

MESSAGE FROM MR REID

OPEN AFTERNOON AND PARENT CONSULTATIONS

It was good to see so many of you attend our **Open Afternoon** last Friday. We were lucky with the weather which enabled lots of you to sit outside. I could feel the **sense of pride and excitement** the children gained from sharing their work with you. I enjoyed seeing children show you around the school keen to share all the different areas. Being proud of your school and your own achievements is an important part of maintaining high self-esteem.

Parent Consultations were well attended this week and I hope you found the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress useful. My experience as a parent is that children share very little about their day when asked, so opportunities such as Open Afternoon and Parent Consultations are really important.



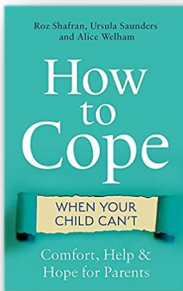
STAFFING UPDATE

As lots of you will be aware, **Mrs Wheeler is sadly leaving Amherst** at the end of Term 4. She is moving to a Greek island to begin a new adventure running a holiday let! We will miss her greatly but are excited for her too. **Mrs Carver** (Mon—Thurs) and **Mrs Lester** (Friday) will be teaching 3W for the summer term.

Mrs Huntley begins her maternity leave at the end of Term 4. I am delighted that **Miss Apps** will be returning to Amherst, teaching 4C on Tuesday and 3B on Thursday. For those of you who are not aware, Miss Apps taught at Amherst for many years until July 2021 and is a wonderful teacher.

We have also appointed **Mr Hafford-Robson** to cover Mrs Carver whilst she teaches 3W for the summer term. Mr Hafford-Robson will be teaching 6H on a Tuesday morning and 5J on Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday. We look forward to welcoming him to our team.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



As a parent, the phrase ‘**you are only as happy as your unhappiest child**’ is one that you will identify with. For many families the recent years have been incredibly challenging and we have noticed an increase in parents needing support because their child is struggling to cope. In many situations the child is coping well at school but their behaviour and mood swings at home have become hard to manage. **This book is an excellent source of comfort, help and hope.**

“Parenting and caring for a child who is struggling to cope can be painful and stressful, and can make it very hard to enjoy life yourself. Feelings of blame, guilt, sorrow, despair, fear and frustration may be swirling around alongside a desperate desire to cure their pain. Although parenting a child who is experiencing difficulties is a common problem, we can feel desperately alone when it is happening to us. When someone we love is struggling - for whatever reason - we may become unhappy too. For countless parents and children there are problems with no easy solutions. However, that’s where this book comes in. It aims to help understand for ourselves what we can and cannot do; to help us to accept any distress, worry, anxiety, sadness or loss of control in our situations; to see that we can tolerate these things; and to know that there are ways to move forward.”

Have a good weekend!

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NOTICES



CLUBS SIGN UP – SUMMER TERM

Please ensure to complete out clubs form by **midnight Sunday 27th March**. Please [click here](#).



YEAR 6 CONSENT AND INFORMATION FORM

Please ensure you complete the form by **Friday 1st April**. Please [click here](#) to access the form.



LIBRARY COMPETITION

Inspired by **World Book Day**, we've launched a **competition** to promote the Amherst School Library. See the letter sent home recently for more information — **the deadline is Monday 28th March**. Happy designing, and good luck!



FUTURE DATES

26 Mar— Sevenoaks Clean Up
27 Mar— Sevenoaks Clean Up
28 Mar— Year 3 Production 2.00pm
28 Mar— Library LETTER Competition closes
29 Mar— Year 3 Production 2.00pm
29 Mar— Amherst Music Concert
31 Mar— PTA Baking & Egg Decorating Competitions
01 Apr — End of Term



SECONDARY SCHOOL VISITS & ABSENCES

All absences should please be reported **via our website before 09.00am**. Click on the link and please complete the quick form. [Daily Absence Form](#)



AMHERST CHOIR AUDITIONS (ALL YEARS)

Children who sing regularly in the **Training** or **Boys Choir** can now sign up for **Amherst Choir auditions** at the Reception Desk. Auditions will take place next week and after Easter. The choir rehearses each **Thursday after school (3.30-4.40pm)** and children need not prepare anything for an audition—just come with an enthusiasm for singing!



VACANCIES

Please [click here](#) to see our current vacancies.



EASTER BAKING COMPETITION

DECORATE AN EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Please find more information on the PTA's plans on the next page.

CleanUp 'Spring Clean' Weekend

26TH / 27TH MARCH 2022

Do you love where you live? Sevenoaks District residents are being invited to roll up their sleeves this spring and help tackle litter.

#CleanupSevenoaks

Calling all families to get involved in this weekend's 'CLEANUP SEVENOAKS'!

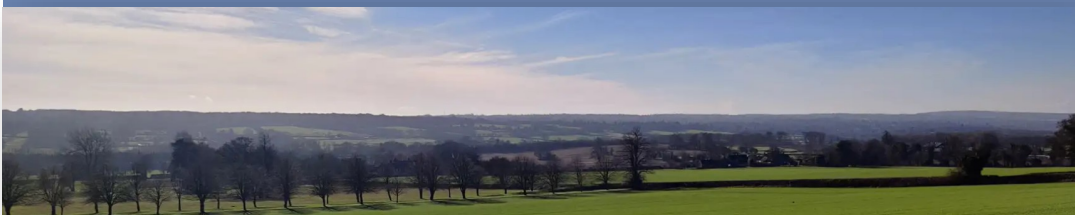
There are fantastic prizes to win:

- 1 Traybake Cook Sevenoaks
- £10 Nando's Gift Card
- 1 Traybake Cook Sevenoaks
- £10 Pizza Uno Voucher
- 1 Traybake Cook Sevenoaks

Send a photo as proof of your participation to office@amherst.kent.sch.uk by 30 March 2022 in order to enter into the prize draw!

Prizes will be handed out in assembly next week!

www.cleanup.uk.com



PTA

DECORATE AN EASTER EGG

Looking for a reason to be creative?

Enter our 'Decorate an Easter Egg Competition' by designing and making your own craft Easter egg!

More information on [PTA EVENTS](#).

Entry for the competition is **£1**.

Prizes:

1st Prize – Large Chocolate Easter Egg

2nd Prize – Medium Chocolate Easter Egg

3rd Prize – Small Chocolate Easter Egg

HAPPY CRAFTING everyone!



Decorate an Easter Egg Competition

- Please bring entries to school reception before school on the 31st March 2022
- £1 Entry via PTA Events or cash donation box available on the 31st
- Prizes:

1st Prize - Large Chocolate Easter Egg
2nd Prize - Medium Chocolate Easter Egg
3rd Prize - Small Chocolate Easter Egg



EASTER BAKING COMPETITION

Attention all Bakers - It is your time to shine!
Bake a cake or cup cakes with any Easter theme for our **Easter Baking Competition!!!**

Entry for the competition is **£1** and this can be paid via [PTA events](#) or cash donation box that will be available when delivering the cakes to school on the **31st March 2022**.

More information on [PTA EVENTS](#).

Prizes:

- **1st Prize** – Team Amherst Apron & £15 Amazon voucher
- **2nd Prize** - £10 Amazon voucher
- **3rd Prize** - £5 Amazon voucher

We look forward to seeing your **WONDERFUL** creations! Happy Baking!

FUTURE PTA DATES

21 April - PTA MEETING

6 May - Quiz night for Parents

20 May - School Disco

26 May - Cookie in a Bag Sale

8 June - Uniform Sale

14 June - PTA MEETING

16 June - Father's day gift delivery

9 July - Amherst Summer BBQ



STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Sebastian K
3MW	Eden G
3W	Thea W
4C	Lucas T
4SF	Rowan N
4S	Ronav D

5A	Ethan W
5J	Hannah T
5S	Johnny V
6B	Imogen F
6H	Lilly M
6SB	Isaac H

MUSIC

Congratulations to:

Henry F - debut grade guitar distinction, **Lilian K** - grade 3 flute distinction, **Ava T** - grade 4 flute distinction, **Sara I** - initial grade piano pass, **Eric B**—initial grade piano distinction, **James R** -initial grade piano distinction and **Oscar A** - grade 1 piano merit .

NETBALL

Amid glorious sunshine last Saturday, **our netball team played in the local inter schools' knockout tournament.** It was fantastic to resume this annual event after a **two year gap** and to see so many children playing competitively for their schools. **Our netball team played brilliantly,** scoring multiple goals and defending strongly to win all five of their first round matches. They beat St John's 6-1, St Thomas' 6-0, Halstead 6-2, St Lawrence 4-2, and Anthony Roper 3-2. In the finals we played Lady Boswell's.

After a tough first few minutes Lady Boswell's pulled ahead by 3 goals, before we fought back to draw 3-3. The halfway whistle blew and the score was 5-3 against us. The second half was fiercely competitive with both teams determined to score, however, unfortunately we did not score again and the final score was 9-3 to Lady Boswell's.

The amazing netball team, were: Seb H, Ellie H, Rachel B, Alice M, Bronagh M, Olivia W, Imogen F. Thank you to all the parents who cheered us on and to Clare Strange for organising the event. We will get practising for next year!!



HOCKEY

Sevenoaks Hockey Club U10 girls and U10 boys were the champions of the South East Regional finals in a very exiting hockey tournament on Sunday! **Congratulations to Lucas T (4C)** played for the U10 boys and **Sofia B (5J)** played for the U10 girls!



FOOTBALL

On **Saturday 19th March**, Amherst participated in the **Sevenoaks Schools football tournament** at Knole Academy. We played against Ightham, St. Johns and Edenbridge. Amherst played extremely well in our first game against St. Johns and comfortably won the match 3-0 thanks to some terrific teamwork and quick, passing football. In the second game against Ightham, Amherst were forced to battle against tough opposition but eventually won the game 2-0. Finally, we played Edenbridge and cemented our undefeated group stage with a defensively strong 1-0 victory.

Amherst successfully progressed through to the next round. In the semi-finals, we faced St. Thomas'. Although the team continued to play extremely well and battled hard in defence, we unfortunately lost 1-0. **The children should be proud of their efforts and achievements this season** as we await the results in the league standings (Amherst are currently top of the league!) **Well done to Fred M, Zac S, Dylan D, Max P, Isaac H, Peter W, Josh M, Blake F and Ethan W.**



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Support for young people affected by the Coronavirus pandemic

Young people can join our free scheme to help them get back into activities they enjoyed before the pandemic.

It's acknowledged that 11 to 18 year olds were amongst the hardest hit by the COVID-19 restrictions. Sadly, some are still anxious about the future and many missed valuable learning and socialising. Some are no longer doing the things they enjoyed before Coronavirus struck.

Anyone young people can sign up and take part in lots of free, fun activities including:

- Skatepark and music days
- Art therapy sessions
- A skateboarding mural project
- A youth café
- Farm visits
- Funding is also available to try something new or to another activities

Those who join will have the opportunity meet other young people and engage with a mentor. Where needed, access to mental health support will be available.

The scheme will run until 30 June 2022 and is being funded by a Kent County Council grant.

Join the scheme

To put a young person forward for the scheme, please complete our application form.

Application form (PDF format)

Applications form (Word format)



WE'VE GOT SOME NEWS...

THERE'S A NEW LEGO® KIDS CLUB IN TOWN

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HELLO@LITTLEBRICKS.CO.UK

INSTA:@LITTLEBRICKS_

FB:LITTLEBRICKSKIDSClub

'BUILD+BE YOUR BEST'

It's a 'free' Easter Speeg-tacular event

with John Hardwick

Book free online
www.otfordmethodistchurch.org.uk/event/easter-speeggtacular/

For Primary School aged children 5-11's

He is a storyteller, singer, songwriter and musician, puppeteer, juggler, writer of scripts and resource books and produces CDs and DVDs of Christian songs.

3-5pm 16th April Easter Saturday

Oxford Methodist Church

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