

### Head Talk

As I write this week's newsletter, I am aware that we only have 4 weeks until Christmas Day. I'm not quite sure where the time is going! We therefore have a very busy 3 weeks coming up at school. Year 4 are busily preparing for their year group play to parents/carers. At the same time our Year 1 children are preparing for the Nativity that will be celebrated in the last week of term in the Infant Hall and the Year 2 and EYFS children are preparing for their Carols and Mulled Wine on the playground for the 12th December. The junior children have also started their singing practice for the Christmas service at Christ Church in the final week too. The kitchen and Midday staff are also getting ready for the Christmas Dinner Day on the 16th December.

The PSA are busy organising for the Christmas Panto on the 4th December. More information will be shared with you all in the coming days.

Mr Greatorex and I are on the school playground most mornings and afternoons for you to come and have a chat. Please feel free to do so. Have a good couple of weeks!

### E-Safety Nugget

As we move towards the Christmas season, please be aware of any scam texts, emails and social media messages that may come to your child. Please talk to them about not clicking links and not visiting sites that could be bogus. You might also want to look at the following link to support you with information about online dangers: <https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>

### Questionnaire Outcomes

Thank you to all parents/carers who managed to fill in our annual questionnaires. Your feedback is very important to us as a school, and we will use this information to plan for improvements next year. You should have received a copy of the result

electronically this week. If you missed that email, the results for the last 3 years can be found on the school website. [You can click this link to get you there.](#)

### Attendance

Attendance at school is still a focus this year. We have started well, and we currently have an average attendance rate of 97.4%. This is great, and I would like to see this maintained or even improved. Currently, Year 3 has the highest attendance rate of 98.3%!!!! 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>

### 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.

## SEND Spotlight

SPACE is a new service in Essex. It provides support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND (aged 0 to 25). What makes SPACE unique is the team of Peer Educators — parents and carers all with lived experience. How SPACE can support families:

- One-to-One Support: telephone support
- Weekly webinars bring families together to share experiences.
- Attendance at School and Community Events
- Website providing resources and guidance.

For more information visit: <https://parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk/>

Contact: [SPACE@essex.gov.uk](mailto:SPACE@essex.gov.uk)

## Hamilton Hub

All bookings and requests for Hamilton Hub should be made via the School Office.

Please do not pay for sessions via MCAS and think it guarantees you a space in the Hub.

## Christmas Dinner Day

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December it will be the school Christmas Dinner Day.

Children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper or T-shirt to school on this day.

## Football Tournament

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, a team of Year 6 pupils became Hamilton's first ever football champions and the icy wind and torrential rain certainly did not dampen their spirits! Despite the conditions, the team did a remarkable job of

winning all their matches, bar two. A first game defeat did not derail their efforts, so much so that the team did not concede a single goal after the first match. After a tense final, the gold medal was to be decided by a nerve-wracking penalty shoot-out! A final save from goalkeeper Aaron was enough to seal the win. It certainly made the soggy walk back to school much more enjoyable! A huge congratulations to all the history making team members - they were a credit to themselves and the school. Thank you to the parent helpers and spectators who kept the energy high all morning.



## Cross Country Competition

On Wednesday, Years 5 and 6 sent teams to the Colchester cross country event at the Northern Gateway Sports Ground. The teams did an incredible job, cheered on by an enormous crowd, to race against the best runners in Colchester. Each race consisted of well over 100 children and all the participants gave their all, supporting their team mates through the gruelling event. There were top ten finishes for Edie Kantoch and Rose Cretu for the Year 5 girls' team; Henry Osborn for the Year 5 boys; and Sam Morley for the Year 6 boys. Every place counts in the team event, so there is now a wait to see if any of the teams qualified for the Essex Finals. Special mentions deservedly go to Ronnie Hunt (who raced despite illness to support his team) and to all the parents and carers, both

for their help in organising the children and for the fantastic support they offered them.

\*\*\*\* Breaking news \*\*\*\* The Year 5 girls have qualified for the final of the Essex County Cross Country Competition.



## Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2026

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place starting in September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.



## Calendar Dates

### Autumn Term 2025

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	PSA Christmas Panto for the whole school
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Year 4 Play to parents/carers starting at 1.45pm
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Rainbow, Sunshine & Year 2 Carols on the Infant Playground at 2.15pm
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Year 1 Nativity at Hamilton Primary School at 2.15pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Christmas Dinner Day
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Year 1 Nativity at Hamilton Primary School at 5pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) Carol Concert at Christchurch at 2pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) Carol Concert at Christchurch at 5pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Last Day of Term
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	Christmas Holidays

### Spring Term 2026

Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	First Day of Term
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Online SEND Forum 1.30pm to 2.30pm
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Half Term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Parents Forum 2-3pm

## Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

[parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk](mailto:parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk)