



Head Talk

Welcome back to the final half-term of the year. The children have come back to school and settled well. This week has already seen the Year 6 children take part in a trip to Braintree Museum as part of their World War 2 topic. The Year 1 children are working diligently to prepare for the phonics assessment, and the Year 4 children have been taking part in the Multiplication Tables Check. We are also preparing for the Celebration Evening on Thursday 2nd July.

The builders started over the half term break and they have removed the old school boilers and some radiators already. They will be on the school premises between now and September. Over the coming weeks they will be taking part in some 'night works' within the school to remove radiators and pipes, so that they don't disturb the children's learning.

The summer fete is being planned for at the moment and this will take place on Saturday 4th July. If you can give any time at all to help, please contact the PSA team directly. We can't do this without you!

This half-term is going to be busy and I would ask that you keep an eye on MCAS messages and the newsletter so that you don't miss out on some of the events that are taking place.

Mr Greatorex and I are available on the infant playground most days if you would like to pop over and have a chat with us.

E-Safety Nugget

You may wish to look at the Children's Commissioner website link on '[What I wish my parents or carers knew](#)'. This is a great guide on supporting your child in the digital world.

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Parking

There are concerns about parents/carers parking up very early and idling their engines and there are concerns about parents/carers parking illegally and dangerously too. I have witnessed all of these taking place. 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.](#)

The Big Future Survey

[The Big Future survey - have your say!](#) Please use this link with your child to take part in the latest survey from the Children's Commissioner. The commissioner wants to hear from children and young people aged 0-18 from every background, in every part of the country. The survey asks about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they would like to see in their communities, and what they believe a good childhood should look like today.

Participation in The Big Future also provides schools with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to civic engagement. The findings will help inform national conversations and decision-making about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

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 Year 5 with 97.7% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

School Dinners

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

Year 4 Assembly

Year 4 would like to invite their parents/carers to their assembly on Monday 15th June at 2.30pm.

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.

Hub Prices

From September the prices for the hub sessions will be increasing.

A morning session will cost £6.25

A short afternoon session will cost £6.25

A long afternoon session will cost £12.50

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a parent governor vacancy, and nomination forms were sent home with pupils this week.

If your child did not receive a form, please collect one from the school office.

Please note that the deadline for submitting nominations is **9:00am on Friday 19th June 2026**.

Spotlight on SEND

We are currently in the process of reviewing the children's One Plans ahead of our upcoming meetings with many of you over the next couple of weeks. These plans are reviewed three times a year.

In response to our OFSTED feedback around our systems for SEND and to ensure these reviews are as effective as possible we dedicate a full staff meeting each term to this process. This collaborative time allows our team to share knowledge, resources, brainstorm next steps, and celebrate the progress of children they may have previously taught.

Furthermore, for children with an EHCP or high levels of need, we hold specific EHCP Surgeries. During this time, the class teacher and I review the plan and may refer to outside agency reports, the EHCP itself, or use AI tools to draft a provisional plan. This means we have a meaningful starting

point to share, discuss, and edit together when we meet with you.

Pupil voice is important, and we are continuously working on improving how their perspective is reflected in their One Plan. This term, we would love to see more children attend their meetings if they feel comfortable and wish to do so.

One Plan meetings will be taking place over the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions ahead of your meeting, please speak with your child's class teacher.

Year 6 trip to Braintree Museum

We recently enjoyed a fantastic school trip to Braintree Museum, where history truly came to life as we travelled back to the 1940s.

The children stepped into the shoes of wartime evacuees, experiencing first-hand what it was like to sit in a strict 1940s classroom. They also had the unique opportunity to handle wartime artifacts, discovering how families lived and uncovering some fascinating insights into how World War II affected our local area.

It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and inspired by history. A big thank you to all that helped for such an immersive day!



Year 6 Play

Year 6 would like to invite their parents/carers to their school play on Tuesday 14th July in the afternoon and Wednesday 15th July in the evening.

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 and **closes on Friday 19th June 2026.**

Thank you to Adam Ferretti

Over the half term break, Adam Ferretti constructed and donated a beautiful new fence for our EYFS space. I have included a picture for you all. Thank you to Adam and his team for this. It is amazing!





Calendar Dates

Summer Term 2026	
Monday 8 th June 2026	Year 6 – Crucial Crew
Tuesday 9 th June 2026	Year 2SN/SW to visit Colchester Library
Thursday 11 th June 2026	Year 2KC to visit Colchester Library
Monday 15 th June 2026	Year 4 Assembly to Parents/Carers at 2.30pm
Monday 15 th & 22 nd June 2026	One Year 6 Class each afternoon to visit the school allotment
Wednesday 17 th June 2026	Year 2 to visit Chelmsford Museum
Thursday 18 th June 2026	Cultural Heritage Day
Thursday 25 th June 2026	Year 1 to visit Jimmy's Farm
Friday 26 th June 2026	Year 3 to visit Colchester Library
Wednesday 1 st July 2026	Whole School History Day
Thursday 2 nd July 2026	Celebration Evening
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
Tuesday 14 th July 2026	Year 6 Play to Parents in the afternoon
Wednesday 15 th July 2026	Year 6 Play to Parents in the evening
Monday 20 th July 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 21 st July to Friday 28 th August 2026	Summer Holidays

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk