



# AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 33

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## Message from Mr Reid

I hope you have all had a good week. I'm sure home schooling has continued to have its ups and downs. I think we are all **ready for a return to NORMALITY** as soon as possible!

Year 6 enjoyed a morning dance session on the field today in their social bubbles!



As we continue to review our remote learning provision an area that we have all (parents, children and staff) **identified that could be improved is video calls between teachers and children.**

From next week we would like to **begin trialling** using **Google Meets** within Google Classroom to facilitate a weekly small group meeting between children and their teacher. This would be conducted in groups of eight. The focus would be a PSHE session rather than direct teaching. More details to follow next week.



The New  
Google  
Hangouts  
Meet

Another benefit of trialling this before the summer holidays, is if in September we are still in the position of having some children at home (hopefully not) we would have an enhanced and improved home learning offer. A combination of video teaching tutorials and tasks set within Google Classroom alongside a weekly catch up session with their teacher.

**Even if the government confirm their ambition to have all children back in September we are preparing for both scenarios.** We already have staffing capacity to run our own catch programmes next academic year. A key point to remember is any catch up programme is about getting children to where they should have been in July 2021 not September 2020. For a catch up programme to be effective it needs to be run over many months.

I am aware that the **next four weeks are potentially a confusing time as a parent** due to local schools offering **different levels of provision.** I want to try and explain why we are starting to see that difference and the reasons behind it:

**A starting point for** all schools is the **DfE guidance** stating which year groups to open to and the protective measures that need to be in place. Schools were asked to provide a full time model. Key worker/vulnerable children, YR, Y1 and Y6 should be in all day every day if schools have the capacity. This guidance should enable consistency across schools but there are still other factors to take into account.



**Staffing capacity** - all schools have a wide difference in available staff due to health needs and shielding. I spoke to one local headteacher who only has 3/7 teachers available.

**Uptake** - this is the number of parents who take up the offer of provision. The average uptake in Kent for Year 6 is 32%. Locally in Sevenoaks the average is closer to 50%. Amherst Year 6 uptake is 93%. This has a huge impact on what else you can offer. If your uptake of YR, Y1 and Y6 (identified year groups by the government) is lower then you may have the capacity to take children from other year groups. I believe a reason Amherst's uptake is so high is because we have offered a full time model rather than part time provision.



SCHOOL

**Buildings** - the layout, design and age of each school is so different. Some are more conducive to others for implementing all the protective measures and hand-washing. We are fortunate at Amherst that are our Year 4, 5 and 6 classrooms all have external doors which can be used for entry and exit, each classroom has a sink within it and easy access to the field for outdoor learning and breaktimes.

**Private sector** - local private schools are in a position to take back all pupils as their system is based on half sized classes originally. This means they already have the staffing capacity and classrooms.

**Following DfE guidance** - as a school if you do have a confirmed case you immediately inform Public Health England. Your protective measures would come under scrutiny to decide if only a social bubble needs to be out of school for 14 days or the whole school needs to shut for 14 days. This highlights the importance of continuing to follow the guidance given.

In summary, you can see how complex the issue is and why we will end up with variance between schools.

# AMHERST PTA

Amherst Young Photographer of the Year competition – theme ‘Happiness’

**Last chance TODAY** – please click here to enter: [Amherst.competitions@gmail.com](mailto:Amherst.competitions@gmail.com)

## 3 things to get excited about!

Your PTA has been scratching its head, to come up with some ideas for events which are not just fun for our children, but will help maintain the sense of community and belonging to our school. And we think we have cracked it! So we are delighted to now confirm our final 3 events for this school year.

Our **first event will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> June** – Amherst goes camping!



..... tents and good weather not essential!!!! This is an evening where children (and parents!) can set up a camp anywhere in their homes and join class friends to sing campfire songs and enjoy something a little different together. We will confirm details of your respective class zoom call nearer the time.

To make this event special, we are asking that you also share your pictures of the evening on Instagram, tagging @amherstptaevents or email them to [amherst-marketing@outlook.com](mailto:amherst-marketing@outlook.com) and we will post them for you – we can't wait to see your pictures!

This is in place of District Sports this year!

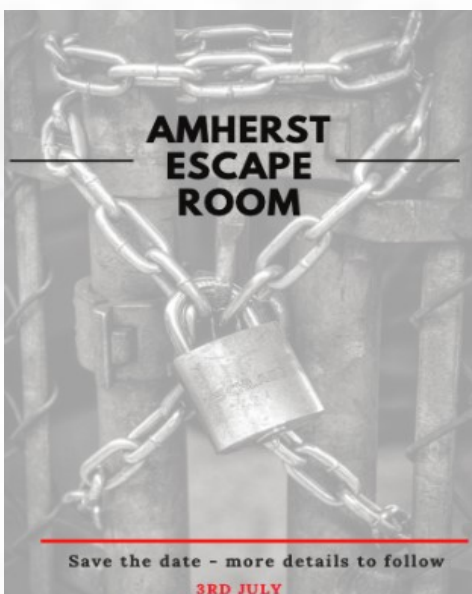
Please could as many of you enter as possible as Amherst are currently reigning champions and we would like to retain our **crown**!

## Minute to Win it!

- The whole family can take part each week
- Send the results to [Sportpartnership@knoleacademy.org](mailto:Sportpartnership@knoleacademy.org)
- Send your
  - \* Surname,
  - \* School and
  - \* Score.

## Week 2

- Skips in a Minute.
- Results are for one minute of skipping, you can practice everyday BUT its your best score of the week that you send in.
- Results must be: e.g. only.....Family Jones ( Amherst School) Child 1 = 45, Child 2 = 62, Adult 1 = 35 skips



**DISTRICT SPORTS LOCKDOWN**

**Minute to Win it**

**Week 1 : (15 June) - Walk or run. How many minutes of activity can you do?** 

**Week 2 : (22 June) - How many skips in a minute?** 

**Week 3 : (29 June) - Wheels— bike/scooter/ rollerboots. How many minutes of activity can you do?** 

**Week 4 : (6 July) - Around the world. Pass a ball around your waist ... how many times can you do it in a minute?** 

**The whole family can take part in this year's District Sports event!**  
**Results will be announced on 20 July 2020.**

**To enter: Send your surname, school name and results to:**  
[Sportpartnership@knoleacademy.org](mailto:Sportpartnership@knoleacademy.org),

**For more information, visit the Sports Partnership section of the Knole Academy website:**  
<https://www.knoleacademy.org/490/knole-sports-partnership-10>

**You can also follow us on our social media platforms:**  
 [knoleacademy](#)  [Knole Academy News](#)  [@KnoleAcademy](#)





# CHESS

Chess club on Lichess now has an amazing 53 members. If you haven't joined yet you're very welcome.

If you are a beginner and would like to learn and improve, work your way through the Chess Basics section under the 'Learn' tab (top left of screen). After that, click on the green 'Practise' section at the bottom - this will teach you some really useful tactics.

Our tournament on **Tuesday** was another exciting hour of Blitz chess. 17 players entered, some for whom it was their first tournament- well done to all of you.

**Congratulations** to **Tessa H in 1st place**, and **Lucas T and Ben H in 2nd and 3rd**.

Our next tournament is on **Tuesday 23rd June at 4-5pm**.

We are planning to hold **Amherst Club tournaments every week**, and the next **Primary Schools Battle** is in 2 weeks.

See [newsletter 31](#) on how to register for this club.

## SPORT CHALLENGES



### Hockey

Please **click on the icon** to visit the **Sevenoaks hockey club** site to find out about the hockey lockdown skills challenges!

*Everybody who enters will be invited to a taster session once hockey resumes, if you enter your e mail address into the form where you enter your scores.*



### Tennis

Please **click on the icon** to visit the **Sevenoaks tennis academy** website to find the challenges.

To enter, please email [tennisacademybookings@gmail.com](mailto:tennisacademybookings@gmail.com) with the following information :

*Participants initials, Year Group or Adult School Category - With Racket / non Racket or if you want to enter both it is not a problem!*



### Athletics

Please **click on the icon** to visit the **Sevenoaks Athletics Club** website to find the challenges.

*Instructions on what to do were emailed to parents earlier in the week.*

WE FINISHED TOP OF THE  
LEADERBOARD!

WELL DONE ALL

### Schools Leaderboard

School	Points
Amherst	167
Anthony Roper	87
Shoreham	23
Churchill	20
Guest	15
SAC	15

# FLUTE ASSEMBLY

Mrs Henderson held another flute and recorder concert on Friday afternoon for her pupils and members of Amherst flute choir that wanted to perform in a Zoom online concert. They had a surprise guest listener (Mr Clarke) who provided wonderful feedback to all of the performers individually. The children all played well and enjoyed listening to the other flautists and recorder players involved in the event.



## GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Due to the expansion of a second Key Worker class from Monday 22nd June, teachers will now be in school 2 1/2 days every week. Please be mindful that this will result in less comments/feedback on Google Classroom or a delay in the feedback when teachers are in school.



## THIS WEEK'S ASSEMBLY

Please click here to listen to **Mr Reid's assembly** of 15 June 2020.



## KENT TEST REGISTRATION

**Registration for the Kent Test** will proceed as normal between 1st June - 1st July. Please go to [KENT TEST REGISTRATION](#) to register you child for the Kent Test



## MAP ANSWERS

**Answers to last week's map challenge - Map 27**

The first family to reply with the most amount of correct answers was:

**First Place:** The Parker family (two weeks in a row!)

**Answers**

1. Six
2. Three stadiums and three arenas
3. River Lea or Lee
4. They all follow the word 'Olympic' in the name of a location
5. A. Biggerstaff Road; b. High Meads Junction; c. Temple Mills; d. Iceland R; e. Channelesea River; f. Major Road

# STAR OF THE WEEK



**3A — Johnny V**

Johnny is so pleased to be star of the week this week. He is really missing his friends and school but has settled in to home schooling well. Johnny has been enjoying riding his bike and climbing trees, but mostly helping his dad with the building work in the garden.



**3W — Joshua O**

Josh has been working hard on his maths and has made great progress with fractions, quadrilaterals and triangles. He continues to read and enjoys his English assignments. When he's not working, he likes to play with his younger brother Tom and has been learning how to program games on Roblox.



**3S — Ralph M**

Here is Ralph hard at work, designing his own book cover for his favourite book Fantastic Mr Fox and working on his own set of instructions for successfully growing cress seeds.



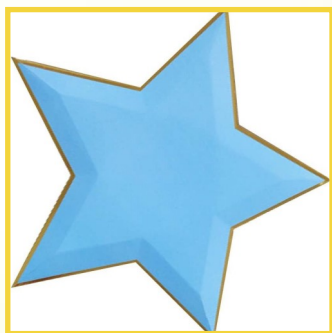
**4C — Dominic W**

This week aside from really enjoying all of the work on Varjak Paw, I have been working with the building team who are currently re-roofing my house and creating a new bedroom for me! I've even been on the roof with one of the roofers!



**4SF— Shabd L**

Shabd is enjoying reading Varjak Paw with his teachers. He is also keeping up with his piano lessons online. His recent interests are archery and badminton. He has developed a 'coding' game (through online workshops) which he is giving as a birthday present for his cousin in India who is turning 6 in two week's time.



**4W— Dejan B**

Dejan's been doing such a great job with his schoolwork and having lots of fun outside with his brother. He has perfected his flips on the trampoline, has clothed himself in plants and he carved a fantastic walking stick using a potato peeler :) He has been baking clay and edible items too!



**5B — Harry P**

Harry baked a lovely Victoria Sponge for one of our friends who has been very unwell. He has also been feeding and taking care of a poorly Fox who visits us each day.



**5H— Imogen D**

Imogen has adapted well to home schooling, but is missing her friends and school terribly. She has really enjoyed the Greek topic, in particular menu planning this week. Imogen has been baking and cycling a lot, as well as face timing family and friends. She was over the moon to be able to go riding again this week.



**5J— Elliot C**

Elliot has made so much effort with Maths this week, he is trying very hard despite finding some of the set items hard. His attitude has been positive and enthusiastic and he is really enjoying the subject of Ancient Greece. We're also squeezing in some home experiments- a lava lamp was a big hit!



**6A— Lucy B**

Lucy has not only been Star of the Week but also Star of lockdown! She has dealt with everything positively and pragmatically, and has used her extra free time creatively. She has baked bread, amazing cakes, mastered choux pastry, tie dyed, made jewellery and pottery, painted and has also (of course) made a lot of TikTok films! She is enjoying being back at school and seeing her friends again.



**6B— Jacob C**

Jacob was wonderful, looking after his baby cousin in the mornings even though he had to go to school.



**6P— Rory F**

Rory has had a great week. As well as still really enjoying being back at school he's been super busy with lots of things including finishing off a huge 'painting by numbers' tiger, exploring many (long!) walking routes around our new home and playing lots of football, Kubbs and trampolining in the garden. He's also been working hard on his MA and reading.



# MAP 17 — NOT THE HIGHEST BUT STILL TOPS

## Training for Mount Everest

It would be easy to centre a map on just Snowdon, but we’ve chosen to highlight the Llanberis Pass, between the mountain massifs of Snowdon and Glyderau, which features the popular Tryfan mountain. The hotel at the summit pass is now a youth hostel, and the Pen-y-Gwryd Hotel at the eastern end of the pass was the training base for the 1953 Everest expedition.

## Questions

### Easy

1. How many different English words appear in Gothic text on the map?
2. What is the greatest height labelled on the map with black text? And what is the lowest height in balck text?

### Medium

3. How many different tourist and leisure information markers (blue symbols) are there on the map?
4. Where on the map might you in some sense expect Lucifer’s food to be prepared?

### Tricky

5. What feature on the map connects Idwal, Teyrn, Glas and Llydaw?

### Challenging

6. Given that the scale of the map is 1:50 000, how far apart are the two stations as the crow flies, to the nearest 250 metres?

