



Head Talk

Welcome back to the final half-term of the year. The children have come back to school and settled well. This week has already seen the Year 6 children take part in 'Crucial Crew' an event designed to support them as they transition from Year 6 to Year 7 and take on more responsibility. I also had the pleasure of running an engagement session on when children should have a mobile phone. The slide deck for this was sent out this week to everyone. The children are working diligently to prepare for the phonics assessment, the Multiplication Tables Check and end of term assessments in school at the moment and we are also preparing for the celebration evening coming up in July.

This half-term is going to be busy and I would ask that you keep an eye on MCAS messages and the newsletter so that you don't miss out on some of the events that are taking place.

Mr Greateorex and I are available on the infant playground most days if you would like to pop over and have a chat with us.

E-Safety Nugget

This week I would like to recommend an article from the Children's Commissioner on the use of mobile phones. The link is here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/school-phone-policies-in-england-findings-from-the-childrens-commissioners-school-and-college-survey/>

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

We are coming close to the end of the school year and we want to ensure that children have the best attendance possible.

Our Attendance Policy can be found on the school website:

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

Our current attendance for the year is 96.1%. 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 96.8% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

Spotlight on Send – Neurodiversity Week

We have started this half term with a week celebrating and talking about neurodiversity. The children have been learning about how some of our brains are wired differently, and assemblies have been focused around this during the week. Teachers have provided a range of activities and there have been some great conversations, so please speak to your child to find out what they have taken away from the week.

Spotlight on Send

The SEND Roadshow is back this term. Details are on the attached flyer.

Colchester Royal Grammar School

CRGS are holding their annual 11+ open evening next week, on Tuesday 24th June, advert attached.

Year 4 Assembly

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

School Uniform

The blue gingham dresses are **NOT** part of the school uniform. Therefore they should **NOT** be worn to school.

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.

Calendar Dates

Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Year 4 Assembly to parents 1.30pm start
Tuesday 24 th June 2025	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Thursday 30 th June 2025	Year 6 – WW2 Day
Wednesday 2 nd July 2025	Year 2 trip to Walton Beach
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
Thursday 10 th July 2025	Visit new class morning
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	Last Day of Term

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 1 st September 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	First Day of Term
Monday 29 th September to Friday 3 rd October 2025	Year 6 Residential to Aylmerton
Friday 24 th October 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October 2025	Half Term
Friday 19 th December 2025	Last Day of Term

Spring Term 2026

Friday 2 nd January 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5 th January 2026	First Day of Term

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk