

AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

25th EDITION - 24 MARCH 2023



MESSAGE FROM MR REID



Parents’ Evening & Open Afternoon

It was great to see so many of you attend Open Afternoon last Friday. As I wandered around the school it was wonderful to **see and hear** the enthusiasm and pride the children had when sharing their work. It is a very different

dynamic when your child gets to show you their work. I loved seeing so many children giving parents an impromptu tour of the school. The **superb Flotsam displays** were a key feature of those tours.

Another purpose of **Open Afternoon** is that we time it for the week before Parents’ Evening. This is **done intentionally so you approach your teacher meeting feeling informed** about your child’s current achievements and challenges. **I hope that was your experience.** Thank you for the **wide range of positive feedback** I received over both nights. It is pleasing and encouraging to hear that the vast majority of **children at Amherst are happy and making good progress.**



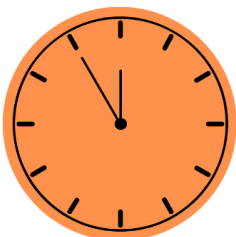
Thank You to Staff

Parents’ Evening and Open Afternoon made me reflect how fortunate we are at Amherst to have such a fantastic and hard working staff team. I have always joked that I would like to write a school improvement plan that only contains one objective - *Recruit and retain outstanding staff.* For all children to be successful it is

completely reliant on having high quality, caring and dedicated staff to inspire and work with them. Our school motto is *Inspire Every Pupil* and it is something I have at the front of my mind when making decisions.

We recently asked a selection of teachers what their top five things they like about working at Amherst are:

- **Management of workload** – marking for the interests of the child not for management. Team planning together.
- **Staff support each other** – lunch together and have time to eat lunch properly.
- **Senior Leadership Team support staff** – valued as professionals
- **Autonomy to teach and structure lessons** how they see fit their individual class
- **Pupils are well behaved** and want to do well/positive attitudes to learning



I hope you all have a good weekend and remember the clocks change on Sunday!

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NOTICES



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.



NUT FREE & HEALTHY SNACKS FOR BREAK

Please can you ensure your children bring in **healthy snacks** to school—please NO CRISPS or CHOCOLATE BARS.



PARKING

Parents, please **refrain from parking on the zig zag lines in front of the school gates** at pick up time. Also **avoid parking on yellow lines** or **double parking**. Parking illegally makes it **unsafe for pedestrians** and **people driving**.



HOUSE EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Why not enter our **inter-house Easter Egg competition**? Use either a real **egg, blown, hard-boiled** or **polystyrene egg** and decorate, paint it or make it into a model.

Egg themes are: nature, animals, religious, Easter, Harry Potter or just patterned.

Bring your entries into school on Tuesday 28th March with your **name, class** and which **theme** you are entering. There are prizes for winners of each house.



NO DOGS

Please can we have **NO** dogs on the school grounds or in the courtyard at pick up time.



CLUBS SIGN UP— FINAL CHANCE

Please click on [this link](#) to book your children’s clubs for the summer term.

- Please do not email the office with club requests.
- You are able to change your child’s club choices on the response email received after completing the clubs booking form.
- Club allocation emails will be sent out to parents after the Easter Break.



VACANCIES

Please visit www.kent-teach.com to view our current vacancies for:

- Class Teacher — Maternity Cover - Part-time
- Teaching Assistant — Full-time / Part-time
- Breakfast Club Assistant — Part-time



SPRING BALL TICKETS - DON'T MISS OUT

These tickets are the hottest thing in town. Don't miss this opportunity to get yours asap. [Click here](#) to book!



FUTURE DATES

27 March	—	Year 3 Easter Performance - Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm
28 March	—	Year 3 Easter Performance 2.00pm
28 March	—	Amherst Music Festival 6.00—8.00pm
31 March	—	Term 4 Ends
17 April	—	Term 5 Starts
24 April	—	Clubs Start
24 April	—	Year 6 Safety in Action Trip
27 April	—	Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme
1 May	—	Bank Holiday
5 May	—	Coronation Celebration
8 May	—	Bank Holiday
9–12 May	—	SATS week
13 May	—	AJFC (Amherst Junior Football Club) Presentation Evening
22 May	—	Year 5 British Museum Trip
25 May	—	Term 5 Ends
26 May	—	Inset Day
5 June	—	Term 6 Starts

LET'S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3CL	Emmie M
3H	Jasmine M
3W	Isla D
4C	Richard L
4DB	Matilda C
4SF	William G

5A	Autumn J
5J	Charlie H
5S	Dylan K
6A	Oscar A
6B	Georgia C
6SB	Caitlin J

NETBALL

There was much excitement among the school netball team last Saturday when they took part in the annual schools' netball tournament. Despite the bitter weather, the team played exceptionally well culminating in three convincing wins and two losses. All players took their turns at shooting and defending using the High Five Rotation. This placed the team in third position at the end of the first round and they then played another match to determine their final placing. The match was against St George's School in Wrotham, who are new to our partnership, and Amherst won resulting in a final overall position of third out of 12 schools. Well done to our team: Robin G, Summer J, Daisy WE, Jeanne R, Lucas T, Bluebell S, Georgia C, Maya B, Harper W



MUSIC

The following children have passed their music exams— congratulations to all!

Dylan K	—	Grade 1 Descant Recorder	DISTINCTION
Jack K	—	Grade 1 Piano	DISTINCTION
Joey S	—	Grade 1 Piano	DISTINCTION
Caroline K	—	Grade 3 Piano	MERIT

FOOTBALL

On Tuesday the football team competed in their last league game of the season against a strong Lady Boswell's team, starting very brightly by scoring a fantastic goal within the first 15 seconds of the match. They came out 4-1 winners in the end. Well done to Ethan W, Harry H, Josh M, Toby W, Dane R, Fred K, Joe S, Jack G and Albert RC.

On Saturday 18th March, Amherst participated in the Sevenoaks Schools football tournament at Knole Academy. In our group, we played against Seal, Lady Boswell's, St. John's and Edenbridge. Amherst played extremely well throughout the group stage demonstrating some terrific teamwork and quick passing. Amherst managed to win all four games comfortably and finished top of group A. Amherst successfully progressed through to the semi-finals. In the next round, we faced Churchill. The team continued to play extremely well and battled hard in defence, successfully winning the game 2-0. In the final, Amherst faced a competitive St. George's team.

Again, Amherst played terrifically, however lost the game 1-0. The children should extremely 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 Joe H, Ethan W, Josh M, Joe S, Dylan K, Toby W, Charlie H and Max P.

Mr Barratt and Mr Taylor



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please click on the leaflets to see more information.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ACTIVITIES CLUB

EASTER HOLIDAYS
3RD - 14TH APRIL 2023

PEMBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL
HILDENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

OVER 50 ACTIVITIES,
BOUNCY CASTLES,
FUN GAMES, NERF WARS
ARCHERY, TEAM SPORTS,
...AND MORE!

5% DISCOUNT FOR SIBLINGS

REGISTER ONLINE NOW
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

SOUTHEAST KIDS CAMPS
SOUTHEASTKIDSCAMPS.CO.UK
01444 461 889



HAPPY'S CIRCUS

30TH APRIL

DOORS OPEN: 12 PM
Churchill CE Primary School,
Rysted Lane, Westerham,
TN16 1EZ

First come first served

£10 PER TICKET

Limited Tickets Available

Book Here:

SHOW STARTS: 2 PM

GAMES, STALLS & MORE...

BAR

www.pta-events.co.uk/churchillschool

CHURCHILL SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION





TUESDAYS 7:30-9PM
BULLFINCH, RIVERHEAD

GET HOOKED ON CROCHET

TO BOOK EMAIL:
AGA.DREND@HOOKANDHELP.COM

£15
All materials and a cuppa included!


www.hookandhelp.com

How to support your child with ADHD &/or Autism

Wednesday 17th May, 7pm
Solefield School, Sevenoaks, TN13 1PH

Solefield School is proud to offer a free talk for parents from Jannine Perryman:

Parenting a child with ADHD or autism comes with its own unique challenges and rewards. Join ADHD specialist teacher, trainer, psychoeducational coach, Jannine Perryman (MA PGCE), for this informative session at Solefield School, Sevenoaks, TN13 1PH. In this session learn the reasons why your child behaves as they do, and strategies for how to make positive change. Jannine, who has ADHD herself and 3 neurodiverse children, will sort the fact from the fiction about ADHD and autism and delve beyond the stereotypes to give you the starting point to build the best future for your child. Whether you are facing a brand new, overwhelming diagnosis for your child, or wanting to better understand a child in your life who you care for, this session has something for everyone.



Refreshments served from 6.45pm for a 7pm start.

www.solefieldschool.org

Book now
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-support-your-child-with-adhd-and-or-autism-tickets-580178879647

Solefield School Sevenoaks - a fresh perspective on education for boys' aged 3-13



ANGELS community

ANGELS CAMPS

Soccer

Two new additions to our coaching team

£25 per day (9am - 3pm)
£75 for 4 days (9am - 3pm)
Family & Friends discount offer - £135 for 2 children for all 4 days!

On the new Tonbridge Angels 3G pitch!

Football coaching & fun football themed activities for boys & girls age 5 to 12 years.

Our team of FA qualified coaches will help the children develop their football skills in a fun and friendly environment.

Make sure you wear the correct footwear and bring a water bottle and packed lunch!

Tonbridge Angels Football Club
Halcyon Wealth Longmead Stadium, Darenth Avenue, Tonbridge TN10 3JF



HOOK & HELP

HANDMADE CROCHET ITEMS AND WORKSHOPS

aga.drenda@hookandhelp.com
www.hookandhelp.com
@hookandhelp



Easter Fibre Arts Workshops Timetable

	SAT 1/04	MON 3/04	TUE 4/04	WED 5/04	THU 6/04
9:30-11:00	FINGER KNITTING EID	WEAVING EASTER COASTER EID	NO CLASS	FINGER KNITTING EASTER BUNNY EID	FINGER KNITTING FLOWERS & GARLANDS EID
1:30-3PM	CROCHET FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS EID	FINGER KNITTING EASTER WREATH EID	WEAVING EASTER COASTER EID	POM.POM ANIMALS EASTER CHICK EID	CROCHET EASTER GARLAND EID
	TUE 11/04	WED 12/04	THU 13/04	FRI 14/04	SAT 15/04
9:30-11:00	WEAVING SPRING COASTERS EID	POM.POM CRAFT, SPRING FAIRIES EID	WEAVING SMALL PICTURES EID	POM.POM CRAFT, ANIMALS EID	FINGER KNITTING EID
1:30-3PM	CROCHET FABRICS BASICS EID	BASIC EMBROIDERY, BEGINNERS SAMPLER EID	FINGER KNITTING OCTOPUS EID	CROCHET WORKSHOP EID	CROCHET WORKSHOP EID

All parents need to do to book is WhatsApp Aga on 07969787711 or email: aga.drenda@hookandhelp.com Dunton Green, TN14 5GE



EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

Childcare during the holidays they want to go to!

Dunton Green Primary TN13 2RU

MONDAY 3RD APRIL, MINECRAFT V WILDCRAFT
TUESDAY 4TH APRIL, EASTER NERF: THE BUNNYNATOR & KIDS VS INSTRUCTORS
WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL, NEW-SUPER MARIO DAY: YOSHI EGGS & BOWSERS FURY
THURSDAY 6TH APRIL, HOT CROSS BUNS, ARMPIT FUDGE & MARSHMALLOWS
FRIDAY 7TH APRIL, THE BIG WILD EGG DAY
SATURDAY 8TH APRIL, HOT CROSS BUNS, ARMPIT FUDGE & MARSHMALLOWS
SUNDAY 9TH APRIL, NEW-SUPER MARIO DAY: YOSHI EGGS & BOWSERS FURY
MONDAY 10TH APRIL, EASTER NERF: THE BUNNYNATOR & KIDS VS INSTRUCTORS

FOR MORE INFO ON DATES, LOCATIONS AND HOW THE CLUBS RUN & TO BOOK: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please click on the leaflets to see more information.

Ring for the King



Throughout the country plans are being made to *Ring for the King* at the Coronation of King Charles III on 6 May 2023.

For hundreds of years church bells have rung out, not only to call communities to worship, but also to celebrate special occasions, in remembrance of others and to signify special events. They are part of the soundscape of the UK. In June 2022 we all celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with the sound of bells. Bells also rang out with a muffled sound throughout the nation as a mark of respect at her passing in September 2022.

Following the announcement of King Charles' Coronation, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers initiated an appeal to recruit more ringers to be trained in time to *Ring for the King*.

How you can ring in our new King

If you've ever wanted to try the ancient art of bell ringing, the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles is the ideal opportunity.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is calling for people to come forward and be trained in time to Ring for the King on 6 May.

Part of British life for centuries, ringing church bells requires a blend of physical exercise and mental agility, according to experts. The skill can be learnt by adults and older children – in most bell towers, you can sign up from the age of 11. It takes 10-15 hours to pick up the basics, which are usually taught on a one-to-one basis and most importantly, using a silenced bell. *Anna Shepard*

Visit ringfortheKing.org to sign up



For anyone learning a string or wind instrument, we have **Winds Together** and **Strings Together** groups starting next term that are open to anyone who isn't a complete beginner on their instrument.

Parts will be arranged to fit the level of each player. These groups are being run by one of our peripatetic wind teachers, Philippa Henderson and a Bromley based string teacher Tim Wells, who has a wealth of group music making expertise and is currently Head of Strings at Bromley Youth Music Trust.



Please encourage your child to sign up on the online clubs form if they play a string or wind instrument so that they can enjoy the benefits of group music making.



Easter 2023

Family Fun Days

FREE

Monday 3 April, 10am to 2pm
Crockenhill Memorial Meadow, (formerly known as Cricket Meadow), Green Court Road.

Tuesday 4 April, 10am to 2pm
Swanley Park, New Barn Road.

Wednesday 5 April, 10am to 2pm
Edenbridge, Rickards' Hall, (off the High Street).

Thursday 6 April, 10am to 2pm
The Green & Jessica's Hall, Leigh

No booking required but children must be supervised by a parent or carer at all times
For more information, please call 01732 227000
or email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Holiday Activities and Food Programme
Kent
Helping families to flourish

Kent County Council
We are proud

Funded Places this Easter at Mega Camps

We at Mega Camps are pleased to announce that we are once again working with Kent Council and The Education People on the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) this Easter School Holiday 2023.

This program enables children eligible for **benefits-related** free school meals and also children classified as **vulnerable** to attend our Sevenoaks Mega Camps location this Easter. The funding allows each child to attend for a total of 4 half days and is **completely funded for them**. Lunches, Snacks, Drinks, and endless activities will be provided to give these children the best experience possible.

We only have a limited number of these places available this Easter Holiday so please feel free to email out the below information to parents as soon as possible for children that are eligible. It explains to parents below how they go about booking their child onto this program with us.

Please note that this program is for **Benefits-related Free School Meal / Vulnerable Children only** (Ages 4 to 14). We look forward to hearing from the parents in your school soon and hopefully, they take advantage of this great opportunity for their children.

If you have any questions please email customersupport@megacamps.net or call 0333 012 4378.