

AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2nd EDITION - 13 September 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR REID



Smartphones

By the end of last academic year we had the vast majority of our **Year 6 children bringing a smartphone to school** which was then placed in a box during school time and stored in the school office. I have spent much time reflecting whether children need to bring a smartphone to a junior school. I have always been under the impression that the reason for bring a phone to school was due to **parents' safety fears** when their child walks to school independently.

At the end of Term 6 I spent time asking the Year 6 children why they were bringing a phone to school and if it was linked to safety. **The answer was no!** The children described that they liked to bring their phone to school as it gave them the opportunity **to go on their phone (gaming, social media or watching videos) before school and after school when they weren't with their parents.** For many children walking to and from school looking at their phone is a **far greater road safety danger.** We have unintentionally also created an unwelcome element of **peer pressure** linked to children feeling they have to bring a phone to school or issues regarding what type of phone they have.

Therefore I would like to **trial from Monday 23rd September** children not to bring a smartphone to Amherst School. If your child does need a phone linked to walking independently to school please could it not be a smartphone. This would be a phone that they can make calls on or text only. We have some children who are already doing this. This phone would still be handed in each day.

We see a sharp increase in the number of Year 6 children owning a smartphone after the Kent Test and Christmas. I would like to establish this new routine before more children own a smartphone. **I hope you are supportive of this change.** As a parent myself (children aged 14, 12 and 9) I know how hard this area is.



Time Tables Rock Stars

Times Tables have always been an important aspect of primary school maths, with fast recall of times tables allowing children much easier access to trickier mathematical concepts.

This is even more true with the recent introduction of the statutory Multiplication Times table Check for our Year 4s.

To aid the children in their learning, we have provided all children with access to a programme called Times table Rockstars. TTRockstars is a highly effective, but most importantly fun and engaging, way for children to improve their times table recall. If your child doesn't already know their login, their teacher will be happy to provide you with it. TTRockstars can be accessed from any device - practice enough and you may even be able to beat your teacher! If you have any questions on its use, please don't hesitate to let us know.

I hope you have an excellent weekend and enjoy the welcome return to some sunshine. I have my last cricket match of the season tomorrow, hopefully I will get some runs!

Mr Reid

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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.



SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS— YEAR 5 & YEAR 6

Parents, please familiarise yourself with the [secondary school open days](#) currently being hosted. Please complete and absence form if you would like to take your child to view a school.



PARENT HELPERS NEEDED

We are celebrating Harvest Festival on 3rd October. **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



BREAKFAST CLUB SPACES AVAILABLE

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



DOGS

Please remember **not to bring dogs on the school site or the collection area at pick up time**. Many thanks for your support.



VACANCIES

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

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

We are still looking for **YEAR 5 parent readers** please—If you can spare even an hour it would be much appreciated. Please indicate on www.schoolgateway.com your availability.



AUTUMN TERM YEAR GROUP LETTERS

Please click on the links below:

[Year 3 Letter](#) [Year 4 Letter](#) [Year 5 Letter](#) [Year 6 Letter](#)



FUTURE DATES

17 September - Meet the teacher (Year 3—4.00pm / Year 4—4.45pm)

18 September - Meet the teacher (Year 5—4.00pm / Year 6—4.45pm)

23 September - Clubs start

24 September - Year 6 Child Measurement Programme

25 September - Year 6 Secondary Application Meeting—7.15pm

2 October - School Photos

23 October - Year 6 - WWII day

24 October - Last Day of Term

25 October - Inset Day



please help

- We are still in need of **donations of sweets and chocolate**—please can you drop it off at our stall on the common from 11.00am
- 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 your support - Lydia Sage (PTA Chair)

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 & pimm's 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, Frazzled Frame Signs, The Kings Head pub & Cottage Frame Butchers
Organised by 3rd Sevenoaks Scout Group. For information visit www.3rdsevenoaks.org.uk or email 3rdsevenoaksfundraising@gmail.com

Amherst Extracurricular Clubs

AUTUMN / SPRING
2024 - 2025

Your child will be coming home with a paper copy of the Autumn & Spring Clubs list today.

Here are a few notes to guide you when you look at the list.

You will see from the list that we are in the fortunate position of being able to offer a wide range of clubs. Please discuss with your child which clubs they would like to join.

- To sign up, please complete the online form by the **latest Monday 16th September 2024 at 12.00pm.**
- Clubs start week commencing **23rd September 2024** and end **29th November 2024**, with the exception of a few.

The Ceramics club is making the following items in the autumn term:

Tuesday Group:

Three angels singing around a candle.



Wednesday Group:

Christmas tree with candle in the middle.



CONFIRMATION OF PLACES

There will be a limited number of children per club.

Once we finalise the club lists, we will **confirm your child's place via an email** from the office towards the end of next week.

There may be occasions when a club has to be cancelled at short notice but generally, we will give as much notice as possible of cancellation. Similarly, should your child not be able to attend on a particular day, your child should please notify the teacher in charge of the club.

REQUESTS FOR HELP

For the clubs below to run, we welcome offers of help. Please indicate your availability on the booking form:

- Chess (Monday)
- Girls Football (Thursday)
- Hockey Drivers (Thursday)
- Beginner Cross Country (Tuesday)
- Cross Country (Friday)



COMPLETE THE CLUBS FORM ONLINE

Please [click here](#) to tell us which clubs your child would like to attend.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS @ AMHERST SCHOOL

AUTUMN AND SPRING CLUBS LIST (winter & indoor clubs)		SUMMER CLUBS LIST (summer & outside clubs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Sign up • Clubs list sent to parent by mid-September • Parents sign children up via the Clubs booking form • Club allocations are communicated for: 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Sign up • Clubs list sent to parents before Easter • Parents sign children up via the Clubs booking form • Club allocations are communicated for:
AUTUMN (Term 1 and 2) Starts 4th week of term to end November	SPRING (Term 3 and 4) Starts 2 nd week of term to mid March	SUMMER (Term 5 and 6) Starts 2 nd week of term to end of June
CHESS CLUB EXAMPLE: 80 children chose Chess as 1 st choice club in September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 30 children were allocated a place in Autumn (T 1&2) o 30 children were allocated a place in Spring (T 3&4) o The rest will go on the waiting list for when a space opens up 		ATHLETICS CLUB EXAMPLE: 60 children chose Athletics as 1 st choice club in March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 30 children were allocated a place in 5th Half term o 30 children were allocated a place in 6th Half term o The rest will go on the waiting list for when a space opens up
END OF DECEMBER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminders for Autumn club attendance coming to an end are sent out • Reminders for Spring term attendance from January are sent out • MINI SIGN UP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For clubs with changes or with open spaces o Those clubs already allocated in September will be blacked out on the updated clubs list. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The booking form will show only the open and available spaces 		

CLUBS EXPLAINED

LET'S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Emma S	5A	William C
3CL	Arthur S	5HR	Alice J
3WH	Ralph G	5J	Leela P
4C	Amber G	6A	Fred M
4SF	Tyler B-M	6MW	Chloe B
4T	Ava B	6W	Lyra G

EX-PUPIL NEWS

Alice M had a very successful summer of tennis competition reaching the last 16 of 'Play Your Way to Wimbledon National Finals' held on the grass courts at Wimbledon in a field of 48 County Winners from around the country.

She then went on to become County champion in 3 events at the Kent Championships: 14U Singles, 14U doubles & 18U mixed doubles. She's now ranked number 4 in the County and has been selected for the 16U County squad.

Alice represented the school tennis team and attended the lunchtime training from years 3-6 & still trains at Chipstead Place LTC, her local village club!

Congratulations to Alice!



LIBRARY BOOKS



Parents, please can all school library books promptly be returned once your child has finished reading it.

Annually we are seeing 200-300 books not being returned and we are unable to replace them.

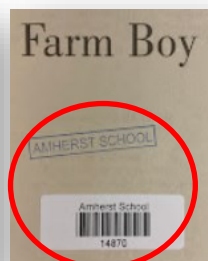
We would really appreciate your help with this as we would not want our children to miss out on wonderful resources the school owns.

School books are often recognisable by the following:

Silver Stickers

Reading band coloured stickers

School Stamp & Barcode



COMMUNITY EVENTS



OCTOBER HALF TERM TECH CAMP

OFSTED REGISTERED

IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK
21ST OCT - 1ST NOV

ROBOTS INVENTIONS
MINECRAFT & LEGO ENGINEERING
VR & TECH FUN

AGES 5-11 | £45 PER DAY
9AM - 3PM DAILY

5 DAYS for only £175

CELEBRATE YOUR BEST ACCEPTED

www.nextthing.education

OCTOBER HALF TERM 2024

What's on?

MINECRAFT ENGINEERING | PROGRAM ROBOTS | SPOOKY FILM MAKING | LEGO ENGINEERING | 3D CREATIONS

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your camp activities.

21ST OCT - 25TH OCT LIMITED SPACES
28TH OCT - 1ST NOV LIMITED SPACES

Check out what parents are saying:
"The kids absolutely loved the camp. They could not stop talking about what they did and how much fun they had and begged to go back. Great tech camp!"

★★★★★

SPECIAL OFFER

BOOK 5 DAYS FOR ONLY £175

What to bring to camp

- ✓ Packed Lunch and Drink
- ✓ Water Bottle
- ✓ Medication (if required)
- ✓ Halloween Costume (Policy Optional)

www.nextthing.education E: info@nextthing.education T: 01464 287310

PIANO FAVOURITES RECITAL

Sunday 29 September
5-7pm (doors 4.30pm)

Simon Proctor

In aid of SAMARITANS Sevenoaks

Walthamstow Hall School
Holly Bush Lane
Sevenoaks
TN13 3UL

Tickets £12 (adults); £5 (children)
<https://simonproctor.eventbrite.co.uk/>
or click on the QR code:

Refreshments & raffle

Featuring:

- Bohemian Rhapsody
- Ride of the Valkyries
- Moonlight Sonata
- Clair de Lune
- In the Hall of the Mountain King
- Wedding Day at Trollhaugen
- Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2

Plus original works by international composer & pianist Simon Proctor, playing for the first time in his home town

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

MEGACAMPS

KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

CHILD CARE FROM 8am - 6pm

AGES 4 - 14

BOOK ONLINE NOW!
WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET
OR CALL 0333 012 4378

OFSTED REGISTERED

ALL OUR STAFF ARE DBS CHECKED

Dance-worx's is coming to Nizels

★ FREE OPEN DAY ★
AT NIZELS

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

- ★ STREET JAZZ 11.30am-12pm
- ★ DRAMA 12pm-12.20PM
- ★ TAP 12.20pm-12.50pm
- ★ BALLET 12.50PM-1.20PM

All the above class are completely free on Saturday 21st September for children ages 7 & above.

Spaces are limited!!

Please contact the Dance-Worx's office on 07538 199 678 or by email office@danceworxs.co.uk to register for any of the above class at our open day, feel free to register for more than one, siblings and friends are also welcome.

10% DISCOUNT & FREE DWX TSHIRT TO EVERYONE WHO SIGNS UP FOR THE REST OF THE TERM ON THE DAY!!

Dance-Worx's Company Registration Number: 81.86838
Member of UKA Professional Dance Teachers Association. Fully Insured/DBS Approved

Love the Game UK

Football Coaching

OCTOBER HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMPS

NOW IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS!

Fun, games, goals, saves, technical sessions, penalty shootouts, tournaments and more.

AGES 5-15 | Boys and girls of all abilities

Coaches are first aid and safeguarding trained, DBS checked, and some even have Premier League coaching experience.

£26 per day, £13 for half day or £110 for all 5 days at Sevenoaks or £70 for 3 days at Tunbridge Wells

10AM - 3PM

Tunbridge Wells
Week 1 Tue 22nd October - Thu 24th October
Week 2 Tue 28th October - Thu 31st October

Sevenoaks
Mon 28th October - Fri 1st November

TWGSB Sevenoaks
Seal Hollow Road
Sevenoaks
TN13 3SL

Skinnars Kent Academy
Sandown Park
Tunbridge Wells
TN2 4PY

Sevenoaks
Tunbridge Wells

To book -

- Follow the QR code, taking you straight to our booking site.
- Go to our website, find Holiday Football Camps, and book your place there.

See website for more details or email: camps@lovethegameuk.co.uk

BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

The UK's favourite holiday activity camp !!!

LOCAL OCTOBER CAMP!
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT
EXTRA £20 OFF!

USE CODE: SCHOOL20

*Min 2 days booking. Can't be used in conjunction with other offer codes

EARLY BOOKING OFFER ENDS 22ND SEPTEMBER

- ⊙ SAVE UP TO *£85!
- ⊙ 4½ to 14 year olds!
- ⊙ Choice each session!
- ⊙ Flexible bookings!
- ⊙ Boost Confidence!

OFSTED REGISTERED

*You can save £85 off a full week with our Limited time Early Booking Offer and exclusive school discount code

barracudas.co.uk
01480 467 567

Trustpilot