



Head Talk

Happy New Year! I do hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and New Year. The children started back well at school last week and were very quickly back to routine. We have had a busy first week back with Ofsted calling on our first day! This was our first recorded inspection since November 2014. Since this inspection we took part in a pilot inspection in 2018 and we had a virtual visit during COVID in 2020. So Ofsted have kept in touch with us. We got a call at 9.30am on the 6th January and the team were onsite at 7.50am on Tuesday 7th January. So the team got to see the school in its day-to-day routines.

I am unable to comment on the outcome of the inspection until the report is published. This will take some time as Ofsted have to write the report and then have it quality assured, before a draft is sent to me. I then have a chance to make any factual changes and ask for any language changes. This report is then sent back to be quality assured again before it is sent to me for publication to the community. Ofsted are not allowed to publish a report during a holiday period, so our report could come out after half term.

I would like to thank you all for taking part in the parent view questionnaire and for encouraging your children to do so too. The Ofsted team told me we had 187 pupil responses to the survey. This is brilliant. If you want to see the parent survey responses, please click on this link:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results>

You will need to search for Hamilton Primary School and then you will see what the community has shared.

I am very proud of the children and the team and how they managed the inspection process. Now

that the inspection is over, we will continue with our planned activities for the rest of the year. I will update you with more information when I have it.

This term is a short one, with the half term arriving in the week beginning 17th February, which means we have a lot to do in a short space of time. Please have a look at the school website for an up-to-date picture of what children will be learning.

<https://www.hamiltonprimary.com/key-information/curriculum>

E-Safety Nugget

I watched 'Swiped - The School That Banned Smart Phones' over the holiday period. This is a must watch for any parent. At Hamilton, children in year 5 and 6 tend to have a smartphone. We do not allow children to access these in school. I would recommend watching the programme as it has some very helpful information, and it has routines that I would recommend you get in place for your child once you provide them with a smart device, such as an iPad or kindle or galaxy tablet. You can access the programme via a streaming service. The link is here:

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/swiped-the-school-that-banned-smartphones>

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 95.6%. This is low. 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 3 with 96.8% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

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

School Uniform

As the new year has started, I have begun to see a number of children are coming to school in the incorrect uniform. I have listed the policy for your ease.

School v-neck jumper or navy, knitted style v-neck jumper or v-neck school cardigan or v-neck, knitted style navy cardigan

Light blue school logo polo top (to wear for events outside of the school grounds)

Light blue polo top

Grey trousers or grey shorts and black socks

Plain navy pinafore or skirt with plain navy tights or navy socks

Black, low heel, school style shoes

P.E. Kit

1 x White school logo top

Plain navy shorts

White socks

Trainers (plain sports style without adornments or LED lights)

Dark blue or black tracksuit bottoms (winter field use)

Dark jumper or sweatshirt (From September 2023 School jumper or cardigan) (winter field use)

General Rules

No nail varnish

Shoulder length or longer hair to be tied back with a simple dark coloured scrunchie or elasticated band

Hair bands should be of a plain style in a dark colour with no adornments

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery to school, with an exception being made for:

- Simple watches that only tell time and do not distract the child or other children from their learning.
- Small earring studs in pierced ears.
- Small objects of religious significance.

It is essential that children do not wear any permitted item(s) of jewellery on a day that they have P.E. If this is unavoidable, then it is essential that they are able to remove any permitted item(s) of jewellery by themselves for P.E. lesson, to prevent any potential injuries from occurring.

Headscarves/Hijab

These may be worn for religious reasons but must be plain and in keeping with the school colours. These must also be removed during P.E. lessons, unless the Headteacher has given permission following consultation with the parent/carers.

Basketball

On Thursday 12th December, the Year 6 basketball team competed in the Essex Finals, having

qualified for the event the week before by winning the Colchester heats.

The team battled hard, in the face of stiff competition, as one of the best eleven teams from across Essex. They came away with a win, a draw, and three losses, along with a whole lot of memories. The children left shattered but proud of their achievements, having made it all the way to the finals.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who helped with the event.

Mr O'Loughlin



Tag-Rugby Tournament

Yesterday, Year 6 sent a team to Maldon Rugby Club to take part in a tag-rugby tournament.

The children showed fantastic energy, resilience and team-spirit in a highly enjoyable tournament. They scored an incredible 28 tries over six games, winning four, drawing one and losing one.

The highlight of the tournament came in the play-off for 5th place, where two last-minute tries turned the game around to secure a 7-6 win!



PE Rota

Please find attached the PE Rota for KS2.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Poppy Appeal. As a school we raised £164.77.

Staff Update

Over Christmas, Mrs De'Ath (Assistant Catering Manager), and Mrs Hallam (Year 1 Teacher) moved to new jobs. This has meant that for the next term we have Mrs Williams in Year 1 every day and Mrs Best in Year 4 on a Thursday and Friday. I am very pleased to announce that we appointed Miss Victoria Huxter as our Year 1 teacher from after the Easter break. We are in the process of interviewing for a new assistant catering manager as I write, and I will keep you updated with this process.



No Clubs or Hub in Learning Conference Week

There will be **NO** morning or afternoon Hub on Tuesday 11th March or Thursday 13th March due to Learning Conferences.

There will also be **NO** Clubs after school either day due to Learning Conferences.

PINS Meeting

The next PINS Meeting will be on Wednesday 5th March between 2-3pm.

Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2025	
Monday 13 th January to Monday 17 th March 2025	Year 5 – Swimming Lessons
Thursday 6 th February 2025	Year 2 – Great Fire of London Day
Wednesday 12 th February 2025	Year 3 – Egyptian Workshop
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Year 2 – Assembly to parents 9.30am to 10.30am
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Year 6 - Siege Walk
Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24th February 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 26 th February 2025	Year 3 – Flatford Mill Trip
Tuesday 4 th March 2025	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Wednesday 5 th March 2025	PINS Meeting 1-3pm
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

Summer Term 2025	
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	First Day of Term
Thursday 1st May 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 2nd May 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Class Photos

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk