



Head Talk

Welcome to the final newsletter of the Spring Term! I can't quite believe where the weeks have gone. Mind you; we have managed to cover a lot of ground since Christmas!! The weather is looking up, and we have a packed month of May ahead, with a number of non-pupil days and bank holidays, meaning there isn't a lot of time with children in school to achieve what we need to achieve!

In this newsletter, I wanted to highlight some of the activities that you can undertake over the Easter break if you are not away. It is worth visiting: [What's On for Families. The 2025 Easter Holidays](#) to see what you can do. There are a number of free activities around the city and a visit to Prettygate Library means you can never go wrong. See what you can plan with your child.

This week I had the pleasure of attending one of the dress rehearsals of the Year 5 play. It was lovely to see the children enjoying the script, the stage and the audience reactions. Our year group plays are one of the things that make us stand out as a school. They are a huge investment in time, but they allow children to thrive and express themselves. I congratulate the entire team for putting on such an excellent performance.

Yesterday we saw the PSA running their Easter Event and I would like to thank the team for organising it and everyone that participated and contributed. We are so lucky to have a group of parents/carers who give of time and money so generously.

I would also like to give advanced notice of a presentation that I will be running on Tuesday 3rd June at 7pm in the Infant Hall. The presentation is titled: **When should I give my child a phone?** The presentation will take no more than 1 hour, and I am opening it to all parents/carers of the

school. Parking will be available on the junior playground. Please come along if you would like to find out more.

As always, Mr Greatorex and I are available to have a chat with on the playground on most days. Please do pop over to see us! Have a fantastic Easter break and I hope you get time to rest and relax with family. Our first day back is **Tuesday 22nd April.**

E-Safety Nugget

This week I thought it would be helpful to talk about screen time. Children are spending increasing amounts of time on a device and not out in the fresh air and sunlight. Research suggests that children and adults should have a minimum of 7 hours of sleep each night and accessing a screen between 11pm and 4am puts a significant amount of stress into your body. Children should be experiencing 67 mins of sunlight a day to keep them healthy and to support their circadian rhythm. To help you with this, you can apply screen time limits to your child's device. Instructions to do so can be found here:

<https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/screen-time/>

Borrowing books electronically

This week I thought it would be helpful to share the 'Borrow Box' App with you. This is an app that allows children to borrow e-books from Essex Libraries, using their library card number. The link to follow is here:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/usin-g-our-elibrary/borrowbox>

We often forget that we don't need to purchase every book that we want to read. We can borrow them in physical form and online.



If your library card has expired or you don't have one, you can follow this link to register:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/user/register>

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 95.9%. This is low, but we are the same as we were 2 weeks ago. 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 96.9% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

Hellos and Goodbyes!

We would like to thank Mrs Best for covering the Year 4 class that Mrs Williams has left for a term to teach the Year 1 class. Mrs Best leaves us

today, but I am sure we will see her covering other classes this year. I would also like to thank Mrs Williams for moving to Year 1 for this term and increasing to a full time week. Mrs Williams will be returning to Year 4 two days a week from after Easter.

I would also like to say hello to Miss Victoria Huxster, who will be working full time in Year 1 from after Easter. She spent a day with us this week to get to know her new class. When you see her, please make her feel welcome.

Spotlight on Send

The end of this term brings the end of our involvement with the PINS project. This was a two-pronged pilot project between the health service and Essex Family Forum to raise awareness and understanding of neurodiversity within school and beyond into the school community. The training provided to all staff has opened up the conversation further about how we see and support additional needs. I hope the coffee mornings have been helpful for parents and provided a space to share experiences. Essex Family Forum ask you to share your views via the evaluation letter attached.

Year 5 Cross Country

On Wednesday 2nd April, the Year 5 Boys team took part in the Essex Cross Country Finals in Southend, competing against the cream of the county. They earned their place by winning the Colchester District team event last year.

Aaron Westall, Sam Morley, Charlie Alderton, Harry Giddy, Sam Morley and Ronnie Hunt showed what it means to be a team, helping each other through the high winds in a thoroughly enjoyable event.

There was no medal for the team this time but they gave it their all and were already talking

about how they will improve for the event next year before we left!

A huge thank you needs to go out to those parents who made the drive to Southend to support the event.



KS2 PE after Easter

After Easter some of the KS2 PE will take place at Colchester Garrison Athletic Track.

Years 5 & 6 will go on a Monday Afternoon

Years 3 & 4 will go on a Friday Afternoon

All children will need to bring a water bottle with them and suitable clothing to match the weather.

Non-Pupil Days

Thursday 1st May and Friday 2nd May will be Non-Pupil Days. The children are not expected to attend school.

SATS Week

The Year 6 SATS Week will be from Monday 12th May to Friday 16th May this year.

SEND Parents Forum

There will be a SEND Parents Forum on Tuesday 20th May between 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Details to follow.

Reception Assemblies

The Sunshine children would like to invite their parents/carers to their Class Assembly on Tuesday 20th May at 2.30pm.

The Rainbow children would like to invite their parents/carers to their Class Assembly on Thursday 22nd May at 2.30pm.

Year 1 Assembly

Year 1 would like to invite their parents/carers to their Assembly on Wednesday 21st May at 9.30am.

Year 3 Play - Minotaur

Year 3 would like to invite their parents/carers to watch their play on Wednesday 21st May in the afternoon.

Class Photos

On Thursday 22nd May Van Cols will be visiting us to take Class Photos.

Year 4 Assembly

Year 4 would like to invite their Parents/Carers to their Assembly on Wednesday 18th June starting at 1.30pm.

Parents Forum

The next Parents Forum will be held on Tuesday 24th June 2025. Details to follow.

Hub Prices Increase

From the 1st September 2025 there will be an increase in the Hub Prices.

Morning (including breakfast) £6.00

Afternoon (drink & biscuit) £6.00

Afternoon (including tea) £12.00

School Dinners

From September 2025 the cost of school dinners will go up to £2.55 a day.

Sports Day – Infant and Junior

In a break from tradition we will now have both the Infant and Junior Sports Days on the same day. The Infant Sports Day will take place from 9.30am on the Junior Playground on Monday 7th July and should be concluded in an hour. The Junior Sports Day will take place at the Garrison Track as per normal and will start from about 1.20pm. Further information will be released nearer the time.

PSA – Easter Trail

Don't forget the PSA Easter trail which you can do anytime from today until Easter Monday. Spot the decorated eggs on the trail, get some fresh air and explore your local area. Two fun ways to locate the eggs. Follow this link to download your trail information and map <https://square.link/u/lk7NqE2v>

Suggested payment £2

This is a community event, so please share with family and friends. All monies raised will go to the Hamilton PSA.

PSA - Raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket, donated a prize or baked a cake. We simply couldn't run these events without you.

The raffle raised £670 and the bake sale £225.

Winners of the Spring Raffle 2025

1st prize: Cosmin Iordache, 1SW

2nd prize: Landry Reed, 6LO

3rd prize: Oscar Hughes, 3SR

Runners up:

Jenny Stott, 2LB/RC

Jason Foster, 1LG

Philippa Allen, 3AW

Siobhan Beaumont, 6LO

Pupil News

Congratulations to Linton Whittaker (6LO) on passing his grade 1 flute with distinction. Linton was inspired to play the flute after Essex Music came to school last year and gave Year 5 some lessons!



Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2025	
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 1 st May & Friday 2 nd May 2025	Non-Pupil Days
Monday 5 th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Monday 12 th May to Friday 16 th May 2025	Year 6 SATS Week
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	Sunshine Class Assembly to parents 2.30pm – 3pm
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	SEND Parents Forum 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Wednesday 21 st May 2025	Year 1 Assembly to parents 9.30am start
Wednesday 21 st May 2025	Year 3 Play to parents – afternoon
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Class Photos – Van Cols Ltd
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Rainbow Class Assembly to parents 2.30pm – 3pm
Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2 nd June 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Year 4 Assembly to parents 1.30pm start
Tuesday 24 th June 2025	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Thursday 3 rd July 2025	Celebration Evening 6-8pm
Monday 7 th July 2025	Sports Day for Infants – 9.30 am Junior Playground Sports Day for Juniors – 1.20pm Garrison Track
Wednesday 9 th July 2025	Year 2 Play to parents – 9.30am start

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk