



AMHERST NEWS



News No. 20 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

14th February 2020

Star of the Week

3A	Joe S	5B	Madi S
3W	Joshua J	5H	Finn S
3S	Sofia C	5J	Edie A
4W	Maria G	6A	Toby B-H
4SF	Joelle Lily-Ann P	6P	Rudy W
4C	Ava T	6B	Eva G



Forthcoming Events

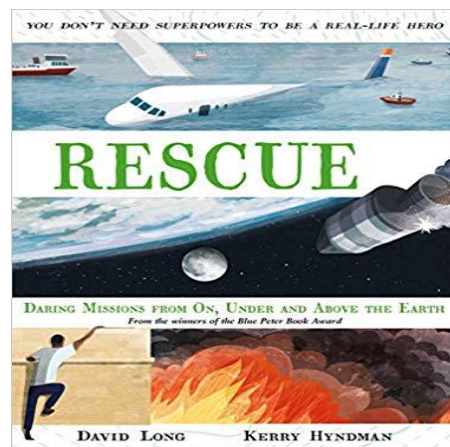
25.02.20	PTA Pancake Breakfast
25.02.20	Year 3 Roman Day
27.02.20	Year 3 Roman Day
28.02.20	Year 3 Roman Day
04.03.20	Y6 Parliament Trip
04.03.20	Jeremy Strong visiting school
06.03.20	PTA School Disco
17.03.20	History Troupe Assembly
19.03.20	Year 5 'The Highwayman' visit
20.03.20	Clubs Finish
24.03.20	Amherst Music Festival
24.03.20	PTA Cake and 2 nd 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

We hope you all have a good half term break. Reminder that the children return to school on Monday 24th February.

Online Safety

Reminder to please read the previous letter this week from Mr Reid regarding online safety. The letter contained some excellent links to provide support in parenting this difficult area. There is a designated page on our website that is full of useful resources and links.

<https://www.amherst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=32>



Rescue by David Long and Kerry Hyndman

I am pleased to be able to announce that our next whole school book project will be Rescue. This is by the same author of Heroes and Survivors. It is an exciting and inspiring book containing accounts of real life rescues. The project begins after half term and will last for 2-3 weeks. The purpose of the project is to generate a love of learning and high quality writing and artwork. Please feel free to purchase a copy over half term to share with your child. It will provide many good bedtime stories!

Young Voices Choir at O2

Last Wednesday (5th), Year 6 joined thousands of other children to perform at the O2 as part of the Young Voices Choir. It was an amazing evening and the children's hard work learning all the songs definitely paid off. The children have the opportunity to sing with various stars including Tony Hadley and The Shires. They also had a dance workshop delivered by Urban Strides which they thoroughly enjoyed. We hope those parents who came along to watch enjoyed it as much as we did!

Miss Parish



SPORT

English Schools Table Tennis Association Under 11's Team Events – report by Janet Field

Excellent Performance from Amherst's Girls



The School's Under 11's Girls' team consisting of Lois M, Connie C, Alice M and Olivia W competed at the English Schools TTA Southern Region finals held on 8th February at the Bristol Academy of Sport. This covers the whole of southern England from Kent to Cornwall and Worcester to Wiltshire.

They were in a group of 4 with the winners of Groups 6 and 8 Fox Primary (Kensington & Chelsea) and Enmore CE Academy, Devon respectively and the Runners Up of Zone 5 Blackminster Middle School, Worcestershire.

The girls were fortunate not to have to play the strong favourites, Fox first, and played Enmore whom they beat 5-3 in a very close and keenly contested match after a nervous start. They tackled Blackminster with more confidence and won comfortably 8-0. Playing Fox in their third match was effectively the final. Fox have been together as a team for three years with twice weekly coaching from an international player and it showed. Three of the Amherst girls only began playing in October but they listened to their own coaches and improved as they went along. It was an outstanding performance even to reach the Southern Region finals after such a short time together as a team, let alone win two matches out of three. This places the girls in the top eight nationally, which is an amazing achievement.

Janet Field

MUSIC

Orchestra Afternoon

Our two Orchestra Afternoons this term will be **Thursday 27th February** and **Tuesday 17th March** during the school day, leading up to a performance in the Amherst Music concert on Tuesday 24th March at 6.00pm. Please remember to bring your instrument on those days! Any child who is Grade 1 or above on an instrument is

welcome to play in the orchestra. Please let Mr Clarke know if you would like to sign up.

Green School Awards

The Amherst Choir travelled to Ashford International Hotel this week to perform at the Green School Awards and to collect their prize for winning the KM Charity's 'Walk to School Contest'. The children sang our version of *Walking on Sunshine* ('Walking to Amherst') as well as *True Colours*.



'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

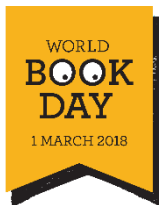
The Amherst Music Concert will take place on **Tuesday 24th March at 6.00pm**. This annual concert will include all children in the Amherst, Training and Boys Choirs, School Orchestra, Drumming Club, Flute Choir, Glockenspiel Club, Recorder Club and individual instrumentalists chosen by the music teachers.

World Book Day 2020 at Amherst – Thursday 5th March

Once again, the children are able to come into school on World Book Day dressed up as a book character for the day. There will be prizes for the best costumes – one boy and one girl from each class. However, please do not feel pressured for costumes to be too elaborate. We would like everyone to enjoy taking part in celebrating books and have fun!

Book tokens will also be handed out at the end of the school day to every child. Further details are online at <http://www.worldbookday.com/>

Thank you for your continued support. Happy Reading!
Miss Apps and Miss Holland



PTA News

Heads or Tails...

Sorry, quiz night in-joke!

Thanks to all who came – we hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did! We are sure there were some sore heads the next morning.... And that's just from all the singing! As well as being a truly great evening, the quiz raised £2,750 so thank you for coming and to Neil and Leah Smith for organising!

Pancake & Waffle Sale – 25th February



Photography Competition – 10thFeb-31st March



Disco – 6th March



Golf Day & Dinner – 1st May



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.

Follow us on social media:

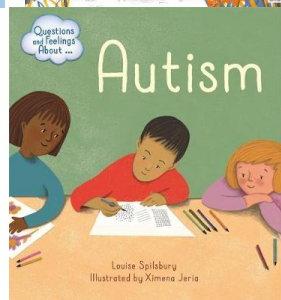
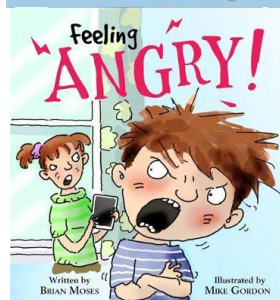
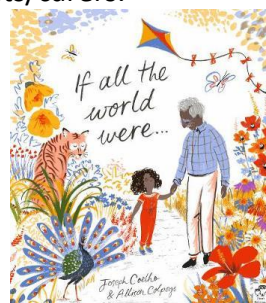
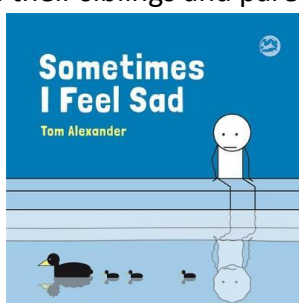
[@EventsPTA](https://twitter.com/EventsPTA) [@amherstptaevents](https://www.instagram.com/amherstptaevents)



INCLUSION NEWS Half Term 2020

BRILLIANT BOOKLIST FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

If you are looking for books to support your child's wellbeing, here is a fantastic list of 33 books – chosen by children and parents - categorised according to need. The booklist is mainly focused on children in Key Stage 2 (aged 7-11), but includes titles aimed at a wide range of reading levels to support less confident readers, and to encourage children to read together with their siblings and parents/carers.



The six topics addressed by the range of books are: **Healthy minds / Worries / Feelings / The World around you / Dealing with tough times / When you have a condition.** Just go to <https://reading-well.org.uk/children>

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 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.

*Have a lovely half term break! Helen Holmes,
Inclusion Manager
(helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.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!

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

Walthamstow Hall – open morning, 12/3. 10-12pm. Please see website for more details and to book places www.walthamstow-hall.co.uk

Events in the Local Community

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 20th & Fri 21st February
- Beginners through to County Level +
- Information and online booking at <http://sjhc.eventbrite.co.uk>



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
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.

LIGHTNING DANCE FOR KIDS

EVERY SUNDAY 1PM-2PM (SCHOOL YEAR 3+)
WALTHAMSTOW HALL SENIOR SCHOOL
HQLIGHTNING@GMAIL.COM

EMAIL US FOR A FREE TRIAL

£10
FOR 1 HOUR

WWW.LIGHTNINGGYMNASTICS.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

Events in the Local Community- contd



Term Dates 2020

TERM 4

START: Monday 24th February 2020
FINISH: Wednesday 1st April 2020

TERM 5

START: Thursday 16th April 2020
BANK HOL: Friday 8th May 2020
FINISH: Friday 22nd May 2020

TERM 6

Staff Inset: Monday 1st June 2020
START: Tuesday 2nd June 2020
FINISH: Tuesday 21st July 2020
Staff Inset: Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Term Dates 2020/2021

TERM 1

Staff Inset: Tuesday 1st September 2020
START: Wednesday 2nd September 2020
FINISH: Thursday 22nd October 2020
Staff Inset: Friday 23rd October 2020

TERM 2

START: Monday 2nd November 2020
FINISH: Friday 18th December 2020

TERM 3

Staff Inset: Monday 4th January 2021
Staff Inset: Tuesday 5th 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 7th June 2021
START: Tuesday 8th June 2021
FINISH: Wednesday 21st July 2021