



AMHERST NEWS



News No 13 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

7th December 2018

Star of the week

3A	Sam S	5B	Ollie C
3W	Isabella R	5H	Ellen J
3S	Luke J	5J	Freddie S
4W	<i>The whole of year 4</i>	6H	Anna C
4F	<i>for such a fantastic</i>	6P	Dylan L
4C	<i>production!</i>	6B	Olivia D

Year 4 Christmas Performance



Well done to all the children in Year 4 for such wonderful Christmas performances this week. It was great that Riverhead Year 2s and siblings joined us on Monday to also watch Year 4. Thank you to all the Year 4 teaching team for enabling the children to perform to such a high standard. Christmas has definitely now begun!

Christmas Bazaar

A huge thank you to the PTA who helped organise and run such a successful Christmas Bazaar. Funds raised are going to be used to create a new area for children to use at playtime and lunchtime that will stimulate creative and imaginative play. We will keep you updated with further developments.

Forthcoming Events

- 10.12.18 PTA Secrets Room
- 11.12.18 Year 4 to Natural History Museum
- 12.12.18 School Christmas Lunch
- 13.12.18 School Orchestra Performance to whole school
- 18.12.18 Evening Carol Service 6.00pm at St. Mary's Church
- 18.12.18 Whole School to Stag Pantomime
- 19.12.18 Last Day - School Finishes 3.30pm

Further information on the above events can be found in the letters sent home.

Clubs

Please note that all clubs have now finished with the exception of Amherst Choir on Thursday 13th December.

Final Arrangements for Theatre Visit to 'Dick Whittington'

The trip to the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks to see 'Dick Whittington' takes place on Tuesday 18th December.

As the performance is from 10.30pm until 1.00pm, there will be no school lunch that day and we ask that all children bring a packed lunch. This will then be eaten when we return from the theatre at approximately 1.30pm. Children will be provided with an orange juice drink during the interval. Please inform the School Office if your child **should not** have this.

Due to lunch being later, children should bring a small snack to accompany their juice during the interval. Please no sweets or crisps. A chewy bar or cereal bar would be ideal. Please ensure all snacks are nut free. Thank you.

Mrs Rawlins says thank you!

A big thank you from Mrs Rawlins to those who helped on the Biscuit stall or donated to it. We made £36, which at 20p an item which means we sold an awful lot!!



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.

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>

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.

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.

Riverhead Parish Council – Parking

Riverhead Parish Council request that you *please* park responsibly when dropping off and collecting your children.

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.

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

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

Orchestra Afternoon

The school orchestra gathered on Thursday afternoon to practise and perform some festive pieces to an audience of parents. Featuring around 30 children from Years 3-6, the orchestra played seven carols, including *Once in Royal David's City*, *Deck the Halls* and *Jingle Bells*. Well done to all the children for their hard work! The orchestra is open to all instrumentalists who are of a standard equivalent to Grade 1.

Littlecourt Lunch Club

The Amherst Choir performed this week for the Littlecourt Lunch Club. The children sang a range of pieces, including *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *Silent Night* and *Still, Still, Still*. To hear more of our auditioned school choir, do come along to the Carol Service on Tuesday 18th December.

Scratch Youth Messiah

Last Sunday 37 children from Years 3-6 took part in the Scratch Youth Messiah at the Royal Albert Hall. The children have been rehearsing weekly in school and arrived early at the venue to rehearse with the English Festival Orchestra and the renowned conductor Ben Parry. After a quick lunch they then took part in a performance of Handel's *Messiah* in front of a huge audience. The children all particularly enjoyed singing the 'Hallelujah' chorus! Well done to all involved and thanks to Mrs Holmes, Miss Foinette and Miss Payne for accompanying the children.



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:

SECRETS ROOM: Monday 10 December 2.00pm
CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Wednesday 12 December
PTA MEETING: Tuesday 8 January 2019 (all welcome to attend)
CAKE & 2ND HAND UNIFORM SALE: Friday 18 January 2019

SECRETS ROOM

On Monday 10 December, all children will be able to visit the Secrets Room to buy Christmas gifts for parents, grandparents or carers. There will be a lovely selection of presents, and each child can choose two gifts at £2 per gift, so **please can you provide your child with £4** so that they can participate.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Huge thanks to everyone making the Christmas Bazaar a success. It was a brilliant day, and because of your generosity and support, so far over £11K has been raised – a significant step forward in fundraising for the outdoor creative play and learning area.

Please remember to collect your **HAMPERS** and **SILENT AUCTION/GRAND DRAW** prizes from the school office. Also there is an unnamed **CAKE BOX** still to be collected.

ORGANISERS, please remember to submit your expense claims as soon as possible to amherst-treasurer@outlook.com.

Please do remember **all the local companies** that supported us while doing your Christmas shopping, once again thank you to them all!

EASYFUNDRAISING

easyfundraising turns your **Christmas 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)

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.

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.

Rivermere Christmas Fayre

This will be held on Saturday 8th December from 2.45pm at Rivermere Residential Home, 64 Westerham Road, TN13 2PZ.

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.

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

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).

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.

Regular items and reminders - contd

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.

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 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

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