



AMHERST NEWS



News No 12 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

30th November 2018

Star of the week

3A	Mick H/Zac S	5B	Juda N
3W	Cooper P	5H	Eva D
3S	Ava T	5J	Ellie C
4W	Hannah T	6H	Hermann W
4F	James D	6P	Oliver B
4C	Khloe A	6B	Anoushka G

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. These can be brought in to school this afternoon, or tomorrow morning. Please could they be marked for the attention of Mrs Rawlins. Many thanks.

Governor Vacancy

A reminder from David Hale, Chair of Governors, that if you wish to stand for election, or to nominate someone else, please complete the form (which was attached to the 20/11 SchoolComms email) and return it to the school office in a sealed envelope marked 'Parent Governor Election'.

The closing date for nominations is Tuesday 4 December 2018 at 4.00pm.

Missing Cake Tins

A reminder please to return any cake tins which taken home with purchased cakes from the recent Children in Need Cake sale. These are owned by parents who are expecting them back. Please could you return any you have to reception, thank you.

Christmas Carol Service – 18th December

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

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>



Thank you to everyone for their donations of gift-wrapped punnets last week, and for your bottles, cakes and biscuits delivered today.

Your support has been amazing, so please come and have some fun tomorrow. Enjoy lunch at the **BBQ, waffles, cakes** and **refreshments, mulled wine** and **Prosecco**. There's stalls a plenty: **games, toys, books, crafts, punnets, hampers, festive gifts, homemade produce**, and much more. Best of all **Santa's grotto**.

Remember to place your bids at the **Silent Auction**, and post your **Grand Draw** ticket stubs into the **raffle tickets post box** to be in with the chance of winning some amazing prizes. Unused tickets can still be returned tomorrow to be sold on the day.

CAKES can still be donated until the end of the school day and anytime tomorrow from 10.00am.

DECORATE A BISCUIT – Mrs Rawlins will be running this stall, and would still welcome donations of plain biscuits (preferably Christmas tree shaped), again these can be donated today and from 10.00am tomorrow.

We are looking forward to seeing you all – enjoy!
Amherst School PTA

Clubs finish today

Please can parents note that all school-run clubs finish today. Clubs will start again week commencing 14th January 2019.

School Gateway App problems

Please refrain from using the School Gateway App as it currently does not work, but instead use the main website, thank you.

The Advent Puppet Calendar App



The History Troupe visited the school last week and gave a fun assembly to the school. They have released an Advent Calendar 'App' which goes live today! To download the free App, you should visit the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for 'That Advent Puppet Calendar' App.

Children (and Teachers!) can click on each door of the advent app's calendar. This will reveal more of the countdown to Christmas in their Puppet Primary School, as the Drama teacher discovers more about the Christmas Story. Most days feature just a short part of the serial story, but on some days there are bonus features, taken from the original dvd advent calendar that they distributed to the schools a few years ago. We hope you enjoy looking at it yourselves and can make use of it.

School Lunch Menu Change - Wednesday 19th December

Please note that on the last day of term a roast dinner will not be served as per usual Wednesdays, but instead the week 2 Friday option will be served (quiche/goujons, chips and beans).

Riverhead School – Midday Supervisor Position

Riverhead School have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor. The hours are 11.30am to 1.30pm, Monday to Friday term time only, with an immediate start. Relevant safeguarding checks and training are required. If you are interested in applying please contact the School Office for an application form on 01732 452475 or email office@riverhead.kent.sch.uk.

Scholastic Bookfair News (19th – 22nd November)

Last week, the Scholastic Bookfair was at Amherst. We sold an amazing total of £1807 and have raised £1084 for the school in commission. Each class teacher will have £85 to spend on new classroom books. A **huge** thank you to all parents and children who came along and supported the book fair. I hope they enjoy their new books!

I would also particularly like to thank some parents who gave up their time to help organise and run the book fair: Mrs Pople, Mrs Rudland, Mrs Terry, Mrs Luthra and Mrs Pope (apologies if I've missed anyone as I was off sick the end of last week!) Miss Apps

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.

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>.

Maidstone Music Festival

Last Saturday, the Amherst Choir won the 'Under 12' choir class of the Maidstone Music Festival. The choir sang two songs - *Silent Night* and *Zat You, Santa Claus?* - with the adjudicator complimenting the choir's tone and well-handled use of harmony. Thanks to Miss Payne for accompanying us on the piano.



Bessels Green Lunch Club

60 children from Training Choir, Recorder Club and Glockenspiel Club performed for the Bessels Green Lunch Club on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see such variety of talent and so many new children taking part in their first musical performance for Amherst. Thank you to the parents who accompanied us on this trip and to Mrs Henderson for her musical accompaniment.



Christmas Lights Switch-on

On Thursday evening the Amherst Choir performed at the Riverhead Lights Switch-On, singing a variety of Christmas carols. The children were a credit to the school and kept going brilliantly despite moments of torrential rain!



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

New Beacon Cross Country

On Thursday 29th November, a team of runners from Year 3 and 4 took part in a cross country running competition at New Beacon School.

The course was very muddy, long and undulating and all the children displayed amazing strength and determination whilst running the race.

For some of the children, this was the first competition that they had participated in and it was super to observe their resilience and enjoyment.

All of the children ran brilliantly and many of them came within the top twenty children in their race,

Rina N was the third girl home and Matthew P was the third boy home in the Year 3 race.

Huge congratulations to Connor L, Dejan B, Matthew P, Xander W, Isaac H, Bronagh M, Alice M, Olivia W, Rina N, Lucas T, Zeph M, Louis R, Ryan V-H, Finn S, Elise A, Sharon O and Emilia K.

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

Mrs Wheeler



Dare to Believe Festival

On Wednesday 28th November, a group of Year 6 children took part in a festival at Knole Academy in which they participated in various Paralympic Sports.

The children had a fantastic experience playing Polybat, Boccia, Blindfolded Goalball, Table Top Cricket, Seated Curling and Sitting Volleyball.

The children were encouraged to believe in their ability, be creative, resilient and work as a team. All the children displayed all of these qualities and were a real credit to themselves and the school. Congratulations to Brooke S, Bonnie L, James H, Hamish A, Thomas P, Claudia S, Amy D, Jim R, Imogen S and Freddie W.



Chess

English Chess Federation South East Girls' Tournament
Tessa H and Violet D played in this challenging tournament last weekend, facing some of the highest ranked players in the region. They both did brilliantly, and Tessa won a trophy for coming 2nd in the Under 10s. Well Done!

Sport – contd

Football

On Friday 23rd November, seven children took part in the Sevenoaks School Indoor football tournament. The tournament was a group format whereby Amherst played against six other competing schools. Amherst played extremely well as a team and scored some brilliant goals. After beating Weald, St. Georges, Four Elms and St. Lawrence's, drawing with Shoreham and narrowly losing to St. Thomas', Amherst finished runners up in the tournament! Congratulations to Yiannis P, Maxwell T, TJ D, Harry L, Louis B-R, James P and Isaac D.

On Monday 26th November, Amherst played a league match against Otford primary school. Amherst managed to take an early lead through a brilliant goal scored by Isaac D. We then continued to play some very attractive, attacking football and scored soon after thanks to a well-worked team goal, finished by Joe S. However, Otford fought back well, scoring two goals to bring the score line back to 2-2. As a team, Amherst then showed great levels of determination and perseverance to score the winning goal, ending the game with a very impressive 3-2 win against tough opposition. Special mention to Harry B who was superb all game in the unfamiliar position of defence. Amherst are now currently top of the league with four wins from four!

Congratulations to Harry B, Harry L, Louis B-R, Isaac D, Joe Strebel, Matthew B and Yiannis P.

Amherst v Solefield chess match

The Tuesday chess coaching group hosted a friendly match against our rivals Solefield School. There were some hard fought and close games, and in the end Solefield won by 7.5 points to 5.5. Well done to all the Amherst players for their determination against strong opponents! The Amherst team: Dylan P, Karl P, Daniel H, Samuel A, Anoushka G, Arek G, Tessa H, Aoife G, Harry W, Noah T, James H, Benjamin H, James D, Lucas T, Ben H. *Helen Peters*



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.

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

PTA News

PTA DATES for your diary:

MINI BAZAAR: Monday 3 December

SECRETS ROOM: Monday 10 December 2.00pm

MINI BAZAAR

On Monday morning, the PTA will be holding a mini bazaar for the children. Children should bring in small change for anything they wish to buy.

SECRETS ROOM

On Monday 10 December, 6H will be hosting the Secrets Room where children can choose a present for their parents/carers. More details to follow.

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)

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.

Events in the local community - contd

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.

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.

Inclusion News

INCLUSION NEWS DECEMBER 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 and I will send you a unique log-in and password.

FAMILY COURSES

If you would like more information about the following courses taking place in early 2019, please ask Mrs Holmes:

- Managing Children's Behaviour at Downsview Primary School – 21st January to 11th February
- Parents Towards Employment at St Mary's Primary School – 21st January to 11th February
- Managing Children's Behaviour at New Ash Green Primary School – 22nd January to 12th February
- Managing Children's Behaviour at Edenbridge Children's Centre – 23rd January – 13th February
- Managing Children's Behaviour at West Kingsdown Primary School – 31st January – 21st February

Inclusion News – contd

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 had our last session of term on Weds 28th November. We start again on Monday January 14th 2019

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).

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
	billyisondrums@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.

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

Forthcoming Events

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 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.

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

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 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