

AMHERST SCHOOL

TRUST KINDNESS DETERMINATION FAIRNESS CO-OPERATION POLITENESS

MESSAGE FROM MR REID

Connected Parents

It was **wonderful to see so many Year 3 and 4 parents** in the hall this morning for the maths calculation workshop. **Maths can be a hard area to support your child in.** We **naturally default** to explaining how to solve a calculation how we learnt it as a child rather than how we are teaching it at school. This can be confusing for you and your child. **I hope the session was helpful and you feel better equipped to support your child** at home. **Thank you** to Miss Jones and Mrs Barratt for leading the session.

The beginning of the academic year can be hard with many new routines to learn and teacher relationships to establish. I hope sessions like this morning and last week's Meet The Teacher are **reassuring and help** you feel more informed.

As **Week 4 of the term comes to an end**, the **children are settled and increasingly confident** in their new class. Teachers are **impressed with the children's keenness to learn** and how quickly they have adjusted to a new year group. We have to always remember *change builds resilience and encourages children to be flexible*, which are all vital life skills to develop.

Reminder - Fidget toys

Please could I remind you of our **change in policy regarding toys and fidgets from home.** We have still seen squishies and fidgets from home this week. Understandably it is frustrating for children whose parents are not letting them bring them to school seeing other children with those items. **If your child needs a fidget toy as an educational resource the school will provide it.** There are genuine concerns over the quality of squishies in particular and the chemicals they contain if they burst.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

Mr Reid

5th Edition
2 Oct
2026



MATHS MEETING for PARENTS

It was wonderful to welcome Year 3 & 4 parents to school this morning. After discussing the four maths calculation methods in the hall, parents had the opportunity to spend time with their children in class joining a maths lesson. Please [click here](#) to view the slides of the meeting.



MEET THE TEACHER

Please find below the links to the slides of last week's MEET THE TEACHER sessions.

Year



Year



Year



Year





REPORT ABSENCE - Please [click here](#) to 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

Week beginning - 5 October 2026:

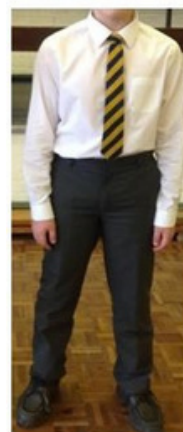
- **TUESDAY** - NO Table Tennis
- **ALL OTHER CLUBS** should be running as normal.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

We have the school photographers in on **6th October 2026**. Please can all children come dressed in **winter uniform**.

Many thanks.



CONSENT FOR LOCAL VISITS

Please give parental consent via www.schoolgateway.com for local off-site activities offered by the school – these activities usually take place during the normal school day:

- Chipstead Common Activities
- Walking to St Mary's Church
- Riverhead Village & Parkland (local study of our town)
- Walking to Bessels Green



LETTERS SENT

Whole School - Enrichment Fund

Year 6 - Hilltop 1st instalment request

PE KIT

2 days per week
on days the
whole class
has PE



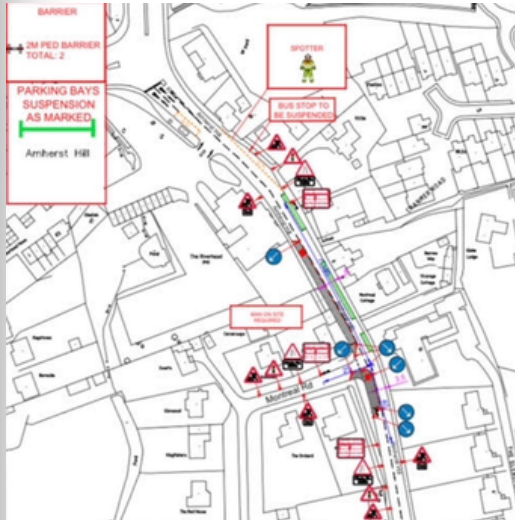
UNIFORM

3 days per week
even
when you have a
club
or
when you have a
sporting event



GUIDELINE

SGN Gas Network Upgrade Works – A224 Amherst Hill and A224 London Road, Sevenoaks



We are writing to let you know about the next phase of our essential gas pipe replacement programme in Sevenoaks.

From Monday 28 September 2026, our engineers will begin replacing ageing gas pipes in the town centre. This work is part of a major investment to ensure the local gas network continues to provide a safe and reliable supply to homes and businesses for many years to come.

We appreciate these works will cause disruption, particularly on some of the busiest roads in Sevenoaks, and we want to explain what to expect and how we will work to minimise the impact.

When will the work take place?

Start date: Monday 28 September 2026

Duration: Until Friday 27 November 2026

Work will continue in further phases after the Christmas period, with the remaining sections scheduled to be completed in early 2027.

Please note that all dates are subject to change due to the nature of engineering work and what we uncover underground.

What traffic management will be in place?

During the initial two weeks:

Three-way temporary traffic lights will be in operation at the roundabout with A25 Worships Hill. Traffic lights will be manually controlled between 0700hrs – 1900hrs.

Trained traffic marshals (spotters) will be positioned around the area to assist manual traffic control operative. Exit from Miller and Carter will be closed.

The works will progress in stages along the A224 Amherst Hill and A224 London Road.

What happens in January 2027?

This is a large-scale project and will continue in phases. Future phases will include sections towards Sevenoaks Train Station. Further communication will be sent before each phase begins with detailed information about dates, road closures and diversion routes.

Our Customer Service team and Community Engagement team are available if you have questions our Customer Service team on 0800 912 1700.

Your Sincerely

Project Manager SGN

STAR OF THE WEEK

ASH	Noah S
ELM	Olive M
OAK	Imogen B
BIRCH	Elsie-Mae C
CEDAR	Briony M
MAPLE	Nathan L

BEECH	Rafe K
WILLOW	Harriet S
ROWAN	Ollie W
CHESTNUT	Ademola S
HAWTHORN	Vihaan G
SYCAMORE	Ernie T



CROSS COUNTRY



Last Friday, 23 children represented Amherst in a fantastic cross country running event at Sevenoaks Prep. Every child took part with enthusiasm and commitment, showing our Amherst values throughout the event.

In particular, their determination really stood out. They encouraged one another, persevered when the race became challenging, and gave their very best from start to finish. I was incredibly proud of every single one of them and the way they represented our school. A special mention to Imogen F who came first in her age group! A fantastic achievement! Well done!

TRIATHLON



Last Tuesday, Josh, Jack, Penny and Marnya represented Amherst at the Sevenoaks School Triathlon. They had to complete a 50m swim, 1km cycle and a 1km run without any rest! They did brilliantly, and showed determination, resilience and teamwork. Overall we placed 4th, with Josh receiving a Gold medal for being the fastest boy in the tournament. Well done to all 4 children on a fantastic achievement.

HOCKEY



Well done to our Year 5 and 6 hockey team that took part in a festival on Monday. For many children taking part this was their first ever experience of playing matches against another school. They played brilliantly and represented Amherst with pride coming fifth overall. Well done to Marnya, Ernie, Kitty, Oliver, Cassia and Jacob.

SPORT LEADERS

On Wednesday, thirteen Year 6 children attended a Sports Leaders Masterclass at Sevenoaks School. The practical leadership session focused on developing skills that the children can use as Play Leaders, facilitating activities for younger children during lunchtime at school.

All thirteen children were excellent representatives of Amherst, designing and teaching a range of activities alongside pupils from other local schools. They demonstrated enthusiasm, teamwork and excellent leadership skills throughout the session.

We are looking forward to seeing them put their new skills into action and become fantastic Play Leaders at school!



HARVEST FESTIVAL - 8 October 2026

We are celebrating Harvest Festival on Thursday, 8 October.

If there are **any parents who are able to help drive the food to St John's** on this day 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
- Transport food to St John's **11.30am - 12.30pm**

If you are able to help, please let us know via an email to office@amherst.kent.sch.uk. Please find below the list of food Loaves and Fishes are in need of - we would also appreciate donations of big shopping bags.



Food and daily essentials

1	2	3	4
Tinned food	Other food	Household essentials	No thank you
Meat (Corned beef, ham, spam, hot dogs, meatballs, chicken curry, chicken casserole, beef curry, Irish stew) Fish (Tuna and other) Vegetables (Sweetcorn, carrots, green beans, potatoes) Soup Baked Beans Desserts (Custard, fruits, rice pudding) Vegetarian meals Chickpeas, lentils Pasta (Ravioli, mac 'n' cheese, spaghetti)	UHT milk Biscuits Pasta sauce Rice sauce Pasta Rice (dried and microwave) Coffee, tea Breakfast cereals Chocolate spread Marmite Cooking Ingredients	Toilet paper Shower gel Shampoo Deodorant Soap Women's hygiene Toothbrush and toothpaste Shaving products Washing up liquid Surface cleaning spray Bleach Cit Bin bags Cleaning cloths and sponges	We don't take: Pet food Bottled water Catering size tins Canned drinks Alcohol Out-of-date products

Current priorities: Cereal (no porridge), squash drinks, sanitary towels



PTA MEETING - 9 OCTOBER 2026

Our first PTA meeting of the year takes place **Friday 9 October, 1:30pm to 2:30pm** at the **Bullfinch Pub** or online on Zoom.

We look forward to seeing those of you who can make the meeting. We will be reviewing last year's accounts; setting out plans for events this year including which classes will lead on each stall at the Bazaar, and hearing from Mr Reid about how the money we will raise will contribute to our school community.

CAKE SALE - 9 OCTOBER 2026

Later that day we will also declare the first cake sale of the year open for business! Please do drop cake donations to the school office next week (home baked goods welcome, just please provide a list of ingredients and remember we are a no nuts school).

We look forward to seeing you at both events!



CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN

Your child should have **come home with a Christmas card design sheet today.**

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE:

1. Your child should draw their design on the blank side of the design sheet.
2. Keep it simple, bright bold designs work best. Do not stick any items to your design. No glitter!
3. Indicate the top of the artwork by putting an X in the box on the reverse.
4. Include your child's full name, year and class.

Completed designs should be **returned to class teachers by Friday 16th October.**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

IQ Cards will scan all designs and produce an A5 order form with a preview of your child's design. The order forms will be shared with you after half term along with details of how to place an order. As an indication, you will be able to buy 12 cards for £5.50 or 24 cards for £9.50 plus book marks, labels, magnets, keyrings, mugs and lots of other lovely gifts.

Any questions to Amherst-chair@outlook.com.



AMHERST SCHOOL

** RED DATES newly added

CALENDAR DATES 2026 - 2027

06-Oct	School Photos
08-Oct	Harvest Festival
09-Oct	PTA Cake Sale 3.30pm
09-Oct	PTA AGM 1.30pm @ The Bullfinch Pub
12-Oct	Year 5 - Anglo Saxon Workshop - hall booked 9.10 - 10.35am
09-Oct	PTA AGM 1.30pm @ The Bullfinch Pub
16-Oct	PTA Meeting - Christmas Planning - 1.00 - 3.00pm
19-Oct	Year 3 - Rocks Day Workshop
20-Oct	Year 3 - Rocks Day Workshop
21-Oct	Year 3 - Rocks Day Workshop
21-Oct	Year 5 - Science Dome Workshop
22-Oct	LAST DAY OF TERM
23-Oct	Inset day
HALF TERM	
02-Nov	Inset day
03-Nov	TERM STARTS
10-Nov	Flu Immunisations - whole school
11-Nov	Remembrance assembly - 1 minute silence
13-Nov	PTA Meeting 1.30pm
13-Nov	Open Afternoon - 2.45 - 3.30pm
14-Nov	World Diabetes Day
16 - 18 Nov	Book Fair
19-Nov	Year 3 - Parent Times Tables Meeting (9.05am in hall)
19-Nov	Book Fair Collection
19-Nov	Times Tables Parent Workshop in the Hall - 9.05 - 10.05am
24-Nov	Parent Consultations - 3.40 - 8.00pm (Whole school / not Oak Class)
25-Nov	Parent Consultations - (Oak Class)
26-Nov	Parent Consultations - 3.40 - 6.30pm (Whole School)
27-Nov	PTA Uniform & Christmas Jumper Sale 3.30pm
27-Nov	Clubs End
02-Dec	Whole School Pantomime
04-Dec	Year 4 - Christmas Production - Dress Rehearsal - 9.30 - 10.30am
05-Dec	PTA Bazaar - 12.00 - 3.00pm
07-Dec	Year 4 - Christmas Production - Matinee Performance - 2.00 - 3.00pm
08-Dec	Year 4 - Christmas Production - Evening Performance - 6.00 - 7.00pm
14-Dec	Whole School - Carol Service - 6.00pm
15-Dec	PTA: Elfridges Pop-up Shop at school - 1.30 - 3.00pm
16-Dec	Christmas Lunch - 12.00pm
18-Dec	LAST DAY OF TERM
CHRISTMAS	



Parent Workshop

Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience

08/10/2026 10:30am —12:30pm

[Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)



Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

12/10/2026 10:30am —12:30pm

[Understanding Your Child's Behaviour | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)



Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears

18/11/2026 12:30pm —14:30pm

[Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)



Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience

30/11/2026 12:30pm —14:30pm

[Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)



Understanding Neurodiversity

07/12/2026 12:30pm —14:30pm

[Understanding Neurodiversity \(Primary\) | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)



Please call for more information 0300 300 1955



live WITH ANISA

FREE ONLINE LIVE
13 OCTOBER
12.00PM
30 MINUTES
REPLAY AVAILABLE

WALKING ON EGGSHELLS

When you never quite know what might tip the balance.

Some days everything seems manageable. Other days, the smallest thing can lead to tears, anger, shutting down or a reaction you didn't see coming.

You may find yourself watching your child's mood, choosing your words carefully or wondering which version of your child you're going to get.

Join Parenting Coach, Anisa Lewis, for this free 30-minute Live to look beneath those big emotions and explore practical ways to respond, without the whole family feeling as though they're walking on eggshells.

BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE:

anisalewis.as.me/LivewithAnisa

Or email: hello@anisalewis.com

and I'll send you the link.

Can't join me live? Book your place and I'll send you the replay.



Please click on the images or scan the QR code for more information.

HOLIDAY HOCKEY CAMP

Come and join the fun at our October Half Term hockey camps! 10am to 3pm on 26th, 27th, 28th

£5 Early Bird Discount, before 4 October
Multi-Day & Sibling Discounts also available
£50 per day (half day also available)

Sevenoaks Hockey October Half Term Camp

Mon 26 Oct 2026 10:00 AM - Wed 28 Oct 2026 3:00 PM

Hockey Pitch, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks, TN13 3XW

Hockey Camp for children aged 5-13 (inclusive)

Sevenoaks Hockey Club's popular holiday camp returns for the October Half Term. Running Monday-Wednesday, 10am - 3pm, these camps are for all children in school years 1-5.

AM: skills and drills
PM: Games and tournaments

Camps are open to all abilities, from first time players to experienced club and school players!

Dates: Monday 26th October - Wednesday 28th October

You can purchase a ticket for only £50 per day.

EARLY BIRD tickets are available to purchase before 4th October to receive £5 discount. Discounts for multi-day and siblings are also available.

Registration between 09.45-09.55 for AM and all day sessions
Registration between 12.45-12.55 for PM sessions

Bring: Shin Pads, Mouth Guard, Drink, Lunch, Snacks, Sunscreen (if needed) and Clothing appropriate for the weather

A hockey stick can be provided.

[Buy tickets](#)

SHARE THIS EVENT

[f](#) [x](#) [in](#)

NEED HELP?

[Manage tickets](#)



Love the Game UK

Football Coaching

OCTOBER

FOOTBALL CAMP

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

Ages 5-14 | Boys and girls of all abilities

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

Early drop off and late pickup available.

Sevenoaks

Wednesday 28th October - Friday 30th October

£26 per day, £60 for 3 days.

10AM - 3PM

TWGSB Sevenoaks
Seal Hollow Road
Sevenoaks
TN13 3SL

SIBLING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE PLAYER DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

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

To book -

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

SD ENERGY OUTRECH

The UK's Leading Renewable Installer