



Head Talk

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had time to rest and relax with family and friends over the holiday period. The children all settled well back to school last week and have enjoyed the time with friends again. It was a little surprise to wake up to snow last Monday!

Swimming lessons for Year 5 have started this week and the children enjoyed their time in the pool.

This term, we are looking forward to working with your child/ren on learning new knowledge and skills. If you want to see what we will be teaching, please visit the school website:

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

Please keep an eye on the school dates, which can be found on the last page of this newsletter, or you can have a look at the term dates and calendar on our website.

<https://www.hamiltonprimary.com/office/term-dates>

<https://www.hamiltonprimary.com/calendar-1>

E-Safety Nugget

When it comes to app and games reviews one of the resources which is excellent is **Common Sense Media** who have thousands of unbiased and up-to-date reviews which can be really helpful for parents/carers over and above age ratings. But when it comes to games specifically there's an equally great site which is often overlooked called **The Family Gaming Database**. This is a fantastic resource with a plethora of information for families and currently 3,485 video games and 197 board games already reviewed.

Parking

Can we please ask you to be considerate to the businesses in both roads when you are picking up and dropping your child off at school.

It is not acceptable to use or block their parking spaces or be aggressive to them.

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 96.9%. This is quite good, but I would love to see it at 97% or better. 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. Please help us to help your child. Our leading attending year group is Year 4 with 98.1% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.



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 uniform items

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 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 with a leg length that meets halfway between the top of the thigh and top of the knee

White socks

Trainers (plain sports style without adornments or LED lights)

Dark blue or black tracksuit bottoms (winter field use)

Plain dark blue round-necked sweater, with no hood or branding, or School jumper or cardigan (winter field use)

General Rules

No nail varnish

No makeup of any sort

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. Smartwatches are not allowed unless they do not contain a camera and are not connected to a phone. The school will accept a 'Fitbit' style watch.
- 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/carer.

Lost Property

All items of clothing should be labelled with your child's name, as the school cannot accept responsibility for any articles lost or damaged on the school premises.

SEND Spotlight – Children's Mental Health Week

We will be doing some work to support Children's Mental Health Week, 9th - 15th February 2026. The theme this year is "This is my Place" and explores the idea of belonging. The initiative aims to empower children and promote mental health awareness in schools across the UK. A strong sense of belonging enhances mental health by fostering connections and feelings of value. Children with a sense of belonging exhibit increased confidence,

resilience, and better self-esteem. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher before the week.

Little Wandle and 'Sharing Books' in EYFS and KS1

Please ensure that you return your child's Little Wandle and 'Sharing Book' each week. We often have books which are lost or spoiled and this creates difficulties with enabling our reading groups to take place and it costs the school money to replenish the book supplies,

Our policy is to not send a new Little Wandle or 'Sharing Book' home with a child until they have returned their previous book. If a book is lost at home, we ask that parents pay to replace the lost book, which can be done via MCAs for £5. If you have any questions about lost books, please ask your child's teacher or speak to me at the beginning or end of the day.

With thanks,

Mrs Charad (Phonics and Early Reading Lead)

and supported each other through some narrow loses. A brief break in play saw the team discussing tactics and working out their best route to goal. It worked a dream with Ava and Giselle both scoring in a 2 - 0 win to end the tournament on a high! The team celebrated (and warmed up) with hot chocolate in Mr Hutchings' Office. A big thank you to all the parents who supported them through the rain, sleet and gusty winds!

Poppy Appeal 2025

On behalf of the RBL can I thank you for your contribution during this year's appeal. Your collection tins raised £177.45.

Girls Football

On a bitter January morning last week, Hamilton sent a team for the Utilita Cup Girls Football tournament at Shrub End. The games were played in a fantastic spirit and, despite finding it hard to find the net, the team kept their heads held high



Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2026	
Monday 12 th , 19 th & 26 th January 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 20 th January 2026	Online SEND Forum 1.30pm to 2.30pm
Wednesday 4 th February 2026	Year 5 trip to the Mercury Theatre
Monday 2 nd , 9 th & 23 rd February 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Monday 9 th February 2026	Year 6 to Philip Morant to watch Beauty and the Beast
Tuesday 10 th February 2026	Year 6 – Siege Walk in Colchester
Thursday 12 th February 2026	Year 2 Assembly to Parents - Time to be confirmed
Thursday 12 th February 2026	Year 3 trip to London
Friday 13 th February 2026	Year 5 Assembly to Parents - Time to be confirmed
Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term
Friday 27 th February 2026	Year 3 Assembly to Parents - Time to be confirmed
Monday 2 nd March 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 3 rd March 2026	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 1 Assembly to Parents - Time to be confirmed
Friday 27 th March 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2026	
Wednesday 20 th May 2026	Year 3 Play to Parents - Time to be confirmed
Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026	Half Term
Monday 1 st June 2026	Non-Pupil Day

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk