



AMHERST NEWS



News No. 22 www.amherst.kent.sch.uk 01732 452577 6th March 2020

Star of the Week



3A	Sophie B	5B	Lucas T
3W	Chloe B	5H	Mya B
3S	Ethan W	5J	Zoe H
4W	Oliver B	6A	Edward RH
4SF	Lexie G	6P	Ellen J
4C	Heidi S	6B	Gitte M

Message from the Department for Education - Coronavirus helpline

Today, we have launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Forthcoming Events

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)

Parents Evenings

Parents evenings will take place on **Wednesday 25th March from 3.40pm-8.00pm** and **Thursday 26th March from 3.40pm-6.30pm**.

The booking system opens on **Wednesday 18th March at 7:00pm**. Please login using <http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk/> and enter event the code **hwwwwn**.

Book Day Costume Winners

Congratulations to the following children who won prizes yesterday for their amazing Book Day costumes.



3A Edward H - [Billionaire Boy](#)/Amy C - [Lord Voldemort](#)
 3S Joe H - [Mrs Trunchbull](#), [Matilda](#)/Antonia M - [Pippi Longstocking](#)
 3W James R - [Mr Tumnus](#), [Narnia](#)/Aerin P - [Thing 1, The Cat in the Hat](#)
 4SF George B - [Baxter the Rhinoceros Beetle](#)/Eliza A - [The White Witch](#)
 4C Dominic W - [Fred, The Person Controller](#)/Ava T - [Ada Goth, Goth Girl](#)
 4W Oliver B - [Greg, Diary of a Wimpy Kid](#)/Isabella R - [Space Engineer](#)
 5H William M - [Gandalf](#)/Elizabeth S - [Queen of Hearts](#)
 5B Tom F - [The Peach, James & the Giant Peach](#)/Lily G - [Queen of Hearts](#)
 5J Ben H - [Peter Pan](#)/Zoe H - [Zaphod, Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy](#)
 6A James P - [Iorek Byrnison, His Dark Materials](#)/Georgia L - [The White Witch](#)
 6B Arthur P - [Mrs Doubtfire](#)/ Sofia VE - [Queen of Hearts](#)
 6P Callum D - [Skulduggery Pleasant](#)/Kaydie R - [Cheshire Cat](#)

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.

Sports Relief Fun Run

All are welcome to join us for the Sports Relief 'Fun Run' which will take place (weather permitting) on the school field at 8am on Thursday 12th March. Please bring a minimum £1 donation to take part.

Jeremy Strong Visit

'On Wednesday 4th March, all the children were given the opportunity to listen to Jeremy Strong's inspiring speech about his work as an author. He was humorous and we learnt a lot. As an example, students can now ask a teacher to put a fridge in the classroom to help with their writing! This was an amazing opportunity and will be remembered for a long time!'

Written by Edie G & Owen P



Also congratulations to Owen P (5H) who won the Jeremy Strong Prize Draw!

Crossing and Parking

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.



Also, as we no longer have a Lollypop person helping the children cross at Amherst School, we ask that you are extra vigilant of children crossing the road by the school, particularly near the end of the path and near the grass verges. Please try not to park in areas that will cause obstructions. Some of the high-sided vehicles make it extremely dangerous for children, as they cannot see the traffic and road clearly.

Music

North London Festival

The North London Festival of Music, Speech and Drama. Launched in 1920, it is London's longest running music festival.

The 2020 Festival will run from Monday 2nd March to Friday 3rd April and from Thursday 16th April to Monday 25th May.

Audience members and competitors both welcome for a wide range of music, speech and drama categories.

See website for details:

<http://www.northlondonfestival.org.uk>

Sport

National Primary Schools Chess Competition – Report by Helen Peters



On Saturday, four Amherst teams played in the first round of the NPSCC, against some of the strongest primary chess teams in Kent, to qualify for the Semi-finals at Camber Sands.

There were some incredible victories and a few hard fought draws; resilience and determination was shown by all 24 Amherst players.

The U11A team- Tessa, Violet, Aoife, Noah, James and Lucas- came 3rd out of 12 teams on 15.5/25 points.

The U11B team- Harry, George, Benjamin, Ryan, Nicholas

Sport - contd

and Oliver- came 7th on 11/25 points.

The U9A team- Ben, Dylan R, Daniel, Mick, Shabd and Dylan D- came 2nd out of 12 teams on 15/25 points.

The U9B team- Isaac, Edward, Rory, Toby, Ewan and Fred- came 9th on 10.5/25 points.

The U11As and the U9As were then presented with their medals by former British Champion Chris Ward GM.

Both A teams qualified for the Semi-finals, and both B teams were invited to enter the Plate competition also held at Camber Sands.

Congratulations to all the players for a wonderful day of chess. In addition, many thanks to all the parents who helped out managing the teams, catering, setting up boards, cleaning the team room and packing up equipment at the end.

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.

PTA News

Its partyyyyyyyyy time!!!!

Tonight is disco night and we are so excited!!! Expect some new moves from your little ones when they get home, after being instructed by the Dance Master! We hope all our children have a fabulous time!

This week, the PTA got together and chatted through our upcoming events – it's fair to say we have made sure that Spring and Summer 2020 will be one to remember at Amherst! Details and teasers for upcoming events below – more details to follow for those events which have not yet been formally released.

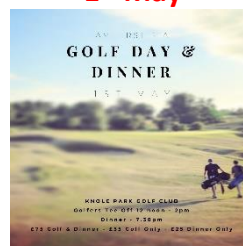
**Closing
31st March**



24th April



1st May



7th May



5th June



Follow us on social media:

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

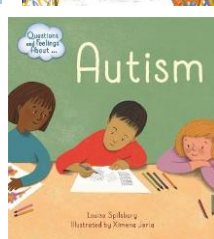
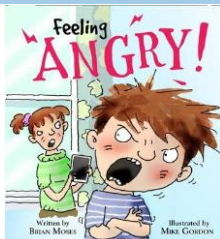
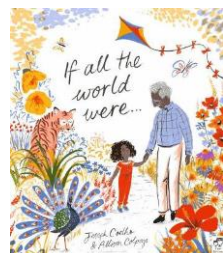
Please let me know if you would like to attend – these courses fill up very quickly.

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.

Sackville School – 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