



18th Edition
23 January
2026

AMHERST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Parent Questionnaire – Feedback

Thank you to everybody who completed the annual parent questionnaire before Christmas. We always use the **Ofsted parent questionnaire questions** and interestingly there were some changes this year linked to the new Ofsted inspection framework. **The new questions were:**

- The school communicates well with me about the things I need to know.
- When the school makes decisions, it has the child’s interest at heart.
- The school gives my child the right support to enable them to learn well.

Overall the responses were very positive.

Thank you to all parents that took the time to write comments **both positive and with areas to improve**. Comments often provide us with more detail which is very helpful. I am acutely aware that **each individual child’s experience at Amherst is unique** and can vary greatly. It is pleasing that the majority of children are having a **positive experience** and **making good progress socially, emotionally and academically**. Where this might not be the case, **we will continue to do all we can to provide good support** addressing any areas of concern.

A bespoke **Year 3** question we add is ***My child’s transition to Amherst has been successful***. It is great to see that from the parents that responded this has been the case with **100%** answering ‘Strongly Agree’ or ‘Agree’.

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	Total Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Bullied
My child is happy at this school	137	104 (76%)	30 (22%)	2 (1%)	1 (1%)	
My child feels safe at this school		106 (77%)	28 (20%)	3 (3%)		
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved		82 (60%)	49 (36%)	6 (4%)		
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.		11	12	6	1	107 (78%)
The school communicates well with me about the things I need to know.		75 (55%)	61 (44%)	1 (1%)		
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly		60 (44%)	31 (23%)	4 (2%)		42 (31%)
When the school makes decisions, it has the child’s best interests at heart.		89 (65%)	43 (31%)	5 (4%)		
The school gives my child the right support to enable them to learn well.		78 (57%)	55 (40%)	4 (3%)		
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school		103 (75%)	33 (24%)	1 (1%)		
The school supports my child’s wider personal development		76 (55%)	54 (39%)	7 (6%)		
I would recommend this school to another parent.		134 (98%)		3 (2%)		
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	23	13 (57%)	8 (35%)	2 (8%)		
My child’s transition to Amherst has been successful. (Year 3)	42	34 (81%)	8 (9%)			

I hope you all have a good weekend and we get some moments of dry weather!

Mr Reid



PTA CLASSLIST our online ‘HOME’

We have a few **WONDERFUL EVENTS** planned for the coming terms.

Please make sure you are registered on the CLASSLIST platform to ensure you are able to access tickets and place orders.



NOTICES



REPORT ABSENCES

Please complete the quick [Daily Absence Form](#) on our website before 9.00am for **every day** your child is off school. The form should also be used for medical appointments, holiday requests and school visits.



CLUBS START – WEEK BEGINNING 26 JANUARY 2026

ALL clubs should be running as normal.



LETTERS SENT

- Year 3 - [Intended Learning](#)



PARKING

Parents, please consider our neighbours and children walking to school when parking at drop off or when collecting your children from school.



PTA – UPCOMING DATES

TEAM AMHERST TERM 3 - PTA EVENTS CALENDAR

Fri 16th Jan 1.45pm PTA Meeting

Fri 23rd Jan 3.30pm Uniform Sale

Fri 6th Feb 3.30pm Cake/pancake Sale

Fri 6th Feb 7.30pm Parents Quiz

Fri 13th Feb All day Crazy Hair Day!



GREAT BOOKS TO READ

The following list of books was recommended to teachers recently. If you are looking for new books for your child, please click on the following link:

[Great Books Guide](#)



YEAR 6 – HILLTOP RESIDENTIAL

Please be reminded that the 4th instalment of £120.00 is due at the end of January. Payments should please be made via www.schoolgateway.com.

FUTURE DATES

CALENDAR DATES 2026		** Red dates added this week
04-Feb	Inter House Competition	
06-Feb	PTA Cake and Pancake Sale - 3.30pm	
06-Feb	PTA Quiz Night - 8.00pm	
10-Feb	Safer Internet Day	
13-Feb	PTA Crazy Hair Day	
13-Feb	END OF TERM	
HALF TERM		
23-Feb	START OF TERM	
23-Feb	Year 3 Resilience Show - Shooting Stars	
23-Feb	Year 6 - Young Voices 2026	
27-Feb	PTA Fancy Dress Costume / 2nd Hand Uniform Sale - 3.30pm	
03-Mar	PTA Meeting - 7.00 - 8.00pm (at school)	
05-Mar	World Book Day	
09-Mar	Year 5 - Rainforest Roadshow (workshop at school)	
10-Mar	Science Day	
11 - 13 /03	Year 3 - Roman Day	
13-Mar	Open Afternoon - 2.45pm	
16-Mar	Year 6 - Trip to Parliament	
20-Mar	Red Nose Day	
20-Mar	PTA - Cake Sale	
20-Mar	Clubs End	
23-Mar	Year 6 Dance Troupe - Love 2 Dance Show @ the Stag Theatre	
24-Mar	Parent Consultations	
25-Mar	BUDDY: Riverhead Shared Books and Playtime	
26-Mar	Parent Consultations	
30-Mar	Year 3 - Easter Production Dress Rehearsal - 2.00pm - 3.00pm	
31-Mar	Year 3 - Easter Production - 2.00pm - 3.00pm	
31-Mar	Amherst Music Festival - 6.00pm	
02-Apr	LAST DAY OF TERM	
EASTER		



LET'S CELEBRATE

STAR OF THE WEEK

3B	Oscar H
3FB	Azaria R-C
3WH	Ruby B
4C	Benson S
4HR	Arthur B
4SL	Livia B

5A	Vihaan G
5CS	Amber G
5J	Ernie T
6A	Alice O
6DT	Emme M
6N	Tabitha P



SWIMMING

We wanted to share some lovely news about Emily T (6N). She took part in her very first Swim Meet with Sevenoaks Swimming Club this weekend. Despite feeling extremely nervous — and experiencing more than a few sleepless nights beforehand — she showed real determination, gave it her all, and was rewarded with a gold medal in the 25m backstroke! Well done Emily!



FUNDRAISING FOR CANCER

Stevie A-C (5CS), Karolina H (5A), Ella J (5A), Elijah G (5CS) & Amber G (5CS) recently ran a raffle at school in aid of Cancer Research UK. The funds have been paid into the following Giving Page—a fantastic £78.50! Well done to all of you for taking on such a wonderful challenge. If you would like to visit the fundraising page, please click on the following link: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/stevie-lees-giving-page-1>



SWIMMING

Last weekend, William H(6DT) took part in a gala representing Sevenoaks Swimming Club and came away with a gold medal (25m breaststroke), a silver medal (25m freestyle) and a 4th place medal (50m freestyle)! Well done William!



CHESS

Theo P, Phillip L and Marcus P (Left to Right) from 5CS competed in the Chess Sparks tournament on Sunday, 18 January. After six challenging rounds of chess, Amherst finished in an impressive third place overall.

Well done to you all and in particular to Theo for finishing joint first alongside two other players!



FUNDRAISING FOR AMHERST

A massive thank you to Evie P, Ella C and Hester M from 4HR for running a raffle raising funds on behalf of Amherst School. The girls did an amazing job raising £62.10 for the school. Thank you and well done to you all!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please click on the images for more information.

SHOWTIME
Performing Arts Academy

MUSICAL MAYHEM!

Three Days of Musical Theatre Fun!
Sing, Dance, Act and Perform in a "Mini Musical"
Ages 6 +
Churchill C of E Primary School
Rysted Lane
Westerham
TN16 1EZ
England

Tuesday 17th February Wednesday 18th February Thursday 19th February

ST GREGORY'S
MULTI-SPORTS

February Half Term 2026

If your child is aged between 7 and 14 years of age and enjoys a range of sports such as

Football, Tennis, Netball, Rounders, Cricket, Basketball, Badminton, Dodgeball

and more, perhaps they would like to attend

St Gregory's Multi-Sports.

To book spaces simply click onto the jotform link and complete the form.

<https://form.jotform.com/253635031505045>

Or for more information email nbradbury@sgschool.org.uk

Where St Gregory's Catholic School, Sports hall entrance,

A26, St John's Road, TN4 9TX

Time 10am – 3pm

Cost £20 per day, if two or more siblings then £18 each per day.

Monday 16 February
Tuesday 17 February
Wednesday 18 February
Thursday 19 February
Friday 20 February

Please book early to avoid disappointment – places are limited!

BRICKS AT THE MUSEUM

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

LEGOS

DATES: 14TH TO 22ND FEBRUARY 2026 (HALF TERM)
LOCATED: RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM
TIMES: 10 AM – 4PM DAILY (3.30PM LAST ENTRY)

ARE YOU A LEGO ENTHUSIAST? IF SO THEN POP ON DOWN AND ENJOY THE FUN WITH LIKE-MINDED LEGO LOVERS AT OUR ULTIMATE FAMILY FRIENDLY EXHIBITION WEEK! (NORMAL MUSEUM ENTRANCE FEES APPLY) NO NEED TO BOOK!

LEGO FIGURE HUNT
SEARCH AROUND THE MUSEUM, FIND THE HIDDEN LEGO FIGURES & WIN A PRIZE... ONLY £1.50

PLEASE CONTACT US ON:
[INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK](mailto:info@rafmanston.co.uk) OR
[WWW.RAFMANSTON.CO.UK](http://www.rafmanston.co.uk) FOR MORE INFORMATION!

OPTIONAL PRE-BOOKING AVAILABLE

BOOK HERE

INTERESTED IN DISPLAYING YOUR LEGO MOC? EMAIL [INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK](mailto:info@rafmanston.co.uk) FOR DETAILS

*SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: WEATHER CONDITIONS, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS AND SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS AND/OR EXHIBITORS

Half Term Workshop
Sevenoaks School of Dance

Book our Half Term Workshop for a fun, creative, and friendly day!

Our workshop features Street Dance, Musical Theatre, Singing and even some Crafty fun and Games.

Come Dance, Create, and Make New Friends this Half Term!

For more information or to book, please contact: phoeb@sevenoaksdance.co.uk

Monday 16th February - £30 for the Day
10am - 3pm
Boys & Girls
Aged 4 - 11 Years
Riverhead Village Hall,
Amherst Hill,
Sevenoaks,
TN13 2EL

07799 023898
info@kidsplaypreschool.co.uk

Homepage About Us Curriculum Resources Admissions Contact

Spaces Available

For 2, 3 and 4 year olds

We accept private fees, FF2 Funding, Universal 15 hours and 30 hours funding!

- Abundant resources and equipment
- Huge indoor space designed to spark imagination and love for learning
- Large outdoor area with lots of room for physical development
- Access to the wonderful Riverhead Park
- Early Years Masters qualified Teacher with more than 20 years experience
- Level 3 and above Early Years Practitioners

ALL here to support your child in taking the first secure steps into their Life-Long Learning Journey!

Riverhead Village Hall
Amherst Hill, Sevenoaks, TN13 2EL

Phone 07799023898
Email: info@kidsplaypreschool.co.uk