

Head Talk

What a great start to the term. The children have settled very well into school routines and have been already creating work to share with you. Our new Early Years children have also settled well and they have been starting to learn the new school routines. The toilets in the EYFS classroom look amazing after their refurbishment over the summer. Thank you to the PSA for the funds to allow us to do this. You can't underestimate the difference this will make to children's well-being.

I am very pleased to announce that the children will be taking part in a Harvest Festival this year. It will take place on Monday 13th October. This is an internal school event, but the Junior children will be walking to Christ Church in the afternoon to celebrate with the Christ Church Team. We will be collecting for the Food Bank again and would welcome any donations of, in date, food in the week beginning 7th October. A list of required items will be sent out very shortly.

Mr Greatorox and I can be found on the playground most days, and we are very happy to have a chat with you about anything. Here's to a great term.

Managing your child and their device and what to look out for in messaging groups and AI

This is just a quick reminder that there will be an in-person event that will be taking place on Monday 15th September to support parents/carers in talking with their children about the dangers of online environments and having an open discussion on social media use by children too. The event will start at 7pm sharp and will be no more than 1 hour long. I look forward to seeing you there.

Year Ahead Meetings

This week the teachers met with parents/carers to talk about the year ahead and what children will be learning. Each of the events were well attended. Please keep an eye on the school website for further information throughout the year.

Spotlight on Send (Back to school)

Welcome back! I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break, we love to hear what the children have been doing. Getting back into school routine after the summer always seems to come as a shock to the system - every year! We hope the children settle in well but if you have any questions or concerns, please talk to your child's new class teacher who will be happy to listen and help.

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 overall attendance last year was 96%. Nationally, this figure was 94.8%. This shows that we are above national attendance rates. 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



classified 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 since returning to school is Year 3 with 99.6% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

E-Safety Nugget

This week I would like to recommend an article from the UK Safer Internet Centre. This article looks at how to support children between the ages of 3 years to 11 years old. The link is here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/young-people/resources-for-3-11s>

School Communications

This is just a quick reminder to all parents/carers that we use the My Child At School App (MCAS) for all of our communications. If you have not joined this service, it is imperative that you do as all notifications of school trips, booking dinners, booking learning conferences and buying uniform are done through this platform. If you are having trouble gaining access, please contact one of the office team who will be able to support you. **We have also been made aware that a number of families have not updated their address or phone numbers. It is imperative that we have this information in case of an emergency. You can update your contact details via the MCAS app of by popping an email to parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk If we do not have the correct information, it becomes a reportable safeguarding concern**

Before and After School Clubs

The school would like to clarify the position it has with after school clubs. Apart from Colchester United, all of our clubs are independently run by the club runners. The school provides the space for the clubs to run, but does not manage the clubs in any way. If you have a concern or complaint, please approach the club runner regarding this. It is yours and their responsibility to ensure that relevant contact and medical details are provided. In the event of an emergency, the school staff will help, but the day to day running of the club is managed by the club runner.

Tuck

All KS2 children (Years 3 – 6) have the opportunity on a Tuesday and Thursday morning break to purchase items from Tuck for example: -

Mixed dried fruit pots

Flapjack or cake of some description

Crisps

Cheese straws.

Items cost 40p each

Year 6 Assembly

Year 6 would like to invite parents/carers to their Assembly on Tuesday 21st October.

Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2025

Tuesday 23 rd September 2025	PSA AGM in the Infant Hall 7pm to 8.30pm – All welcome
Monday 29 th September to Friday 3 rd October 2025	Year 6 Residential to Aylmerton
Monday 13 th October 2025	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 21 st October 2025	Year 6 Assembly to Parents in the afternoon
Friday 24th October 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 18 th November 2025	Learning Conferences – No Clubs or Hub
Thursday 20 th November 2025	Learning Conferences – No Clubs or Hub
Monday 15 th December 2025	Year 1 & 2 Nativity at Christchurch 2.15pm to 3pm
Tuesday 16 th December 2025	Christmas Dinner Day
Tuesday 16 th December 2025	Year 1 & 2 Nativity at Christchurch 5pm to 5.45pm
Wednesday 17 th December 2025	Years 3 – 6 Carol Concert at Christchurch 2.15pm to 3pm
Thursday 18 th December 2025	Years 3 – 6 Carol Concert at Christchurch 5pm to 5.45pm
Friday 19 th December 2025	Last Day of Term

Spring Term 2026

Friday 2nd January 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5 th January 2026	First Day of Term
Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term
Friday 27 th March 2026	Non-Pupil Day

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk