

Head Talk

We have arrived at half term! It has been a busy time for the school and I think one of the longest half terms I can remember for quite some time. We have packed in masses of education for children and experiences to improve learning and outcomes. Children have been on a residential, visited Wagamama's, made crumbles, Roman coins, created water colour paintings, carried out a year group assembly, taken part in Harvest Festival, been to a football competition, shown potential parents and carers around the school, voted children on to the school council, eco council and been part of a discussion around Christianity with Rev Chris Smith being asked some searching questions! The NSPCC have visited Year 2, 5 and 6 children and we have also supported 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

We have had Year Ahead meetings for all year groups, a parents' forum, online and social media training and the PINS project coffee morning. Today the PSA are running a non-uniform day to raise money for refurbishing the Rainbow and Sunshine class toilets.

As we break for a week, we will be preparing for the Christmas services, continuing our learning with children and looking forward to other events before the end of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Hamilton team for the hard work that they have put in this half term to ensure children get the best possible education.

I hope you all have a restful break and we look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday 4th November**.

SEND support at Hamilton

I am often asked by parents and carers about the provision that we have for children that have a

specific learning need, or the support that we provide for children that need a little extra help. There are some very specific services that we provide for some children and then there are adjustments we make in school on a day-to-day basis to support all children. With reference to specific services, I have listed these below:

- In school Speech and Language Therapist (one day every 2 weeks)
- In school Play Therapist (1 day a week)
- In school student Play Therapist (0.5 days a week)
- Access to a parent support adviser (referrals via the school)
- Working with Alternative Provision establishments for some children (Circles Farm, Dedham Therapy Farm, Hatfield Wick)
- Access to a School Inclusion Partner (onsite and online support)
- Access to 1 day a year of Education Psychology support
- Access to Essex Child and Family Service to support medical needs for children
- Working with the Teacher of the Deaf in Essex for support

In addition to this, we provide further support in school. I have listed below some of the things that we provide:

- Meet and greet with specific members of the staff team to allow children a smooth transition into school
- Sensory and movement breaks throughout the day
- Specific learning programmes for children, either on a 1:1 or small group basis
- Adaptive learning in the class so that all children are included in learning
- Part-time timetables for very specific reasons on a short-term basis



- Access to an AV1 Robot for some children who are not able to come to school
- Discussion with children across the school about supporting children with additional needs and what this means as a school
- Regular training for staff from the SENCO and Essex County Council
- A sensory break out room for children that need support in co-regulation
- A swing on the playground for those children that require specific sensory feedback
- Individual support for children with an Education Health and Care Plan

This list is not exhaustive, but as a school we tend not to 'shout out' about our provision. We see it as a standard requirement for all children. We care deeply about your child and want them to be successful. We can't always get everything right, but we are open to learning and welcome feedback to help us further improve.

E-Safety Nugget

Here is the CEOP website. This is a really useful resource for you to look at which explains some of the risks that your child may face online.

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>

Parking and drop off at school

I would like to encourage parents/carers to walk, ride or scoot to school with their children. Recently I have seen a significant uptick in children arriving at school by car and often after the school gates have closed. I have also witnessed what has become a 'rolling' drop off and pick up zone in both Hamilton and Constantine Roads. Vehicles are stopping in the middle of the road, stopping the flow of traffic and letting children out opposite the school gates. This needs to stop. I have also seen cars using our loading bay and zig zag lines as drop off or parking zones. These are in place to protect

the children. Please leave earlier for school. Please choose to park a little further away from the school and walk in, to ease the congestion at a very busy point of the day.

Attendance

Attendance at school is still a focus this year. We have started well, and we currently have an average attendance rate of 97.0%. This is great, and I would like to see this maintained or even improved. Currently, Year 3 has the highest attendance rate of 98.1%!!!! Keep up the amazing work.

We also have far too many children arriving 5-10 minutes late for school. This needs to improve drastically. Children arriving late are disruptive for the class they are joining and the child who is late. It disturbs learning and means that the late child is walking into a lesson that has already started. Please leave a little earlier from home to get to school on time. **The gates close at 8.55am every morning. After this, your child will be registered as late.**

Our Attendance Policy can be found on the school website:

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

Odd Socks

On Tuesday 12th November we are going to have an odd socks day to support Anti- Bullying Week. We will be asking children to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us unique?

English as an additional language

We are looking to create a welcome display to include all the different languages spoken by our school community. If your child would like to get involved, please could they create a poster with a single word that translates as either HELLO or

WELCOME in their first language. We would love the posters to be really bright, bold and colourful and around A5 (half a page) size please. If you need to borrow any colouring resources, please send your child to see Miss Clow during the school day. Many thanks!

Year 3 – DT Topic

On the 15th and 22nd of October, Year 3 visited Wagamama's as part of their food-based DT topic. Whilst there, the children had the opportunity to make healthy smoothies; prepare the ingredients for their lunch and taste a variety of unusual foods, such as lotus flower roots and kimchi. Lots of children were brave enough to try new foods which were quite spicy! The children also watched the chef as he cooked their lunch with some spectacular flames which resulted in squeals of excitement from everyone! All of the children represented our school brilliantly, both on the long walk to the restaurant and whilst we were there - it was a pleasure to take them. We would like to thank the children for their exemplary behaviour and the adults who accompanied us - it was a great morning!

Hamilton Road Closed 4th November for 3 days

On the 4th November, Hamilton Road will be closed for 3 days. This will mean that traffic around the school will be very heavy. Please try not to drive to the school as there will be extremely limited parking. During the school drop off and pick up times, parking restrictions in roads are lifted. If you have to drive, please park and stride to school.

Reminder for Year 6 Parents

The statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2025) is **31st October 2024**.

Parents of Year 6 children who have yet to submit an application, must do so **by 31st October 2024**.

Any applications made late are dealt with after those made on time and so applying late reduces the chances of being offered a preferred school.

Learning Conferences

There will be **NO CLUBS OR HUB SESSIONS (AM & PM)** on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th November due to Learning Conferences.

Emergency Contact Sheets

We are still waiting for 130 sheets to be returned to the School Office.

Even if your details haven't changed, please sign the sheet and return it to the School Office.

SEND Roadshow

The Healthy Schools Team from Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Services have asked us to attach some flyers and information to share with families in North Essex with a child or young person with any Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND).

Support groups are running in the community and 2 locations starting in November.

Pupil News

Congratulations to Rufus Whittaker (3SR) who entered the Essex Wildlife Trust Coastal Creations art competition in the summer. His acrylic painting of a crab was selected to be exhibited at Hanningfield Nature Reserve (see bottom right)



MDA Vacancy

Scale 2 point 3 to 4 (£11.78 to £11.98)

One hour and 15 minutes per day. Your hours will need to be worked between Midday and 13:45pm (this will be discussed at interview). This is a term time only post.

We are looking to recruit two enthusiastic and friendly people to work during the school lunch break to supervise the children. You will be required to work independently and as part of a team with a flexible approach to the position.

Duties include:

- Supervising the children in the lunch hall and classrooms
- Clearing of tables, plates and food waste
- Cleaning floors and tables when required
- First aid (training will be given)
- Playground duties
- Playing and organising games with children

Application forms are available from the school office or alternatively you can apply through the Essex Schools Jobs website.

Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November 2024	Half Term
Friday 8 th November 2024	PSA – Quiz Night
Tuesday 12 th November 2024	Odd Sock Day for Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 12 th November 2024	Learning Conferences - 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Thursday 14 th November 2024	Learning Conferences - 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Friday 13 th December 2024	EYFS – Christmas Songs to parents in the KS1 Playground at 2.30pm
Monday 16 th December 2024	Years 1 & 2 – Nativity at Christchurch – 2.15pm to 3pm
Tuesday 17 th December 2024	School Christmas Dinner Day
Tuesday 17 th December 2024	Years 1 & 2 – Nativity at Christchurch – 5pm to 5.45pm
Wednesday 18 th December 2024	Years 3 – 6 – Carol Concert – 2pm to 2.45pm
Thursday 19 th December 2024	Years 3 – 6 – Carol Concert – 5pm to 5.45pm
Monday 23 rd December 2024 to Friday 3 rd January 2025	Christmas Holidays

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6 th January 2025	First Day of Term
Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24 th February 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 4 th March 2025	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Tuesday 11 th March 2025	Learning Conferences – 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Thursday 13 th March 2025	Learning Conferences – 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Monday 7 th April to Monday 21 st April 2024	Easter Holidays

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk