



# AMHERST NEWS



News No 8 [www.amherst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk)

01732 452577

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

## Star of the week

3A	Dimitris M	5B	George W
3W	Henry O	5H	Shawn M
3S	Laila C	5J	Hunter D
4W	Andrew G	6H	Edward W
4F	Finn S	6P	Kelsey M
4C	Tabitha S	6B	Arthur T

## Fireworks Tickets

Pre-purchased tickets from the PTA will be going home with your child today, so please check in their book bag.

## School Photos

The proofs have been sent home with your child this week. These should be back to the school please by 9<sup>th</sup> November, unless you are ordering online.

## Parents Evenings 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> November

The online booking system is now open and the code to access the system to make bookings is 6wxrj.

## Arrangements for Admissions of Pupils to school from September 2020

In line with other schools and Kent County Council, Amherst School is consulting on a change to its Admissions Arrangements for September 2020 in the shape of an extra criterion that would extend the prioritisation of Looked After Children.

Please visit the school website to view the arrangements:

[www.amherst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=18](http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=18)

If you would like to comment on the proposed amendments then please do so by email to [office@amherst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@amherst.kent.sch.uk) School. All comments must be received by the end of Friday 14 December and will be considered by the Governing Body.

## Riverhead Infants School - Michaelmas Market Fri 16th November 2.30-4.15pm

The Michaelmas Market has a variety of stalls and games for the children, to name a few - THE FABULOUS HAMPER RAFFLE , THE ROCK STALL, COOKIE JAR STALL, New SLIME STALL, HOW MANY SWEETS IN THE JAR?, GUESS THE WEIGHT OF THE CAKE , LUCKY DIP, NAME THE CUDDLY TOY, LOLLIPOP GAME. There will also be refreshments available, plus the opportunity to buy delicious treats from our Cake Stall, so please do come along if you're able to - we'll be starting from 2.30pm so a chance to pop along before pick up and running until 4.15pm, should your children wish to come along too (accompanied by an adult).

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Thursday Cross Country Club

Please can parents be aware that if it is raining heavily at 7.45am on Thursdays then the club will be cancelled.

## Children in Need



We are organising some fun activities at school this year for Children in Need!

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November

'Yellow Fun Run' with Cross Country Running Club – 8am £1 entry

Penalty shoot-out on the field (1pm) - £1 for 3 goes. Goalie: Mr Barratt.

### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Bake off – spotty cakes and cupcake donations please! £1 per entry, entrants to main office by 8.50am.

Drawing/Art Pudsey competition - £1 per entry, entrants to class teachers by 8.50am.

Cake Sale at 3.30pm – all cakes to be sold off.

More details to follow next week!

## 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.

## 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

### District Cross Country

On Wednesday 31st October, a group of children took part in the Knole Schools Sports Partnership Cross Country competition at Radnor House. The children experienced a muddy and undulating course through the grounds of the school. It was the first time that some of the Year 3 children had participated in a running competition and it was super to observe their determination. All of our children displayed perseverance and strength in their races and many of them achieved a personal best in their overall position. Holly D received third place in the Year 5/6 girls race. Our Year 5/6 girls team came third overall.

Congratulations to Rina N, Ava T, Bronagh M, Connor L, Zeph M, Louis R, Jake A, Leo G, Rose P, Charlotte P, Charlie T, Theo L, Freddie M, Eva G, Caoimhe M, Tessa H, Saya B, Amelie T, Holly D, Sam A, Harry M and Joe S.

It was lovely that so many parents could stay and support the children, Thank you.

Mrs Wheeler and Mrs Arnold.



### Sevenoaks and Malling Sportshall Athletics competition

On Thursday 1st November, children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in an Indoor Athletics competition at Aylesford Sports College.

Every child participated in both track and field events and all the children displayed incredible determination and skill in their races and disciplines.

The children also demonstrated fantastic 'sportsmanship' and team work too.

The Year 4 team performed superbly in their track races and came first or second in each race. Year 5 and 6 team won many of their track races too.

All the children achieved fantastic results in the field events.

As a result, both teams won the overall competition so they will both go through to the County finals early next year to represent the Sevenoaks and Malling District.

Huge congratulations to all the children. We are very proud of you and you were a credit to our school.

Thank you to all the parents for transporting and supporting the children.

Mrs Wheeler and Mr Barratt.



### Kent Junior Chess Grand Prix

The following Amherst players spent last Sunday at the second Grand Prix tournament of the season: Ben Heard, Violet Davies, Noah Terry, Harry Wicks, Tessa Holland and Karl Peters. They each

played 6 matches, scoring individual points and points for the school. Amherst is currently 4th in the Primary School league out of 37 schools. Congratulations to all our players. Please see [www.kjca.org/Event](http://www.kjca.org/Event) for details of future tournaments.

### 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.

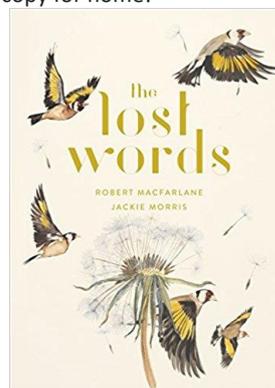
## Mobile Phones

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 you 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.

## 'The Lost Words'

Our new 'whole' school book that we will be studying this 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!



## Events in the local community

### Stonepitts Farm Christmas Trees

Stonepitts Farm in Seal will be donating £2 to Amherst for every tree they sell to our families and staff. Please see [www.stonepitts.com](http://www.stonepitts.com) for more details. A copy of this newsletter should be shown at the time of purchase. Thank you in advance for your support.

**National Basketball Champions, Sevenoaks Suns**, offer a great selection of training sessions and teams all run by qualified Basketball England coaches. Basketball is the fastest growing sport in the world and teaches a huge variety of transferable skills both for other sports and for life in general. So why not come and learn from the experts? Check out the training times on our website, let us know you are coming, then grab a friend and come along and try! Sevenoaks Suns Basketball - Developing good players, great people [www.sevenoakssuns.com](http://www.sevenoakssuns.com)

### Sevenoaks Handball Club

Handball is one of the fastest game sports. Coordination, athletics, creative techniques, variable and tactical interaction, combined with a good team spirit are the characteristics of this attractive sport.

Open to all pupils KS2 to Y8. Trainings will take place on Wednesdays from 6-7pm at Knole Academy. For more information and registration please contact Sevenoaks Handball Club, email: [sevenoakshc@gmail.com](mailto:sevenoakshc@gmail.com) 07759182880.

### 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.

### 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.

## Year 7 Application to St Gregory's Catholic School, Bennett Memorial & Trinity Schools

**This message is only for parents who are applying for a Year 7 place at St Gregory's Catholic School, Bennett Memorial & Trinity Schools**

Just a reminder that if you have you have listed any of the above schools as one of your choices and have not yet completed their Supplementary Information Form, please download the form directly from the schools website. The deadline for St Gregory's and Trinity is 31<sup>st</sup> October, and Bennett Memorial's deadline is 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Without the form, it is unlikely that your child will be offered a place at the school.

## 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.

## 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.

## Inclusion News - contd

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)).*

## 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>	
Piano	Simon Proctor	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).

## PTA News

### PTA DATES for your diary:

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Saturday 1 December 12.00–4.00pm**

### SEVENOAKS ROUNDTABLE FIREWORKS

Thank you for supporting our school and the Round Table. All tickets bought from us have been sent out via your CHILD'S BOOK BAG today. You will need to present tickets to gain access to the display.

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

You will have received a blank sheet and an order form from **Xmas4schools** this week. Please help your child to create their Christmas design, and don't miss this chance to have your child's artwork turned into beautiful Christmas gifts ... with the bonus of helping the school at the same time – the deadline for artwork, orders and payment to [www.pta-events.com/amherstpta](http://www.pta-events.com/amherstpta) is **FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER at 12pm**. Late orders cannot be accepted!

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Two empty **punnets** have been sent home today to be filled with a selection of party bag toys/sweets and gift-wrapped in Christmas paper for the **Punnet Tombola** – please return by **Friday 23 November**.

You will have received a handy **fridge reminder slip** this week with all the **key dates** for collections on 'Friday theme days'. Also look out for the **weekly Christmas Bazaar emails** to keep up-to-date with items required.

**Hamper Request** - if parents have a hamper they could donate to the bazaar for the Hamper stall these would be gratefully received and will be returned in the New Year.

Your support is vital to the **Amherst Christmas Bazaar team** as they prepare for our biggest fundraiser; all donations are gratefully received and help us to raise vital funds for the school. Any comments/questions, please contact [amherst-bazaar@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-bazaar@outlook.com).

### 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.

## Forthcoming Events

07.10.18	WW2 Relatives Morning 9.15am
14.11.18	Year 5 Rainbow Theatre Visiting
15.11.18	Children in Need (Yellow Fun Run/Penalty Shoot Out)
16.11.18	Children in Need ( Bake Off/Drawing Competition/Cake Sale)
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
03.12.18	Y4 Christmas Performance – Dress Rehearsal 1.45pm
04.12.18	Y4 Christmas Performance – 2pm

06.12.18	Y4 Christmas Performance – 7pm
10.12.18	PTA Secrets Room
12.12.18	School Christmas Lunch
18.12.18	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 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

### 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