the children have been coached by Sevenoaks Rugby club and have taken part in activities to develop their Tag Rugby skills.

A tournament was played against other schools during the last session and we were delighted that Amherst won the competition. Our team has played superbly and the parents, who have been supporting and watching them, have commented on how much progress and development they have made with their rugby skills over the last few weeks. The children have also displayed fantastic team work.

Congratulations to Yiannis P, Harry M, Herman W, Harry B, Isaac D, Kelsey M, Cailyn M and Isabelle M.

A huge thank you to all the parents who have accompanied and supported the children over the last few weeks..



Mrs Wheeler

Tennis

Congratulations to Neev G who competed and played well at Orange level at Bromley U9 tennis championship on 30th September.

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.

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)

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 Morning (9.30-11.30am) 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 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.

PTA News

PTA DATES for your diary:

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

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Saturday 1 December

CAKE AND 2ND HAND UNIFORM SALE

Huge thanks to the parents of 3A/5J who organised, donated and baked cakes and biscuits, and manned the sale last Friday, it raised a fantastic £257.85!

SEVENOAKS ROUNDTABLE FIREWORKS – Saturday 3 November 2018

Tickets will go on sale shortly – more details to follow.

**** SIGN UP on PTA EVENTS WEBSITE – our online home! ****

www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta

Here you can find out more about the PTA, booking and volunteer for PTA events, and connect with other parents and carers.

As we are moving to online class lists (in order for parents to connect) please remember to sign your child up to a class list:

- **Log in or Register** on the site
- click on the **My Account** at the top
- now select **Class Mailing Lists**
- and **register** your child
- Password for your class is **PTA+class name** i.e. **PTA3a** (not case sensitive)
- You will now be able to see other parents in your class by selecting **Contacts** on the **Class Mailing Lists tab**

All tickets for events will also be sold via this website.

We look forward to welcoming you online!

CHRISTMAS STOCKING APPEAL

The Christmas Bazaar team are looking for donations of fabric to make stockings for this year's Bazaar (remnants are fine), or if you can check your cupboards for stockings you may have from last year's event that's even better! Please deliver to Reception – all help much appreciated.

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.

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)

PTA News

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

Bradley Shirras (Amherst-treasurer@outlook.com) – funding/monies raised from events/match funding queries

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.

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

ASD drop-in dates for parents and carers of children with ASD

Tuesday 6th November 2018, Edenbridge Children's Centre, High Street, Edenbridge (free parking available on Croft Lanes and Frantfields next to Boots)

Thursday 31st January 2019, Swanley Youth Hub, (next to St Marys School) St Marys Road, Swanley

Wednesday 12th June 2019, Hope Church, The Mill Lane Centre, Mill Lane 128 Seal Rd, Sevenoaks

1pm to 3pm – Pop in any time and stay as long as you like. This will be a regular opportunity to

- Ask Questions,
- Talk through any issues you are having with a professional
- Meet other parents and have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat
- Meet professionals who may be supporting you and your child
- Discuss next steps including possible courses.

These people will usually be available to talk to: ~Specialist Teachers, ~Kent Autistic Trust, ~Speech and Language Therapist, and ~Information, Advise, Support Kent (IASK). **Please phone Sevenoaks Specialist Teaching & Learning Service On 01959 560592 for further information**

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.

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 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 (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.

Thank you. Helen Holmes, Inclusion Manager
(helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk).

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

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
27.11.18	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

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

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