

# AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

## MESSAGE FROM MR REID TRUST

This term's school value is trust. At Amherst we have six school values, each one linked to a term. The themes for assemblies are linked to that value and give us the opportunity as a school to explore and discuss further.

We have structured our PSHE curriculum (taught weekly) around our values. So this term all PSHE lessons are based on trust. Values can, and should be explicitly taught. Kindness can be taught rather than accepting that some people are kind and some people unkind.

During this week's assemblies I explored with the children the characteristics that make somebody trustworthy. We identified ten characteristics:

- It takes time to build trust
- Be consistent in your behaviours
- Give feedback respectfully
- Be honest
- Help people
- Show your feelings
- Don't show off or put other people down
- Admit mistakes
- Do what you believe is right
- Don't make promises you can't keep

I read to the children the story of Apollo 13 from *Rescue* by David Long. We discussed how the crew in space had to trust the team at mission control to help them find a solution. The team effort of mathematicians and scientists that day saved the lives of the crew who were about to run out of oxygen. It is an inspiring story of human ingenuity and bravery.

## FANTASTIC FRED

The children enjoyed the workshops on Wednesday. I hope they have come home and talked about it to you. If not, maybe find some time this weekend to discuss what they learnt. The focus was:

Food - Eating the right foods

Rest - Getting enough sleep

Exercise - Being active

Devices - Managing time on devices

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Andrew Reid

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# NOTICES



## SCHOOL PHOTOS

Photos will be taken on Thursday 6th October. Children should please wear **winter uniform**. More information to follow.



## ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR

We are **seeking a new parent governor** to join the Amherst governing board. Please see the letter sent about this earlier today. If you'd like to find out more about being a school governor, please do get in touch with one of the other governors via the school office and we'd be happy to share our experiences.



## REPORT ABSENCES

All absences should be reported **via our website before 09.00am please**. Click on the link and complete the quick form — **NO need to email/call anymore**: [Daily Absence Form](#)  
(The form can also be found on our website under ATTENDANCE)



## DIARY DATES

[Click here](#) to see our school calendar.



## CURRENT COVID GUIDANCE

- For children and young people aged 18 years and under it is **not recommended to be tested for COVID-19** unless directed to by a health professional.
- Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result **should continue to attend as normal**.
- For further guidance [please click here](#).



## PARKING

**Parents, please consider our neighbours and children** walking to school when parking at drop off or when collecting your children from school.



## FLU CONSENT

**Please complete the online consent form**, using the link in the attached letter, as soon as possible. The online consent form must be completed before the **7 October 2022** to ensure the details are processed on time. If you wish to decline the vaccination, please still complete the form to indicate this.



## FUTURE DATES

- 6 October — School Photos
- 7 October — National Poetry Day Celebration in assembly
- 13 October — Harvest Festival
- 14 October — Year 5 - Kent Life Visit
- 17 October — Flu Vaccinations—Whole School
- 17 October — Year 6 dress up World War II day
- 20 October — Term 1 Ends
- 21 October — Inset Day
- 31 October — Term 2 Starts
- 11 November — PTA Quiz night (TBC)
- 15 November — Parent Consultations
- 16 November — Parent Consultations
- 17 November — Book Fair
- 25 November — Clubs End
- 3 December — PTA Bazaar
- 12 December — Carol Service
- 14 December — Pantomime trip
- 15 December — Christmas Lunch
- 15 December — Term 2 Ends

# STAR OF THE WEEK

3CL	Xander W
3H	Olivia D S
3W	Maddock M
4C	Joshua B
4DB	Edward S
4SF	Ella B

5A	Lucas T
5J	Olly P
5S	James R
6A	Jeanne R
6B	Lauren D
6SB	Jonah C



**13 OCTOBER**  
Harvest Festival

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

The loaves and fishes food bank at St John's Church Hall has now been running for over 12 years. The charity, which was originally set up as parents at the local school had concerns a few children were arriving at school hungry, now supports families across the whole of Sevenoaks. Donations come from local schools, churches and Sainsbury's and provide much needed essential items. The families receive a bag of food every week of the year.

The charity would **greatly appreciate donations of the following food items listed below.** Please note they do not want pasta, pasta sauces and cornflakes at the moment as they have large stocks of supplies.

- tuna
- spaghetti
- meat – stewed steak, beef casserole, chicken in white sauce, beef or chicken curry
- hot dogs
- potatoes
- tomatoes
- fruit
- carrots
- coffee
- hot chocolate
- rice
- rice sauces
- sturdy carrier bags



Please send in any donations you are able to make with your child on Thursday 13th October. If there are any parents who are **able to help take the food to the food bank** on Thursday 13th October at 11.30am please would you let the school office know by email.



**SEVENOAKS FOODBANK**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please click on the pictures to see more information.

## Free school meals

If your child is under 19 and in full-time education, you may be able to get free school meals for them. The quickest and easiest way to apply for school meals is to apply online.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

### Who can get them

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



## Keeping Up With The Children English

Would you like to:

- Make reading more fun?
- Understand how your child is taught English?
- Help your child with their spelling and handwriting?
- Build your confidence and make new teaching methods?

**This course is for you!**

Venue: Springhouse Children's Centre, Hospital Road TN13 3PT

Date: Wednesdays 2nd November – 23<sup>rd</sup> November - 4 weeks

Time: 12.30pm – 2.30pm

To book a place please email: [sevenoaksdistrictce@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sevenoaksdistrictce@kent.gov.uk)

We want you to enjoy learning with us. To help us provide the best possible experience for you, please let us know if you or your child have any disabilities or particular support needs.

**FREE, fun & informal courses**



Kent Adult Education is part of Community Learning and Skills