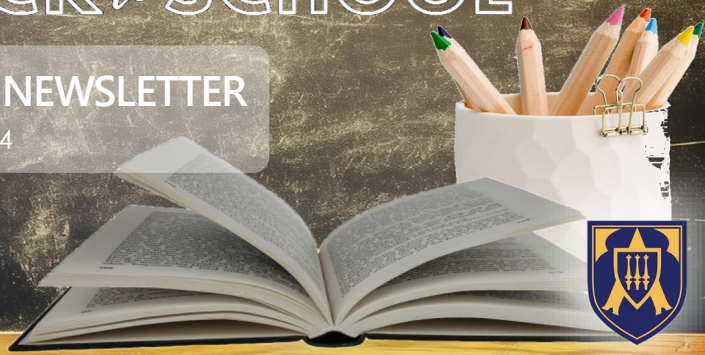


Welcome BACK to SCHOOL

AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1st EDITION - 6 September 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Welcome

Welcome to all our new children in Year 3 and in other year groups too. The children have had an excellent first week and we have been so impressed how quickly Year 3 children have begun to learn the new routines.

One of my favourite moments of the year is observing our wonderful Year 6 buddies welcoming and looking after Year 3s on their first morning. Year 6 have embraced the role of being a buddy with enthusiasm and kindness. It makes such a difference on the first day to feel welcomed and part of the school community straight away.

Year 3 have worked hard this week to adapt to their new surroundings and it has been great to hear so much positive feedback already. It can be daunting and at times overwhelming when you start at a new school so don't be surprised if your child is very tired tonight or at times a little grumpy!



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Breaktime Snacks



Thank you for everyone's support regarding having fruit or vegetables as a breaktime snack. An impact we have noticed this week is how much less litter there has been on the school playground due to children not having snacks that are in wrappers. It has made a huge difference. Therefore, linked to that please could we try and avoid snacks in wrappers such as fruit winders etc.

Lateness



Sorry to start the year with a message regarding lateness but it is really important that we start the year in the right way. I'm aware there have been traffic issues (endless roadworks everywhere) this week but please make every effort for your child to be through the school gates before 8.50am. If your child is regularly late it has a big impact on them and can create an unsettled start to the day.

Trust



This term's school value is Trust and my assemblies will be on this theme throughout Term 1. We have six school values with one linked to each term and our PSHE curriculum is themed around them too. Accompanying each value is a school rule as well:

TRUST

We will act responsibly and honestly to earn the trust of each other at Amherst School.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Reid

NOTICES



REPORT ABSENCES

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



BREAKFAST CLUB SPACES AVAILABLE

We have spaces available if you are interested. Please complete our [booking form](#).



SCHOOL LUNCH

Please [click here](#) to view this term's menu. You should please pay for your child's school meals in **ADVANCE** (either weekly or termly).

Please make payment via www.schoolgateway.com. Costs for the new term are as follows: Daily - £ 2.65 / Weekly - £ 13.25 / Term 1 - £ 100.70 (38 days) / Term 2 - £ 92.75 (35 days) / Term 1 & 2 - £ 193.45



LION KING DVD / DIGITAL DOWNLOADS

We have managed to secure 20 digital downloads of the Lion King Production 2024. There are also 13 DVD's still available to order if anyone is interested. Please order via www.schoolgateway.com.



PARKING

It is illegal to park on double yellow lines or on pavements. Please be considerate towards our neighbours when you drop children off in the morning and collect them at the end of the day. Thank you for your support.



PARENT HELPERS NEEDED

We are celebrating Harvest Festival on 3rd October and will have time in our Harvest assembly to be thankful for all we have to eat while thinking of those less fortunate. **If there are any parents who are able to take the food to St John's on Thursday 3rd October we would be very grateful. We would appreciate your help at the following times:**

- Please arrive at Amherst at 11.00am to load cars with the food
- Then drive to St John's between 11.30-12.30pm to drop off our donations.

If you are able to help, please let the office know via an email to office@amherst.kent.sch.uk



SCHOOL CAR PARK

For safety reasons, please note that the car park is only for staff and disabled use. If you are running late and need to drop your child off, please park on the road.



TABLE TENNIS SQUAD – TRIALS (YR 4-6)

Tuesday 10/09/2024 and Wednesday 11/09/2024 from 3.30—5.00pm.

Children should please sign up at reception and only need to attend ONE afternoon. Please come dressed in PE kit and trainers.



DOGS

Please remember not to bring dogs on the school site. Many thanks for your support.



VACANCIES

Please apply on [Kent Teach](#) for the vacancies we have.

Breakfast Club Manager / Clerk to the Governors



CONSENT

Please be reminded to provide the following consent on www.schoolgateway.com if you have not yet:

[Walking Home](#) / [Photo](#) / [Parent Drivers](#) / [Emergency Medical Consent](#) / [Local Visits](#)



PARENT READERS / VOLUNTEERS

Please indicate on www.schoolgateway.com if you or any grandparent are interested in reading with our children.



FUTURE DATES

9 September	- Music Lessons start	23 September	- Clubs start
10 September	- Table Tennis Trials (3.30—5.00pm)	24 September	- Year 6 Child Measurement Programme
11 September	- Table Tennis Trials (3.30—5.00pm)	25 September	- Year 6 Secondary Application Meeting
12 September	- Kent Test	2 October	- School Photos
16 September	- Football Trials 12.30pm (sign up with Mr Barratt)	23 October	- Year 6 - WWII day
17 September	- Football Trials 12.30pm (sign up with Mr Barratt)	24 October	- Last Day of Term
17 September	- Meet the teacher (Year 3—4.00pm / Year 4—4.45pm)	25 October	- Inset Day
18 September	- Meet the teacher (Year 5—4.00pm / Year 6—4.45pm)		

Dear Parents

A very **big welcome** back after the summer break—we hope you had a fabulous time and are ready for an exciting new year at Amherst.

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves as your **NEW PTA team** and together we hope to **create lots of FUN** for our children and **FUNDRAISE for the school!**



Lydia Sage, Chair
amherst-chair@outlook.com



Natasha Liow, Vice-Chair
amherst-events@outlook.com



William Penry, Treasurer
amherst-treasurer@outlook.com



Alexandra Evans, Secretary
Newsletter and marketing
amherst-secretary@outlook.com

Below you will see the first two events of the year:

Please **SAVE BOTH DATES** in your diaries and come support us on the day!

School Uniform Sale!

Friday, 13th September
2.30pm

Cash & Card for payment
Logo Items £3, non-logo £2, Misc £1

RIVERHEAD CARNIVAL

Sunday 15th September
12pm to 4.30pm

CHIPSTEAD COMMON, WITCHES LANE
TN13 2AQ

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FAMILY FUN!

- inflatables •
- scouts BBQ •
- ale & pimmis tent •
- craft gin and prosecco •
- live band & DJ •
- dog show •
- arena display •
- egg throwing comp •
- market stalls •
- and much more!

Sponsored/Supported by: The Bullfinch pub, Frank's Barbers, Sevenoaks Animal Feeds, Spot Van Hire, Fairseat Farm Eggs, The Kings Head pub & Cottage Farm Butchers
Organised by 3rd Sevenoaks Scout Group. For information visit www.3rdsevenoaks.org.uk or email 3rdsevenoaksfundraising@gmail.com

please help

Riverhead

Carnival

We would appreciate your help with this event!

- We are in need of **donations of sweets and chocolate**
- Please **drop it off at school** by leaving it in the lobby - Thursday 12th (am/pm) and Friday 13th (am).
- If you have any **portable tables and pop up gazebos** we can borrow - please contact myself (amherst-chair@outlook.com) or via your class reps as this will save us requiring access to the school site.
- **10.00am on the day** - we need 4 people to help set up the gazebo and tables on Chipstead Common.
- **Finally, we need volunteers to man the stall between 12 and 2** as it's pretty popular and busy! Riverhead's team will take over from 2.00pm and do the clear down as we share the stall :)

Thank you so much for getting the year going with me and our new team!

Lydia (PTA Chair) x

LET'S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Edward K	5A	Rex S
3CL	Bella R	5HR	William W-E
3WH	Hayden L	5J	Heila S
4C	Carter S	6A	Maisie M
4SF	Freddie P	6MW	Richard L
4T	Oliver B	6W	Zachary T

EX-PUPIL NEWS

One of our ex-year 6 pupils took part in a short story writing competition held over the summer. They used their wall mural as an inspiration.

Autumn J (6A 2024) and her family took part in the competition and Autumn came though as the overall winner.

While she has now left Amherst she attributed her success to the teaching and support she received at Amherst for her creative writing and so wanted to share this with you.

Congratulations Autumn!



FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the following year 5 boys were selected for West Kent District Football:

Max L, Tobias W and William W-E (All in 5HR)

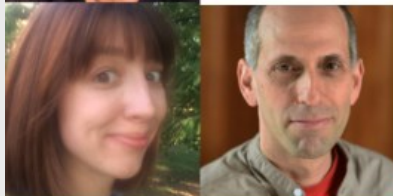
They are very happy to start the new season off, showing off their new kit. The boys were selected from many schools in the area to represent their district.

Well done boys!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

YOUNG ADULT AND TEEN BOOK TALKS AT SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



YA & TEEN LITERARY FESTIVAL

CROSSING THE LINE - TIA FISHER

Friday 13 September 6.00pm

THE SPACE - RECITAL ROOM

SHORTLISTED FOR THE YOTO CARNEGIE MEDAL 2024.

A powerful novel exploring how teenagers can be swept up into county lines. Written in stunning verse, this is a poignant story about seeking safety and asking for help in times of crisis.

CATCH YOUR DEATH - RAVENA GURON

Saturday 14 September 6.00pm

THE SPACE - SACKVILLE THEATRE

From the bestselling author of This Book Kills comes a deadly new YA thriller of murder, mystery and mind-blowing twists.

OVERTHINKING - DAVID FENNE

Saturday 14 September 6.30pm

THE SPACE - RECITAL ROOM

A queer, urban fantasy with emotional punch. The second instalment in this queer YA fantasy trilogy includes plenty of new drama, intrigue and jaw-dropping surprises.

WHY ANIMALS TALK - ARIK KERSHENBAUM

Sunday 15 September 2.00pm

THE SPACE - SACKVILLE THEATRE

World-leading zoologist Dr. Arik Kershenbaum unveils the secrets of animal communication. He explains why animals communicate and offers profound insights into our language.

ON SILVER TIDES - SYLVIA BISHOP

Sunday 15 September 2.30pm

THE SPACE - RECITAL ROOM

Full of heart, drama and beauty, this sweeping fantasy inspired by ancient folklore will draw you into a secret world within Britain's waterways.

PANTHEON - CAROLINE LAWRENCE

Sunday 15 September 4.00pm

THE SPACE - SACKVILLE THEATRE

Explore the mythical Past, Meet the ancient Greek Gods & Goddesses, and discover why their stories are still so enthralling today.

TICKETS ARE £5 FOR EACH TALK. PLEASE BOOK ONLINE AT www.thespacesevenoaks.co.uk/whats-on

 **THE SPACE**
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
AT SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



Parents Supporting Parents

A family support group for parents and carers of young people in the Sevenoaks District

Meeting once a week for 10 weeks, this support group will offer a safe space for parents/carers to share their experiences. Participants will gain confidence in talking about mental health, supporting young people engaging in behaviours including self-harm, and understand where to go for support in times of crisis.

When: Wednesdays from 6.30-8pm starting 18 September
Venue: West Kent Mind, 34 St John's Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3LW
For more details and to register, email cyp@westkentmind.org.uk, call us on 01732 744950 or visit our website:

westkentmind.org.uk/parents-supporting-parents

 West Kent

 Sevenoaks Primary Care Network



Strings FOR YOUTH

"String orchestras for young players looking to expand their musical horizons and enjoyment through playing with others"

SFY Sevenoaks
St Luke's Church,
30 Eardley Road,
TN13 1XT

Fridays (in term time)
First Strings
4.00-5.00pm
Beginner to Grade 1*

Second Strings
5.15-6.15pm
Grade 1 to Grade 4*

* grade levels serve as a guide only

To find out more, visit www.stringsforyouth.com

 @strings_foryouth
 @StringsforYouth
 Strings for Youth

Strings for Youth is a suite of string orchestras for children who play the violin, viola or cello, from the beginner level through to Grade 8 and beyond, rehearsing weekly during term time to present a concert at the end of each term.

We run two of these high-quality orchestras (beginner to Grade 4 level) at **St Luke's Church, Sevenoaks** and would really love to get more young string players involved and offer this valuable opportunity to as many of them as we can. Orchestral playing is not only of benefit to children's musical development, but also helps to further their social skills, improve mental health and build an important sense of community and teamwork.

Children are also welcome to come along with their instruments for a **free trial session** at our first rehearsals on **Friday 13 September!** Please visit our website for more information - www.stringsforyouth.com.