



# AMHERST NEWS



News No 10 [www.amherst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk)

01732 452577

16<sup>th</sup> November 2018

## Star of the week

3A Miss Apps away today	5B	Keira H
3W Dejan B	5H	Aoife G
3S Seb M-S	5J	Connie F
4W Gemma R	6H	Imogen S
4F William M	6P	Oliver A
4C Zoe H	6B	Anthony P

## Children in Need



Thank you to everyone who took part in the Children in Need events which School Council organised over the past two days. We have been so impressed by the participation and the effort that the children put into all the competitions. Thank you also to Mr Barratt for facing penalties for a whole 30 minutes - Amherst certainly has lots of talented footballers! Thank you also to Mrs Warne and Mrs Wells for judging the art and bake off competitions - both judges said they found it very difficult to pick winners from so many incredible entries.

### Winners:

#### Football Shoot Out

- Year 3 - Jack B, Diego Q
- Year 4 - Isaac M
- Year 5 - James P
- Year 6 - Yiannis P, Thomas P, TJ D



#### Pudsey Art competition

- Year 3 - Eliza A
- Year 4 - Edie G, William C
- Year 5 - Tabitha S
- Year 6 - Hamish A

#### The Great Amherst Bake Off

- Year 3 - Rina N
- Year 4 - Mya B
- Year 5 - Luke M
- Year 6 - Benjamin S



## 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 – 18<sup>th</sup> December

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

## Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

Just a quick request to ask whether any of the children in Year 6 have a copy of Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo that they could bring in next week? Thank you and have a lovely weekend. Miss Parish, Miss Huntley and Mr Barratt

## Bead request

Does anyone have any beads at home that would be suitable for Christmas decorations, in particular costume jewellery type beads, including Christmassy colours, silver and gold etc? If you do have anything like this please could you send them in with your child or pass them to Reception. Many thanks, Miss Jones

## 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.

## 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.

## Sport

### AJFC Saturday Football

We have had a few players drop out of AJFC and now have some spaces available for year 3 and 4 children. Anyone interested should contact the school office. Thank you.

Kevin Tallboy, AJFC Chairman

### Hockey



Amherst School Girls' Under 11 hockey team won the EGHA Hockey Academy tournament in Burgess Hill on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The format of the tournament was sixteen schools competing in a group stage and then a Cup and Plate. The girls fought hard in the group stage and managed to finish second in their group qualifying for the Cup competition. They won the quarter final beating Burgess Hill Girls School. A tense semi-final saw the team win 1-0 against Brighton College. The final was contested against Farlington School. At the end of full time, the score was 0-0. A penalty shuttle shoot out followed. Three girls from each team were selected and it began with both Farlington and Amherst scoring. Farlington then missed their second shuttle but so did Amherst. Connie Fenwick, in goal for Amherst, made an outstanding save to deny Farlington their third attempt. Kelsey McKenna scored for Amherst resulting in overall victory. This was an outstanding achievement, as Amherst are the first state school to win this tournament. Thanks must go to Duncan Parnis of Sevenoaks Hockey Club for helping coach and prepare the team.

The team were as follows: Tessa Holland, Connie Fenwick, Cailyn McKenna, Kelsey McKenna, Isabel Morris, Lane Skein, Caoimhe Morton, Saya Baxter and Holly Diprose.

### Girls Football

Last week we took our girls team to the annual Sevenoaks girls football tournament, there were 12 teams in attendance split into two leagues. Our team of 9 did an amazing job in winning our league, we played 5 matches and won every game without

## Sport - cont

conceding a single goal. Every member of the team played their part and did an amazing job. More impressive than the results was the way they girls looked after each other and conducted themselves on the pitch.



### Table Tennis



### Table Tennis Kent School Games

#### AMHERST ARE DOUBLE CHAMPIONS AT KENT SCHOOLS GAMES

Three teams represented the School at the Kent Schools Games held at Medway Park, Gillingham. There were two boys' teams and, for the first time, one girls.

There was only one match for the girls which was disappointing as there should have been three teams competing. Lucy Thresher led the team to an 8-0 victory over Bridge with the help of Anna Clews, Isobel Morris and Lois Mugford.

The Boys A (Yiannis Papadopoulos, Sam Arnott, Felipe Fujimori and Daniel Henderson) were in Group A where they defeated both St Paul's Swanley and St John's (Sevenoaks) B 8-0 to reach the final.

The B (Oliver Ames, Jake Adams, Alex Roberts-Hutcheson, Harry Mitchell) lost initially 3-5 to St John's (Sevenoaks) A 3-5 but qualified for the third place play off by beating Bridge 8-0. They had a comfortable 7-1 victory over St Paul's 7-1 to claim the bronze medal.

The A cruised to the gold medal beating St John's 8-0. Both they and the girls' team will go to the English Schools Zone 7 finals at Morpeth School, E on 19<sup>th</sup> January where they will represent Kent.

Everyone was well behaved and a real credit to the School.

### Handball Festival

On Wednesday evening, 8 children from Years 5 and 6 participated in the Sevenoaks and Malling District Handball competition at Knole Academy.

The children played 4 matches in their first round against Sevenoaks, St Katharines, Lady Boswells and Seal. The teams level of play was incredible and they displayed fantastic skill, speed, accuracy and teamwork. As a result of this, they won all their first round matches, only conceding one goal in all of the games.

Amherst then went onto play Shoreham school in the final and beat them 3-2. The team will now go onto represent the

## Sport - cont

Sevenoaks and Malling District at the Kent School Games finals in June at Canterbury University.

The children's positioning, court play and accuracy at shooting revealed how much they have benefited from their Handball coaching during curriculum time. George W was an outstanding goal keeper.

Huge Congratulations to Yiannis P, Joe S, Charlie T, James P, George W, Holly D, Kelsey M and Mille T.

Thanks to all the parents who supported the children

Mrs Wheeler and Mr Barratt.



## 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.

### 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.

## 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 NOVEMBER 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](mailto:helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk) and I will send you a unique log-in and password.

### BOOKS PLEASE

If your child borrows Barrington Stoke books or Rapid Readers (graphic books) from Mrs Holmes's office please have a look at home and bring them back, and swap for a new one. The bookshelf has a few gaps at the moment.

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

**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**

### TTRS Typing

We finish at the end of November like all the clubs, so our last session of term will be Weds 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### 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)).*

## 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**

### BANGERS & BINGO

Huge thanks to the parents of 5H who organised, prepared the food & manned this event, a fantastic **£455.29** was raised and a wonderful time was had by the children.

### \*\*\*CHRISTMAS BAZAAR\*\*\*

Thanks to everyone for their contributions of festive foods/gifts, spa & beauty items last week, and for your chocolate & sweets delivered today.

### \*URGENT BBQ HELPERS REQUEST\*

We appreciate many of you are working hard already to make the Bazaar a success, but we are in need of more cooks/servers for the BBQ at the Bazaar, so if you are able to spare an hour (or two!), please add your name to one of the Doodle polls:  
Servers - <https://doodle.com/poll/pgyvk9dwngudm2bq>  
Cooks - <https://doodle.com/poll/3md3buvhnbq54yb6>

Remember next **Friday 23 November** to bring in your **gift-wrapped punnets** filled with **party bag toys/sweets**, and **children can wear their silly or odd socks/tights** for the day.

## PTA News - contd

Two books of **Grand Draw tickets** were given to each child this 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. 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 **Lisa Pople** at **[amherst-bazaar@outlook.com](mailto: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](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))

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**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))

## 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).

## Forthcoming Events

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

## 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

	<b>TERM 2</b>
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018</b>
	<b>TERM 3</b>
<b>START:</b>	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b>
Staff Inset	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2019
Staff Inset	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
	<b>TERM 4</b>
<b>START:</b>	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>
	<b>TERM 5</b>
<b>START:</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019</b>
Staff Inset	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019</b>
	<b>TERM 6</b>
<b>START:</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019</b>
<b>FINISH:</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019</b>