

# AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

18th EDITION - 27 JANUARY 2023



## MESSAGE FROM MR REID



You may already be aware that the teachers’ union NEU voted in favour of **strike action**. The first strike is planned for Wednesday 1st February. **The school will be open as normal** and I currently do not anticipate any disruption to classes.



## CONTENTS

Message from Mr Reid  
PAGE 1

Notices  
PAGE 2

Let’s Celebrate  
PAGE 3

Community Events  
PAGE 4

Thank you to all 157 parents that contributed to our recent parent survey. It is really useful to gain feedback, both positive and regarding areas that could be improved. **Thank you to everyone that took the time to write** a comment providing more detail and further information.

In all the areas the **vast majority** of you either *Strongly Agreed* or *Agreed* with the questions asked. This is helpful in **validating the good work we are doing** and **encouraging that for most of you**, your child’s education at Amherst is a positive experience. **I am acutely aware that each child’s and parent’s experience is individual and this will shape your response.**

At a leadership and governor level, we have analysed the responses and looked for any trends between year groups or areas to improve.

It was also pleasing to find out that most of you **read the newsletter every week!** We are trying to **use the newsletter as the main point of communication** once a week to reduce the amount of emails you receive from school.

Please see below for a **summary** of the whole school outcomes.

	Total Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
My child is happy at this school	157	105 (67%)	49 (31%)	3 (2%)		
My child feels safe at this school		111 (71%)	46 (29%)			
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved		75 (48%)	78 (50%)	4 (2%)		
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.		7	18	6		126 (80%)
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.		60 (38%)	90 (57%)	6 (4%)	1 (1%)	
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly		43 (27%)	53 (34%)	4 (3%)	1	56 (36%)
The school has high expectations for my child		82 (52%)	68 (43%)	7 (5%)		
My child does well at this school.		79 (50%)	72 (46%)	6 (4%)		
The school lets me know how my child is doing		59 (38%)	88 (56%)	9 (6%)	1	
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school		77 (49%)	77 (49%)	3 (2%)		
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school		84 (54%)	67 (43%)	5 (3%)	1	
The school supports my child’s wider personal development		63 (41%)	83 (53%)	10 (6%)	1	
I would recommend this school to another parent.		157 (100%)				
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	27	11 (41%)	15 (56%)	1 (3%)		

I hope you all have a great weekend.

# NOTICES



## YEAR 6— YOUNG VOICES CONCERT VIDEO

Parents can get the YV Concert Video by heading over to [yv23film.co.uk](https://yv23film.co.uk) .  
(Friday night's link: <https://yv23film.co.uk/purchase/x0GeJP2t1rr35uYXl6la> )  
You can stream it NOW plus the first 5 minutes of the video is free to see!

Please can you complete the following [survey](#) - it will take less than 3 minutes to complete.



## PTA DRESS SWAP

The Riverhead and Amherst Teams are collaborating to put on the **Coronation Ball dress & gown swap** event! 24th March, 7-9pm. Please [click here](#) for tickets and more information.



## LIBRARY— DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

We would like to ask for specific donations for the library of Diary of A Wimpy Kid books. Many thanks.



## 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). Please complete the form for every day your child is off school.



## VACANCIES

Please visit [www.kent-teach.com](http://www.kent-teach.com) to view our current vacancies for a Teaching Assistant.



## VAN COLS — CLASS PHOTOS

Your child's class photograph is ready to view using the **class code sent via email** last week. The website is [www.getphotos.co.uk](http://www.getphotos.co.uk).

Please **place your order before 3rd February 2023** for free delivery back to school. Example:



## FUTURE DATES

31 January	—	Year 5 Rainforest Roadshow
10 February	—	Term 3 Ends
20 February	—	Term 4 Begins
21 February	—	Year 3 Roman Day (3CL)
22 February	—	Year 3 Roman Day (3H)
23 February	—	Year 3 Roman Day (3W)
02 March	—	World Book Day
13 March	—	Year 6 Trip to Parliament
15 March	—	Year 4 Trip to the Science
16 March	—	Love to Dance Performances 4.00 & 6.30pm
17 March	—	Open Afternoon 2.45pm
17 March	—	Clubs End
21 March	—	Parent Consultations
23 March	—	Parent Consultations
25 March	—	Sevenoaks Clean-up
26 March	—	Sevenoaks Clean-up
27 March	—	Sevenoaks Clean-up
27 March	—	Year 3 Easter Performance - Dress Rehearsal
28 March	—	Year 3 Easter Performance
28 March	—	Amherst Music Festival 6.00pm
31 March	—	Term 4 Ends

# LET'S CELEBRATE

## STAR OF THE WEEK

3CL	Jasper P	5A	Will G
3H	Rebecca R	5J	Effie D
3W	Charlie S	5S	Max R
4C	Sydney H	6A	Harry K
4DB	Nell C	6B	Joe C
4SF	Haris K	6SB	Laura P

## SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

On Wednesday 18th January a group of **year 4 pupils** took part in the District Sportshall Athletics event at Aylesford College. Both the boys and the girls teams **performed excellently** showing **determination to complete multiple track and field events**. All members showed **great sportsmanship** to cheer on all competitors from other schools as well as Amherst. The team finished 1st out of the 8 teams competing.

Well done Amherst and all that took part!



## TENNIS

On Saturday 21st January, 4 Amherst pairs took part in the Sevenoaks **Schools Doubles Mini Orange event** at The Sennocke Centre.

**Annebelle W & Isabe N** took part in the girls event first. Both girls performed brilliantly, showing great teamwork and focus throughout the event which consisted of a total of 20 girls. After some tough & competitive games the girls managed to go unbeaten in all of their matches to **bring home the winners trophy for the school, a massive well done to both girls!**

The boys event followed with the pairings of **Tom L & Charlie H, Ansh G & Jack F, William G & Oliver K** competing in a field of 28 boys. The boys all conducted themselves brilliantly throughout and should be very proud of their efforts with Tom L & Charlie H finishing **Runner-Up** to New Beacon in a close Final. Ansh G & Jack F **finished third overall** and picked up the **bronze medal**.

A special mention for Oliver K who stepped up an age group to pair with William G, both boys gave a fantastic account of themselves. A big well done to William for being supportive of Oliver throughout the event.

Overall a fantastic result for the Amherst tennis teams which is testament to your hard work & preparation in your training sessions at Chipstead Place LTC. I'm really proud of all of you!

Adam Reavely





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please click on the pictures to see more information.

SO

**HOLIDAY HOCKEY CAMP**

Siblings & Multi Day Discounts Available

FEB 13&14

OUTDOOR FUN WITH FRIENDS!  
at Holly Bush Lane, Sevenoaks  
Book your ticket here  
[www.bugtickets.at/schoohockey](http://www.bugtickets.at/schoohockey)

KENT

**Soccer Schools**

FEBRUARY 2023

For Player ages 5-12 years  
Price From £30  
To book visit:  
[ChelseaSoccerSchools.co.uk](http://ChelseaSoccerSchools.co.uk)  
[communityenquiries@chelseafc.com](mailto:communityenquiries@chelseafc.com)  
01932 596193  
@chelseafc

**Chelsea Soccer Schools include:**

- Player Pathway Opportunities
- Qualified and highly skilled coaches
- Free Chelsea FC gift

**HOMWOOD SCHOOL**
Ashford Road, Tenterden, TN30 6LT

Dates	Time	Price	Code
13 February - 14 February	Morning 9:30am - 12pm	£30	SS-HWS-K-31
	Afternoon 1pm - 3:30pm	£30	SS-HWS-K-32

**HAYESBROOK ACADEMY**
Brook Street, Tonbridge, TN92 9PH

Dates	Time	Price	Code
15 February - 16 February	Morning 9:30am - 12pm	£30	SS-HYB-K-22
	Afternoon 1pm - 3:30pm	£30	SS-HYB-K-23

**Safeguarding:** The Safeguarding of our participants is of paramount importance to us. All of our coaches are recruited in line with Safer Recruitment guidelines, are fully qualified and hold enhanced, barred list checked DBS disclosures, Safeguarding and Emergency Aid certificates.

**FEBRUARY HALF TERM WORKSHOP**

13th & 14th Feb

Age 4 - 11 years

£30 Per Day

**Half Term Dance Workshop**  
Dancing, Singing, Acting, Crafts and more...  
At Amherst School, 10:00am - 3:00pm  
To Book please contact: [amy@sevenoaksdance.co.uk](mailto:amy@sevenoaksdance.co.uk)

**YEARS 7&8 OPEN MORNING**

Friday 10th March, 2023  
11.00 AM - 1.00 PM

**Book your place now**

Come and discover what makes our school so special and the benefits of Years 7&8 at The Prep. Parents will be given a tour of the school by pupils, hear directly from the Headmaster and teachers - and see some lessons in action.

*'Standing confidently as one of the champion trees in the area but set apart by its integrity and humility, it has also managed to inject the fun back into learning through energetic and inspiring teaching.'*  
Good Schools Guide 2022

*'By the time they leave the school, pupils' levels of achievement are excellent right across the curriculum'*  
ISI Inspection, Excellent 2022

Please use the enquiry form on our website to book your place or email our admissions team who can also help with general enquiries about current availability.  
[theprep.org.uk](http://theprep.org.uk)
[admissions@theprep.org.uk](mailto:admissions@theprep.org.uk)

Tuesdays 8-9pm  
Greatness Park, Sevenoaks  
Beginners Welcome  
All instruments provided

**SEVENOAKSDRUMSCHOOL.COM**  
**SEVENOAKS SAMBA DRUM CLUB**  
[billy@sevenoaksdrumschool.com](mailto:billy@sevenoaksdrumschool.com)  
Tel 07751881706