



Head Talk

This week I wanted to highlight a 'must see' on Netflix, if you have access to it. The programme that I am talking about is 'Inside the Manosphere'. This is a documentary that focuses on influencers that promote 'traditional' masculinity. I would recommend that any parent/carer, that is considering giving their child a device to access social media, watch this and think about how they can coach their child and understand the world that they are going to get into.

At Hamilton Primary School, we are seeing more and more incidents of children getting involved in online chats outside of school, that spill over into school time and adversely affect the children's mood and ability to manage their emotions. Children do not have access to their phones at school and this will continue. I have just written a new 'Mobile Phone' Policy, which I have consulted a small group of parents/carers on and governors are in the process of reviewing now. Quite simply, the policy states that if you are going to provide your child with a device, it should be a 'brick' phone and not before the final half term of Year 6.

I am planning on running a parent/carer session in the Autumn term for all parents/carers of children that have access to a device that can access messaging and social media, to explain the risks associated with them and I will also be focussing on the impact of AI technology on this area too. This will be a face-to-face event in the school hall, as online events are not as effective at getting the message across.

On a slightly different note, the Learning Conferences this week seemed to go very well. I spoke to a number of families and the feedback was very positive. These are still a great way to open the school up for you to see the work that your child has undertaken and provide you with an opportunity to discuss the progress they are

making. The next update on progress will be the end of year report. This year we will be sending an 'e-version' of the report only. If you require a paper copy, you will need to contact us directly, and we will provide this for you.

We are not too far from the Easter Break. The children's last day will be **Thursday 26th March**. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely 2 weeks, which I hope you will spend with family and friends. Children return to school on **Monday 13th April**.

E-Safety Nugget

This week I thought it would be helpful to share the links to security settings on WhatsApp so that you can stop your child from being invited to random chat groups. As you know the recommended age for WhatsApp is 13 years and above, but I know children at Hamilton are accessing it, so I felt the need to issue this guidance. The link is below:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/1131457590844955>

Borrowing Books electronically

This week I thought it would be helpful to share the 'Borrow Box' App with you. This is an app that allows children to borrow e-books from Essex Libraries, using their library card number. The link to follow is here:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/using-our-elibrary/borrowbox>

We often forget that we don't need to purchase every book that we want to read. We can borrow them in physical form and online.

If your library card has expired or you don't have one, you can follow this link to register:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/user/register>

Attendance

At this time of year children often have colds and runny noses and feel generally under the weather. School attendance is still vital for children as any missed time means missed learning and catching up for your child. The NHS has a document that supports parents/carers in deciding if their child is too ill to go to school. The link to this is here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Our Attendance Policy can be found on the school website:

<https://www.hamiltonprimary.com/office/policies>

Our current attendance is 96.9%. We have been as high as 97% this year. We have had a number of children who have been unwell, and some families have taken holidays too. If your child has below 90% attendance, they will be classed as being persistently absent. This is not good. It means your child is missing too much education. Please ensure your child attends school. If we have concerns about your child's attendance, we will be writing to you and offering you a meeting to discuss any support that you may need. Our attendance should be 97% or above. Please help us to help your child. Our leading attending year group is Year 4 with 97.8% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

Spotlight on SEND – The School Nursing

This week I met with our school nurse to review the needs across the school and discuss up to date offers available in our area. The School Nurse Team offers both universal and targeted support for children and their families, between the ages of 5-19 years. The school nurses provide health promotion and education to support the child's physical and emotional needs with the aim to

support the family and children to empower them to make informed healthy choices for their future health to allow them to reach their full potential. The school nurses can monitor health and growth and can communicate with other agencies to make referrals or signpost for specialist support. You can contact this service directly for support. They will also join meetings at school where a team approach is required.

Contact details are: <https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/> or call the North Essex branch on 0300 2470015.

Year 1 Assembly

Year 1 would like to invite their parents/carers to their assembly on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 9.30am.

Year 6 SATS

Year 6 SATS will take place from Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May this year.

Year 5 Play

The Year 5 Play (Grossbusters) on Thursday 26th March will start at 1.40pm with the gates opening at 1.30pm.

Beat The Street Initiative

Edith and Harry are enjoying taking part in Beat the Street.



Great Big Spring Clean

Rose and Ruby have enjoyed taking part in the litter pick. Amongst the items found were a pair of socks, belt and over 10 plastic bottles along Hamilton and Constantine Road.



Squash Tournament

The Year 3 squash tournament was a fantastic event, filled with enthusiasm, determination, and excellent sportsmanship from all the children involved. Throughout the matches, the players were extremely supportive of one another, cheering on their teammates and celebrating each other's efforts regardless of the outcome. It was wonderful to see such positive attitudes both on and off the court. Hamilton performed exceptionally well, proudly claiming both 1st and 3rd place in the Silver League—an impressive achievement that reflects the hard work and commitment of the team.



Active Travel Plan

Please find attached our Active Travel Plan flyer about getting active.

Request for Support – Safety Concerns Around E-Scooters and E-Bikes

Please see the attachment from Essex Police regarding the above subject.

Good Friday Workshop

Please find attached information about Good Friday at Christchurch.



Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2026

Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 1 Assembly to Parents - 9.30am start
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 5 Play to Parents - Afternoon performance – 1.40pm start
Friday 27 th March 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 th April 2026	First Day of Term
Monday 11 th May to Thursday 14 th May 2026	Year 6 SATS Week
Wednesday 20 th May 2026	Cultural Heritage Day
Wednesday 20 th May 2026	Year 3 Play to Parent's - Time to be confirmed
Thursday 21 st May 2026	Class Photos - Van Cols
Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026	Half Term
Monday 1 st June 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 7 th July 2026	KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) Sports Day at Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Field in the afternoon
Monday 20 th July 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 21 st July to Friday 28 th August 2026	Summer Holidays

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1 st September 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	First Day of Term

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk