

Head Talk

Merry Christmas to one and all! I am sure many of you are now getting into the Christmas spirit. At school, we are looking forward to a very busy final week of term. Next week will see all of our Christmas celebrations happening. We will have the infant Nativity and the junior Carol Service. Programmes have been issued for these events, and we welcome everyone to each of the performances. We have tried our best to accommodate everyone's request for each performance, but we are limited by the number of chairs that the church has. We will also be having our Christmas lunch on Tuesday next week. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper, instead of their school jumper for the day. They can also have a hairband that celebrates Christmas time too!

On Thursday and Friday the PSA will be running their events for the children again this year. They will be running a quiz for the junior children and we are very lucky to have the Widdershins Company performing their puppet show on Friday for the infant children.

This week also saw the Year 4 children performing their play to parents/carers. It was a wonderful performance and you could clearly see how much effort the children had put in to learn their lines and perform with such confidence.

The last day of term will be **Friday 20th December** and children will return to school on **Monday 6th January 2025**.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Hamilton Team for their hard work and dedication this term. It has been a pleasure working with them and you as a community. I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

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.

Please have a look at the follow Essex Police Site for sorting your settings out:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/au/about-us/sort-your-settings/>

Attendance

Attendance at school is still a focus this year. We have started well, and we currently have an average attendance rate of 95.9%. This recent drop has been as a result of a really nasty bug going around the school. We are all going to have to work very hard to improve this to our preferred rate of 97%. Currently, Year 3 has the highest attendance rate of 97.3%!!!! 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>

Cross Country

A team of 48 children recently represented the school in a series of cross-country races at the Northern Gateway sports ground, competing against hundreds of children from all across the Colchester district. The children competed well and conducted themselves wonderfully. There was particular success for the Year 5 boys who took the team gold (including Sam Morley who took an individual bronze); and the Year 4 girls who took the team silver.



Choir

On Wednesday, our Hamilton Choir had the pleasure of visiting the residents of Lancer House. The children sang a mix of traditional Christmas carols and a few modern holiday tunes. Following the performance, everyone enjoyed cake, drinks, and lively conversation. The residents were delighted by the children's politeness and confidence, sharing how much the visit and the performance had brightened their day. In turn, the children expressed how much they enjoyed both performing and connecting with the warm, welcoming residents. It was a heart-warming visit, filled with festive cheer and shared joy.



Basketball

Last Thursday the Year 6 mixed basketball team took part in a tournament at the University of Essex Sports Arena. The free-scoring team did the school proud, playing with great camaraderie to win the Colchester league and then make it all the way to the regional final. The disappointment of a narrow 10-8 defeat in the final was tempered by the news they had qualified for the County tournament.



Staffing Update

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Warren who has been working in Year 1 and 2 as a Learning Support Assistant. She will be moving to a new school. Miss Chapman who also works in Year 1 will be reducing her hours from next week. Mrs Claxton will be moving from Year 5 to support Year 1. Mrs De'Ath, our Assistant Catering Manager will also be leaving us at the end of term. Mrs Hallam, one of our Year 1 teachers, will be moving on to Montgomery Infant School from January. Her absence will be covered by Mrs Williams until Easter, when we will have a new teacher starting. I am sure you will join me in wish all members of staff all the best in their future.

I would also like to inform you that Mrs Wright will be stepping back from her role on the Senior Leadership Team from January. Her duties will be picked up by Mr O'Loughlin from January on a permanent basis. Our school website and documentation will be updated over the holiday period.

Reception Intake September 2025

The Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

Vacancies

Please find attached details of two job vacancies we have in the school.

Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 16 th December 2024	Years 1 & 2 – Nativity at Christchurch – 2.15pm to 3pm
Tuesday 17 th December 2024	School Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper or Christmas T-Shirt 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 13 th January to Monday 17 th March 2025	Year 5 – Swimming Lessons
Wednesday 12 th February 2025	Year 3 – Egyptian Workshop
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Year 2 – Assembly to parents 9.30am to 10.30am
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 2025	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	First Day of Term
Thursday 1 st May 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 2 nd May 2025	Non-Pupil Day

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk