



AMHERST NEWS



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01732 452577

6th December 2019

Star of the Week



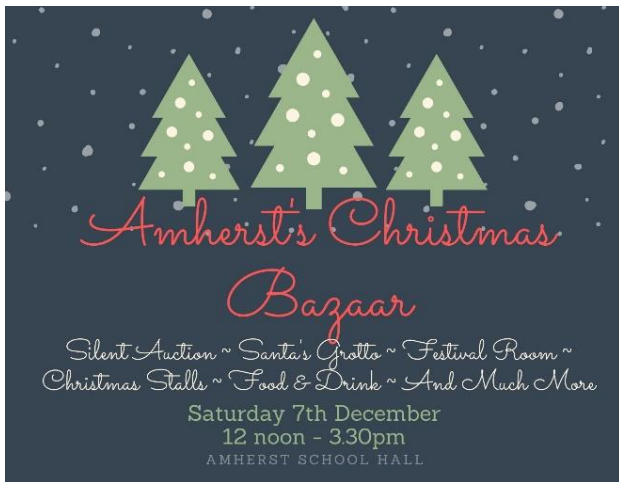
3A	Bluebell S	5B	George H
3W	Lois L	5H	Matthew P
3S	Jessica F	5J	Tom W
4W	Willow S	6A	Keira H
4SF	Daisy M	6P	Eva D
4C	Lucas D	6B	Oscar P

Amherst's Christmas Bazaar 12-3.30pm



Don't forget to come along tomorrow to support our annual Christmas Bazaar organised by our wonderful PTA!

PTA News



..... One more sleep!!!! We cannot thank you enough for everything you have done – donors, stall holders, sponsors, time givers, match funders.... The list is endless!!!! Our Amherst Community is the best!!! We are really looking forward to seeing you tomorrow and sharing a wonderful afternoon with our children.

Next week we have the mini Bazaar, Christmas lunch (check next week's newsletter to see the PTA Team looking *ridiculously* ridiculous, dressed as Elves) and the Secrets Room. We are then ending the year with a Christmassy Cake Sale which is being run by the PTA Lead Team plus we will hopefully be sneaking in a PTA Update newsletter, where we will be sharing pictures from all of these fabulous events and letting you know how our fund

raising is going. Will we be left twiddling our thumbs in January?!?!? No chance....

Dates for your diary:

- 7th December: Christmas Bazaar
- 9th December: Mini Bazaar
- 11th December: Christmas Lunch (adjusted date)
- 12th December: Secrets Room
- 18th December: End of Term PTA Christmassy Cake Sale

Follow us on social media:

- @EventsPTA
- @amherstptaevents

Decorate a Biscuit at the Bazaar!



As usual, Mrs Rawlins will be running her 'Decorate a Christmas Biscuit (or Cake) Stall' at the Bazaar tomorrow. She would welcome donations of plain biscuits (preferably Christmas shaped), and small plain fairy cakes. These can be brought to school any time tomorrow morning or when the Bazaar starts. Please could they be marked for the attention of Mrs Rawlins. Many thanks.

Forthcoming Events

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 07.12.19 | PTA Christmas Bazaar 12.00 – 3.30pm |
| 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 (Tuesday) |
| 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 |
| 04.03.20 | Jeremy Strong visiting school |
| 06.03.20 | PTA School Disco |

Music

Christmas Lights Switch-on

Last Friday evening the Amherst Choir performed at the main Sevenoaks Lights Switch-On, performing a range of songs including *Twelve Days of Christmas* and *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*. The children were absolutely brilliant, singing with enthusiasm and being a real credit to the school.



Bessels Green Lunch Club

75 children from Training Choir, Boys Club, Recorder Club, Glockenspiel Club and Flute Choir performed for the Bessels Green Lunch Club on Wednesday! As always, it was wonderful to see the variety of musical talent and so many 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.

Maidstone Music Festival

On Saturday 23rd November, the Amherst Choir won the 'Under 12' choir class of the Maidstone Music Festival for the third year in a row. The choir sang two songs, *May it Be* and *Welcome to Rustin Creek*, which were highly praised and given 'Distinction' by the adjudicator. Thank you to Miss Payne for accompanying us on the piano.



ASK Kitchen Updates

School Meal Choice - 18th December

Please note that chicken goujons will replace roast beef on the lunchtime menu for the last day of term.

School Return 7th January – please note that we will be on week 3 of the menu choices when we return on Tuesday 7th.

School Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies at Amherst School. Please follow the link to the Kent Teach website:

Administration Officer – Full time - <https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=76739>


Teaching Assistant <https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=76583>

Midday Supervisor <https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=76616>

Breakfast Club Assistant <https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=76741>

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.



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>

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.sackvilleschool.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
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.

Regular Items & 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 December 2019

TTRS Typing dates and CONGRATULATIONS

Well done Georgia (year 6) for successfully completing the course. Georgia began our course in year 4; she can now touch type at about 80 words per minute! An awesome achievement.

Our last session of the term will be Monday December 2nd. We start again on Monday January 13th.

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.

Parenting Programme

Fegans children's counselling service are offering parenting support – there is a leaflet in the Amherst entrance lobby, or just ask me. Their programmes are free but fill up pretty quickly.

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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. Happy Christmas Everyone!

Helen Holmes, Inclusion Manager

(helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk)

Events in the Local Community



Sunday 22nd December
6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight
 'One small step for man...'
followed by refreshments



Tuesday 24th December
4pm: Children's Carol Service
 'Christmas Crackers'
followed by refreshments



Wednesday 25th December
10-11am: Christmas Day Celebration
 Children are invited to bring a present to show everyone.



Parking available at Riverhead Infants School.
 BGBC, Bessels Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2PS.
 Tel: 01732 454921
 www.bgbc.co.uk

Term Dates 2019/2020

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

Term Dates 2020/2021

TERM 1		
Staff Inset:	Tuesday	1 st September 2020
START:	Wednesday	2 nd September 2020
FINISH:	Thursday	22 nd October 2020
Staff Inset:	Friday	23 rd October 2020
TERM 2		
START:	Monday	2 nd November 2020
FINISH:	Friday	18 th December 2020
TERM 3		
Staff Inset:	Monday	4 th January 2021
Staff Inset:	Tuesday	5 th January 2021
START:	Wednesday	6 th January 2021
FINISH:	Friday	12 th February 2021
TERM 4		
START:	Monday	22 nd February 2021
FINISH:	Thursday	1 st April 2021
TERM 5		
START:	Monday	19 th April 2021
FINISH:	Friday	28 th May 2021
TERM 6		
Staff Inset:	Monday	7 th June 2021
START:	Tuesday	8 th June 2021
FINISH:	Wednesday	21 st July 2021