



Head Talk

Welcome back to the summer term! What a lovely first week we have had. I hope you all manage to make the most of the time off school.

This term is going to be busy. We have the Year 6 SATs taking place from the week beginning 11th May. We also have the Year 4 Multiplication Tests this term and the Year 1 and 2 phonics tests. With all of these assessments, we ensure that children are well-prepared and that the tests have the lowest impact possible on the children, whilst allowing them to do their best.

We also have the joys of the plays and assemblies to parents/carers this term and the Infant and Junior Sports days on the 7th July. Our annual celebration evening takes place on Thursday 2nd July. This is a great event to be a part of and Mo Thomson and Michelle Bloomfield will be serving a taster menu of school food as normal. Please put this date in your diary. We will be starting at 6pm and finishing at 8pm. Please keep an eye on the school calendar for updates on these events.

Another date for your diary is the summer fair. The PSA are working on the exact date and we will let you know as soon as we can. This is the PSA's biggest fundraising event of the year. The team rely on volunteer parents/carers to help with the set-up, the running of the day and the clear up afterwards. It is always so difficult to get people to support these items. If you can only give 30 mins, this will really help. Please contact the PSA to offer your help.

I have a SEND forum for parents/carers taking place online. The details to attend are below:

SEND Parents' Forum

Tuesday, 21 April · 1:30 – 2:30pm

Time zone: Europe/London

[Google Meet joining info](#)

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/yxq-xzyn-egs>

Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3937 0840 PIN: 214 749 357#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/yxq-xzyn-egs?pin=3537369939578>

This term the standard Parents' Forum is taking place on the 16th June. The invite is here:

Parents' Forum

Tuesday, 16 June · 2:00 – 3:00pm

Time zone: Europe/London

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ebw-jfss-tzr>

Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3956 4992 PIN: 358 450 334#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/ebw-jfss-tzr?pin=6432631365406>

As always, Mr Greatorex and I are available to have a chat with on the playground on most days. Please do pop over to see us!

E-Safety Nugget

This week I would like to recommend a book to you. [‘The Anxious Generation’](#) explores the impact of smartphones and devices on children since 2015. The book is well worth a read. You will also have been issued with the school's [Mobile Phone Policy](#). Please read this as it provides the school's view of when parents/carers should consider purchasing a phone for their child and what type of phone they should think about. You may also want to read the latest government guidance on this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-screen-time-guidance-for-parents-of-under-5s>

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>

Allergy Awareness

From September schools will need to follow statutory guidelines linked to 'Benedict's Law' around how we react to children who have an anaphylactic episode. Part of our response will mean training every member of staff in the school on Allergen Awareness and we will need to hold 4 Auto Adrenaline Injectors in the school for emergency use. **We are a no nuts school.** The policy that is currently being written will show that we are a 'nut aware' school as we cannot guarantee nut-based items not entering the school. **I must remind parents/carers that you must not send in any food items that contain nuts or may contain nuts.**

We will be running termly drills in school for a potential anaphylactic incident to ensure that our response time will be under 5 minutes.

The school policy, once agreed, will be published on our website. If your child has any allergies, the school office team must know, so that we can record the information on the school systems.

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%. This is low, but we are above the national average and the Essex average. 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.

KS1 – Sports Morning

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 would like to invite their parents/carers to their Sports Morning on Tuesday 7th July. It will take place on the Junior playground at 9:30am.

KS2 – Sports Day

Sports Day for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take place on Tuesday 7th July in the afternoon at Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Field.

Choir

What a spectacular start to the holidays! On Sunday 29th March, The Hamilton Choir took to the stage at Charter Hall for an unforgettable performance alongside The Big Sing Choir and Tunde from the Lighthouse Family. The atmosphere was absolutely electric, and the children rose to the occasion with incredible talent and professionalism. You truly made Mrs. Lawrence and Miss Chicken proud. A special shoutout to Oakley (Year 4) and Jack VT (Year 5) for their stunning solos! Well done to everyone involved for such a magical performance. You can find more pictures of the event here: <https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/25988246.big-sing-choir-raises-roof-colchester-charter-hall/>



11+ Selective Test

Please find attached information regarding the 11+ Selective Test which is on Saturday 19th September.

SEN Spotlight - Workshops

Please find attached a flyer advertising workshops delivered by All Things Autism that you may be interested in.



Year 4 All In Sports Festival

Yesterday four Year 4 pupils took part in a sports event - 'All In Sports Festival' in Tiptree where they tried different sports and activities. They did indoor curling and boccia, tennis volleyball and parachute skills. They tried their best in each activity and it was a pleasure to see them laughing and having a go.

Thank you to the parents who drove the children over to Thurstable Secondary School so that we could take part in this event.



Calendar Dates

| Summer Term 2026 | |
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| Tuesday 28 th April 2026 | Year 5 visit to Colchester Library |
| 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 | KS1 (Reception, Year 1 & 2) Sports Morning on the KS2 playground at 9.30am |
| 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 |
| Friday 23 rd October 2026 | Non-Pupil Day |
| Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October 2026 | Half Term |
| Monday 21 st December 2026 – Friday 1 st January 2027 | Christmas Holidays |
| Monday 4 th January 2027 | First Day of Term |

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk