

AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

29th EDITION - 3 May 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR REID

CONTENTS

Message from Mr Reid
PAGE 1

Notices
PAGE 2

Let's Celebrate
PAGE 3

Community Events
PAGE 4 & 5

Team Sport

Over the years we have encouraged many children to take part in team sports. It is pleasing to hear that many are still playing through secondary school and into adult life. I believe active involvement in team sport is a vital component in helping our children navigate successfully through teenage years. While some children go on to play at a high level, it is clear that all of them gain so much from being part of a club/community.

Hockey

Some of you may not be aware but every Thursday lunchtime we run our own hockey club at Hollybush Astro. We have a wonderful team of parents that help transport the children each week. This is one of our longest standing clubs, which was in existence when I started at Amherst in 2013. We have always enjoyed a strong relationship with Sevenoaks hockey club and currently have Fergus Jackson (first team player and coach) leading our coaching sessions. I am currently aware of three ex-Amherst pupils who are now playing hockey for England!



Cricket

Our hardball cricket team played their first match of the season on Monday against Ashford Prep School at Ashford. The format of the game was pairs cricket with each pair facing four overs, team starting on 200 and losing five runs if out. Ashford batted first and scored 274. Amherst in return scored 251 just losing a few too many wickets. It was an excellent game played in the right spirit and we were fortunate to get the best day of the week weather wise. The team were: Eden G(5J), Ryan G(6A), Noah W(6A), John A(6W), Tom L(6W), Thomas W(5A), Ansh G(6W), Jack F(6W), James J(6A) and Jack R(6B).



Match Reports

You will find our team (and other) sports' match reports on the page we call—Let's Celebrate! It is wonderful to read how children compete and have fun while participating. Congratulations to our brand new Lacrosse team who had wonderful success this week ... please see page 3.

Smart Watches

It is becoming increasingly difficult to identify what is a Smart watch. Just to clarify, children should not be wearing a watch to school that can connect to the internet or has a camera.



Modern watches are also becoming an increasing source of distraction in class. Please try and keep your child's watch as simple as possible for school; a time-keeping function is all that is needed in a school setting. Please take the time this weekend to review what type of watch your child is wearing to school.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend and enjoy bank holiday Monday.

NOTICES



REPORT ABSENCES

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



SUMMER TERM YEAR GROUP LETTERS

Please click on the links below:

[Year 3 Summer Term Letter](#)

[Year 4 Summer Term Letter](#)

[Year 5 Summer Term Letter](#)

[Year 6 Summer Term Letter](#)



CLUBS

Week 6—10 May:

08/05 - NO Cricket Club Yr 3&4

09/05 - NO Water Polo Club



LETTERS SENT

Year 3 — Horton Kirby Trip letter

Year 6 — SATS letter



VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies—please apply on [Kent Teach](#)

- Breakfast Club Manager
- Clerk to the Governors



BREAKFAST CLUB

If anyone is interested in a place in our Breakfast Club (immediate start) on Monday, Thursday or Friday—please contact the school office.



FUTURE DATES

6 May - Bank Holiday (School Closed)

7 May - Year 5 Greek Workshop

13 May - Year 6 SATS Week

17 May - PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Sale

17 May - **PTA Parent Quiz Night** →

23 May - Term 5 Ends

24 May - Inset Day

3 June - Term 6 Starts

4 June - Year 5 Kent Test Meeting 6.00pm

4-6 June - Year 3 Horton Kirby Trips

6 & 7 June - Sponsored Swim in School

10-14 June - Year 6 Hilltop Residential

14 June - Year 4 Hampton Court Trip

14 June - Year 5 Greek Show—Dressing up

18-19 June - Year 5 Parent Consultations

28 June - Open Afternoon 2.45pm

28 June - Clubs End

1 July - New Parent Meeting 2.00pm

4 July - Kent Transition Day

6 July - Amherst Summer BBQ (Save the Date)

15 July - Summer Production—Dress Rehearsal 1.45pm

16 July - Summer Production—Matinee Performance 1.45pm

17 July - Summer Production—Evening Performance 7.00pm (all children to attend)

18 July - Summer Production—Evening Performance 7.00pm (all children to attend)

22 July - Sports Day

23 July - Rose Clifton Memorial Cricket Match

23 July - Term Ends



In forest school this week Year 4 used their knot tying skills from week 1 to begin their dens. I think you will agree they look fantastic!



FOREST SCHOOL

LET'S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3CL	Charlie G
3H	Thomas P
3W	Sam H
4C	Rex S
4S	Conor B
4SF	Jonathan G

5A	Joachim S
5HR	Haris K
5J	Eden G
6A	Grace W
6B	Finley S-R
6W	Diya P



TAEKWON-DO

Congratulations to Stevie A-C who took part in the Miles Martial Arts Club Competition for Taekwon-do on the 27th April. Stevie competed in two items, patterns and sparring, and walked away with a medal for her wonderful achievement.



TENNIS

Well done to the pairs who represented Amherst in the school doubles tennis competition held at Hollybush on 1st May. Tobias & Mina, Raghava & Eirene, Oliver & Edie all performed brilliantly with all 3 pairs qualifying for the knock-out rounds. Amherst 2 & 3 faced each other in the quarter-finals and Amherst 1 was given a bye to the semi's. Tobias & Mina went on to win the event overall with a convincing 10-2 victory over Sevenoaks Primary in the Final allowing them to bring back the winners plate to be proudly displayed at the school for the year. Well done to all of you!



MUSIC & DANCE

Congratulations to Millie B who received Highly Commended in each of her gold level ballet, tap and freestyle exams. She also received Distinction in her grade 1 guitar exam.

LACROSSE

On Monday 29th April, the Amherst lacrosse team set off to Knole Academy for their first ever tournament. This was against five other teams from local schools. Despite some players having only picked up a lacrosse stick once before, the team played very well together. Never-ending support from the subs on the sideline helped the team immensely. Amherst were undefeated in all their matches (4 wins and 1 draw) and pronounced winners of the tournament. Joey was presented with the trophy which he proudly held aloft to a deafening round of applause. Amherst will next be competing at the regional finals!

The team would like to thank Miss Watson for bringing lacrosse back to Amherst. The team were Sofia (5A), Maddie (5A), Lottie (5J), Johana (5J), Scarlett (5J) Joey (5HR), Henry (5HR), Lucy (5HR), Thea (5HR) and Maya (5HR).



YEAR 5—KENT TEST

Dear Parents,

Please familiarise yourself with the information with regards to the Kent Test. It is worth noting the dates if you are planning to register your child for the test.

Kent Test

For children starting secondary school in September 2025

If your child is currently in Year 5, and you intend to apply to a Kent Grammar school, register online at kent.gov.uk/kenttest

Registration opens on 3 June 2024 and closes at midnight on 1 July 2024

Who is the Kent Test for?

The Kent Test is for children who wish to apply for a Kent Grammar school place for September 2025 and are either resident in the UK or are the children of UK Service Personnel / other Crown Servants returning to the UK. A list of Kent Grammar schools can be found [here](#). Schools in Medway, Bexley and Bromley are outside the Kent Local Authority area. If you live outside Kent, please consider carefully before registering whether your child can attend the testing session in Kent, and how they would travel to school if they were offered a school place in Kent.

How do I register for the Kent Test?

Go to kent.gov.uk/kenttest and create an online account for yourself as parent/guardian. Add your child's details to your account to start the registration process. When you have completed and submitted your registration you should get a confirmation email. If you do not, the registration may not have been completed correctly. (Tip: Please check your junk/spam folder for the email before contacting us!)

What if my child has access requirements?

If your child has a disability or SEN which will affect their access to testing, you should discuss this with their primary school before registering them, as the school will need to apply for any necessary access arrangements. Requests will not be accepted after 12 July 2024.

What happens after I register?

If your child attends a school outside Kent, we will email you details of their test centre by the end of August. Let us know if after registration you move house, change your email address or your child changes primary school. Otherwise, their test papers may go to the wrong place, or you may not get their results.

How do I apply for a Kent Grammar school?

You apply by naming the school as a preference on your Local Authority's secondary application form.

If my child is assessed suitable for grammar school by the Kent Test, will I automatically be offered a grammar school place?

No, a Kent Grammar school assessment does not guarantee your child a place in a Kent Grammar school.

Grammar schools are often oversubscribed, meaning more children apply than the school has room for. Oversubscribed schools use their admission criteria to rank applicants in priority order, so it's important to check the admission criteria for schools you are interested in. A Kent Grammar school can only consider your child for a place if you have named it on your application and your child has been tested and assessed suitable for admission.

If your child is not offered a place at the school, you can appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel and may be able to add them to the school's waiting list.

Key dates

Monday 3 June 2024	Registration opens at kent.gov.uk/kenttest . You will receive a confirmation email when registration is complete.
Monday 1 July 2024	Registration closes at midnight. If your child attends a school outside Kent, you will receive an email by the end of August with your allocated test centre.
Thursday 12 September 2024	Children who attend a Kent primary school sit the test in their school.
Saturday 14 September 2024	Children who attend primary schools outside Kent or are Educated at Home sit the test in a Test Centre.
Thursday 17 October 2024	Kent Test Decisions emails are sent after 4pm to the email address used to register the child.

Need help?

Further information about the test and about transport to grammar school for low-income families can be found on our website at kent.gov.uk. If your child is outside the age range for the test, or cannot take the test on a Saturday please email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk.

For help registering please email kentonlinedmissions@kent.gov.uk. Only one registration per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of registration. Keep your login details safe and use the email address you registered from for all communication with the team.



RE DAY

Dear Parents

We are excited about our upcoming **RE Day** on Wednesday 22nd May.

Year 3 and 4 will be studying **Buddhism** and Year 5 and 6 will study **Sikhism**.

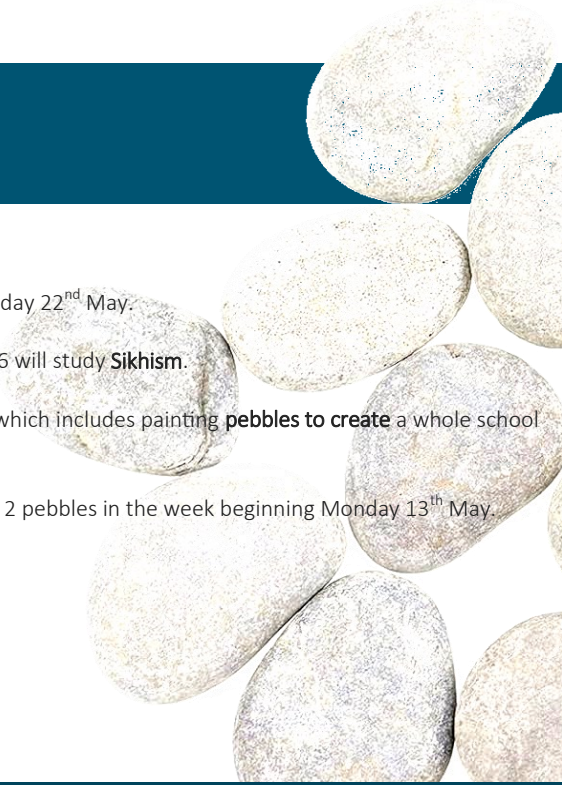
The day will be filled with a variety of activities, one of which includes painting **pebbles to create** a whole school art project.

To help resource the day, please can your child bring in 2 pebbles in the week beginning Monday 13th May.

Pebble size: between 8cm and 15cm

Many thanks,

Mrs Lester and Mrs Fox



COMMUNITY EVENTS



STUDY SMART





LOOKING FOR A JOB IN A SCHOOL?

Teaching Assistant
Playground | Midday Supervisor
Examinations Invigilator
Cover Support Role
Behaviour Support Role
Youth Worker
Support Work

Fully Funded (FREE) – Qualified in ONLY 6 weeks – No Travel – Online based – Classes in school hours

Accredited Qualifications:
• NCFE | CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
• NCFE | CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding and Prevention.
Progression to an ONLINE Level 3 Teaching Assistant Course FULLY FUNDED

Register here: www.studysmartuk.online or scan the QR code

Contact Adam: 07534 175 965
adam.shearer@aspireeducationacademy.co.uk

By arrangement with Three Knights Limited, The Shubert Organisation Inc and Robert Fox Limited

The Sevenoaks Players Present...



CHESS

THE MUSICAL

BENNY ANDERSSON TIM RICE BJORN ULVAEUS



MAY 2 - 4

THE STAG THEATRE

TICKET PRICE: ADULT £22 | CHILD £18

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are all supplied by MTI www.mtishowsevents.com




Book your tickets now!




DG Autos Sevenoaks Car Sales & Service For over 40 years dgautossevenoaks.co.uk


Sport & Activity holiday camps



Active & Inspiring Children



DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE




The Cricket Academy - Let's Play Cricket (5-7 year olds)


The New Beacon
5 to 7 yr olds 8:30am - 5:30pm

Tue, 28 May 2024 to Thu, 30 May 2024

M T W T F S SEE DETAILS



DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE




The Cricket Academy (8-16 year olds)


The New Beacon
8 to 16 yr olds 8:30am - 5:30pm

Tue, 28 May 2024 to Thu, 30 May 2024

M T W T F S SEE DETAILS



DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE




The Cricket Academy - Let's Play Cricket (5-7 year olds)


The New Beacon
5 to 7 yr olds 8:30am - 5:30pm

Mon, 12 Aug 2024 to Fri, 16 Aug 2024

M T W T F S SEE DETAILS



DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE




The Cricket Academy (8-16 year olds)


The New Beacon
8 to 16 yr olds 8:30am - 5:30pm

Mon, 12 Aug 2024 to Fri, 16 Aug 2024

M T W T F S SEE DETAILS



DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE




Let's Play Hockey (6-7 year olds)


The New Beacon
6 to 7 yr olds 8:30am - 5:30pm

Mon, 28 Oct 2024 to Wed, 30 Oct 2024

M T W T F S SEE DETAILS



DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE



Let's Play Hockey (8-16 year olds)

The New Beacon
8 to 16 yr olds 8:30am - 5:30pm

Mon, 28 Oct 2024 to Wed, 30 Oct 2024

M T W T F S SEE DETAILS





HAPPY ME GOES WILD

JOIN US IN THE NEST WILLOW MEADOW FOR 2 INCREDIBLE WORKSHOPS PER DAY THIS MAY HALF TERM. (YOUR CHILD IS WELCOME TO JOIN ONE OR BOTH WORKSHOPS) £30PP PER WORKSHOP

MAGICAL MEADOW (9AM-12PM)
> BUTTERFLY WING AND WAND MAKING
> POTION MAKING WITH GRATITUDE INTENTIONS
> DANCE AND STRETCH AND MORE

WILLOW WARRIORS (12PM-3PM)
> DEN MAKING AND TREASURE HUNT
> FACE PAINTING WITH NATURAL PAINTS
> OUTDOOR CRAFTS, GIFT MAKING AND MORE...

MAY 28-31 | AGE 4-10

WWW.THENEST.HEALTH
THE NEST, TN13 2RY

