



Head Talk

This week I am happy to announce that the school boilers, hot water system and radiators are going to be replaced over the coming months. This will allow the school to be more efficient in its heating and with help us with our overall carbon footprint. The Local Authority is project managing the works. At the time of writing I have not yet had the pre start meeting, so I am unable to provide too much detail. I am sure there will be some disruption at times around the school, but I would like to reassure you that we will minimise this as much as possible. Our current 3 boilers are between 15-25 years old. So they have done well!

This week we have also been having some of our Colchester library visits taking place. Thank you to those parents/carers who have volunteered to help the children to walk to the library from school. We have had a surge in applications for library tickets, so it is lovely to see the impact of our visits with families. The Essex Library team has been incredibly helpful too.

Next Monday (4th May) is a Bank Holiday, so school will be closed.

We have also had 2 successful trips on a Monday morning to the Colchester Royal Grammar School sports ground for our Junior PE sessions. There are still a few teething issues, but overall the change of venue has worked well and the children are enjoying their lessons on a field.

In the week beginning 11th May, our Year 6 children will be taking part in national assessments. So please bear with us if your child talks about assemblies and the morning routine being a little different over that week, as we ensure all Year 6 children get the best possible experience of their exams.

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 you take part in a government consultation. It is called: [Growing up in an online world](#). This is a really important time for you to be able to put forward your thoughts and ideas to the government about how you think your child should be prepared for the future.

National Food Standards

This is an important consultation for parents/carers. At Hamilton we work with a third-party company, LBA, to ensure we provide a nutritionally balanced meal each day for our children. The standards that we are expected to meet are over 10 years old now. The government is looking to align the new standards with current thinking around diets, and are asking for your views. The link is here: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-food-policy-team/school-food-standards-updating-the-leg-framework/>

Parking

This week I met with the residents of Constantine Road and Hamilton Road, along with Councillor Richard Bourne and Councillor Kayleigh Rippingale. In attendance was Trevor Degville from Colchester Parking Partnership.

The discussions centred around how busy and dangerous Hamilton and Constantine Roads are during the school drop off and pick up times. There were concerns raised about parents/carers parking up very early and idling their engines, there were concerns about parents/carers parking illegally and dangerously too.



I have to agree with the residents on this. I have witnessed all of these issues. We need to come together as a community to help each other out. Our main priority is the safety of the children. With illegal and dangerous parking, using our loading bay or parking on the zig zags, children are being put at risk. There is a simple solution to this. Please park and stride. If most parents/carers chose to park in the surrounding area, and walk in for 2-5mins, we would save a lot of worry. We have a map on the school website that details where you can park. [It is under our Travel Plan section.](#)

Attendance

At this time of year we are noticing a number of families extending their holidays either side of a school closure period. Every day your child loses in school, puts them a little further behind. Please help us by not taking holidays during term time. Our records up to this point in the year show that 119 children have had an absence before or after a school holiday. This is over 25% of the school. I appreciate that holidays are expensive in the school breaks, but it is very hard for us to help your child if they are not in class.

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. 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 groups are Years 4 and 5 with 97.7% 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.

School Dinners

From September the cost of the school dinners will be increasing to £2.66 per meal.

Collection of Children from School or Hub

If someone else is collecting your child from school please make the School Office aware by email: parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk

If your child is not attending their usual session at the Hub please make the hub aware by email: parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk

Spotlight on SEND – Month the Therapy Dog

Monty has been visiting us since March, spending time with some groups of siblings. The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know him; when I asked for their feedback, their faces lit up. They shared how much they love taking him for walks and helping with his feeding. One child mentioned that being with Monty makes them feel "calm and relaxed," while another simply noted he is "nice to be around."

Monty is always a welcoming presence, often greeting the children at the door as they arrive. Supervising members of staff have noted



that these sessions provide a refreshing break from the school environment. Watching the siblings interact—both with each other and with Monty—has offered wonderful insights into their communication and connection. We can't wait to introduce Monty to our next group of siblings shortly!

Free Choice Friday 15th May

This is a new name for the much-loved 'Break the School Rules' which the children love. For one day only your children can choose to break some of Hamilton's uniform rules.

Children can wear...

1. Funky shoes.
2. Colourful nail varnish.
3. Temporary tattoos.
4. Colourful socks.
5. Crazy hair.
6. One item of uniform for one of my own choice of clothes.

We will be collecting £1 for each uniform choice that your child makes. This money will go towards the school's charity Hamilton PSA. We will be collecting money on the day or you can donate online: <https://bit.ly/free-choice-friday>

Netball Tournament

On Tuesday, Hamilton sent a team of year 5 and 6 students to a netball tournament at Thurstable school in Tiptree. Thirteen schools took part in this very well-organised competition, where rotation of the players and positions was mandatory. The Hamilton children played very well and were unlucky with a series of narrow losses at the start of the competition before a hard-fought draw. The team typically enjoyed more possession than their opponents. They attacked with pace, skill and can wear...



11+ Selective Test

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

Registration opens from 9am on Tuesday 12th May 2026 until 5pm on Friday 19th June 2026.



Calendar Dates

Summer Term 2026	
Monday 11 th May to Thursday 14 th May 2026	Year 6 SATS Week
Thursday 18 th June 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
Thursday 18 th June 2026	Cultural Heritage Day
Saturday 4 th July 2026	Summer Fayre
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