



AMHERST NEWS



News No 9 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

10th November 2018

Star of the week

3A	Fred M	5B	Genevieve D-P
3W	Alice M	5H	Alessandro T
3S	Rina N	5J	Arthur P
4W	Ben H	6H	George B
4F	Nye B	6P	James P
4C	Henrik E-M	6B	Olivia D

Beacon Of Light

The Parish Council is taking part in the Commemoration of the end of World War I with the lighting of a Beacon on Chipstead Green at 7pm on Sunday 11th with a bugler playing the last post at 6.55 pm. All are welcome. The same Remembrance will be happening around the Country simultaneously.

Judith Hayton, Clerk to Chevening Parish Council

Amazon Gifting this Christmas

With Christmas fast approaching, please remember when buying on Amazon to copy and paste the link below. The school receives a small percentage for each transaction made, so the more people that use it the greater the monthly donation! It is a very easy process, and we are slowly reaping the benefits!

Please remember to share with friends and family.

<http://bit.ly/amherstschool> School website link:

<http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk/page/?pid=178>

Christmas Carol Service – 18th December

Please note the change of date for the School Carol Service at St Mary's Church.

British Heart Foundation

It's not too late to return your sponsorship forms. So far, we have raised over £7,000, so a big thank you! Outstanding forms should be returned to the office, and please do not forget to put your child's name and class on the envelope.

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

If you would like to comment on the proposed amendments then please do so by email to 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.

Children in Need



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

Thursday 15th 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 16th 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!

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.

Sport

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.

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 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

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 07759182880.

Rivermere Christmas Fayre

This will be held on Saturday 8th 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 24th November, from 2.30-4.30pm.

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 20th, 8pm, at Medway Park. Tickets from only £3.

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.

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.

Inclusion News

INCLUSION NEWS OCTOBER 2018

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).

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

PTA News

PTA DATES for your diary:

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Saturday 1 December 12.00–4.00pm

*****CHRISTMAS BAZAAR*****

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to the Christmas hampers last week, and for your festive foods/gifts, spa and beauty items delivered today.

Next **Friday 16 November**, please bring in **chocolates and sweets** and **children can wear their own clothes** for the day.

Punnets are to be returned on **Friday 23 November** filled with a selection of **party bag toys/sweets** and **gift-wrapped in Christmas paper**, and **children can wear silly/odd socks/tights** on the day. Two books of **Grand Draw tickets** will be given to each child next week. There are some fantastic prizes on offer so please be sure to sell to family and friends. Please ask if you require more tickets; any unused tickets should be returned to the school so that these can be sold on the day.

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.

PTA News - contd

Any comments/questions, please contact 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 **Lisa Pople** at amherst-bazaar@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)

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

Vice Chair (Marketing): Michelle Sadler (amherst-marketing@outlook.com)

Treasurer: Bradley Shirras (amherst-treasurer@outlook.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	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
Piano	Simon Proctor	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.

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

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
20.11.18	Egyptian Day Y4W
22.11.18	Egyptian Day Y4C
23.11.18	Egyptian Day Y4F
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 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