



### Head Talk

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Well what can I say?.... Last newsletter I talked about the Ofsted inspection and in this newsletter I need to talk about the power cut that the school suffered!!! It was a busy few hours on Friday 2 weeks ago! I would like to say well done to all of the children for dealing with a slightly later lunch and I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff that rallied around to help solve a very difficult situation. I have written to Essex County Council and asked for their support in trying to ensure that this issue doesn't reoccur. I have heard that most children really enjoyed the adhoc menu change!

I have been spending time walking around the school this week and getting into classrooms and seeing the learning take place. It is a huge privilege to be the Headteacher of Hamilton and see the excellent learning environment, the children engaged in their lessons and the enthusiasm with which they speak about the knowledge that they have gained.

Last week, Libby, from the PINS project, shared with me the outcomes of the latest meeting with parents/carers, which was very useful and the school will look at the suggestions put forward and report back to the group for their final meeting. Please have a look at the diary dates in this newsletter for the next PINS meeting. We are currently working hard on refresher training for all staff around SEND and have recently had a focus on 'Great Autism Practice' training. We are talking to children in assemblies about acceptance of all children and also talking about how some children think differently to others.

As always, Mr Greatorax and I are available at the school gates in the morning or on the playground in the afternoons to have a chat with. Please pop over to say hello.

Have a good couple of weeks.

### E-Safety Nugget

This week's focus is on the use of WhatsApp and when you might think about allowing your child/ren to engage with the platform. The NSPCC has written a useful document to support parents/carers in their decision-making process. The link is here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

WhatsApp is one of the first social media platforms that we think Hamilton children engage in. It is imperative that you work with your child so that they understand online etiquette and what to do if they are unhappy with a situation online.

### 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 95.7%. This is low. 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.

### Assemblies

Year 2 would like to invite their parents/carers to their assembly on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February starting at 9.30am

Year 5 would like to invite their parents/carers to their assembly on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February starting at 2.30pm

### Wear Something Green

The Eco Committee have decided to fund raise for Just One Tree again this year. Therefore we will be having a 'wear something green' non uniform day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February (the last day of this half term.) Children and staff may come to school in a full green outfit or whatever green items they have in their wardrobes! For every pound raised a tree will be planted. Last year we planted over 300 trees, I wonder if we can beat that number this year!

### Valentine Bake Sale

The PSA will be organising a bake sale after school. Details to follow.

### Local Community Music Centre

This is run by Essex Music Service (see attached flyer), with sessions taking place on Saturday mornings at the Colchester County High School for Girls. It is a great way for primary school-aged

children to experience learning to play a new instrument in an informal fun group, and is a great continuation from Play-it!

Any questions can please be sent to Tina Spivey on [Tina.Spivey@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Tina.Spivey@essex.gov.uk)

### Philip Morant School Visit

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February Year 6 have been invited to watch the production of Oliver Jr at Philip Morant School.

### PINS Meetings

There are two PINS Meetings in March:-

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March is an Emotional Regulation Workshop delivered by the PINS team and is 1:15pm - 3pm.

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> March is the final Coffee and Chat session delivered by Libby between 1.30-3pm. Please see attached poster for more information.

### No Clubs or Hub in Learning Conference Week

There will be **NO** morning or afternoon Hub on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March or Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March due to Learning Conferences.

There will also be **NO** Clubs after school either day due to Learning Conferences.

### Secondary transition advice & support for parents

Please see link below for information regarding advice & support on Year 6 children joining Secondary School.

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/step-by-step/how-support-your-child-starting-secondary-school>

### Pupil News

Nora Hughes (6SB) took part in the Swim England Essex County Championships at the Olympic pool in Stratford, becoming a double County Champion (400m freestyle and 200m butterfly), as well taking a silver in 200 Individual Medley and making 7 other finals to finish 3rd overall in her age group. Pictured here with her brother and number one fan, Oscar (3SR) who was also a champion over two long weekends and did some amazing Lego building poolside.



## Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2025	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January to Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year 5 – Swimming Lessons
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Year 2 – Great Fire of London Day
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Year 6 to Philip Morant School to watch Oliver Jr
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Year 3 – Egyptian Workshop
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Year 2 – Assembly to parents 9.30am to 10.30am
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Year 6 – Siege Walk
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Wearing Something Green for Just One Tree
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Year 5 – Assembly to parents at 2.30pm
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	<b>Non-Pupil Day</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Year 3 – Flatford Mill Trip
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	PINS Meeting Emotional Regulation Workshop 1.15-3pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Learning Conferences – 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	PINS - Final Coffee and Chat session delivered by Libby 1.30-3pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Learning Conferences – 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2025	
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	First Day of Term
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May & Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025	<b>Non-Pupil Days</b>

## Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

[parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk](mailto:parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk)