



# AMHERST NEWS



News No. 19 [www.amherst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk)

01732 452577

7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## Star of the Week

3A	Florrie P	5B	Ava D
3W	Tom C	5H	Owen P
3S	Tom L	5J	Jack B
4W	Rosie-Anne M	6A	Georgia L
4SF	Ayaan G	6P	Anais K
4C	Rina N	6B	Christina H



## Forthcoming Events

10.02.20	PTA Launch 'Happiness' Photography Competition
14.02.20	PTA Valentine Raffle
14.02.20	Amherst 'Share a Book' afternoon 2.45pm
14.02.20	End of Term
25.02.20	PTA Pancake Breakfast
25.02.20	Year 3 Roman Day
27.02.20	Year 3 Roman Day
28.02.20	Year 3 Roman Day
04.03.20	Y6 Parliament Trip
04.03.20	Jeremy Strong visiting school
06.03.20	PTA School Disco
17.03.20	History Troupe Assembly
19.03.20	Year 5 'The Highwayman' visit
20.03.20	Clubs Finish
24.03.20	Amherst Music Festival
24.03.20	PTA Cake and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform Sale
25.03.20	Parents Evening
26.03.20	Parents Evening
31.03.20	Love 2 Dance at The Stag
31.03.20	Year 3 Easter Performance
01.04.20	Term Ends
16.04.20	Term Starts
01.05.20	PTA Golf Day
07.05.20	PTA Cake Sale

## Nasal Flu Vaccine

**Please read below a message from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust:**

There is still time to get the nasal flu vaccination.

Even though it's best to get vaccinated as soon as the flu vaccine is available, getting the vaccine later still can help protect against the flu virus.

There are still a few months left in the flu season, so it's still a good idea to get vaccinated.

The Kent and Medway Immunization team is running clinics over the February half term, to book a clinic appointment please contact them on:-

[kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net](mailto:kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net) or 0300 123 5205

## Invite from Sevenoaks School

**FREE talk for parents - Play virtual, live real: keeping your children safe online**

On **Wednesday 12 February (7:30pm)**, as part of our Focus on Online Safety Week, we are delighted to be hosting a talk **Play virtual, live real: keeping your children safe online** from The Breck Foundation which was set up in 2014 in response to the tragic murder of Breck Bednar, a 14-year-old Surrey schoolboy who loved science, computing and gaming

Admission to the event is **free** and is for **ADULTS** only (no sixth formers please). It will be hosted in our Pamoja Hall, The Space. Please do pass this onto your staff and parents who are welcome to attend. 'Breck was an 'A' grade student from a loving family and no one would have expected Breck to be a victim of grooming. His mother Lorin, who set up the foundation, believes that he would still be alive today if he had heard a talk like this. We are absolutely thrilled that Lorin herself is coming to speak and to give advice on staying safe online and we urge you not to miss this amazing opportunity to make a real difference to your knowledge and understanding of online risks and hence all our children's safety.' The talk will start at 7.30pm in the Pamoja Hall, Sevenoaks School, with a Q&A at the end. To book your free place today please email: [boxoffice@sevenoaksschool.org](mailto:boxoffice@sevenoaksschool.org)

Please note that parking in Duke's Meadow, our main car park, will be limited but alternative parking can be found in town and is within easy walking distance.

## Safe Driving!

Please would parents and carers be safe and considerate to pedestrians when driving their children to and from school, in particular around narrow country lanes where Amherst and Riverhead children may walk. Thank you.

## SPORT

### Primary Chess Tournament at Sevenoaks

#### School Match Report by Helen Peters

The following Amherst players competed in the first Sevenoaks Partnership Chess Tournament on Monday afternoon: **Amherst A:** Tessa H, Aoife G, Ben H, Noah T, Harry W, James H; **Amherst B:** Lucas T, George F, Benjamin H, Ryan vH, Dylan R, Nicholas B.

This was an exciting new event where we played against teams from Sevenoaks Primary, Weald Primary and Halstead. The players were mixed up in a 'jamboree', which meant they played three matches each, some against experienced players and some against beginners (and some Amherst v Amherst clashes!). Out of six teams, Amherst A came first, with 16 points out of 18, and Amherst B came third with 11.5 points out of 18. Well done to all our players, and many thanks to Mrs Arnold for helping.

There is a Kent Junior Chess tournament also at Sevenoaks School on Sunday 16th February- it would be fantastic to see as many Amherst players as possible there. To enter, please go to [www.kjca.org](http://www.kjca.org).



### Table Tennis

#### Match Reports by Coach, Janet Field

**KENT SCHOOLS TTA – Individual Singles** - Amherst School sent their entire 18 strong squad to compete in the Kent Schools TTA Individual Singles held at The Howard, School in Rainham on 28<sup>th</sup> January. There were several age groups scheduled but the squad could only enter the Under 11s. There were 14 boys and four girls from Amherst.

**Boys Under 11** - Inevitably there was some disappointment where there were groups comprised of just Amherst players but this only seemed to heighten the level of competition. The boys were split into three groups of three and two of four. Unfortunately, three of the top Amherst players were in Group 1 and it was not an easy passage for top seed Charlie H. Charlie T emerged from Group B, Theo L from Group C, Luke M from a quite strong Group D, and Jake A, seeded two from Group E. That meant five going through to the main competition with all the rest getting extra sets in the Consolation event.

The Consolation finals was a very competitive set between James P and Maxwell T who did exceptionally well to make it through. It went to three games with James just edging out Maxwell at 14-12 in the decider. Freddie M and Edward C contested the third and fourth place playoff, which was won by Edward.

The main competition saw Charlie H get through his semi-final group with Charlie T and Theo while Luke faced Jake in a straight knock out set. Jake gave Luke no chance to settle down and won in straight games.

The final was a most exciting affair, eagerly watched by parents, coaches, other competitors and organisers alike. The standard was good with lots of long rallies and clever placements. It went to five games and Jake took a 5-0 lead at the turn round in the decider. Nothing daunted and fortified by his National Cadet League experience, Charlie clawed his way back to level at 10 all and finally nailed it 13-11. There was much deserved applause for both boys as they left the table. Charlie's reward will be to represent Kent at the National Finals in Wolverhampton in April.

**Girls Under 11** - There were 10 girls split into two groups of three and one of four. Lois M emerged from Group 1 and Connie C from Group 2. Calina D (Oakfield Primary) was top seed and duly made her way through to a three way final with Lois and Connie. Calina's NCL experience stood her in good stead and she won the final with Connie in second place. Lois won the third/fourth place off to take the bronze.

The Consolation Final was won by Olivia W with Alice M in second place and Eryn T (Miers Court) in third.

This was vital competitive experience for the girls prior to the team's trip to Bristol later this month.

As always, the squad were impeccably behaved, tried their best, some exceeding expectation, and thoroughly enjoyed their outing.

Grateful thanks are due to Claire M and her team of helpers without whom this event could not take place and to those who gave up time to transport the squad to Rainham and Home again.





## SPORT - contd

### Alternative Sports Festival

Match report by Mrs Wheeler

On Monday 3rd February, nine children from Year 3 participated in a sports festival at Knole Academy. The festival provided the opportunity for the children to experience sports that they had not undertaken before and which were individual events rather than team activities. The children took part in Fencing, Karate and Fitsteps, which is an aerobic dance session. It was wonderful to observe the children's enthusiasm and their positive attitude towards trying skills and sports, which they had very little experience of. Many of the children expressed an interest in joining one of the clubs that were represented at the festival.

A huge well done to Harry K, Joshua O, Daisy W-E, Lucy E, Matthew H, Sofia C, Lilian K, Hunter H and Jomi O.

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



### Tennis

Match report by Adam Reavely

On Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Amherst Red teams competed at The Sennocke Centre in the Sevenoaks School Doubles event. The boy's event was first with Oscar Adair & Dominic Wakefield pairing up. The boys have paired together previously to represent Chipstead in the Winter League. This showed as the boys performed with a great deal more confidence and thoroughly enjoyed the event. They won two of their five matches with the three they lost being tight losses. It's really pleasing to see the boys improving & working well as a partnership with more events to come in the Summer!

The girl's event followed with Lauren Dungan & Georgia Collins, Ella Russell-Jones & Isla Paterson and Phoebe Monks & Lilian Kemp pairing up. The girls all performed brilliantly and again have shown such a great deal of improvement since the last event they took part in. The competition was strong with County red players in attendance for Granville & Walthamstow Hall- but our girls battled hard and two of the three pairs managed to

qualify for the quarter-finals losing out in close fought matches.

I'm extremely proud of all of the Amherst players who were a real credit to the school and conducted themselves brilliantly throughout. I look forward to preparing them for the events in the summer at Bromley!



### Tag Rugby

Congratulations to Vivien R who was part of the Sevenoaks RFC U13's girls' team that became Kent Champions this week.



### Name the Koala Competition

Well done to the following children who helped arrange the recent competition: Rose P, Edie A, Daisy R, Leo G, Max R, Liliya D, Ed C and Jack B. £120.88 was raised which will be sent to the RSPCA Australia Bushfire fund.

## MUSIC

### 'Musical Showcase' Assembly

Following on from our trial last term, we would like to once again offer children the chance to perform a piece on their instrument in front of the school on **Thursday 27th February** in assembly. This will be a relaxed way to perform in front of a large audience, is open to all years and may particularly suit those with upcoming graded exams, to whom preference will be given. Our flute teacher Mrs Henderson will be on hand to accompany any instrumentalists, given that she has the piano music ahead of time. If interested, please speak to Mr Clarke or email the office.

### Amherst Music Concert

The Amherst Music Concert will take place on **Tuesday 24th March at 6.00pm**. This annual concert will include all children in the Amherst, Training and Boys Choirs, School Orchestra, Drumming Club, Flute Choir, Glockenspiel Club, Recorder Club and individual instrumentalists chosen by the music teachers.

## Music Lessons

Music lessons are available for many instruments at Amherst.

The tutors currently teaching at Amherst are –

Clarinet	Andrew Harper	07912 304 256	<a href="mailto:andrewharper44@hotmail.com">andrewharper44@hotmail.com</a>
Cello	Catherine Brooker		<a href="mailto:catherinebrooker@ymail.com">catherinebrooker@ymail.com</a>
Violin	Jo Kiely	01732 465743	<a href="mailto:joanna.kiely@btinternet.com">joanna.kiely@btinternet.com</a>
Violin/Viola/Flute	Penny da Silva	07763 204109	<a href="mailto:pennydasilva@hotmail.co.uk">pennydasilva@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Flute/Fife/Recorder/Piano	Mark Underwood	07985 563063	<a href="mailto:mcunderwood@me.com">mcunderwood@me.com</a>
Flute/Recorder	Philippa Henderson	07525 836419	<a href="mailto:philippahenderson@gmail.com">philippahenderson@gmail.com</a>
Drums	Billy Cunningham	07751 881706	<a href="mailto:billyisondrums@gmail.com">billyisondrums@gmail.com</a>
Guitar	Tom Murray		<a href="mailto:tomrmurray@hotmail.co.uk">tomrmurray@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Singing	Wendy Chown	07785 968647	<a href="mailto:wendychown@outlook.com">wendychown@outlook.com</a>
Piano	Connie Brooks	01622691212	<a href="mailto:customerservices@kent-music.com">customerservices@kent-music.com</a>
Piano	Simon Proctor	01622691212	<a href="mailto:customerservices@kent-music.com">customerservices@kent-music.com</a>
Brass	Ian Fasham		<a href="mailto:ian@littleturret.co.uk">ian@littleturret.co.uk</a>
Piano/Oboe	Sarah Harper	07501 332102	<a href="mailto:sarahlucyharper@yahoo.com">sarahlucyharper@yahoo.com</a>

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](http://www.saundersmusic.co.uk).

## PTA News

**.....and hello February!**

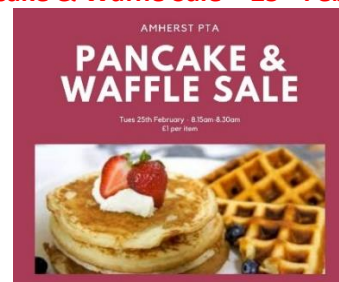
*The days are getting longer, the snowdrops are peeking through, Spring is almost here but more importantly, tonight is QUIZ NIGHT!!* 147 of you will be stepping up to the plate, enjoying a wonderful evening with friends and showcasing your general knowledge. From the PTA Team, we wish you the most enjoyable evening!

**We have loads of exciting stuff coming up, here are the headlines – full details will be emailed to you soon:**

**Valentines Chocolate Raffle – 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February**



**Pancake & Waffle Sale – 25<sup>th</sup> February**



**Photography Competition – 10<sup>th</sup>Feb-31<sup>st</sup> March**



**Disco – 6<sup>th</sup> March**



**Follow us on social media:**

[@EventsPTA](https://twitter.com/EventsPTA) [@amherstptaevents](https://www.instagram.com/amherstptaevents)



## \*\*\*INCLUSION NEWS February 2020\*\*\*

### RAPID READERS BOOKS PLEASE

If your child borrows 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. There should be two or three of each. At the moment there is mostly one of each and *no* numbers **12, 17, 20 or 24**. I won't mind if they are lurking in a bag – I just need them for other children 😊

### TIMES TABLES HELP

It's always hard embedding times tables. This little book, by J.Wilson is getting rave reviews from parents and teachers. Worth a try. I have 2 copies in my office if you want to have a look.



There's also the Squeebles app for tables on the go/in the car



### CLICKER 7 – for free

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](mailto:helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk) and I will send you a unique log-in and password.

### 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](mailto:helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk)).



We've recently received a thank you from the Royal British Legion as we managed to raise £103.60. Thank you to those who supported the appeal last term!

## School Vacancies

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

**Teaching Assistant** <https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=77797>

## 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!

## 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](http://www.millfieldprep.com)

**Sackville School** – open mornings, 8/2, 5/3. Yr5 taster 25/3. For more info please see website [www.sackvilleschool.com](http://www.sackvilleschool.com)

**Walthamstow Hall** – open morning, 12/3. Please see website for more details [www.walthamstow-hall.co.uk](http://www.walthamstow-hall.co.uk)



## Events in the Local Community

You are invited to the  
**Hospices Of Hope**

# Bagpuss Appeal Launch Party

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020

With special guests, Emily Firmin who starred in the original Bagpuss TV series, and Dan Postgate in attendance...

An exciting new appeal to fund the Bagpuss Wing for children with rare or life-limiting illness at Hospice Casa Speranzei.

Free entrance and drinks reception | Vine Baptist Church, Park Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3UP | 7pm - 9.30pm

Please register for the event online or via the QR code below



 For more information and to register visit [hospicesofhope.co.uk/event/bagpuss-launch-sevenoaks](https://www.hospicesofhope.co.uk/event/bagpuss-launch-sevenoaks)  
 @hospicesofhope



Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir  
with Amherst School Choir  
conducted by Robyn Sevastos

## Music for a Spring Evening

**Rutter: Gloria**  
**Lambert: Rio Grande**  
**Chilcott: Little Jazz Mass**  
**Brahms: Liebeslieder Waltzes**

7.30pm  
Sunday  
29 March

Pamoja Hall,  
Sevenoaks School

Tickets £14; £13 over 60s; £5 students and U21  
available from choir members,  
at [www.sevenoaks-philharmonic.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaks-philharmonic.org.uk)  
01732 467765  
or on the door (subject to availability)

Registered Charity No 263930

Tickets for the above concert can be bought on-line but Pamoja Box Office have no 'Print at Home' facility. Tickets can be posted for an extra 60p. People buying tickets on the night might have to cope with a lengthy queue. Previous concerts have had to start late because of this so please make every effort to buy your tickets in advance either on-line or at the Box Office, which is open from 1pm – 2pm Monday to Friday.

## Sevenoaks Junior Hockey Half Term Camps

Please see below dates and links for information regarding their half term clubs:

Thursday 20th February - Junior Skills Masterclass 09:30 - 12:30 (Years 4 - 7) <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sevenoaks-hockey-club-half-term-junior-skills-masterclass-february-tickets-89482545703>

Thursday 20th February - Senior Skills Masterclass 13:30 - 16:30 (Years 8 - 11) <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sevenoaks-hockey-club-half-term-senior-skills-masterclass-february-tickets-89483193641>

Friday 21st February - General Camp Years 4 - 11 all day 10:00 - 15:00 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sevenoaks-hockey-club-half-term-hockey-camp-february-tickets-89483719>

**Sevenoaks Hockey Club**

Half Term Holiday Camp at Hollybush

- Year 4 – Year 11
- General Camp & Skills Masterclasses
- Thur 20<sup>th</sup> & Fri 21<sup>st</sup> February
- Beginners through to County Level +
- Information and online booking at <http://sjhc.eventbrite.co.uk>







## FEAST - MENU

### FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

TONBRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH  
MONDAY 17TH FEB @ 1PM  
CHICKEN CASSEROLE  
ICE CREAM & FRUIT SALAD

TONBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH  
TUESDAY 18TH FEB @ 1PM  
PASTA & MEATBALLS  
CHOCOLATE SPONGE PUDDING

CHRIST CHURCH TONBRIDGE  
WEDNESDAY 19TH FEB @ 1PM  
PIZZA & SALAD  
ICE CREAM & FRUIT SALAD

ST JOHNS URC SEVENOAKS  
THURSDAY 20TH FEB @ 12PM  
BURGER & CHIPS  
FRUIT CRUMBLE & CUSTARD

ST PHILIPS TONBRIDGE  
FRIDAY 21ST FEB @ 1PM  
SAUSAGES & MASH  
JELLY & FRESH FRUIT

OTFORD METHODIST CHURCH  
SATURDAY 22ND FEB @ 1PM  
PORK ROAST WITH CRACKLING  
ROAST POTATOES & VEG  
SPONGE PUDDING & CREAM

Free For Families | Booking Required

F.E.A.S.T

[www.feast.org.uk](http://www.feast.org.uk)

## Events in the Local Community



### Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club

Their open day will be this Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 10am-4pm. Bowls and guidance provided. Free coaching and bowling for four weeks. Social programme/bar/rooms for hire/delicious Sunday carveries. They are always looking for new members so why not pop along and give bowls a try!

The club also runs a youth group every Sunday 10am-12pm. Open to all. Learn to play bowls, it's fun and it's free! For more info contact [www.sevenoaksindoorbowls.co.uk](http://www.sevenoaksindoorbowls.co.uk)

### Term Dates 2020

<b>TERM 3</b>		
<b>FINISH:</b>	Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>TERM 4</b>		
<b>START:</b>	Monday	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>FINISH:</b>	Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020
<b>TERM 5</b>		
<b>START:</b>	Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
<b>BANK HOL:</b>	Friday	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
<b>FINISH:</b>	Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2020
<b>TERM 6</b>		
<b>Staff Inset:</b>	Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020
<b>START:</b>	Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020
<b>FINISH:</b>	Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2020
<b>Staff Inset:</b>	Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020

### Term Dates 2020/2021

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