



AMHERST NEWS



News No. 9 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk 01732 452577 8th November 2019

Star of the Week



3A	Ewan S	5B	Tamara B
3W	Sammy W	5H	Teddy L
3S	Belle M	5J	Leo G
4W	Jygraj K	6A	Juda N
4SF	Dimitris M	6P	Callum S
4C	Eleanor H	6B	Blake R

Please check the forthcoming dates section so you are aware of school trips and events!

Amherst's Grand Design Launch Party

We are just 5 days away from officially **launching Amherst's Grand Design Project**. This is such an exciting project for the school and we look forward to sharing it with you. Please do try to come along to the Launch Party on **Wednesday, 13th November at 8pm**. Not only will you enjoy canapés and wine with friends, but there will be live music from ex-parents, a showcase of our pupil's design work for the project, and a film sharing some of the children's ideas. You will also hear from Mr. Reid, David Hale (Chair of Governors) and Suse Goodwin (PTA Chair) - they will explain why this project is needed and what it will mean to your children and the wider school community.

We would love to see you there so please do book a place via www.schoolgateway.com.



Children in Need – Choir Performance & Fun Activities Planned at School!



We are delighted to announce that the Amherst Choir have been chosen to take part in the BBC's Children in Need alongside seven other schools from across Kent. This will be broadcast live on BBC One during the evening coverage on **Friday 15th November**. We will be singing from Allington House in Maidstone, performing *True Colours* alongside 2000 other children from around the country. A film crew from BBC South East visited before half term to film us in rehearsal and this short segment is expected to be shown earlier that evening, on BBC One at 6.30pm.

We are also organising some fun activities at school next Thursday (14th)!

Yellow / Spotty fun run with Running Club - £1

8:00am on the school field

Bake off – spotty cakes and cupcakes

Entrants to reception by 8:50am

Drawing/art competition - £1

Entrants to class teachers by 8:50am

Cake sale after school

All WINNERS will be announced in assembly on Friday.



Congratulations...

To Miss Apps (Year 6!) who got married in half term and is now Mrs Davies! 6A will remain the name for the class. We wish them well for a long and happy future together.

Parent Questionnaire

Each year we invite you to share your views about our school. Your child today will be bringing home the parent questionnaire. We really appreciate your feedback. Please return to the school office.

Music

Barnardo's Concert at the Royal Albert Hall

Last Monday 93 children from Years 3-6 took part in the Barnardo's *Young Supporters Concert* at the Royal Albert Hall. The children had been rehearsing weekly in school and spent the day at the venue, rehearsing alongside the other schools under renowned conductor Douglas Coombes. After a quick tea they then took part in a combined performance in front of a huge audience. The children and audience all particularly enjoyed singing an original rendition of a classic, 'Three Rocking Mice'! Well done to all involved and thanks to all the adults for accompanying the children.



Battle of the Bands

14 children from Year 6 took part in a 'Battle of the Bands' competition at Sevenoaks School against much older prep school children. The two bands (which the children had named 'Rock in the Spotlight' and 'Sound of Six') played 'Stitches' by Shaun Mendes and 'What I Like About You' by Jonas Blue and Theresa Rex. The children received some very positive feedback from the judges and this will hopefully now become an annual event. There was so much interest in this event that we may well have to hold our own 'Amherst Battle of the Bands' later in the year!



Brass Assembly

Our brass teacher Mr Fasham led an assembly earlier this week, demonstrating the trombone, trumpet, euphonium and tenor horn, and even using a garden hose to show how the instruments produce sound! Mr Fasham is a busy working musician, having played recently on the soundtracks for films including *Paddington 2* and *Johnny English Strikes Again*. If your child would like to sign up for lessons or a 'taster session', Mr Fasham may be contacted at ian@littleturret.co.uk.



'Musical Showcase' Assembly

We would like to offer children the chance to perform a piece on their instrument in front of the school in assembly. This will be a relaxed way to perform in front of a large audience and may particularly suit those with upcoming graded exams, to whom preference will be given. Mrs Henderson, our new flute teacher, has offered to accompany the children, given that she has the piano music ahead of time. We have provisionally set aside a 20 minute slot on **Tuesday 12th November**, although if there is lots of demand we can provide other dates throughout the term. If interested, please email the office.

Late Arrivals to School

If you are bringing your child to school late, please can you ensure that you accompany your child into the school building and sign them in at reception. Thank you.

Forthcoming Events

13.11.19	Year 5 Victorian Workshop
13.11.19	Amherst's 'Grand Design' Launch Party 8pm
14.11.19	Children in Need fun Activities
15.11.19	Year 4 Trip to Battle Abbey
29.11.19	Clubs End
3.12.19	Year 4 Christmas Performance 2.00pm
4.12.19	Year 4 Christmas Performance 6.30pm
07.12.19	PTA Christmas Bazaar
09.12.19	PTA Mini Bazaar
11.12.19	Christmas Lunch
12.12.19	PTA Secrets Room
16.12.19	Carol Service St. Mary's Church 6.00pm
17.12.19	Whole School to Pantomime
18.12.19	End of Term
07.01.20	Start of Term
13.01.20	Clubs Start
17.01.20	PTA Cake and 2 nd Hand Uniform Sale
05.02.20	Year 6 Young Voices Trip O2
14.02.20	End of Term
25.02.20	Year 3 Roman Day
27.02.20	Year 3 Roman Day
28.02.20	Year 3 Roman Day

Navy Blazer

Found at school M&S (St Michael), age 11. If it is yours please visit reception.

Amherst Choir Performance At Christmas

Amherst Choir will be singing at the Christmas Lights Switch-On in Sevenoaks town on Friday 29th November. Please come and support us, we will be singing at 18.10 prompt!



Star of the Week Badges

Please could badges be returned to school on the Thursday after the week your child has been awarded it. Unfortunately, the badges are not to keep! If your child has a badge at home from a previous week or year, please return it to reception. Thank you



Times can be tough and sometimes the expense of hygiene and personal care products comes way down the list of priorities. If you and your family want to contribute to the Hygiene Bank Charity, we need everything from toothpaste to nappies. There is a crate in the school reception for you to leave your donations. Thank you in advance.



AMAZON GIFTING To help generate much needed income for the school we have set up an Amazon Gifting link. If you are purchasing on Amazon please follow the link below or the link on the homepage of the school website. The school receives a small percentage for each transaction, so the more people that use it the greater the monthly donation! Please share with friends and family. <http://bit.ly/amherstschool>
School website link:
<http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk/page/?pid=178>

Sport



Radnor House Cross Country Competition

On Wednesday 30th October, a team of children from all year groups participated in the Sevenoaks and District Schools Cross Country competition at Radnor House.

The challenging course involved hills, muddy slopes, rabbit holes and brambles and therefore represented a 'real' cross-country race!

All of the children ran with real determination and displayed incredible strength. Many of our runners came within the top ten in their races, which had about one hundred competitors in.

Huge congratulations to **Matthew P, Dejan B, Ben G, Isaac H, Zac S, Connor L, Olivia W, Alice M, Bronagh M, Rina N, Imogen F, Rosie F, Zeph M, Freddie M, Theo L, Luke M, Blake R, Charlie T, Rose P, Caoimhe M, Eva G, Tessa H, Liliya D and Lily S.**

Thank you to all the parents for their support.
Mrs Wheeler.



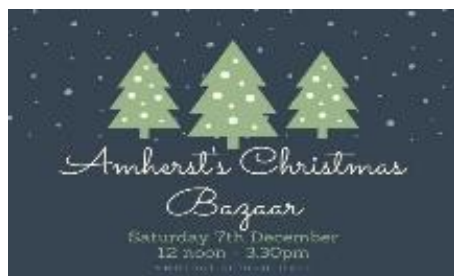
PTA News

October Half Term – tick.

Halloween – tick.

Fireworks night – tick.

That can only mean one thing..... CHRISTMAS!!!!!! Our Bazaar preparations are now fully under way!



Thank you so much to everyone who donated chocolate today. Jeni (PTA Marketing and writer of this column) *may* have had to reorder her donation having eaten her son's contribution herself. 3 TIMES!!! Here is a reminder of the approaching donations and relevant own clothes days:

Amherst's Christmas Bazaar		
Date	Donation	Children wear
8th November	Chocolate	N/A
15th November	Spirs & Beers/Tantrum	Jeans
16th - 20th November	Food & Gifts	
22nd November	Children's Books & Toys	N/A
29th November	Children's & Women's	Own Clothes
6th December	Handmade/Upcycled	Billy Goats/Jeans
	Rolls, Cakes & Sweets	Parental Headmaster

Last weekend saw the Sevenoaks Roundtable Fireworks Display take place – we hope that you had a great time, and absolute kudos for braving the weather!

Tonight is our Bangers & Bingo evening, and tickets pretty much sold out!!! We hope the children have a fantastic time and we look forward to telling you about it next week.

Wednesday 13th is the Grand Design launch party. We are so excited to see you there, so we can share with you, the details of the project!

Have a wonderful weekend and we will catch you next Friday. And as always, thank you so, so much, for all of your support.

Dates for your diary:

13th November: Amherst's Grand Design Project launch party

7th December: Christmas Bazaar

9th December: Mini Bazaar

11th December: Christmas Lunch (adjusted date)

18th December: End of Term PTA Christmassy Cake Sale

Follow us on social media:

@EventsPTA

@amherstptaevents

Secondary School Visits

If you are planning to take your child to a secondary school visit, please email the office.

Also please note that lunch will be served from 12.00 - 12.30pm. If your child would like a school meal of their choice, they would have to be in for morning registration. If not in early morning, we will only be able to serve them a pasta lunch if they return before 12.30.

Please see websites for more information and bookings.

Millfield Prep School – open day, 29/02. Please see website for further details www.millfieldprep.com

Sackville School – open mornings, 8/2, 5/3. Yr5 taster 25/3. For more info please see website www.sackvilleschoolHillviewGirlsSchool.com – open evening 17/10, 5.30-8.30pm. Please check website for further details www.hillview.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@gmail.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	
Flute/Recorder	Philippa Henderson	07525 836419
	philippahenderson@gmail.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	Ian Fasham	
	ian@littleturret.co.uk	
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.

Education Consultation

Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys

Date of consultation 28 October 2019 to 6 December 2019



Please click to read the full document on our school website:

<https://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=18>

Kent County Council are seeking views on a proposal to expand Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 210 places to 300 places, facilitated by the establishment of a satellite of the school on the Wildernesse site in Sevenoaks from September 2021.

The public consultation will run for a period of 6 weeks from 28th October 2019 and will conclude at midday on 6th December 2019.

There are a number of ways to give us your views on this proposal:

- A 'drop-in' information session at the Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys on the 12th November at 6.30pm to 8.00pm. This will provide an opportunity to ask questions and complete a response form.
- A Public Meeting will be held in the Hall of the Grammar provision on the Wildernesse site on the 20th November at 6.30pm to 8.00pm. This will provide an opportunity to ask questions and complete a response form.
- By sending the response form by post to Ian Watts, West 11, Worrall House, 30 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, Kent ME19 4AE by midday on 6th December 2019
- Hand your response form into the school office at Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9XB by midday on 6th December 2019
- By emailing your comments to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Regular Items And Reminders

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.

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.



Stationery

Please could you ensure that your child brings to school the relevant stationery items they may need for lessons including Glue Sticks!



***INCLUSION NEWS ***

Children's Therapies Website launch

The Children's Therapies Service have just launched their new website <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod>. Here you will find information about Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy **including information leaflets, videos and links to national websites**. Within the speech and language therapy section information covers a range of clinical areas such as early-years language, school-age language, speech, hearing impairment, fluency, ASD, voice etc.

You also will find helpful video clips on

- speech and language areas including phonological awareness, minimal pairs, supporting fluency etc;
- Occupational Therapy e.g. (dressing, using a knife and fork);
- Physiotherapy (e.g. core stability / building strength).

***INCLUSION NEWS *** -contd

CLICKER 7 – for free

Don't forget, if you would like to access Clicker 7 (a child-friendly and dyslexia-friendly word processing programme) 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.

Playtime club

If your child finds our long lunch break challenging, please tell them to ask the midday supervisors 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.

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.

Parent Drop-ins

I am available most Wednesday afternoons 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).

Events In The Local Community

The Rock Project

School of Rock & Pop

OPEN IN SEVENOAKS

sevenoaks@therockproject.com
Tel: 07739 379 838.

- Guitar Lessons
- Singing Lessons
- Bass Lessons
- Drum Lessons

Ages 7-11 & 11-18
Play in a band every week
Perform in our Annual Gig
Beginners Welcome!

www.therockproject.com

Free Art Workshop

You are warmly invited to attend a creative workshop in our Art Department at Caterham School. The focus will be transfer printing onto a tote bag.

Sat 30 November
Suitable for KS2 children aged 7-10. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Session One: 9.30-10.30
Session Two: 10.30-11.30

To book your place at one of the sessions email rachel.veldtman@caterhamschool.co.uk



Is your Year 4 child keen to play football for a friendly, successful local team?

Oxford United U9s are welcoming new players this November!

Following last season's trophy-winning campaign, our Under 9 'Pumas' team are looking to add talented new players. If your child is looking for a new challenge, we'd love to hear from you.

We offer first-class pitches and high-quality training delivered by Level 1 and 2 FA-qualified coaches with full Safeguarding and First-aid certification. Our focus is on developing skills, confidence on the ball and good decision-making. The Pumas compete in the Crowborough league, with matches taking place every other Saturday.

We have open sessions and trial games scheduled through November on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. To take part or to learn more, please send an email to Rob (Pumas Manager) ASAP at pumas@oujfc.com. Places are limited.

Our club

Oxford United is a well-established Football Club based at Oxford Recreation Ground. We pride ourselves on being an FA Charter Standard Community Club and we aspire to high standards in the development of young players. We uphold the principles of the FA's Respect programme to ensure that football at our club is an enjoyable, inclusive and positive experience for all.

oxfordunitedfc.com

Term Dates 2019/2020

TERM 2		
FINISH:	Wednesday	18th December 2019
TERM 3		
Staff Inset	Monday	6th January 2020
START:	Tuesday	7th January 2020
FINISH:	Friday	14th February 2020
TERM 4		
START:	Monday	24th February 2020
FINISH:	Wednesday	1st April 2020
TERM 5		
START:	Thursday	16th April 2020
FINISH:	Friday	22nd May 2020
TERM 6		
Staff Inset:	Monday	1 st June 2020
START:	Tuesday	2nd June 2020
FINISH:	Tuesday	21st July 2020
Staff Inset:	Wednesday	22 nd July 2020
TERM 1:		
START:	Wednesday	2nd September 2020