



AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 8

Message from Mr Reid

The children and staff have worked so hard since school reopened and deserve a break and chance to relax over half-term.

Don't underestimate your child's tiredness levels. They need the opportunity to recharge their batteries. If possible, I would recommend plenty of fresh air, long autumn walks and bike rides. When the clocks change this Sunday, why not try a night walk? The children would love it especially if you include a hot chocolate! Why not try the PTA Scavenger Hunt?

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REMOTE LEARNING

Firstly, thank you for the positive feedback regarding remote learning at Amherst. Part of the government guidance for schools regarding remote learning is as follows:

From 22 October, where a class, group or a small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or local restrictions require pupils to remain at home, we expect schools to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education.

I would like to clarify under which circumstances we will be offering remote learning.

Remote learning will be provided when a child is:

- Self-isolating as a close contact of a positive case
- Self-isolating as a household due to someone (or them) having signs or symptoms of COVID and awaiting a test result
- A health condition that is under the direction of a consultant that recommends your child to self-isolate
- Self-isolating due to quarantine

Remote learning will not be provided when a child is absent due to:

- Normal illness
- Worry that my child might catch COVID
- Medical/dental appointment

The government guidance is that all children should be attending school. This is likely to still be the case even if the Sevenoaks area entered Tier 3. We should be prepared that **schools will remain open.**

It is most likely we will have **many months** of this academic year operating under these conditions. It is important that we all **develop the mind-set and resilience** to attend school unless self-isolating as listed above.

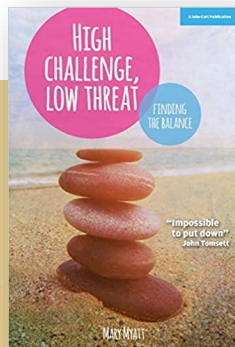
We are continuing with our policy of not setting homework over school holidays. Please encourage your child to **keep reading.**

WELL DONE to all Year 6s who completed the Kent Test this week. I'm sure they (and their parents) are relieved that it is all over.

Finally, tomorrow is an INSET day.

Our October staff training day is always put aside for staff to attend the Sevenoaks Partnership of Primary Schools annual conference. Traditionally this is held at Sevenoaks School but this year it is a virtual event. The guest speaker in the morning is **Mary Myatt** who is an education adviser, writer and speaker. One of her books is titled 'High Challenge, Low Threat'. It is an excellent read and resonates with many aspects of our culture at Amherst.

Mary Myatt's book is a treasury of leadership wisdom and guidance for everyone working in schools today. She provides the antidote to negative, fear-based, toxic leadership by describing ways in which healthy, people-focussed, positive, effective, appreciative and collaborative leadership can arise. Her powerful synthesis of complex leadership concepts and best-practice examples makes this a must-read book for anyone wanting to be an outstanding leader without sacrificing their values, good health and professional passion.



I hope you all have a super half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 2nd November.

Important THIS week!

HALF TERM

Enjoy your half term and we look forward to seeing all the children back at school on Monday, 2nd November 2020.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Children have received the proofs of their school photos this week. Please note that you can [order online](#) or via completing the [order form](#) in the pack.

All order forms should be received in the office no later than Monday 2 November 2020.



FLU IMMUNISATION 9 December 2020

You should now have received the letter form the NHS via the school office. Please respond by consenting or declining consent on the link provided before 4/12/2020.



SEVENOAKS MINOR INJURIES

As of Monday 2nd November 2020, Sevenoaks MIU will become an appointment only service and will no longer exist as a 'Walk in' service.



POPPY APPEAL

Poppy's will be available in the first week back at school. This year parents can ALSO donate via texting:

- POPPY2 to donate £2
- POPPY5 to donate £5
- POPPY10 to donate £10 ... to 70545.



DATA COLLECTION

Please can you [return](#) our data collection form to the school office / your child's teacher at your earliest convenience



SECONDARY APPLICATIONS CLOSING

Secondary school applications opened on 1 September 2020 and close at midnight on the evening of 2 November 2020.

Please apply [here](#)



APPLY NOW

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	Stellen B
3S	Annebelle W
3W	The whole class
4C	Jomi O
4SF	Thomas L
4W	Tom C

5A	Dejan B
5B	Kieran B
5J	Peter W
6B	The whole class
6D	Matthew P
6P	Ava S

THANK YOU for all the Harvest Donations

We managed to fill 4 cars with all your kind donations. A big thank you also to the parents who helped us deliver the food to St John the Baptist's Church—Sevenoaks.



3W's Hundertwasser paintings



PTA NEWS

THE GREAT AMHERST SCAVENGER HUNT

24th October - 1st November

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24th October - 1st November

hunt - discover - learn - eat cookies

Our hunt will take us on a walk around Sevenoaks, using clues to answer questions about our town

- Free cookie for every child from Life on High
- Certificate for every child who submits their answers
- Scavenger hunt pack will be given to every participating child by their teacher on 22nd October
- Booking deadline is 21st October
- Suggested donation is £10 per family

If your employer offers match funding, please get in touch as we can involve you in this event - nothing arduous, we promise!

VISIT PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/AMHERSTPTA FOR MORE INFO

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

PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

EMAIL YOUR PICTURES TO AMHERST-MARKETING@OUTLOOK.COM

**CLOSING DATE:
3RD NOVEMBER**

winners will be announced in the next PTA newsletter
small prize for each year group winner

TEAM AMHERST

.... join the squad

Hoodies available to order
2nd - 11th November

Kids - £20

Size Guide
Small - 5-6 years - 26" chest
Medium - 7-8 years - 30" chest
Large - 9-11 years - 32" chest
X-Large - 12-13 years - 34" chest

Adults - £25

Size Guide
X-Small - 34" chest
Small - 36" chest
Medium - 40" chest
Large - 44" chest
X-Large - 48" chest
XX-Large - 52" chest

orders to be placed at
pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta

delivery expected by 3rd December



4th-11th November TEAM AMHERST Hoodies

Please note that we will be **selling** these only **once** and will not be ordering any surplus so if you do want to order one, please do so before the deadline – we will be unable to accept late orders.

Once we have taken delivery of these from the printers, they will be given to your child at school.

Please order via
www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta

**** Children are allowed to wear the hoodie with their PE clothes. ****

Next term we will be thinking **CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!**

Have a wonderful half term everyone!

Your PTA