



# AMHERST NEWS



News No 7 [www.amherst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk)

01732 452577

18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

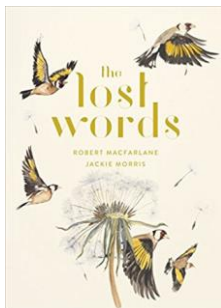
## Star of the week

3A	Aayon G	5B	Izzy E
3W	George S	5H	Callum S
3S	Peter W	5J	Ella W
4W	Charlotte A	6H	Francesca B-T
4F	Owen P	6P	T J D
4C	Benjamin H	6B	Phoebe B

## Don't forget no school tomorrow!

### 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 The words have been replaced by words such as blog, chatroom and celebrity.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.

## Sport

### Somerhill Cross Country

30 children from Year 4, 5 and 6 took part in a cross country event at The Schools at Somerhill in Tonbridge on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

The course led the children around the beautiful grounds of the schools .

The races were fast and competitive with around 100 children in each event. For many of our athletes, this was the first competitive cross country race which they had experienced.

Every child demonstrated strength and determination to finish the varied and undulating course. Many of the children finished in the top ten or top twenty in their races. A special mention to Holly D, who came first in the Year 6 girls race.

Huge congratulations to all the team.

Thank you to all the parents who transported and supported the children.

Mrs Wheeler



### Aqua Splash

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 13 children from Years 3 and 4 took part in the Sevenoaks District Aqua Splash swimming competition at Sevenoaks School.

The children all took part in an individual race and a relay and they all swam brilliantly, showing real determination. We were delighted that Amherst won the competition overall, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have achieved this! After the competition, the children were given the opportunity to experience various water sports and skills in team events.

Congratulations to Leo G, Georgina G, Noah W, Eleanor H, Reena N, Alice M, Isaac M, Zac S, Poppy G, Daniel B, Rose P, Emilia K and Owen P.

Thank you to all the parents for their encouragement and support at the gala. Mrs Wheeler

Mrs Wheeler



## Sport - contd

### Hockey



Well done to our Year 5/6 Girls hockey team that represented the school so well at the U11 Kent Cup in Canterbury on Monday. The team won two games, drew one and lost one. Thank you also to Duncan Parris for helping coach and prepare the team.

### 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.

## A message from Food Bank Support

'Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,  
Many thanks for your very generous donation of food at Harvest Time. It is much appreciated by the families that the Food Bank support. Andrea, Katie, Merrie and Paul (Trustees)'

## Absence from School Form

There is a new form on our school website (under the Parents section) which should be printed and completed when any absence from school is requested.

## 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.

## 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>

## Events in the local community

### The Hockey Academy

Is open to boys and girls from Yr5-10. Runs from 10am-3.30pm (registration at 9.30am) Camps are open to all abilities. It is based at Hollybush Lane TN13 3UX. £40 per day, runs 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October. Please contact [duncan@thehockeyacademy.co.uk](mailto:duncan@thehockeyacademy.co.uk)

### Rivermere Christmas Fayre

This will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 2.45pm at Rivermere Residential Home, 64 Westerham Road, TN13 2PZ.

### St Mary's Pre-School Christmas Bazaar

This will be held at on 24<sup>th</sup> November, from 2.30-4.30pm.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sevenoaks Scouts Firework Display

This will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, at the Scout Hut, Bradbourne Vale Road. Gates open at 6pm, first rocket at 7pm!  
Tickets; advance single £5, family £15, on the gate, single £7, family £20. Under 3's are free. There will be a BBQ, mulled wine and refreshments. Tickets are available from Batchelor's Butchers or The Bullfinch.

### Junior Heroes 'Defenders Holiday Club'

Held at Otford Methodist Church, 23-26<sup>th</sup> October. For Primary aged children. Please contact Ann on 01732 762872 for more info.

### Lions Sports Academy – Sevenoaks RFC Girls Camp

Sevenoaks RFC are running a Girls Only Camp on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October through Lions Sports Academy. To book please contact the web site [www.lionssports.academy/Girls-Rugby/Sevenoaks\\_RFC](http://www.lionssports.academy/Girls-Rugby/Sevenoaks_RFC)

### Sevenoaks SUNS Basketball, Half Term Camp

This half term, national champions, Sevenoaks SUNs are running a day camp designed to introduce new players to the fun of basketball. Open to girls and boys aged 4-10 years. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, held at Knole Academy. 10am-midday. Cost £20 per child. Please contact Dimitris Korentzelos, Head of Basketball Development at [development@sevenoakssuns.com](mailto:development@sevenoakssuns.com)

### International Table Tennis matches on 20th Nov, 2018 at Medway Park

Watch England's Commonwealth Heroes in action. One of the world's fastest sports comes to Medway.....  
England Men Vs Serbia  
England Women Vs Greece  
November 20<sup>th</sup>, 8pm, at Medway Park. Tickets from only £3.

### Half Term Slime Workshops run by 'The Amazing Craft Company'

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.theamazingcraftcompany.co.uk)

## Events in the local community – contd

### Half Term Sevenoaks Sports Camps @ Sennocke Centre

22 October – Futsal and Rugby League Taster Day.

23-25 October - Junior Multi-Sports, Hockey, Netball, Rugby, 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](http://www.sevenoakssportscamps.co.uk)

### YPSA Hockey Development Half Term Camp

Held at Hollybush Lane 22-24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> 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

22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:carolinejdavies@googlemail.com) 07771700612. [www.boreplace.org](http://www.boreplace.org)

### PEP Half Term Hockey Camp

This coaching camp will be held at Dartford Tech, DA1 2LY, from 25-26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pepinfo@yahoo.com) for further information.

## 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.

## Music

Mr Underwood would be pleased to hear from prospective new piano, fife, flute or recorder pupils who would be interested in Saturday morning lessons.

Mobile: 07985 563063

Email: [mcunderwood@me.com](mailto:mcunderwood@me.com)

## 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:billysondrums@gmail.com">billysondrums@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	01622691212	<a href="mailto:customerservices@kent-music.com">customerservices@kent-music.com</a>
Brass	Becky Craig		<a href="mailto:etkecraig@googlemail.com">etkecraig@googlemail.com</a>
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).

## 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.

## Regular items and reminders – contd

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:parents@youngminds.org.uk). The website has some great advice, too. Go to [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://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](mailto:helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk)).*

## PTA News

### PTA DATES for your diary:

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

**SEVENOAKS ROUNDTABLE FIREWORKS:** Saturday 3 November

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** Saturday 1 December

### SEVENOAKS ROUNDTABLE FIREWORKS – Saturday 3 November 2018

Tickets are available online at [www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta) - save on the gate price and contribute to the school, 20% commission is received by the school on all ticket sales!

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 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.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, MUGS & GIFT LABELS

**HOLD OFF BUYING THOSE CHRISTMAS CARDS!** Don't miss the chance to have your child's artwork turned into beautiful Christmas gifts ... and help the school at the same time – more details to follow after half-term.

### 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](mailto: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

**Chair:** Debbie Trigg ([amherst-chair@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-chair@outlook.com))

**Vice Chair (Events & PTA website):** Sandy Shirras ([amherst-events@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-events@outlook.com))

**Vice Chair (Marketing):** Michelle Sadler ([amherst-marketing@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-marketing@outlook.com))

**Treasurer:** Bradley Shirras ([amherst-treasurer@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-treasurer@outlook.com))



## 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 1	£77.55
Term 2	£89.30
Both Autumn terms	£166.85

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 2018/2019/2020

### 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

## Forthcoming Events

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 6**

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

**TERM 1**

Staff Inset Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019  
**START: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**  
Staff Inset Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
**FINISH: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**TERM 2**

**START: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019**  
**FINISH: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**TERM 3**

**START: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
Staff Inset Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
**FINISH: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020**