



AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 7

Message from Mr Reid

As you will all be aware we have had our first positive cases of COVID-19 this week.

Firstly, I am sure you will **join me in wishing the family well and hope that they all make a speedy recovery with no long lasting health complications.** It must be a very frightening, worrying and difficult experience for them.

I know there has been **disruption this week** regarding the Kent Test and getting used to remote learning again, however I feel the health needs and implications for the family have got somewhat lost in the process.

In this edition:

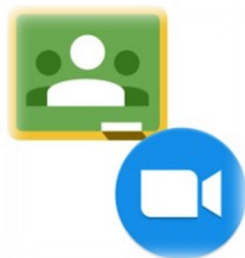
1. Message from Mr Reid
2. Important Dates!
3. Achievements
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As a school community we always **talk to the children about treating others** how you would like to be treated. Please remember this if we have future cases. I would hope our **first thoughts would be kindness and compassion towards the family** who have a positive case despite the disruption it may cause.

- There has been much to celebrate this week regarding remote learning.

- **Mrs Wheeler, Mr Barratt** and all the **children have been amazing** with how seamlessly they have adapted overnight to remote learning again.
- The **introduction of a twice daily Zoom registration** has had such a **positive impact.** It has achieved the desired objectives of increased connectivity and accountability.
- **Thank you for all the positive feedback** this week.



I feel we have an **excellent remote learning offer** in place with the combination of **Google Classroom and Zoom.** There is often much debate about the pros and cons of Google Classroom vs Microsoft Teams. Interestingly, they are the only two digital online learning platforms that the **government** openly endorse. Google Classroom is so simple to use and very accessible for children, parents and staff. I believe it is also an excellent format for this age group. Like all these platforms they are only as good as the content that is put on them and the motivation of the children to complete the work.

Mrs Wheeler and Mr Barratt have worked hard to make sure the **content is engaging** through use of **video tutorials** and **narration of flipcharts.** The Zoom registration session has naturally led into an explanation of the day's tasks and a follow up of how the morning has gone. I can not praise them enough for their outstanding work this week.

An area of **remote learning** that has caused an **issue** this week is our ability to provide the same quality of remote learning to children who are self-isolating but their class and class teacher are still in school. In Years 3 and 6 they have been able to join Mrs Wheeler and Mr Barratt. It is not possible for a teacher to be in **two places at once!** When they are teaching with their class all day they do not have the capacity to provide the Zoom registration sessions or respond to comments throughout the day.

We have been able to provide tasks on Google Classroom for those children and teachers have responded to comments at the end of the day. This dynamic is one of the greatest challenges of providing remote learning when the class or year group are not self-isolating but an individual child is.

We have learnt so much this week and have had our systems and procedures tested. I am **proud** of the staff response and ability to deliver the contingency plans we had in place. As always we will **continue to review** our systems and risk assessment to ensure it is the best it can be.

well done & Best of luck!

Finally, well done to all the children that sat the Kent Test on Thursday and **good luck to all children who are sitting the test next week.** I spoke at the end of the test with all the children and we discussed how **the Kent Test only assesses a small part of who you are** and your talents. We discussed that it doesn't assess how good a friend you are, sportsman, artist, musician, emotional intelligence and much more. **All worth remembering** when children receive the test outcome.

I hope you all have a **good weekend.**

Important THIS week!

BAGUETTE DAY

Take two

22 October 2020

Due to the 2nd KENT TEST on Thursday children will be having their lunch in classrooms.

- Lunch will be a baguette, yoghurt, fruit & cookie.

Please discuss with your child if they would like to have HAM, CHEESE or TUNA on their baguette. This will be pre-ordered on Monday morning.



Xmas4Schools Art

Submission deadline is the 21st October.

Remember, we cannot accept ANY orders after this time.

Please click on

www.pta-events.co.uk/



HARVEST COLLECTION

Following on from last week's newsletter, please send in food donations on THURSDAY 22nd October 2020. Tinned meat, chicken in white sauce, tinned vegetables and cereals. No more pasta — thank you!

If parents are able to help us transport the donations from 12.30pm onwards, please contact the [school office](#).



INSET DAY

Please note that the last day of term is Thursday 22nd of October 2020 with Friday being an inset day.

We will see all children back at school on Monday 3rd November 2020.

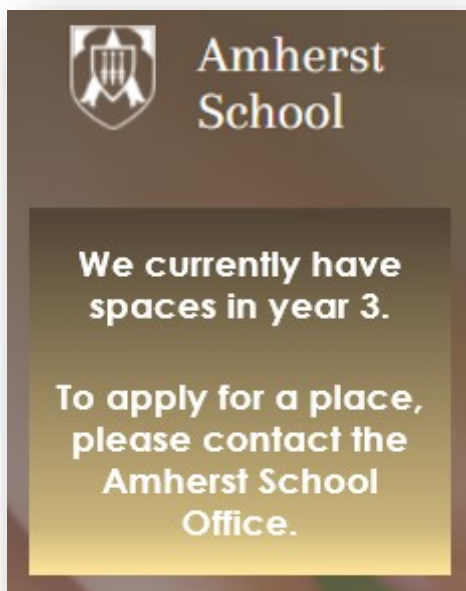


FLU IMMUNISATION

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 vac-



COVID-19



If anyone in your household develops one of the following coronavirus symptoms, the whole household should isolate, and the symptomatic person should arrange for a COVID test.

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- loss or change of their sense of taste or smell,

Please find more information on COVID testing [here](#)



STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to all our stars of this week!

3A Charlie S

3S Caroline K

3W Phoebe D

4C Max L

4SF Issy L

4W Arnav S

5A Alex E

5B Mick H

5J Stella M

6B Lia F

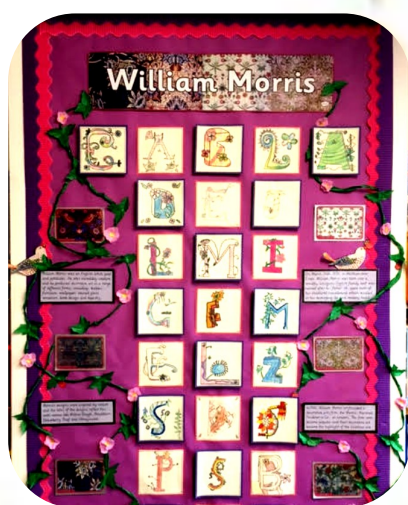
6D William M

6P Isabella C

YEAR 6 —World War II Day



YEAR 5 —William Morris Tile designs



AMHERST CHESS CLUB



This week's tournament saw **8 players** in a good-natured contest on Tuesday afternoon.

First place went to Ben H, with Dylan D in second.

Congratulations to them, and **well done** to all the participants for some exciting games: Owen P, Harrison P, Phoebe D, Gabriel D and Cagan Y.

Next week the tournament is on **Wednesday 21st October**, to give those who are usually busy on Tuesdays an opportunity to play.

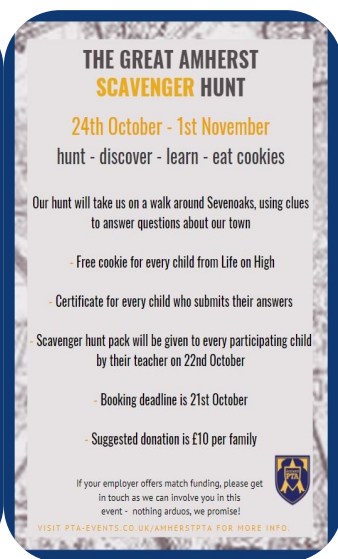
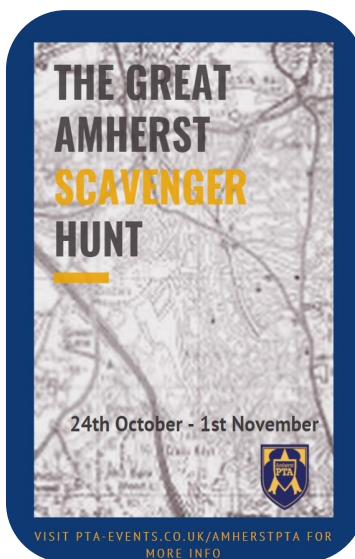
PTA NEWS

First of all, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge that there is a lot going on for people just now, and, for many, this is a worrying time.

Your PTA Team are really aware of this and are being **mindful of people's feelings and safety** when we organise our events. Our mission is to hold events for our children and families which will allow them to have fun and create wonderful memories of their time at Amherst, whilst also raising money for the school.

We do not feel that it would be fair on the children to stop this because of Covid when they are already being impacted in many other areas of their lives. So we are going to carry on doing what we are doing as best we can, but please do not feel we are being insensitive or worse, do not care about the current situation – it is because we are sensitive of the situation and we do care that we carry on. Thank you.

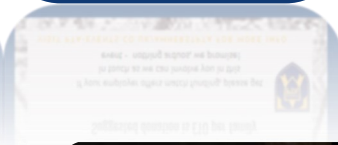
OK, so lots going on over the next 7 days!



21st October Scavenger Hunt booking deadline

Scavenger Hunt taking place from 24th-1st November. Don't forget to email with your answer sheets so we can issue your child a certificate by 6th November!

amherst-marketing@outlook.com



31st October Pumpkin Carving Competition

Please email your pictures to – there will be a winner from each year group to be announced in the next PTA Newsletter.

amherst-marketing@outlook.com



4th-11th November – TEAM AMHERST – more to follow soon

The rest of the term we'll be thinking **CHRISTMAS!!!!!!**

Have a wonderful weekend.

Your PTA

IN & AROUND Sevenoaks

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



The Riverhead Parkland Pumpkin Trail

From Saturday 24th to Sunday 1st November 2020



Come along to Riverhead Parkland and try to spot all the pumpkins hiding there. Can you unscramble the pumpkin anagram?

Take a walk around the beautiful parkland and try to find the pumpkins, take note of the letter on each then try to decode the message.



This event has been organised to help raise funds for both Riverhead Parkland conservation and St Mary's Preschool, a local charity run setting for young children.

If you would like to make a donation, please do so via our GoFundMe page search The Riverhead Parkland Pumpkin Trail or use this link [gf.me/u/y32b78](https://www.gofundme.com/u/y32b78)



Please be mindful of all government guidance regarding social distancing when in the parkland.





CFC Foundation Advanced Soccer School



The Hayesbrook School, Brook street,
Tonbridge, TN9 2PH

Perfect for players who play regularly and are looking to develop.

Day 1		
Date: Monday 26 th October 2020		
Years: R-4	Time: 9:30am-12pm	Registration 9:15am
Years: 5-8	Time 1-3:30pm	Registration 12:45pm

Day 2		
Date: Tuesday 27 th October 2020.		
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
For further details please contact John Rourke
E: john.rourke@chelseafc.com M: 07720975201

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

St Gregory's

Virtual Open Event— click [here](#)

We are sorry that we have not been able to welcome you in person to our exceptional school at the moment. However, we are delighted to let you know that we have created a Virtual Open Event which provides you with a variety of resources for you to look at.

St Gregory's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Wrotham School

Virtual open event—click [here](#)

Please do also take a look at our other online resources;

· www.wrothamschool.com/prospectus-2/

· www.wrothamschool.com

· <https://www.facebook.com/wrothamschool/>

