



# AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 5

## Message from Mr Reid

Having now completed September, it is a chance to **reflect and review** how the first month has gone since we returned to school.

We listed **eleven objectives** in my letter on 28th August detailing what we wished to achieve when school reopened. I am delighted to be able to inform you that all are being achieved.

11

After **adhering to government guidance** a key priority was to **provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is logistically practical, deliverable and sustainable**. I approached all our new systems and procedures with a twelve month mindset to ensure everything that was introduced could last all year if needed.

It has been wonderful see teachers and TAs adapting and finding new ways to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum within the restrictions.

- Sports coaches have returned for outdoor sport and I am pleased that all children are being given the opportunity to continue to receive high quality coaching.
- Indoor curling has become a new element of the PE curriculum and has been very well received by all the children.
- It has been lovely to hear music being played in the school once more with the return of peripatetic music teachers. We are still restricted in many areas of music such as Amherst Choir and singing but hopefully that will change in the future.

**In this edition:**

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



I have been so proud of the **kitchen and midday teams** who have adapted to the increased demands of the new service and lunchtime routines. It is vital the children and staff have a change of scene at lunchtime so I am pleased we made the decision to have lunch in the hall and the children continuing to receive a high quality cooked lunch.

A concern was how children would adjust **mentally and emotionally** to being back in school. I have to say the children have been amazing! They have relished the return to school. The enjoyment and appreciation of being taught by their teachers and in the company of their peers has been clear.

**Breakfast and After School Clubs** have adapted superbly to being in the hall. Thank you to the staff who have worked so hard to make that possible.

We have spent time in September **assessing** the children's understanding in English and maths. This will now inform the structure of our catch up programme. We are well placed to deliver a meaningful and high impact programme due to having Mrs Carver (Mon - Wed) and Miss Huntley (Thurs - Fri) available to lead and teach this area.

Finally, I hope the **telephone consultations** are proving to be useful. I'm aware they are no substitute for a face to face meeting. One element that is missing however is the showing of our annual film celebrating our achievements of 2019-20. There was much to be proud of last year, before and after school closure. Please click on the link to view.



Year 3 Roman Day  
**Celebration of Achievements 2019-20**

# Important Dates!

## BAGUETTE & PASTA

7 October 2020

Please note that several of our kitchen staff are attending a funeral after a bereavement in the family of one of our staff members.

Due to this we will only be able to serve **pasta & baguettes** on Wednesday 7 October 2020. On Monday morning teachers will be asking your child to indicate their preference.

Thank you for your understanding.



## PARENT TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS

Year 4:

Monday 05/10

Tuesday 06/10

Year 3:

Wednesday 07/10

Thursday 08/10



## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs will be taken on Thursday, 8th October 2020.

Winter Uniform will be needed.

More information to follow on Monday



## GREAT AMHERST BALLOON RACE

The deadline for booking your child's balloon is the 3rd October 2020.

For booking, please click on:

[BOOK MY BALLOON](#)



## FLU IMMUNISATION

9 December 2020

A letter will be sent home 28 days before this date.

Parents will be required to give consent to online in order for their child to have this vaccine.



## 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](#)



# STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to all our stars of this week!

3A Florence H

3S Felicity B

3W Sammie C

4C Ruairi B

4SF Harry H

4W Rufus D

5A Poppy-Grace D L

5B Steffan du T

5J Carla F

6B Abi K

6D Ben H

6P Harry P & Lilly G

## MUSIC

Please see the list of our music teachers below:

Bass	Ian Fasham	07885620441	ian@littleturret.co.uk
Cello	Catherine Brooker		catherinebrooker@ymail.com
Clarinet / Saxophone	Andrew Harper	07912304256	andrewharper44@hotmail.com
Drums	Billy Cunningham	07751881706	billy@sevenoaksdrumschool.com
Flute / Recorder	Philippa Henderson	07525836419	Philippalhenderson@gmail.com
flute / Recorder / Piano	Mark Underwood	07985563063	mcunderwood@icloud.com
Guitar	Tom Murray		tomrmurray@hotmail.co.uk
Piano/Oboe	Sarah Harper	07501332102	sarahlucyharper@yahoo.com
Piano	Connie Brooks	01622691212	customerservices@kent-music.com
Piano	Simon Proctor	01622691212	customerservices@kent-music.com
Singing	Eleanor Janes		eleanor.janes@hotmail.co.uk
Violin	Jo Kiely	07502333844	joanna.kiely@btinternet.com
Violin/Viola/Flute	Penny da Silva		pennydasilva@hotmail.com

## AMHERST CHESS CLUB

This week's tournament saw three of our new Year 3 recruits diving in and happily they all scored at least a draw- many congratulations to Cagan Y, Gabriel D and Phoebe D.

The tournament was won by Ben H, with Mick H and Dylan D second and third, and respectable mid-table positions were achieved by Poppy -Grace and Harry D.

Our next tournament is on Tuesday at 4.30. Please join if you would like to give it a try, you can always play a couple of games and then 'Pause' if you've had enough.

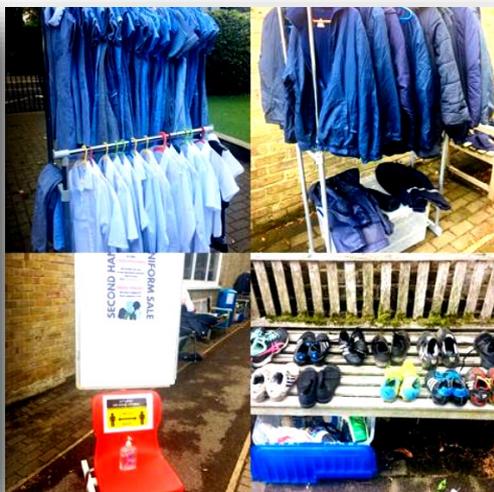
I'm aware of some chess players who have clashes with other activities on Tuesdays - please leave a message on the Amherst lichess 'Chat' if you would like a tournament at a different day/time- they are easy to set up.



# PTA NEWS

What a busy old week it has been!

**Last Friday we ran our cookie bag sale** – our first socially distanced event. **Class 3A** did such a tremendous job; sourcing, packaging and distributing a whopping 485 cookies in a bag deliveries so a huge thank you to both the cookie sales team and also to everyone who both purchased and also donated – we hope you enjoyed them! This event raised an incredible and record breaking cake sale amount of **£866.16!**



**Class 5J held a Uniform Sale on Tuesday** – feedback was it was well laid out, there was a fantastic choice of stock and everyone was mindful of social distancing, so a great success!!!! The uniform sale via donations raised over **£164.00**. Thanks so much!

**Class 6P Great Amherst Balloon Race** - Don't forget to book your balloons for the Great Amherst Balloon Race. The deadline is **3<sup>rd</sup> October** ... click on [HERE](#)

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...when you click a certain event on the 'What's on' section, you get directly to the booking part. That is much faster than going via the 'Shop – events & tickets' option.

**Coming up:**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> October** – Amherst Great Balloon Race booking deadline

- The balloons race from 5<sup>th</sup> @12noon to 11<sup>th</sup> October @12noon
- The class teachers will officially announce the start of the race on 5<sup>th</sup> October to their classes before lunch
- The balloon who travels the furthest will be the overall winner
- The website has an algorithm which makes the balloons move at different speeds and miles/km.
- The overall winner will win a £20 voucher
- There will also be one winner & one runner up for each year group to win a £5 voucher.
- The winners will be announced by Mr Reid in their separate year group assemblies on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October and receive their prizes
- You will receive a log-in to the website so you can follow your own balloons in the Great Amherst Virtual Balloon Race.
- That log in will be provided once the sale has closed.
- There will be a leader board on the website which will show the name/class

**5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October** – Amherst Great Balloon Race takes place  
**12<sup>th</sup> October** – Balloon race winners announced  
**22<sup>nd</sup> October** – Scavenger hunt registration deadline  
**21<sup>st</sup> October** – Xmas4Schools submission deadline  
**24<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November** – Amherst Scavenger Hunt

Lastly, don't forget to follow us on Instagram – @amherstptaevents.

Have a great weekend!

Your PTA



# IN & AROUND Sevenoaks

Please click on the image for more information on the following half term club.



FOUNDATION

## CFC Foundation Advanced Soccer School



**The Hayesbrook School, Brook street,  
Tonbridge, TN9 2PH**  
Perfect for players who play regularly and are looking to develop.

<b>Day 1</b>		
Date: <b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>		
Years: R-4	Time: 9:30am-12pm	Registration 9:15am
Years: 5-8	Time 1-3:30pm	Registration 12:45pm
<b>Day 2</b>		
Date: <b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020.</b>		
Years: R-4	Time: 9:30am-12pm	Registration 9:15am
Years: 5-8	Time 1-3:30pm	Registration 12:45pm

Course Code: ADSS-HYB-K-2 Year 1-4, Price £22 for the 2 days

Course Code: ADSS-HYB-K-3 Year 5-8, Price £22 for the 2 days

**BOOK ONLINE NOW** [chelseafc.com/foundation](http://chelseafc.com/foundation)  
For further details please contact **John Rourke**  
E: [John.rourke@chelseafc.com](mailto:John.rourke@chelseafc.com) M: 07720975201



## GET BACK IN THE GAME

WITH SEVENOAKS HC'S BACK TO HOCKEY SESSIONS

**FUN AND SOCIAL SESSIONS FOR BEGINNERS AND RETURNERS**

Fancy having a go at hockey and feel a bit daunted about joining a club? Haven't played for years and want to dust off the cobwebs? This is for you!

Sevenoaks Hockey Club is offering returning hockey players and complete beginners the opportunity to learn hockey in fun, friendly sessions on a Monday evenings 7:30 - 9:00pm on the brand new floodlit astro turf at Radnor House School.

You will need to provide a gum shield and shin pads, we can provide a stick if you don't already have one.

Sign up for 3 or 6 sessions:  
5, 12, 19 Oct and 2, 9, 16 Nov

Hockey has been identified as a low risk sport during COVID, so come and join the fun.

VISIT [WWW.SEVENOAKSHOCKEY.CLUB](http://WWW.SEVENOAKSHOCKEY.CLUB)  
FOR MORE INFO AND TO SIGN UP



**SEVENOAKS HOCKEY CLUB**





# INVICTA ACADEMY

**Invicta Summer Academy** was a huge national success (started and run in Sevenoaks by the Care for our Community legend, Anna Firth) and provided 30,000 completely free catch up lessons this summer. Invicta Academy is now changing slightly in order to become long term self funding.

Invicta is offering **catch up classes this half term** still free to those on free school meals, and £2 per lesson for everyone else:  
<https://www.invictaacademy.com/half-term-catch-up>).

Additionally they have **11+ preparation classes free to those on free school meals** and £5 for everyone else <https://www.invictaacademy.com/11-plus-preparation>.

Their goal is to be sure that EVERYBODY can access and afford the necessary help to make sure nobody falls behind as a result of Covid. It would be hugely helpful if people could share this, particularly to parents groups. The feedback from the summer classes made it clear that kids felt a very positive impact to their learning and their confidence, and there is no reason this offer can't reach every single child in Kent and beyond...