

Club sessions **183**



2 NHS visits (Flu & Measurements)
1 School Photo Day
1 Fire Drill
1 Kent Test
4 Meet the Teacher Meetings

Sevenoaks School Science Trips

5



Sports Tournaments

7



2024
Celebrating this term



Hours of Teaching Time **152**

Assemblies **30**

7 Trips & Workshops

AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
8th EDITION - 24 October 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR REID End of Term Update

The last eight weeks have been busy and productive with the summer holidays a distant memory. It feels like the weeks have passed ever so quickly and yet the children and staff are ready for half-term and the chance to recharge.

Well done to Year 3 and other new children who have had a highly successful first term at Amherst. It has been wonderful to see the children confidently adapt to the new routines and expectations. They have achieved so much in the last eight weeks and have made good progress academically but also socially and emotionally too.

Our last week of term was full of additional activities

6 **Year 6 enjoyed** an excellent WW2 experience day yesterday. Thank you for all the effort regarding period costumes. It really was like Year 6 had gone back in time for the day. [Click here](#) to view some of the wonderful photos taken.

Inter House Handball Tournament—On Wednesday Miss Jones and the House Captains organised a very successful Inter House handball tournament for Years 4 and 5. Handball is a great sport and we have a coach attend school each week to deliver handball sessions as part of the PE curriculum.

3 **Each Year 3 class** has had a science themed day this week focussing on their study of rocks. We had a specialist science teacher lead the sessions which the children really enjoyed and they learnt so much. [Click here](#) for more photos.



Sporting Success

The last two weeks have seen sporting success for our **netball and football teams**. Both started their league campaigns undefeated with the football team winning three matches and the netball team two. Well done to all children and staff involved. This gives both teams a great opportunity to the win their league this year.

Finally,

Tomorrow is an Inset day and all teachers will be attending the annual Sevenoaks Primary Schools Partnership conference at Sevenoaks School. It should be an informative day and a good chance to network with teachers from other local schools.

Congratulations to Mr Brownlie and his partner for the birth of their baby boy this week.

I hope you all have a great half-term break next week and get some opportunities to spend time together as a family. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 4th November.

Happy Half Term!

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. Please complete for **ANY** appointment during the day.



CLUBS

All clubs should run as normal from **Monday 4th November 2024**.



NEW MENU FROM 4 NOVEMBER!

We are excited to launch our **NEW MENU** from the first day back after half term.

Please discuss the menu with your children in advance and remember to make payment for school lunches via www.schoolgateway.com.

If you would like to change your child's meal pattern, please [click here](#).

Amherst School Kitchen
1

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK beginning:					
4 Nov	Macaroni Cheese & Ham (1.5)	Pork Sausage Roll (1.5)	Roast Turkey, Yorkshire Pudding (1.7, 5 & Gravy (1.0))	Beef Chilli Con Carne (1.0)	Chicken Goujons (1)
25 Nov	Macaroni Cheese (1.5)	Vegan Sausage Roll (1.5)	Stuffed Pepper (1.0) (See notes below)	Vegetable Chilli Con Carne (1.0)	Vegan Nuggets (1)
16 Dec	Pasta (1) Tomato and basil sauce Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Pasta (1) Tomato and basil sauce Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Pasta (1) Tomato and basil sauce Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Pasta (1) Tomato and basil sauce Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Pasta (1) Tomato and basil sauce Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)
20 Jan	Baguette (1) + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Wrap (1) + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Baguette (1) + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Wraps (1) + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Baguette (1) + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)
10 Feb	Jacket Potato + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Jacket Potato + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Jacket Potato + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Jacket Potato + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)	Jacket Potato + Side Salad Cheese (9) Tuna Mayo (4, 7)
10 Mar	Peas	Swiss Potatoes	Roast Potatoes	Mixed Vegetable Rice	Skinny Chips & Ketchup
31 Mar	Cherry Goodie (1, 14) & Custard (9)	Fruit Cheese & Sweets (1, 3)	Ginger Sponge (5, 7)	Out Cookie (1, 7)	Ice Cream (9)

OUR KITCHEN

All our food is prepared in our own, fantastic kitchen, cooked fresh every day subject to availability. If you need, full ingredient lists & allergen information is available on request. We are a nut free school, however some products are subject to "may contain" status in manufacturing.

AVAILABLE DAILY: FRESH FRUIT / BREAD / WATER / SALAD

Pasta & Bread can be gluten free

- Vegan option available
- Puddings: Ice Cream (9), Yoghurt (9), Fruit available
- Gluten Free option available
- Puddings: Fruit, Jelly, Highfruit available
- Dairy Free option available

ALLERGEN KEY

1 Contains gluten	2 Crustaceans	3 Molluscs	4 Fish
5 Peanuts	6 Nuts	7 Eggs	8 Soybeans
9 Milk	10 Celery	11 Mustard	12 Lupin
13 Sesame	14 Sulphur Dioxide		



KCC BIKEABILITY— YEAR 6

We are fortunate to have been able to secure 24 spaces for our year 6 pupils to take part in the KCC Bikeability Cycle Training during the May half term break. A letter was sent to all year 6 parents on 14 October. If your child would like to attend this training, please register your interest via www.schoolgateway.com by no later than Monday 4 November 2024.



LETTERS SENT THIS WEEK

Choir letter
Year 4—Battle Abbey Trip Letter



VACANCIES

Please visit www.kent-teach.com to view our current vacancy for a Clerk to the Governors.



YEAR 6 - APPLY BY 31/10/24

Parents, please be sure to submit your child's secondary school application before the end of the month. More details below.
Please [click here](#) to complete the form.

Admission to Secondary school in Kent 2025

Apply online at kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
Opens Monday 2 September 2024 and closes at midnight on Thursday 31 October 2024

For children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014, Transferring to Secondary school in September 2025



What to do	Choose a school	Apply for a school place	Receiving your offer
<p>It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form.</p> <p>Read the Guide to Secondary Admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions.</p> <p>You can name up to four Secondary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.</p> <p>Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you have queries relating to this, please email the team on one of the email addresses below.</p>	<p>A simple, fast, convenient process which opens Monday 2 September 2024 and closes at midnight on Thursday 31 October 2024</p> <p>If you already have an account set up from the Kent Test process, please use these login details.</p> <p>You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted correctly and that the LA has received it.</p> <p>You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.</p>	<p>On offer day (Monday 3 March 2025) an email will be sent after 4pm informing you of your offer. You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by Monday 17 March 2025.</p> <p>If we have not offered your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list if your child is eligible for admission.</p>	<p>Key dates</p> <p>Monday 2nd September 2024 Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions to register and apply.</p> <p>Thursday 31 October 2024 Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk</p> <p>Monday 3rd March 2025 Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.</p> <p>Monday 17th March 2025 Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of eligible schools named on the original application.</p> <p>Monday 31st March 2025 Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September - appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals. You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.</p>

Need help?
Email kentadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions
Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.
The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email - please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.
Please note applications can only be made via Kent County Council if the child resides at a Kent address. If your child does not reside at a Kent address, you must make an application via your Local Authority.



25 October	- Inset Day
4 November	- Term 2 starts
5 November	- PTA Match Funding Evening 7.00pm
12 November	- PTA AGM 7.00—8.00pm
15 November	- Open Afternoon 2.45pm
18-20 November	- Book Fair
21 November	- Charity Fun Run - 8.00am
22 November	- Charity Bake Sale - 3.30pm
25 November	- Amherst Choir Barnardo's
26 & 28 November	- Parents Evening
29 November	- Clubs End
7 December	- PTA Christmas Bazaar 12.00pm
9 December	- Year 4 Christmas Production 2.00pm
10 December	- Year 4 Christmas Production 6.00pm
16 December	- Carol Service 6.00pm
17 December	- Whole School Pantomime Trip
18 December	- Christmas Lunch
20 December	- Last day of term

CLUBS



Our extra-curricular clubs are now in the full swing of things and we hope the children are learning new skills and having fun!



The Year 6 children in our **Guinea Pig Club** have some special 'hands on' time with Guinea Pigs Snowy and Nutmeg. They are taught how to keep the run clean and fresh and how to look after pets.



The Table Tennis Squad practising on Tuesday afternoons.



Ceramics Club children are working hard on their Angel Candle holders.



Beginners **Tennis Club** having fun early this morning with soft balls and rackets.

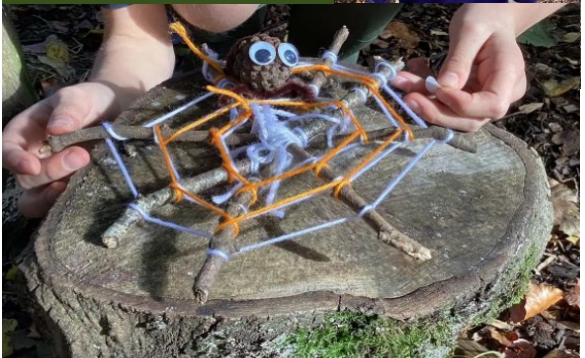


String and Nail artwork in the form of hearts and stars in **Art Club** this week.

Cross Country Club taking a quick stop to pose for a photo— what a beautiful sunrise over Chesterfield Drive this morning!



At Forest School this week we have had great fun making spider webs and spiders. We are looking forward to some spooky cooking on the campfire soon.



Dear Parents

Reminder - AGM - 7pm on 12th November @ The Bullfinch.

Please note that during the AGM a vote will be held on whether to accept or reject changes to the **Amherst School PTA Constitution** which hasn't been updated since 2008. We kindly ask for any members wishing to take part in the vote to read the documentation ahead of the AGM. Please email amherst-treasurer@outlook.com to receive the documents.

RSVP – Charitable Chums & Fizz Event – 7pm on 5th November @ Amherst

Please RSVP for this event by ordering tickets on the following link:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta>

In our first PTA meeting we set a **rep challenge** of four match fund parents per class. See below latest standings:

4	3WH, 5A
3	4SF, 5J
2	4T
1	3B, 3CL, 5HR, 6A, 6MW
0	4C, 6W

Amherst PTA invites you to its
CHARITABLE CHUMS & FIZZ EVENT
 TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
 7PM - 9PM
 AMHERST SCHOOL HALL

Come along and learn how to support your school while enjoying a glass of complimentary fizz.

PLEASE RSVP ON
[HTTPS://WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/AMHERSTPTA](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/amherstpta)

PE TIMETABLE - TERM 2

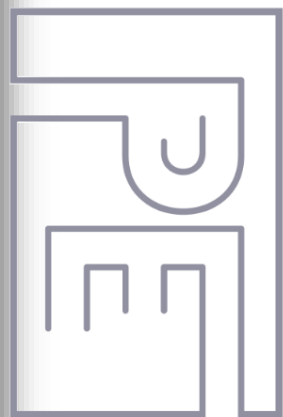
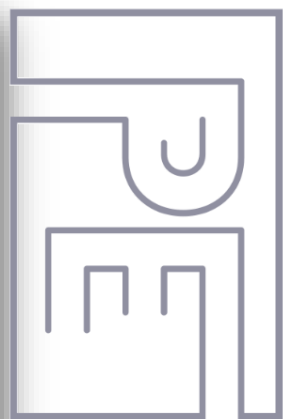
Term 2 – PE Timetable 2024/25

Indoor PE sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10 – 10.10					
11 – 12	5HR Gymnastics				4C Dance
1.35 – 2.30	5J Gymnastics	6W Dance	6A Dance	3CL Yoga	4SF Dance
2.30 – 3.25	5A Gymnastics	6MW Dance	3B Yoga	3WH Yoga	4T Dance

Outdoor PE sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10 – 10.10					
11 – 12			4T Handball		
1.30 – 2.30	3CL Tag rugby		4C Handball	5A Hockey	6MW Football
2.30 – 3.30	3B Football		4SF Handball	6W Hockey	6A Tag rugby
2.00 – 3.00 (Extra class)	3WH Netball			5J + 5HR Tag rugby	



COMMUNITY EVENTS



SEVENOAKS sings

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featuring 

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Doors open 6.40pm

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VISIT WEBSITE FOR DATES & LOCATIONS

ALL OUR STAFF ARE DBS




STONEPITTS CHRISTMAS TREES
Stonepitts Farm, Watery Lane, Seal Chart, TN15 0ER

We are once again approaching the Christmas Season.

Donations to schools
As in previous years, we would once again like to offer a £2.00 donation to your School for every Christmas Tree bought by families and staff. Please produce proof of this newsletter article when buying a tree and this will count towards the final donation to the school.

Supporting Charities
We will also make a donation per tree sold to Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

Kent Young Carers



According to BBC research there are 30,000 Young Carers living in Kent, many of which are hidden, hard to reach or unaware they are in a caring role! It is important that they know they are not alone.

Kent Young Carers (KYC) is the service provider for Young Carers aged 5-18 across Kent (excluding Medway). Young Carers are taking on caring responsibilities for a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse issue.

KYC works with schools, communities, and statutory and voluntary agencies to identify hidden young carers. Following assessment, KYC offer a range of short-term interventions including signposting, one-to-one support, in school support and workshops. KYC also offer training and information to professionals.

For further information please contact the KYC Hub:
Phone 0300 111 1110
Email youngcarers@imago.community

Parenting workshop to celebrate Odd Socks Day

Raising a Secure Child


How you can help your child feel comfortable with who they are and express their unique self

Have you noticed that there are times when your child avoids new situations, is quiet around other people or gets easily upset?

It often happens when their reptilian brain perceives new or challenging experiences as threats. You might know from experience that it's impossible to argue with this survival response. Convincing or explaining does not help move forward.

The only way to help your child in situations like that is to help them feel safe first. I created this workshop to share simple, practical steps you can take to help your child feel safe in difficult situations as well as nurture their overall sense of emotional security.

Where: online
When: Tuesday, November 12, 11.30 am - 12.30 pm
Follow this link to register for the workshop



Una Archer MSc is a go-to parenting mentor for stressed out and overwhelmed parents. She uses tried and tested attachment-informed framework to help parents feel more confident and navigate the challenges of parenting in a more connected and peaceful way. To find out more, visit www.helpyourchildthrive.co.uk

COMMUNITY EVENTS

STUDY SMART
Free Online Courses

Aspire Education

n.c.f.e. | cache

Education & Skills Funding Agency

Fully Funded School Support Course



Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

6 Week Course
Mon - Fri
Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

www.studysmartuk.online

Available In the following levels:

Level 1:	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
Level 2:	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Level 3:	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

Please go to our website address above, for more information.

*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that **MUST** be attended to complete this full time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria.

Light Party
autumn edition

SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

SEVENOAKS
TRINITY SCHOOL, SEAL HOLLOW RD,
SEVENOAKS, TN13 3SL

JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING AUTUMN PARTY!

Bring your family and join us for a fantastic day filled with laughter, excitement, and unforgettable memories at our Fun-Filled Autumn Party!

Fun Games for Everyone!
Get ready for some friendly competition with our exciting games, including a Pumpkin Carving competition. Create beautiful crafts that celebrate the light of Jesus.

Get ready for a Special Puppet Show: enjoy a heartwarming show for the whole family as well as a Pumpkin Patch Praise Party.

Bring the whole family and let's celebrate the light of Jesus together!

click here to register

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- Ongoing confidence
- Self-esteem
- Communication skills
- Effective social interaction

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4 - 5pm ages 5-10yrs.

Unlock your child's potential!
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07938 113 496
sevenoaks@dramakids.co.uk
Gravesend & Sevenoaks
www.dramakids.co.uk

SPOOKTACULAR!
Join us in Sevenoaks this half term for an adventure through a spooky mansion with exciting characters!
Thurs 31st October 1pm-4pm
£25 pp
BOOK NOW FOR SOME SPOOKY DRAMA FUN!
SEVENOAKS@DRAMAKIDS.CO.UK
Badger's Mount Memorial Hall, Highroad Road, TN13 3SL

mcpersonnel in partnership with **Kent County Council**

Give your time and change a family's life

If you feel passionate about children having the best possible start in life and can spare a few hours (or more!) a week, then why not consider volunteering as a Family Coach?

SCAN FOR MORE INFO!

Kent Family Hub

HOW WILL YOU HELP FAMILIES?

- You'll support families with their perinatal mental health, building positive parent/infant relationships and supporting them with infant nutrition and feeding.
- You'll receive training to increase your knowledge and ability to support families.
- You'll share your own experiences to support and encourage parents at a crucial stage in their child's development.
- You'll listen to their feedback to help us improve Family Hub services across the county.

APPLY TODAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Call us on 01634 576111 or 07949 385629
- WhatsApp/Message us on 07949 385629
- Email us at familyhub@mc-personnel.co.uk

SCHOOL HOLIDAY & WRAPAROUND CLUBS

OCTOBER HALF TERM
28TH OCT - 1ST NOV 2024

ST. JOHNS PRIMARY SCHOOL
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TN4 9EW

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