



AMHERST NEWS



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01732 452577

13th December 2019

Star of the Week



3A	Edward H	5B	Willow W
3W	Rory S	5H	Sophia I
3S	Phoebe M	5J	Daisy R
4W	Maxim R	6A	Ollie C
4SF	Fred M	6P	Alessandro T
4C	Rachel B	6B	Ellie C



Message from Mr Reid

Thank you for all your support over what has been a long but highly successful autumn term. The children (and staff) are ready for the holidays! I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and get the chance to rest and spend some time together as a family. School starts again on **Tuesday 7th January**.

Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to the PTA for organising such an incredible Christmas Bazaar on Saturday. The event had a wonderful atmosphere and was extremely well attended. We are fortunate to have such a supportive and dedicated team of parents. Your hard work is much appreciated.

Carol Service

On Monday 16th December at 6.00pm, we are holding our Carol Service at St. Mary's Church. This is a service that you attend as a family, not one that children are dropped off at! It is a wonderful service, and is structured as a children's version of lessons and carols. Attendance is not compulsory but hopefully we look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Year 4 Christmas Performance



Congratulations to all of Year 4 for their wonderful Christmas performances last week. The quality of singing, dancing, gymnastics, acting and handbell ringing was superb. Thank you also to the Year 4 teaching team for all their hard work rehearsing and preparing the children so well.

Christmas Lunch



Thank you to Mrs Jackson and all the kitchen team for the amazing Christmas lunch they prepared for children and staff on Wednesday. The quality of food was excellent and they managed to prepare over four hundred meals on time and hot! Thank you also to all the PTA team for helping decorate the tables and serve the children. It was a very festive and enjoyable experience for all.

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 £43, which at 20p an item means we sold an awful lot of biscuits!!



Forthcoming Events

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
07.02.20	PTA Quiz Night
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
20.03.20	Clubs Finish
24.03.20	Amherst Music Festival
25.03.20	Parents Evening
26.03.20	Parents Evening
30.03.20	Year 3 Easter Performance at Riverhead
31.03.20	Year 3 Easter Performance
01.04.20	Term Ends

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>

Littlecourt Lunch Club

The Amherst Choir performed this week for the Littlecourt Lunch Club, singing a range of pieces which included *Somewhere in My Memory* from 'Home Alone' and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. The choir will next be performing at the Amherst Carol Service on Monday 16th December at 6.00pm in St Mary's Church, to which all families are warmly invited. We will also be performing by the tree in Trafalgar Square on Saturday 21st December from 6.00-7.00pm!



PTA News

What a simply incredible week the school has had. We kicked things off with our Christmas Bazaar, then we had the mini Bazaar, Christmas lunch and then the Secrets Room.

It is so, SO important to us, that we make sure that everything we are doing creates a wonderful, fun event for the children and we think we can honestly say that the last week has achieved this!

You will find a full write up plus pictures in our newsletter which will be with you on Monday, and please don't forget to come and have a cake with us on Wednesday at our Christmassy Cake Sale!

And so for now, we have one very simple message to you all.

Thank you for being the most inspiring community and for your incredible support. We look forward to having a lot of fun with you all next year.

Merry Christmas!!!!

Dates for your diary:

18th December: End of Term PTA Christmassy Cake Sale

17th January: Cake & Uniform Sales

7th February: Quiz Night

14th February: Valentine Raffle

25th February: Pancake Breakfast

Follow us on social media:

@EventsPTA

@amherstptaevents

Fundraising for 'The Little Princess Trust'



Zoë H 5H, is chopping off her long locks and donating them to 'The Little Princess Trust' who make wigs for young girls who lose their hair whilst receiving cancer treatment. She donates the hair, but we need to raise funds to help the charity make the beautiful natural wig. If you're able to donate a few pounds it would totally make her week. The big chop is **today!**

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paula-hatfield2?error_code=4201&error_message=User+cancelled+the+Dialog+flow&fb_event=9f265b8&prompt_event=32ab7cd#

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.

SPORT

Football

On Tuesday 3rd December, Amherst played their first two league matches of the season against Churchill and Edenbridge Primary School. Against Churchill, Amherst managed to take an early lead through a brilliant team goal. The attacking, flowing football continued and after battling hard, Amherst were victorious with a 4-1 win. In our second game against Edenbridge, Amherst played some fantastic patient, passing football and managed to comfortably win the game 3-0. A special mention to Lucas S who scored a beautiful long-range goal from close to his own half! A brilliant start to our league campaign - congratulations to James P, Lucas S, Blake R, Arthur P, Harry W, Maxwell T, Luke M, Theo L, Lewis O, Ethan T, Teddy L and Albie D.
Mr Barratt

'Dare to Believe' Sports Festival

On Wednesday 11th December, six children from 5H took part in a sports festival at Knole Academy, where they had a fantastic opportunity to experience a number of different sports including curling, golf ball, table top cricket, boccia and seated volleyball. The children really enjoyed learning the skills required for these Paralympic activities. They all worked brilliantly as a team: encouraging and supporting each other. It was wonderful to observe the children getting real enjoyment from participating in these new sports. They were all a real credit to the school.

Well done to Matthew P, James C, Owen P, Abigail K, Maya B and Lucy S.

Thank you to the parents for accompanying and transporting the children.

Mrs Wheeler.



Ex-Amherst Pupils Sporting Success

In 2015, Amherst's handball coach, Nadhmi Jari, started teaching handball at Knole Academy. A group of girls trained regularly and, with Nadhmi's training, were selected to England Handball Regional Teams. On 23rd November, two of these girls - ex Amherst pupils-Tori Sellors and Lucy Thornevell, we're asked to trial for the U18 Great Britain squad. We are delighted to announce that both have been selected and will be given the opportunity to represent our country in 2020.



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

Music Achievements

Congratulations to Zeph M who has recently passed his grade 1 piano exam with distinction.

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.

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	18th December 2019
TERM 3		
Staff Inset	Monday	6 th 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 Dates 2020/2021

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