

Head Talk

Welcome back to the summer term! What a first couple of weeks we have had. Our Non-Pupil Days this week are coinciding with some great weather. 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 12th 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 test have the lowest impact possible on the children, whilst allowing them to do their best.

We also have the joys of the Year 3 play, the Year 6 play, the Year 4 and EYFS assemblies to parents and the Infant and Junior Sports days. Please keep an eye on the school calendar for updates on these events.

Another date for your diary is the summer fair. This year it will be held on Saturday 5th July. 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 volunteer. If you can only give 30 mins, this will really help. Please contact the PSA to offer your help.

I would also like to remind everyone that I am running an information session on 'When should I give my child a phone' on Tuesday 3rd June at 7pm in the infant hall. This is not an event suitable for children and it should last about an hour. There is no booking required for this event and it is open to all parents/carers.

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

Tuesday, 20 May · 1:30 – 2:30pm

Time zone: Europe/London

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/hpc-hcpb-dkx>

Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3957 1017 PIN: 388 526 961#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/hpc-hcpb-dkx?pin=3304734624470>

This term the standard Parents' Forum is taking place on the 24th June. The invite is here:

Parents' Forum

Tuesday, 24 June · 2:00 – 3:00pm

Time zone: Europe/London

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/gfi-drrv-yvw>

Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3910 5059 PIN: 515 877 023#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/gfi-drrv-yvw?pin=6067314745071>

As always, Mr Greatorrex 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, and should help inform you of the research behind the suggestions that I will be making at the meeting on the 3rd June.

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>

Attendance

School attendance is 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 95.9%. 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 3 with 96.7% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

Spotlight on Send

Parents often share with us that getting their child ready for school in the morning can take a lot of time and patience. Our Inclusion Partner has shared with us an app called Jam Up! that might help. It has been trialled and reviewed by families in Essex and has been created to support children developing self-help and life skills at home. If you try it, I would love to hear what you think. [Jam Up – by Spectrum Tailored Technologies Ltd.](#)

KS2 PE

Some of the KS2 PE will take place at Colchester Garrison Athletic Track.

Years 5 & 6 will go on a Monday Afternoon

Years 3 & 4 will go on a Friday Afternoon

All children will need to bring a water bottle with them and suitable clothing to match the weather.

Non-Pupil Days

Thursday 1st May and Friday 2nd May will be Non-Pupil Days. The children are not expected to attend school.

SATS Week

The Year 6 SATS Week will be from Monday 12th May to Friday 16th May this year.

Reception Assemblies

The Sunshine children would like to invite their parents/carers to their Class Assembly on Tuesday 20th May at 2.30pm.

The Rainbow children would like to invite their parents/carers to their Class Assembly on Thursday 22nd May at 2.30pm.



Year 1 Assembly

Year 1 would like to invite their parents/carers to their Assembly on Wednesday 21st May at 9.30am.

Year 3 Play - Minotaur

Year 3 would like to invite their parents/carers to watch their play on Wednesday 21st May in the afternoon.

Class Photos

On Thursday 22nd May Van Cols will be visiting us to take Class Photos.

Year 4 Assembly

Year 4 would like to invite their Parents/Carers to their Assembly on Wednesday 18th June starting at 1.30pm.

Hub Prices Increase

From the 1st September 2025 there will be an increase in the Hub Prices.

Morning (including breakfast) £6.00

Afternoon (drink & biscuit) £6.00

Afternoon (including tea) £12.00

School Dinners

From September 2025 the cost of school dinners will go up to £2.55 a day.

Sports Day – Infant and Junior

In a break from tradition we will now have both the Infant and Junior Sports Days on the same day. The Infant Sports Day will take place from 9.30am on the Junior Playground on Monday 7th July and should be concluded in an hour. The Junior Sports Day will take place at the Garrison Track as per normal and will start from about 1.20pm. Further information will be released nearer the time.

11+ 2026 Entry

Registration for the 11+ 2026 Entry will commence on Tuesday 13th May 2025 and close on Friday 27th June 2025.

The 11+ will be on Saturday 20th September 2025.

Break the School Rules Day

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Break the School Rules Day. We raised approximately £600.00 which will go towards the PSA Fundraising.

Letters

The Office needs 2 weeks' notice in order to provide letters backing up your application for a passport or visa from your Embassy.

Updating Details

Please don't forget to update the school office when you change address or telephone number.

Calendar Dates

Summer Term 2025

Thursday 1st May & Friday 2nd May 2025	Non-Pupil Days
Monday 5 th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Monday 12th May to Friday 16th May 2025	Year 6 SATS Week
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	Sunshine Class Assembly to parents 2.30pm – 3pm
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	SEND Parents Forum 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Wednesday 21 st May 2025	Year 1 Assembly to parents 9.30am start
Wednesday 21 st May 2025	Year 3 Play to parents – afternoon
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Class Photos – Van Cols Ltd
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Rainbow Class Assembly to parents 2.30pm – 3pm
Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2nd June 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Year 4 Assembly to parents 1.30pm start
Tuesday 24 th June 2025	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Thursday 3 rd July 2025	Celebration Evening 6-8pm
Monday 7 th July 2025	Sports Day for Infants – 9.30 am Junior Playground Sports Day for Juniors – 1.20pm Garrison Track
Wednesday 9 th July 2025	Year 2 Play to parents – 9.30am start

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 1 st September 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	First Day of Term

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk