

Summer Term 2023

This term in school...

Welcome to my Headteacher's Letter. Sent home termly it will let you know what's happening in school: at a leadership level, for the whole school and in the classroom.

Welcome to new Year 3 parents who will be reading my Headteacher's letter for the first time. As we approach the end of the year, I would like to use this term's letter to share staffing information for September 2023.

As I come to end of my tenth year as headteacher at Amherst, I reflect on what has been another highly successful year. Our vision is to *Inspire Every Pupil* and I have observed many examples this year of children being highly engaged and enjoying their learning. This has been achieved through a range of opportunities and the positive culture that Amherst children experience such as: high quality teaching, outstanding pastoral support, a broad curriculum, strong focus on the arts, outstanding music and sport offer, wide range of clubs, charity work and the chance to represent Amherst at many events.

My goal is to ensure all children have four good years. As our current Year 6 children prepare to leave Amherst and transition to a wide range of secondary schools I feel proud that the children are well equipped to be successful. I would like to share with you a message that I have written for Year 6.

Well done for completing four fantastic years at Amherst. It has been a pleasure to be your Headteacher during this time and watch you all grow and develop as individuals. Be proud of your achievements.

As you leave Amherst and transfer to secondary school I hope the six Amherst values are now truly part of who you are. We often discussed in assemblies, that the most important value is kindness. Offer support and encouragement to your peers, and you will find over time, they will do the same to you. Remember, if something doesn't feel quite right then it probably isn't right! Follow your gut instincts to make good choices. If in doubt, think back to the six Amherst values of Trust, Kindness, Cooperation, Politeness, Fairness and Determination.

Believe in yourself even when you are out of your comfort zone in those first few months of secondary school. You have been a member of Amherst School which makes you special.

I will miss you all and wish you every success in the future.

Thank you to all staff – teachers, teaching assistants, kitchen, midday team, breakfast club, after school club, office and reception and cleaning team who are vital to the children's success and smooth running of the school. I would also like to thank music teachers, sports coaches and volunteers that have helped contribute to our superb educational offer.

I would like to share the staffing structure for next year and which teacher will teach your child.

Staffing structure for 2023/24

Year 3

3W - Miss Wonnacott - Year Group Leader – teaching Neptune Class

3H - Miss Harvey – teaching Saturn Class

3CL - Mrs Carver (Mon – Wed) and Mrs Lester (Thurs and Fri) – teaching Jupiter Class

Year 4

4C - Mr Clarke - Year Group Leader - teaching 3CL

4SF - Miss Foinette (Mon – Wed) and Mrs Siddons (Thurs and Fri) – teaching 3W

4S - Mrs Stafford – teaching 3H

Year 5

5A - Mrs Archer - Year Group Leader – teaching 4C

5J - Miss Jones (Assistant Headteacher) – teaching 4DB

5HR – Mr Hafford-Robson – teaching 4SF

Year 6

6B - Mr Barratt - Year Group Leader – teaching 5S

6A - Miss Apps (Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri) and Miss Huntley (Thursday) – teaching 5A

6W – Miss Watson – teaching 5J

SENCO

Mrs Billing – Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri am

Paired teaching and PPA cover will be provided by Mrs Barratt (two days), Miss Huntley (one day), Mrs Fox (two and a half days), Mrs Carver (half a day) and Mrs Rawlins (one day).

Sadly, Mr Brown is leaving us at the end of this year to begin a new exciting chapter of his life in Mexico. He will be teaching at Edron Academy International School in Mexico City for two years. It has been a pleasure to have Mr Brown as a member of our team for the first two years of his teaching career. He has been a wonderful addition and will be much missed. I would like to thank him for all his hard work especially supporting athletics and PE at Amherst. Hopefully he might return after his adventure! I'm sure you will join me in wishing him every success in his new job. Good luck Mr Brown!

I am pleased to be able to welcome to our teaching team Miss Rebecca Watson who will be teaching Year 6 in September. She is currently teaching at Leeson's Primary School in Orpington and will be entering her fourth year of teaching. She has a passion for the outdoors/PE and holds the Forest School Leader Qualification. I'm sure she will prove to be an excellent appointment.

I am also pleased to communicate that Mrs Mais (current teaching assistant) will be training to be a teacher at Amherst in September. We look forward to supporting her through her teacher training.

Recruitment and retention are a challenge so I am pleased to have such a strong teaching team in place. Staffing is always a key priority, as your child's teacher is the person who will have the most impact on their social, emotional and academic progress.

I look forward to seeing many of you when attending this year's summer production 'Oliver'. The children having been working so hard and can't wait to perform. The PTA Summer BBQ on Saturday 8th July and Sports Day on Wednesday 20th July will be other highlights to look forward to.

If I do not see you before the end of term, I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday.

Best wishes

Mr Reid