



Head Talk

This is the last newsletter before our half-term break. The children and staff have worked incredibly hard since our return from the Christmas break. I know everyone is looking forward to a great rest and some time to spend with family and friends.

This week I had the privilege of being able to attend the Year 2 class assembly to parents/carers and the Year 5 class assembly. Both events showcased what the children have been learning this year, and it was wonderful to see the joy in which the children presented their learning. Thank you to all the staff involved in getting the children prepared for these assemblies. It is one of the additional things that we do at Hamilton that allows children to value the work that they present.

We have also celebrated Safer Internet Day again this year. This has provided us with another opportunity to talk with children about how they interact with the internet and social media. I am grateful to parents and carers for supporting us in our work to enable children to use the internet and social media responsibly.

We have all been out of uniform today to support a drive to plant more trees across the world. This is really important to try and offset the carbon usage of computers and AI. Thank you to everyone who has donated.

The PSA have been hard at work getting ready for a bake sale on the last day of term. As I write, I know this will be a popular event, and thank you again to everyone who purchased a cake! The money will be used to support the improvement of areas of the school. This year's big project is to replace the toilets and sinks in Rainbow and Sunshine classes. I am working with the PSA team

to identify future projects that will enhance the children's school environment.

Please don't forget that we have a non-pupil day taking place on **Monday 24th February**, where staff will be taking part in update training on our Behaviour and Relationships Policy. Children are due back in school on **Tuesday 25th February** at the normal time.

The school team has also been working hard with the PINs project, and last week we had specific update training on supporting neurodiverse learners. This supported what the school already has in place and is part of the work that we had planned to do this year. It also supports the area for improvement that our Ofsted report highlighted.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and I would like to wish you a fantastic half-term break.

E-Safety Nugget

As we have celebrated Safe Internet Day this week, I thought it would be useful to provide the link for parents/carers to the Safe Internet Day website. The link is here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will be taking place on **11th March and 13th March** between 3.40pm and 6.30pm. Infant children's teachers will be in the infant hall and the junior teachers will be in the junior hall. Bookings will open over half-term, and I would ask that if you have children in the infants and juniors, that you allow a 10min break between meetings, so that you can get yourself between the halls. We are very tight on the 10min meeting slot

and bells will sound to move families on. This ensures that every family can be seen fairly.

Learning conferences are a chance to catch up with your child's class teacher and to have an update on how your child is progressing in their learning. We will provide you with some specific data and ask for your help in supporting your child's learning. Your child is welcome to attend the meetings, as they can often add a depth to the conversation.

Meetings can be booked via the MCAS system from **9am on the 17th February.**

Parents' Forum

This term's forum will be taking place on the 4th March at 2pm. The link for the session is here:

Parents' Forum

Tuesday, 4 March · 2:00 – 3:00pm

Time zone: Europe/London

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wcz-isjn-bpc>

Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3937 0910 PIN: 824 630 842#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/wcz-isjn-bpc?pin=2898802376224>

We will send out reminders nearer the time. This term we will be talking about the impact of the Ofsted Inspection on the school and looking at how we can work together on the area for improvement that was highlighted.

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 96.7% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

Spotlight on SEND

This week some of our LSA's have taken part in a training course about understanding autism and emotional regulation. There was an emphasis on the importance of structure, predictability and routine across the school and home setting to help reduce anxieties for autistic children. Seeing behaviour as a form of communication helps us all to try and find the root of the anxiety so that we can support our children through. We are running an Emotional Regulation Workshop for parents on Wednesday 5th March at 1:15pm, and it would be wonderful to see you there to hear about the strategies you use and for us as a school to better understand home life. If you would like to come, please email the school office to book a place.

Year 2 Great Fire of London Day

Last Thursday Year 2 had a fun time taking part in their Great Fire of London Day. They all looked fantastic dressed up and they got to experience 4 different crafts of the era- weaving, clay pot and bread making and writing with quills. In the afternoon they created cityscapes of London on fire using the 'painting with paper' technique they had learnt in previous art lessons. The parent volunteers were a huge help in making this day happen so we want to thank them again for giving up their time. Great work Year 2!



Half Term Activities

Please find attached a letter regarding Half Term Activities.

Year 3 Assembly

Year 3 would like to invite their parents/carers to their assembly on Friday 28th February starting at 2.30pm.

World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March children are celebrating World Book Day. Please see attached letter regarding costume suggestions and a PSA Pre Loved Costume Sale.

PINS Meetings

There are two PINS Meetings in March:-

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

Wed 12th 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 11th March or Thursday 13th March due to Learning Conferences.

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

Pupil News

Congratulations to Oscar Stuart (4SW) who has achieved level 5-9 in Gymnastics since July 2024. He has also just achieved his 200m front crawl swimming award too!

Congratulations to Rebecca Yates (2RC) who took part in a gymnastics competition last Sunday. In her 2018 age category she came 2nd on floor and vault, 3rd on bars and 4th on beam. The trophy she is holding is for being the overall Champion in her age group! Which is quite an achievement as she has only been in the competition squad for 8 months.



Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2025	
Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24th February 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 26 th February 2025	Year 3 – Flatford Mill Trip
Friday 28 th February 2025	Year 3 - Assembly to parents – 2.30pm
Tuesday 4 th March 2025	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Wednesday 5 th March 2025	PINS Meeting Emotional Regulation Workshop 1.15-3pm
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day
Tuesday 11 th March 2025	Learning Conferences – 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Wednesday 12 th March 2025	PINS - Final Coffee and Chat session delivered by Libby 1.30-3pm
Thursday 13 th March 2025	Learning Conferences – 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Monday 7 th April to Monday 21 st April 2025	Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2025	
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	First Day of Term
Thursday 1st May & Friday 2nd May 2025	Non-Pupil Days
Monday 5 th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	Sunshine Class Assembly to parents 2.30 – 3pm
Wednesday 21 st May 2025	Year 3 Play to parents – afternoon
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Rainbow Class Assembly to parents 2.30 – 3pm
Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2nd June 2025	Non-Pupil Days

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk