



AMHERST NEWS



News No 11 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

23rd November 2018

Star of the week

3A - Unfortunately Miss Apps is off today.

3W – Maxim R 5B – Lluan D

3S – Dominic W 5H – Callum D

4W – Tamara B 5J – Noah T

4F – Abigail K 6H – Isabel M

4C – James A 6P – Alannah B

6B – Josie S

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who took part and supported Children in Need at school last week! The total amount raised was **£552.23**



An additional **£117** was raised by the cake sale after school. Thank you to Matthew, Oliva, and Alice in 3W.

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>

Decorate a Biscuit at the Bazaar!



As usual, Mrs Rawlins will be running her 'Decorate a Christmas Biscuit (or Cake) Stall' at the Bazaar. She would welcome donations of plain biscuits (preferably Christmas shaped), and small plain fairy cakes. Please send in to school for the attention of Mrs Rawlins. Many thanks.

Christmas Carol Service – 18th December

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

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

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.

DRIVING

We have received reports of reckless driving on Barnfield Road where cars mounted the grass verges. Please ensure that you drive carefully around the school to ensure children's safety.

Sport

Chess

Kent Junior Chess Grand Prix

The following Amherst players spent Sunday playing in the third GP of the season: Dylan P, Karl P, George F, Noah T and Ben H. They each played 6 tough matches, scoring points for themselves and Amherst in the Primary School league. We are currently 3rd out of 42 schools in Kent. Well done to all our players. Please see www.kjca.org for details of future tournaments.

Amherst Girls v Walthamstow Hall

On Wednesday we hosted a friendly match between 8 of our players and the team from Walthamstow Hall. A huge thank you to all the girls who played, despite a couple having colds and a couple more agreeing to play at short notice! We managed a very respectable 7.5 points to WH's 8.5.

Congratulations to Violet D, Tessa H, Aoife G, Myrto M, Amelia H, Ava T, Tamara B and Sophia M.

Thank you to Kathryn Woodward for arranging the match and bringing refreshments. *Helen Peters*

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

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*.

Music

Scratch Youth Messiah

On Sunday 2nd December, 38 current and former pupils from Amherst will be joining over 1,500 singers at the Royal Albert Hall to perform Handel's *Messiah*. The performance is in aid of WaterAid and we are raising money through Just Giving. If you would like to sponsor us and help us reach our target of £100, our page can be accessed at <https://www.justgiving.com/youthmessiah2018>.

St Luke's Church Recital

This Wednesday 45 children from the Amherst Choir performed a 30 minute recital from memory at St Luke's Church in Sevenoaks. The concert featured excellent solos from Amelia H and Zara F and several audience members have since contacted the school to thank the choir for being both "superb" and "wonderfully well-behaved". Well done!

Riverhead Lights Switch-On

The choir will be singing at the switching on of the Riverhead Christmas lights at 5.45pm next Thursday 29th November. Feel free to come along to support us and to join in with some carol singing.

Events in the local community

Chipstead FC Christmas Holiday Coaching Courses

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY COACHING COURSES for School Years - Year 1 to Year 6
Thursday 20th & Friday 21st December 2018
Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th January 2019
Time: 1000 - 1530
Cost: £20.00 per day
Venue: Knole Academy 3G Pitch, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3LE
Pre-Booking is Required Please book early to avoid disappointment – this course was oversubscribed last year.
Contact 07771 700612 or carolinejdavies@googlemail.com

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.

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

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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.

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, Advice, 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 28th 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).*

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

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Saturday 1 December 12.00–4.00pm

SEVENOAKS ROUNDTABLE FIREWORKS

Sales of the fireworks tickets raised **£153.00**, thank you to those who purchased their tickets via the school.

XMAS4SCHOOLS

The **Xmas4schools** project has raised a fantastic **£509.00** for the school, please note that all of your orders will be distributed on delivery and are expected shortly.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Thanks to everyone for their donations of chocolates and sweets last week, and for your gift-wrapped punnets delivered today.

SILENT AUCTION BIDDING Starts Monday 26.11.18

Please come and place your bids for the Silent Auction at reception where you can find a list of all the prizes.

URGENT BBQ HELPERS REQUEST

We still require servers for the BBQ, so if you are able to spare an hour, please go to www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta to volunteer – one of the Amherst Christmas Bazaar team will get in touch to organise a time slot, or alternatively click on the following Doodle poll and put your name down:

<https://doodle.com/poll/pgyvk9dwngudm2bq>

The Bazaar is nearly upon us, and next Friday's collection (**Friday 30 November**) is our last, so please bring in your **bottles, cakes and biscuits** and **children can wear something Christmassy** for the day. **Toys, books, DVDs, games and jigsaws** can be dropped off daily in the labelled boxes in Reception.

Keep on selling those **Grand Draw tickets** to family and friends, there are some fantastic prizes on offer. Completed stubs and cheques/cash can be dropped into the **raffle tickets post box in Reception**. 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 so far has been amazing as we prepare for our biggest fundraiser to raise vital funds for the school; all your donations and offers of help are gratefully received. If you have any comments/questions, please contact the Amherst Christmas Bazaar team at 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@gmail.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

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
FINISH:	Wednesday 19th December 2018
	TERM 3
START:	Monday 7th January 2019
Staff Inset	Thursday 3 rd January 2019
Staff Inset	Friday 4 th 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