



AMHERST NEWS



News No. 21 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk

01732 452577

28th February 2020

Star of the Week

3A	Georgia C	5B	Robert T
3W	Joshua M	5H	Sharon O
3S	Alex F	5J	Jaden W
4W	Jacob J	6A	Daniel Q-H
4SF	Jonathan B	6P	Amy J-H
4C	Lilly M	6B	Harry W



Forthcoming Events

04.03.20	Y6 Parliament Trip
04.03.20	Jeremy Strong visiting school
05.03.20	World Book Day
06.03.20	PTA School Disco
17.03.20	History Troupe Assembly
18.03.20	Year 4 Science Museum
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
23.5.20	Year 5 'Holes' Show
24.05.20	PTA Movie Night
01.05.20	Year 5 British Museum Trip
01.05.20	PTA Golf Day
07.05.20	PTA Cake Sale
08.05.20	Bank Holiday Friday

Parking Complaints

We have again been having complaints from local residents about inconsiderate parking. Please would parents park responsibly in the roads surrounding our school and ONLY park where permitted.



No parking

Jeremy Strong books are available for purchase on www.schoolgateway.com till Monday evening 2nd March 2020. Children will be handed the books on Wednesday ready for the book signing session by Jeremy.



School Grounds Opening time

We would like to remind parents that staff are not on duty on the playground until **8.30am**. Parents should therefore not bring their children to school before this time unless they are attending a school club.

Philatelists Required! (A lover of stamps)

Is there a stamp collector in our school community that could provide us with some advice? The office would love to hear from you on 01732 452577.



MUSIC

Choral Afternoon at Sevenoaks School



The Amherst Choir took part in a workshop at Sevenoaks School this week, singing *In Paradisum* from Fauré's Requiem and the premiere of a new work by Head of Music Chris Dyer, *Don't Steal Our Future*. Well done to the children and thank you to Sevenoaks School for organising this event.

Musical Showcase Assembly



Well done to the 11 children who took part in our assembly on Thursday, performing confidently in front of the school on their chosen instruments. The children played a variety of pieces, from Mozart to Coldplay, and all introduced their pieces brilliantly.

Orchestra Afternoon

Almost 40 children gathered in the hall on Thursday afternoon to launch this year's Amherst Orchestra. The children began work on pieces including *Ghostbusters* and Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* (this year being the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth), and the orchestra will be performing in our Amherst Music Concert on Tuesday 24th March at 6.00pm.

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.

Name the Koala Competition Update

The current total raised now stands at an amazing £260.88! Well done to those involved with the fundraising exercise, all monies raised which will go to the RSPCA Australia Bushfire fund.

SPORT

Kent Junior Chess Grand Prix

Last Sunday, the following Amherst players took part in the 5th tournament of the season: Tessa H, Aoife G, Noah T, Violet D, Lucas T, Ben H, Shabd L, Dylan R, Dylan D, Mick H, Emma G. Each player played 6 games winning points for themselves and Amherst in the Primary School league. We are currently 4th out of 39 schools in Kent (we are the top state school).

Well done in particular to Ben for winning 5/6 games, coming joint 2nd in the Under 9s, and being selected for the Kent U9 team and also to Tessa for being the top U11 girl and being selected for the Kent U11 team. The next GP is on Sunday 8th March. To enter please go to www.kjca.org/Event.

U11 Kent Girls' Chess

On Saturday 22nd February Tessa (6B), Violet (5B) and Aoife (6P) played for the U11 Kent Girls' Chess Team at a friendly county competition against Sussex and Wey Valley. All three girls scored very highly resulting in first place for the Kent team, winning by significant margin. Congratulations to the girls for playing so brilliantly and representing Kent in chess.

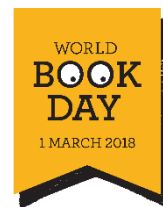


World Book Day 2020 at Amherst – Thursday 5th March

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



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
	billyisondrums@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!

PTA News

We Love Pancakes.....



..... and so do our children, if the pancake and waffle sale stampede was anything to go by!!!!

Thanks to our wonderful year 5 children who helped out, to the parents who cooked, tossed and sprinkled, and thanks to you all for joining us for our inaugural Pancake and Breakfast Sale which we can officially declare a success.....

Our monthly update came out earlier this week so for now, just a reminder of what is coming up – have a great week!

Photography Competition – 10thFeb-31st March



Disco – 6th March



Golf Day & Dinner – 1st May



Follow us on social media:

@EventsPTA

@amherstptaevents



INCLUSION NEWS Term 4 2020

FREE COURSE: ASD Introduction for parents

Course objectives:

- To develop an understanding of ASD
- To explore your child's ability to manage communication, interaction and sensory issues
- To support managing your child's behaviour

Course Dates:

Friday 5th June and Friday 19th June 2020 9.30am-12.00pm

Parents must be able to attend both days

Please let me know if you would like to attend – these courses fill up very quickly.

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.

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>

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. **Helen Holmes, Inclusion Manager** (helen.holmes@amherst.kent.sch.uk).

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

Radnor House – Yr 7 Taster Day – 24th June 8.30am-3pm. For more info and to register for the event contact www.radnor-sevenoaks.org/senior-school-taster-day

Events in the Local Community

Term Dates 2020

TERM 4

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