



Head Talk

Welcome to this week's newsletter! We have had a busy week with all children back at school after our Year 6 children visited the north Norfolk coast for a week. We are making preparations for our Harvest Festivals next week. Please can you bring in food donations by Monday at the latest. The types of food that we require were in the last newsletter. We will not be accepting any further donations after Monday. You are all very welcome to visit the Salvation Army at the bottom of Butt Road if you would like to donate further.

The individual photos took place on Tuesday this week, and you will be notified when they are available to view. My thanks go to the office team, who managed to get all children and staff photographed with military precision.

As always, Mr Greatorex and I are available for an informal chat on the playground in the mornings and afternoons. Have a good couple of weeks.

Supporting your child at school

I am often asked by parents and carers about the homework that is set for children at school and my response is always that we have a homework policy, which is viewable on the school website, but the most important things you can do for your child are to listen to them read and help them to learn their times tables. Children need to reach certain milestones at school and we need your help. By the end of Year 1 children need to be able to understand phonics. We teach this to your child, but they need further practice at home to help. Here is a website to visit to make sure you can help your child sound out correctly: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

By the end of Year 4 children need to know their times tables up to 12 x 12. At the moment we are finding children in Year 4 struggling with their 2, 5

and 10 times tables. The children need to answer random questions within a 6-second limit. Times tables are part of our Maths Fundamentals: <https://www.hamiltonprimary.com/key-information/maths>

Please help us to help your child. If you can hear them read for 10 mins a day at a minimum and read them a story and if you can help them with learning their tables, this will enable your child to be successful at school.

School Uniform

As part of the School Uniform **requirement** children **should** come to school **wearing black shoes**. Trainers are only allowed on **PE** days.

E-Safety Nugget

Here is the LGfL Parent Safe Website. There are some brilliant resources for you to have a look at to support you in supporting your child to navigate the internet and the digital world.

<https://lgfl.net/safeguarding/parent-online-safety?hsmi=381367292>

Parking and drop off at school

I would like to encourage parents/carers to walk, ride or scoot to school with their children. Recently I have seen a significant uptick in children arriving at school by car and often after the school gates have closed. I have also witnessed what has become a 'rolling' drop off and pick up zone in both Hamilton and Constantine Roads. Vehicles are stopping in the middle of the road, stopping the flow of traffic and letting children out opposite the school gates. This needs to stop. I have also seen cars using our loading bay and zig zag lines as drop off or parking zones. These are in place to protect the children. Please leave earlier for school. Please choose to park a little further away from the school and walk in, to ease the congestion at a very busy point of the day.

Leaving the school site at the end of the day

I would like to remind parents/carers to make a swift exit from the school grounds at the end of the day. This is because we have after school clubs that use the playground, and they need to make a start to the club as soon as they can, and they can't do that with members of the public on the playground.

Smoking outside the school

I would like to remind parents/carers that the school is a no smoking site and that it would be very helpful if you did not smoke near the school grounds either. Thank you.

Attendance

Attendance at school is still a focus this year. We have started well, and we currently have an average attendance rate of 97.3%. This is good, and I would like to see this maintained or even improved. Currently, Year 3 has the highest attendance rate of 98.6%!!!! Keep up the amazing work.

We also have far too many children arriving 5-10 minutes late for school. This needs to improve drastically. Children arriving late are disruptive for the class they are joining and the child who is late. It disturbs learning and means that the late child is walking into a lesson that has already started. Please leave a little earlier from home to get to school on time. **The gates close at 8.55am every morning. After this, your child will be registered as late.**

Our Attendance Policy can be found on the school website:

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

Lost Property

Please label your child's school jumpers, cardigans, coats etc. There are two enormous black sacks full in lost property already this term.

If your child has lost some uniform please come and look for it in the Infant Library.

It's Wear Red Day – Friday 17th October

Children are invited to wear an item of red clothing/footwear to school next Friday - 17th October 2025 as part of Show Racism the Red Card Day.

Spotlight on Send – National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day was on 2nd October, so there have been some poems read across the school. In a recent study (published October 2024) the National Literacy Trust carried out research and found that there are "hugely significant benefits to children's mental wellbeing, confidence, aptitude for learning and their ability to develop empathy." by being exposed to poetry. Perhaps you could revisit a favourite family poem or look at the lyrics of a favourite song and write another verse together.

I have also attached the latest SEND Roadshow flyer.

The next SEND Forum will take place online on 20th January 2026.

Year 6 Assembly

Year 6 would like to invite parents/carers to their Assembly on Tuesday 21st October starting at 2.15pm.

Office Hours

Just a reminder that the school Office Hours are 8.30am to 4.00pm each school day.

Infant swing after school

Can I please ask parents/carers to make sure children are not on the infant playground swing after school. It has become too crowded and too difficult to manage the children on it. Thank you.

Mornings in the Playground

Please note that parents are **NOT** allowed onto the school grounds in the morning until the gates open at **8.45am**

Football Tournament

On Wednesday 8th October, Year 5 and 6 sent a team to play in a football tournament at Shrub End. The team performed admirably against some very strong opposition: memorable moments included Ronnie Hunt's dominant defending; Harry Lawrence's 3 goals across the tournament; and Archie Mayne's volleyed finish. After initial success with a win and a draw, the team battled hard and kept their belief despite a run of losses. They showed resilience, keeping their heads held high and finished the tournament strongly. The true measure of their success was in their display of the school's core values.



Student Information Sheets

You will have all received a copy of the student information sheet for your child.

Thank you very much if you have already returned it.

For those that haven't please do so asap. If we don't have the correct details, it makes it difficult to contact you if the need arises.



Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2025	
Monday 13 th October 2025	Harvest Festival
Friday 17 th October 2025	Wear Red Day – Show Racism the Red Card
Tuesday 21 st October 2025	Year 6 Assembly to Parents starting at 2.15pm
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
Wednesday 10 th December 2025	Year 4 Play to parents/carers starting at 1.45pm
Tuesday 16 th December 2025	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 19 th December 2025	Last Day of Term
Monday 22 nd December 2025 to Friday 2 nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays

Spring Term 2026	
Friday 2nd January 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5 th January 2026	First Day of Term
Tuesday 20 th January 2026	Online SEND Forum
Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term
Friday 27 th March 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April 2025	Easter Holidays

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk