



AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

21st EDITION - 23rd February 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Whole School Book Project

The children have made an excellent start to our latest book project, *Moth* by Isabel Thomas and Daniel Egneus. If you are not familiar with the book it is the story of the peppered moth and an example of natural selection, the process behind evolution. I have already seen some wonderful examples of the children's writing and artwork inspired by the project. We are very excited to be welcoming Isabel Thomas to school next Tuesday. She will be starting the day with a whole school assembly and then providing a poetry workshop for each year group in the hall. I am really pleased that Riverhead School are also completing a book project on *Moth* at the same time. Hopefully your child is enthused by the project and able to tell you lots of interesting facts.

Forest School

You may have noticed since September the beginnings of our Forest School area by the edge of the field. We have utilised logs and bark chips from the fallen tree to help develop the area further. Initially we have been running a Forest School Club at lunchtimes. Thank you to Miss Watson and Miss Jones for leading this exciting development.

Road Safety and Parking

Please can I request once again that parents do not park, pick up or drop off on the zig zags or double yellow lines outside school. Congestion around the school entrance is making it increasingly dangerous for our children and for staff trying to drive safely out of the school car park.

Parking on double yellow lines away from the school also creates safety issues for children crossing the road. Unfortunately we continue to receive complaints from local residents that driveways are being blocked by parked cars.

I know it can be very hard to find a space but if no legal or safe space is available it will involve you having to park further away and walking.

Your help in this matter is urgently needed to make the roads safer for our children walking home. Please see page 4 for information regarding the consultation to impose a 20mph speed limit on certain roads near the school.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

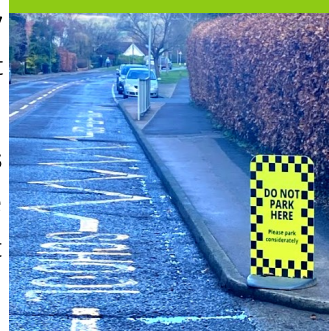
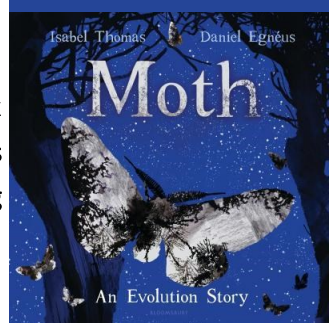
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NOTICES



REPORT ABSENCES

Please complete the quick [Daily Absence Form](#) on our website before 9.00am for **every day** your child is off school.



SEND WEBSITE— ADHD WORKSHOP

On Tuesday we held a parent workshop, led by Una Archer. The **presentation** and **handouts** are available on the SEND area of the school website, under Parent Workshops. [The SEND area of the website](#) now contains links to resources and information to support your child in all areas of SEND.



CLUBS

Week 26 Feb—1 Mar: All clubs are expected to run as normal next week.



PTA

We are looking for a **new PTA Treasurer** to join the PTA Lead Team. You will have a full **handover** and **support** with our current treasurer. Please **contact our PTA Chair, Hayley Hansford** if you are interested: pta-chair@outlook.com



SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Does your child play an instrument to a Grade 1 or 2 standard? If so, they are very welcome to join our school orchestra which meets on Fridays after school in the hall. We include all the standard orchestral instruments (flutes, violins, clarinets, etc.) as well as guitars and recorders. Please complete our [CLUBS BOOKING FORM](#).



SCIENCE WEEK WHOLE SCHOOL — CARDBOARD

We are in need of **strong cardboard** and **tubes** for **science week for the whole school** which is the week beginning 4th March. If you have of these at home, please can you send it in to school. Thank you.



DONATIONS OF OLD KITCHEN ITEMS

Our Forest School is **starting to take shape** and we are now looking for donations of any old kitchen items to use in our mud kitchens on the field and at forest school. If you have any of the following you no longer need or have seen better days, please send them to school with your child for Miss Watson or Miss Jones.

- Baking trays
- Sieves
- Muffin or cake tins
- Saucepans
- Frying pans
- Plastic cups
- Utensils such as ladles, fish slice, large spoons.

Please note we **cannot accept materials which could shatter** - tin, metal and plastics only please.



YEAR 6— HILLTOP PAYMENTS

Just a reminder that the **final payment for Hilltop** is due **29 March 2024**.



FUTURE DATES

- 2 March - Amherst Choir—Tunbridge Wells Arts Festival
- 7 March - World Book Day (see information on page 3)
- 12 March - Year 6 Love to Dance Show @ the Stag Theatre
- 15 March - Clubs End
- 15 March - Open Afternoon
- 15 March - PTA Uniform Sale
- 19 March - Parent Consultations
- 20 March - Year 6 Parliament Trip
- 21 March - Year 5 Rainforest Roadshow
- 21 March - Parent Consultations
- 22 March - PTA School Disco
- 26 March - Amherst School Music Festival
- 28 March - Term 4 Ends
- 24 April - Primary Partnership Concert
- 6 July - Amherst Summer BBQ (Save the Date)

STAR OF THE WEEK

3CL	Alice M
3H	Bo D
3W	Penelope N
4C	Emmie M
4S	Ethan H
4SF	Imogen H

5A	Cecily K
5HR	Jacob B
5J	Albert M
6A	Hunter B
6B	Rowan N
6W	Matilda B

WORLD BOOK DAY

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

7 MARCH 2024

Save the date!

World Book Day

7 March 2024

Dear Parents,

To celebrate reading and the joy of books, Amherst will be celebrating **World Book Day** on **Thursday 7th March 2024**.

We would like the children to **dress up as a book character** instead of wearing school uniform. This does not have to be too onerous on you, costumes may be as elaborate or simple as you like!

We will spend some time reading with different teachers and will discuss our favourite books together in class. We will also be **launching a competition** as part of the week's homework to raise awareness of environmental issues, with an exciting chance to win a £5 book voucher.

Additionally, if you would like to take part in another competition, Sevenoaks Partnership have launched a book cover competition, with the chance to win a £10 book voucher. Please see more details on the image on **how to submit your entries** as it **will not be through Amherst School**.

We hope the children will enjoy the day celebrating reading, stories and book characters.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Archer and Miss Harvey

WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION

Design a cover for a book of your choice!

Do you like arts and crafts?

Do you have a favourite book?

...then this competition is for you!

Choose a book you love and design a new cover for it! You could use your favourite character, your favourite moment, or anything else you'd like. Let your imagination run wild and get creative!

You could win a £10 book voucher!
Prizes for KS1 & KS2

Please send your designs to partnerships@sevenoaksschool.org
Deadline: Wednesday 6th March 2024

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dear Resident / Parents

I have been working with my district council colleagues **CLlrs Nigel Williams, Kim Bayley and Graham Clack** as well as local Parish Councils in relation to road safety in the areas close to Amherst School and Chevening CE School. The schools and parents are very much in favour of a 20mph zone in neighbouring roads, and speaking to a number of residents, many also agree.



Therefore, we have arranged for a consultation to take place, over a **potential 20mph speed limit** on the following roads:

- Barnfield Road. Bullfinch Lane, Chesterfield Drive, Elmstead Close, Stanhope Way & Witches Lane - for their entire length
- Chevening Road – extend the existing limit from the property boundary of 52/54 Chevening Road for a distance of 416 metres in a north westerly direction to the existing 40mph limit
- Chipstead Lane – from its junction with Witches Lane to its junction with The Square.

The consultation is now live – with a deadline for comments of noon on Monday 4 March. Here is a link to the consultation:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/various-roads-riverhead-and-chevening-sevenoaks-amendment-4-speed-limit-order>

All comments will be taken fully into account before any decision is made.

If you have any queries please contact either myself or one of my colleagues via email as follows:

- nick.chard@kent.gov.uk
- nigel.williams@sevenoaks.gov.uk
- graham.clack@sevenoaks.gov.uk
- kim.bayley@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Nick Chard

Nick Chard, Kent County Councillor



How Mainstream Schools Support Primary School Aged Children with SEND Training for Families



Overview

The Education People have been funded by Kent County Council to deliver training to parents and carers of children with SEND from across Kent. Our aims for the training are to:

- build parental confidence in what is on offer to support children and young people with a SEND in mainstream schools
- answer questions that you may have about the offer
- develop your knowledge of how the Mainstream Core Standards are being used in schools to support your children.

This free training will be delivered virtually, via Zoom. If you have any issues with accessing the internet then please do get in touch and we will do our very best to make the training accessible to you.

Rory.Abbott@theeducationpeople.org

How to Register

Choose which date you are able to attend below and either scan the QR code, or click the button underneath it to register.

Tuesday 5 March 2024 (10am to midday)

[Book Your Place](#)



Thursday 9 July 2024 (10am to midday)

[Book Your Place](#)



On behalf of... **THE EDUCATION PEOPLE** Kent County Council not a profit

theeducationpeople.org

Rotary Gala Concert

Friday 12th April 2024 7.00 - 9.30pm
Cobham Hall, Brewers Road, Cobham, Gravesend DA12 3BL



Six fabulous artists in solo and ensemble at the beautiful Gilt Hall

 GERARD BROOKS ORGAN	 MARGARET WATSON HARP	 ISLA MORGAN CELLO	 ANNIE TALLBOY RECORDER	 CAROL ANNE WELLS PIANO	 MARK UNDERWOOD FLUTE
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Tickets: Advance Booking: Adults £35, 18 years or below £20
After 14th March Adults £40 and £25

Book online: jumblebee.co.uk/galaconcert or scan QR code

Email: RotaryGWE@gmail.com

Enquiries: 07341 274689 (contact Liam)

Light refreshments included. Ample free parking onsite

Gravesham with Ebbsfleet **Rotary**

All proceeds to PHAB and other Rotary supported charities


Gravesham with Ebbsfleet Rotary Trust Fund is a registered charity in the United Kingdom Charity no. 1195646

[gwerotary](https://www.instagram.com/gwerotary) [gwerotary](https://www.facebook.com/gwerotary)

Sevenoaks (Loaves and Fishes) Foodbank

The foodbank wants to reach as many people as possible, who may not be aware of its existence. If your family needs extra support for food and essential items, please visit us. Anyone can attend the foodbank twice before needing a referral, and then we can help clients obtain a referral by directing them to the appropriate agency.

The foodbank is open every Thursday from 1.00pm - 3.00pm at:
St John The Baptist Church Hall
Quakers Lane

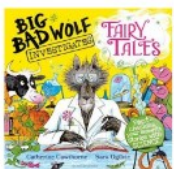


Sevenoaks & Loaves and Fishes Foodbank



SPRING FAMILY WORKSHOP SUNDAYS in the Hever Castle Think Tank

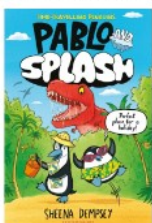
Fabulous children's authors will be bringing their books to life with fun activities and interesting exclusive facts. With the opportunity to meet rebels and royalty from history, time travelling penguins and big bad wolf scientists these events are perfect for inquisitive children asking big questions! Each author will be available to chat after the workshop and will be signing copies of their books which will be available to buy at the events.



Big Bad Wolf Investigates Fairy Tales
Fact-checking your favourite stories
with SCIENCE!
Catherine Cawthorne
Sun 28 Apr 2pm



The Time Machine Next Door: Rebellions and Super
Boots and Rule Breakers and Kiwi Keepers
Iszi Lawrence Sun 5 May 2pm



Pablo and Splash
Sheena Dempsey
Sun 12 May, 2pm



ALL TICKETS £13.70

These events are taking place indoors and include the
opportunity to visit Hever Castle gardens following the
afternoon events. TICKETS ARE LIMITED.

HEVERFESTIVAL.CO.UK

BOXOFFICE@HEVERFESTIVAL.CO.UK

Artistic Swimming

A great way to stay in
swimming and have fun...



- Swimming to music, making friends,
- Working as a team and having fun in the water.
- We have opportunities to swim at displays
and at our yearly Gala.

Tuesdays 7.00 - 8.30pm

If you are interested please email
info@abcswimschool.co.uk



TO FIND OUT MORE GO TO:
<http://abcswimschool.co.uk/Synchronised-Swimming/>

Swim England
Swim School Member

www.abcswimschool.co.uk



Festival Food Trucks | Farmers' Market
Arts & Crafts | Kids Funfair & Workshops
Family Entertainment | Pop-up Classic Car Show
Beer & Prosecco Garden | Vintage HorseBox Bars
Dance Forest Ibiza DJ | Best of British Live Music

Early bird tickets now on sale

www.thekentfoodfest.com



Booking IS required!



1 ticket per family

Open Morning Tours are a chance for
students and parents to look around
our site. Students will guide you
around the school, telling you
something of what a typical day as
part of the Hillview community is like.

- Thursday 7 March
- Tuesday 12 March
- Wednesday 20 March



8.50 AM
9.15 AM
9.50 AM
10.15 AM



SHOWTIME

www.showtime.london

NEW Showtime EASTER Holiday Club

Churchill School, Westerham TN16 1EZ

FRIDAY 5th, THURSDAY 11th and FRIDAY 12th APRIL

9am to 4pm for over 6's - 10am to 1 for over 4's



CHILDCARE SURVEY

The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Service is conducting a survey on behalf of Kent County Council. They are aiming determine interest in the childcare entitlements that are being introduced this year, and arrangements for wraparound care of primary school-aged children.

The survey will also gather the views of parents/carers using or wanting to use more childcare in Kent. This combined information will help us assess where there are gaps in provision. Please scan the QR code or click on the link below if you use or require childcare in Kent.

<https://survey.kent.gov.uk/ChildcareSurvey>

