



AMHERST SCHOOL

Amherst School Newsletter No. 10

Message from Mr Reid

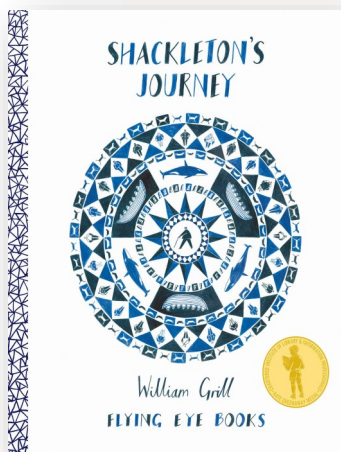
I hope you had a good half term break with the chance to relax and rest.

Shackleton's Journey

There has been a **buzz of excitement and learning this week** as we launched this term's whole school book project. This time we will be studying **Shackleton's Journey by William Grill**.

In this edition:

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For new parents to our school (and some old!) we complete a **whole school book project** twice a year in November and March. What is unique about these projects is that the whole school studies the same text at the same time. A simple original Amherst idea that has been highly successful. The project lasts for approx. three weeks and **generates amazing outcomes in writing and art**. Incredible displays are then produced for the hall, surrounding corridors and classrooms to celebrate the children's achievements.

The projects are an opportunity for each year group to have complete freedom over the writing and art that is produced based on the book selected. I find the next three weeks are some of the most exciting and productive weeks of the

school year. **One of my favourite moments is when the displays begin to go up and each year groups' work is revealed.**

So pleased don't be surprised if your child is suddenly very **interested in Antarctica!** **Shackleton's Journey** is a **wonderful book** and I would recommend buying a copy for home if you have not already done so.

This term's school value is Kindness.

When questioned the children always place Kindness as their most important value and I agree with them.

Life Vest Inside created a **brilliant film to demonstrate kindness** in action called Kindness Boomerang. It is well worth watching together with your child. Please click [here](#) to view the video.



Applying for primary schools.

An impact of COVID has been that **less people have moved to Sevenoaks** this year from abroad and within the UK. This has resulted for the first time that Amherst is not full in Year 3.

It made me reflect that many families outside of Riverhead are not aware that any **child can join Amherst at the beginning of Year 3** through the normal admissions process. We have **96 spaces in Year 3** and only 90 children transfer from Riverhead. This means every year there are 6 spaces for new children.

I may be biased but I believe many parents would jump at the chance for their child to attend Amherst for Years 3-6 but are not aware it is an option. Why would you not want to come to Amherst!

Applications for September 2021 open on Thursday 5 November 2020 and close at midnight on Friday 15 January 2021. If you are a current Year 2 parent at Riverhead you will need to apply through KCC.

Please help promote locally joining Amherst in Year 3 as I anticipate we may have the same dynamic next year with less movement internationally and within the UK. Not being full (384 pupils) has a financial implication for the school as we are funded per pupil.

You as current parents are the most powerful form of recommendation to a prospective parent. As I always do, I am completing individual meetings (via Zoom this year) with prospective parents. Meetings can be booked via the school office. **A great advert for the school is our film celebrating the achievements of last year.** If you have not watched it yet please [click](#) on the picture below.

Important THIS week!

FACE MASKS

Please could we recommend that you wear a face covering when **delivering** and **collecting** your child from school.

There are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering, and we are **mindful and respectful** of such circumstances.

Thank you for your anticipated **support** in this matter.



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**.



POPPY APPEAL

Poppy's will be **available** until 11 November.

Children are welcome to bring in 50p to donate in class and will receive a stick on poppy in return.

This year parents can ALSO donate via texting:

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



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Children have received the **proofs of their school photos** end of last term. Please note that you can now **ONLY order online** going forward.

Please click on the **link** below:



CHILDREN IN NEED

We are raising funds for BBC Children in Need next week—more information on page 3.

Please make your donation **cashless** this year—please use www.schoolgateway.com

thank you 😊



VACANCIES

We have the following vacancy on Kent Teach at the moment:

Teaching Assistant for 20 hours per week, Mon - Fri mornings only.



NO DOGS

We'd like to bring under your attention that **dogs are sadly not allowed** on the school grounds. Please can you refrain from bringing your dog onto the school premises at drop off and pick up times.



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	Rowan N
3S	Louis B-T
3W	Lucas I-C
4C	Florrie P
4SF	Isla P
4W	Victoria C-G

5A	George S
5B	Lucy A
5J	Heidi S
6B	Edward C
6D	William S
6P	Andrew G

MUSIC

Congratulations to Joelle P who passed her Music Theatre Grade 2 Exam with a distinction!



BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

We are raising funds for BBC Children in need. Children can participate in class competitions for a voluntary donation of £1.00. If your child would like to wear something Yellow / Spotty for Children in Need Friday (13/11/20), please donate £1.00.

Please make your donation CASHLESS this year ... www.schoolgateway.com

CHILDREN IN NEED
Week 9-13 November
Each class is supporting children in need in a different way this year. **Donation £1.00**

3A - Pudsey bear Poster
3S - Pudsey bear Poster
3W - Pudsey bear Poster
4C - Art Competition
4SF - Art Competition
4W - Creativity competition involving art work or models
5A - Photography competition
5B - Art Competition
5J - Art competition
6B - Photography competition
6D - Build something
6P - Photography competition showing children's five to thrive

Friday, 13 November
Children can wear **ONE** item of clothing (Yellow or Spotty) showing their support for Children in Need. **Donation £1.00**
Please make all donations on www.schoolgateway.com

2020

STAFF

After 16 years Mrs Jackson, our cook, is retiring at the end of the year. Thank you for 16 years of lovely school dinners! We hope retirement brings you the opportunity to fill your time with everything you enjoy!

We would also like to use the opportunity to **welcome** our NEW cook, Mrs Roy to our team. We hope you feel right at home in Amherst—we are thrilled to have you!



CHESS CLUB

On **Wednesday before the half term break**, we had an exciting contest with 13 players battling it out for the virtual podium, with strong contributions from year 3 to year 6. Victory went to Ben H, with Poppy-Grace DL second, and new joiner Harrison P clinching third. This week, on Tuesday, Ben H was victorious once again, with Benjamin H second and Poppy-Grace third.

We have our first Inter-School tournament next week, on Wednesday 11th November at 5pm. This has been organised by Grandmasters Chris Ward and John Emms, between seven of the best chess-playing Primary Schools in the South East. We would like as many Amherst players as possible to have a go. Just **go to the Amherst team page** and click on 'Autumn Primary Schools 1st Team Battle' and then 'Join'.



PTA NEWS

It's a **very busy, busy, busy time** for the PTA team but also very exciting!

Our November PTA newsletter will provide you with more details of what we have been done and are planning to do – we are hoping to be able to send this one over to you next week.

In the meantime, here are the main PTA events at the moment:

Amherst CSI (Christmas Scene Investigation) Escape Room challenge - 13/11/2020

Our first pre-Christmas fun event for our children will be on **Friday, 13th November at 5pm**. The children can play in teams of 4-6: they will need to follow the gingerbread crumbs to solve clues to work out which elf has stolen the Naughty and Nice list. Tickets are £ 4.00 and the **booking deadline is midday on Thursday, 12th November**. Please mention the team name or team members when booking [here](#).



Team Amherst hoodies - 11/11/2020

Please don't forget the **ordering deadline** is next week **Wednesday, 11th November**. Please order [here](#)



Amherst Christmas stall shop - 21 — 29/11/2020

Please email Jeni at Amherst-marketing@outlook.com by **Friday, 13th November** with your **new/nearly new items** (gifts, including home-made ones and toys) which you are kindly **donating** to our shop to be sold.

- Please send details and photos of items,
- Also include suggested price and how many you have to sell. Thanks so much!

The shop will be open from 21st until 29th November – it's a **new venture** for us and we are **very excited about this one**.



Christmas Shopping

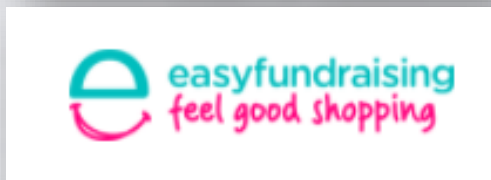
Please remember us when **shopping** - It's free money for us and every little helps!

- [Amazon Smile](#)

We are now set up on **Amazon Smile** too. Please log into [Amazon Smile](#) and set us up as your chosen charity - **Amherst School P T A** (Location: Sevenoaks)



- [Easy Fundraising](#)



Have a lovely weekend, thanks so much for all your support,

Your PTA Team

IN & AROUND SEVENOAKS

Please note you must still make an application for your child even if they are in Riverhead.

Kent
County
Council
kent.gov.uk



Starting at Junior school...

Do you have a child born between

1 Sept 2013 and 31 Aug 2014?

Apply for a place online at:

www.kent.gov.uk/ola

before **15 January 2021**

Step 1: Research schools and understand their admissions criteria.

Step 2: Complete the online application form naming up to 3 Junior school preferences. To apply for Primary schools instead, please contact the school(s) directly.

Step 3: Complete any required Supplementary Information Forms (SIF) and/or medical evidence and return to the school.

Step 4: We offer you a place on National Offer Day.

Step 5: You accept or refuse the place and provide your proof of address from the application period to the school.

Step 6: If you don't get a place at your preferred school you can join the waiting list and appeal.

Important dates to remember

November

5 November 2020

- Applications open. Apply online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola

January

15 January 2021

- Closing date for all applications

April

16 April 2021

- National Offer Day - offers sent by email after 4pm

May

5 May 2021

- Date by which places must be accepted or refused
- Date by which parents should submit a waiting list form for schools they named but were not offered

June

9 June 2021

- Reallocation of any vacant spaces

Need help?

Email the team at primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Full information booklet can also be viewed online at: www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Kent Adult Education (KAE) - FREE Virtual Family Learning for Parents & Children

We are also running the following courses for parents, these courses are available to all parents across Kent, so please share with any colleagues you think may find these helpful.

For more information or to book a place on the courses listed below, please contact our Business Support Team at – businesssupportteam@kent.gov.uk or by calling 03000 415888.

Course Title	Start Date	End Date	Start Time	End Time	Weeks
Keeping up with Children - English	09/11/2020	30/11/2020	09:30	11:30	4
Cooking on a Budget	02/11/2020	07/12/2020	12:30	14:30	6
Chatter Matters	03/11/2020	24/11/2020	09:30	11:30	4
Keeping up with Children English	03/11/2020	24/11/2020	12:30	14:30	4
Keeping up with Children Maths	04/11/2020	25/11/2020	12:30	14:30	4
Keeping up with Children English	04/11/2020	25/11/2020	10:00	12:00	4
Family Story Writing	04/11/2020	02/12/2020	10:00	12:00	5
Reading is Fun	09/11/2020	30/11/2020	09:30	11:30	4
Food is Fun Cooking on a Budget	13/11/2020	18/12/2020	09:30	12:00	6
Cooking on a Budget	12/11/2020	03/12/2020	12:30	14:30	4
Parents to Employment	04/11/2020	02/12/2020	09:30	11:30	5
Managing Children's Behaviour	09/11/2020	07/12/2020	19:00	21:00	5
Understanding your Teenager	10/11/2020	01/12/2020	19:00	21:00	4
Parents to Employment	10/11/2020	08/12/2020	12:30	14:30	5
First Aid For Families - Adults only	09/11/2020	23/11/2020	12:30	14:30	3
First Aid For Families - Adults Only	06/11/2020	20/11/2020	09:30	11:30	3
First Aid For Families - Adults Only	09/11/2020	23/11/2020	09:30	11:30	3