



AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 3

In this edition:

1. Message from Mr Reid
2. Important this week!
3. Stars of the week / Music
4. PTA /In & Around Town

Message from Mr Reid

The children have completed another successful week at school. The new patterns and routines feel embedded and are becoming second nature.

I had the pleasure of teaching 4W this morning (I try and teach a different class every Friday) and I was so **impressed** how the children washed their hands and

followed the new routines unprompted. The children were keen to tell me the things they like about returning to school and some of the things they miss about home schooling. **Being with their friends** and **being able to work together** rather than in isolation was **top of the list**. Things that were missed, ranged from hot chocolate during the day to being taught by granny.

Amherst's Grand Design

I want to take this opportunity to remind you of our Grand Design Project. This was launched in November 2019. If you are not aware, this is a two phase building development project at Amherst.

Phase 1

To build a new multi purpose space that can accommodate our Breakfast Club and After School Club (currently in the school hall) and also be an additional teaching space during the day. This will cost approx. £200,000.

Phase 2

To replace the Year 3 classrooms which are in constant need of repair. This would be funded by a government grant combined with a substantial contribution from the school.

How much has been raised so far?

The good news is our amazing PTA have raised approx. £100,000 over the last two years and the school has managed to save approx. £50,000 through capital donations. This means we are only £50,000 short of our total. Thank you for your amazing support up to this point.

What happens next?

Surveys were completed during lockdown and we have now commissioned an architect to complete drawings and move to submitting them for planning permission. Our goal is to start building from approx. May 2021 and have the building completed for September 2021. This is ambitious but I believe achievable.

How can I help?

By supporting the PTA events to help raise the final £50,000 needed either financially, or through time and effort. If you do help organise or run a virtual event please check with your employer if there is an opportunity to access matched funding. Last year matched funding generated approx. £26,000!

If you would like to make a capital donation please see the school fund letter which will be sent home next week.

Please view a short video update regarding Grand Designs—click on the image below.



Important THIS week!

REPORT ABSENCES

THANK YOU for reporting **ALL ABSENCES** via our website before 09.00am in the morning.

Click on the link and complete the quick form—no need to email anymore:

[Daily Absence Form](#)



YEAR 6 SECONDARY APPLICATION meeting

Mr Reid is hosting a Secondary Application Meeting for Year 6 parents via Zoom on:



@ 8.00pm

PARENT TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS

Year 6:

Monday 28/09

Tuesday 29/09

Year 5:

Wednesday 30/09

Thursday 01/10

Year 4:

Monday 05/10

Tuesday 06/10

Year 3:

Wednesday 07/10

Thursday 08/10

Bookings open at 7.00pm on Monday 21/09 and close at 4.30pm on Thursday 24/09.

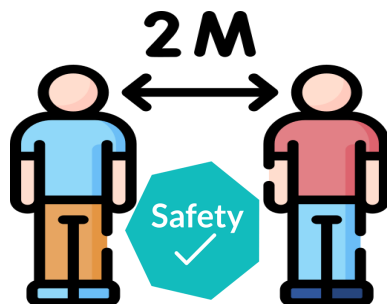


Please book a 10 minute meeting via

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

SOCIAL DISTANCE

It is still of the UTMOST importance to please remember to keep your social distance when collecting children and dropping them off in the morning.



TERM DATES

For all term dates click [here](#)

Subscribe to the our school calendar [here](#)



VACANCIES

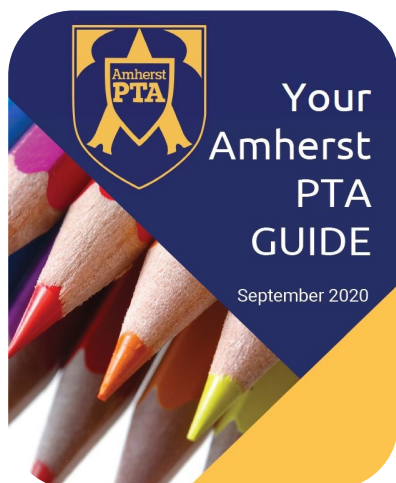
We are looking to fill the following vacancies — please click on the links below to see the job description or to apply:

[Breakfast Club Assistant](#)

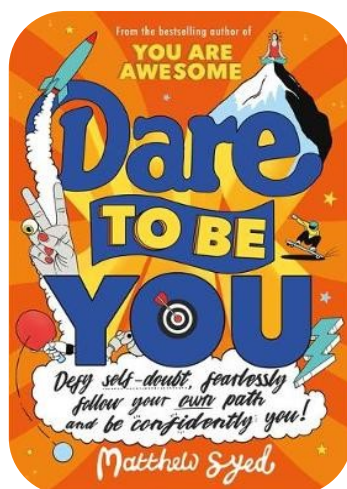
[Midday Meals Supervisor](#)



YOUR PTA GUIDE



BOOK SUGGESTION



STARS OF THE WEEK

THIS WEEK

3A	Lyla-Rose H
3S	Mia L
3W	Freddie B
4C	Caitlin J
4SF	Luca H
4W	Lizzy O-G

5A	Alex E
5B	Isla C
5J	Joseph H
6B	Connie C
6D	Teddy L
6P	Ben H

LAST WEEK

3A	Jessica M
3S	Gus W
3W	Sophie F
4C	Joe S
4SF	Alexander F
4W	Evie T

5A	Aneesha V
5B	Tommy J
5J	Rachel B
6B	Edie A
6D	Sophie I
6P	George H

MUSIC

Please find a **list of our music teachers** on the school's website—click [here](#)

Brass Teacher

Ian Fasham has been busy in recent weeks, performing in soundtrack session recordings for Kenneth Branagh's film *Death on the Nile* as well as the upcoming seasonal film *A Boy Called Christmas*. He can also be heard playing on the soundtrack for Disney's adaptation of *Artemis Fowl*. Mr Fasham teaches trumpet, trombone, euphonium and other brass instruments. If your child would like to sign up for lessons, he may be contacted at ian@littleturret.co.uk.



New Music Teacher

We are delighted to welcome singing teacher **Eleanor Janes** to Amherst. Eleanor (BMus, MMus) is a soprano who regularly performs in the UK and abroad. She was awarded a Distinction for her Masters of Music degree from Trinity Laban Conservatoire and has performed with various leading orchestras, opera companies and on national radio. She should be contacted directly to arrange lessons at eleanor.janes@hotmail.co.uk.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ava Terry achieved a high merit for her grade 4 drum exam and a distinction for her grade 4 electric guitar exam. Well done Ava!!



AMHERST CHESS CLUB

Welcome to a new school year everyone!

We have an online chess club, open to all pupils, on LICHESS.ORG. We will hold weekly tournaments on Tuesdays at 4.30pm for Amherst pupils only, and occasionally enter inter-school tournaments against other Kent schools. The first tournament is Tuesday 22nd Sept- see Tournaments on the Amherst team page.

To join the club, please do the following:

- 1) If you don't already have an account, go to www.lichess.org and create an account for your child at the website. To do this, you will need to click on the Register button. You will choose a username for your child (please note a username can't be changed once chosen).
- 2) Once you have created a Lichess account, please join the team 'Amherst School'. Go to the link <https://lichess.org/team/amherst-school> and click 'Join Team'. In the message box, you will see the words, 'Hello, I would like the join the team'. Within the message box, it's vital to add the pupil's name and class to confirm he or she is a pupil at the school, as we can only approve membership with this information (a checkmate puzzle also has to be solved!).

Lichess.org has an excellent section for learning skills and also contains thousands of exercises for all levels, from beginner to expert. Lichess is fairly easy to use, but if you're new to the site it's worth spending a little bit of time navigating it.

- When joining, please read through the Terms of Service.
- There is also some useful information at the FAQ page.

The UK Chess Challenge also runs an all ability online chess club at: <https://www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com/>



PTA NEWS

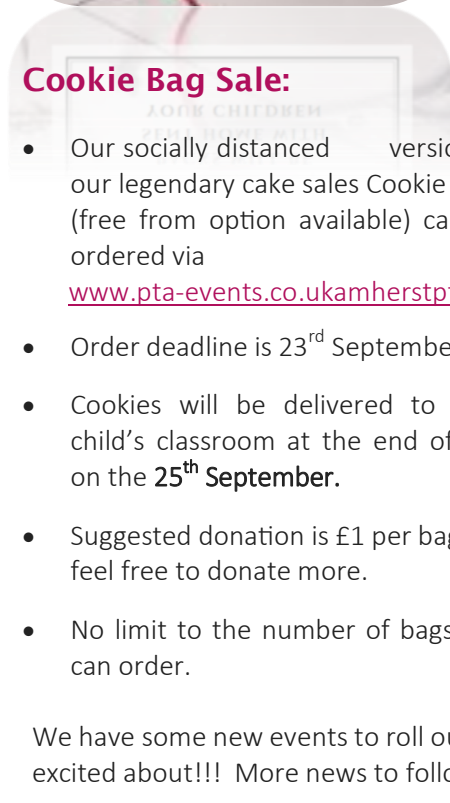
Thanks so much for your patience whilst we figured out how we can continue with events whilst also keeping everyone safe... we are really pleased that we have been able to adapt some oldies but also introduce some newies which we are sure you and your children will love!!!!

This week, we are excited to launch 3 events as follows (and sorry to be mentioning Christmas so early!):



Xmas4Schools Art Project:

- An opportunity for your children to design Christmas cards and gifts.
- Further information will be emailed to you and your children will bring home the project pack.
- Orders to be placed on www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta
- Submission deadline is **21st October**.



Cookie Bag Sale:

- Our socially distanced version of our legendary cake sales Cookie bags (free from option available) can be ordered via www.pta-events.co.ukamherstpta
- Order deadline is 23rd September
- Cookies will be delivered to your child's classroom at the end of day on the **25th September**.
- Suggested donation is £1 per bag but feel free to donate more.
- No limit to the number of bags you can order.

We have some new events to roll out over the next couple of weeks which we are so excited about!!! More news to follow – have a wonderful weekend!

IN & AROUND Sevenoaks

Please click on the images for more information on the following clubs.

