



## Head Talk

Welcome back to the first newsletter of the half-term. I hope you all had a good half-term break. We are now entering winter, so I would like you to remind your children to wear bright clothing on their walk to school so that they can easily be seen. If your child walks to school, and they have a phone, please ask them not to walk and look at their phone. When children arrive at the school site, phones must be switched off, and they must be handed in to the class teacher.

Learning Conferences took place this week. Thank you to everyone who attended. The meetings are a great opportunity to hear about your child's learning and talk about how we can all provide the best conditions for further learning.

Well done to 3AW who took part in the Mercury Christmas Lantern Parade. This is the first time that we have taken part in this, and I know the children were very excited to represent the school in the local community. My thanks go to all the adults that helped ensure the event took place.

Thank you also to all the families that took part in the PSA Quiz last Friday. I have been informed that it was very well attended and that a lot of money was raised. This money will go towards the refurbishment of the Reception toilets.

As always, Mr Greatorex and I are on the playground at the beginning and end of the day if you would like to have a chat.

## E-Safety Nugget

Here is a good site for parents/carers to have a look at to support them in having discussions with their child on online gaming.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/gaming/>

## Attendance

Attendance at school is still a focus this year. We have started well, and we currently have an average attendance rate of 97.0%. This is great, and I would like to see this maintained or even improved. Currently, Year 3 has the highest attendance rate of 97.9%!!!! 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>

## Measles Outbreak

Please see attached letter from the UK Health Security Agency and Public Health regarding the rise in Measles Cases in Essex.

## Year 4 Play

Year 4 would like to invite their parents/carers to watch their play on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon. Time to be confirmed.

## School Charity

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November the children are invited to come to school wearing yellow & red and make a donation to the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. This is the school charity for the next year.

## Christingle Workshop

Please find attached information regarding a Christingle Workshop at Christchurch.

## Speech and Language

Please find attached information regarding a Speech and Language Drop-in Clinic.

## Reception Intake September 2025

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2025.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

## Calendar Dates

### Autumn Term 2024

Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	EYFS – Christmas Songs to parents in the KS1 Playground at 2.30pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Wear Yellow & Red Day
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Year 4 Play - start time to be confirmed
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Years 1 & 2 – Nativity at Christchurch – 2.15pm to 3pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	School Christmas Dinner Day
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Years 1 & 2 – Nativity at Christchurch – 5pm to 5.45pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Years 3 – 6 – Carol Concert – 2pm to 2.45pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Years 3 – 6 – Carol Concert – 5pm to 5.45pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Christmas Holidays

### Spring Term 2025

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	First Day of Term
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Learning Conferences – 3.40pm to 6.00pm
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
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	First Day of Term
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025	Non-Pupil Day

## Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

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