



NEWSLETTER

Friday 25th September 2026

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[CORE VALUE - FRIENDSHIP](#)

Head Talk

As we work towards the end of September already, I have taken some time to reflect on the first few weeks back at school. The children have settled very well and our new Reception classes have managed incredibly well to adjust to a full-time school day. The school has been calm and purposeful and it has been a pleasure to walk around classrooms and talk with children about their learning.

Last week I also had the pleasure of talking through my presentation on mobile phones. You all should have received the slide deck from the talk. Please do have a look at it as there are some very useful links and hopefully it will enable you to make some informed choices for your family. **Can I also ask that parents/carers put their devices away when on the school site to support us in reducing the screen time for everyone!**

Next week we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival in the infant hall and at Christ Church. If you haven't sent in any foods yet, please feel free to do so. A separate list has been sent to you this week. We are collecting for the Salvation Army again this year.

We also had an excellent SEND Parents' Forum on Wednesday this week. Thank you to those of you who managed to join us for the online meeting. If you would like to access the recording or transcript, please follow this link:

<https://www.hamiltonprimary.com/key-information/sen>

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.

E-Safety Nugget

Here is the internet matters website. This is a great place to check on resources to support conversations with your child. I am talking to more and more children who have a presence on Tik Tok and SnapChat. Please have a look at these apps and try to support your child using them well.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

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.

Arriving at and leaving the school site

I would like to ask that our infant parents/carers now leave their child/ren at the double gates on Constantine Road to enter the school site at the beginning of the day by themselves. There will always be a member of staff present to meet and greet your child/ren in the morning. We would like your child to build some resilience coming into school as they now know where their classroom is. If you have an arrangement with a class teacher for your child/ren to have you escort them onto the site, then this can still happen. I must also ask that parents/carers do not enter the school building at this time too, other than to see the office team.



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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. Can I also please ask that parents/carers also stand back from the classes as children are brought out by staff as we need some space to be able to see parents/carers and the current crowding in the area makes this very difficult.

Covering of school books

Over the past year we have noted that a number of children have graffitied on the front cover of their books. From this year, if this happens, we will be sending the book home for you to re-cover the front and back cover of the book together, whilst talking to your child about how they should not be drawing on their book cover. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Attendance

Attendance at school is still a focus this year. We have started well, and we currently have an average attendance rate of 97.2%. This is great, and I would like to see this maintained or even improved. Two weeks ago this was 97.5. Currently, Year 5 has the highest attendance rate of 98.2%!!!! 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>

Spotlight on SEND – Provision and Meeting Need

It has been a busy start to the beginning of term. We welcome back Rebecca King, our Play Therapist, Sophie Langley our Speech and Language Therapist and Monty our Therapy Dog. I have met with teachers individually to look at EHCPs alongside One Plans to talk through the targets set by the previous class teacher, the progress that was made to get to the target set and ensure resources are available. One Planning meetings will take place in the week after October half term.

Student Emergency Information Reports

Your child/children will have brought home their Student Emergency Information Report this week. Please check the contact details are correct. Some of you will have more than two contacts but Bromcom only prints out the first two. Please return to the Office asap.

Parents Forum

The Parents Forum will be held on Tuesday 3rd November starting at 2pm.

Dates for Year 5

Year 5 would like to invite their Parents/Carers to their Play on Wednesday 9th December and Year Group Assembly on Wednesday 10th February. Both will be in the afternoon. Start time to be advised nearer the time.



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Date for Year 6

Year 6 would like to attend their Parents/Carers to their Year Group Assembly on Wednesday 4th November. Start time to be advised nearer the time.

Dates for EYFS & Year 2

EYFS and Year 2 would like to invite their Parents/Carers to their Carol Concert in the School Playground on Friday 11th December at 2.15pm

Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2026	
Monday 28 th September 2026	Harvest Festival
Friday 2 nd October 2026	PSA AGM – 7pm to 9pm
Thursday 15 th October 2026	Year 2KC to visit Colchester Library
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Year 2AW to visit Colchester Library
Friday 23 rd October 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th October 2026	Half-Term
Monday 2 nd November 2026	First Day of Term
Tuesday 3 rd November 2026	Flu Immunisation Day – Information to follow
Tuesday 3 rd November 2026	Parents Forum 2 – 3pm
Wednesday 4 th November 2026	Year 6 Assembly to parents in the afternoon
Wednesday 9 th December 2026	Year 5 Play to parents in the afternoon
Friday 11 th December 2026	EYFS & Year 2 Carols to parents at 2.15pm
Monday 14 th December 2026	Year 1 Nativity at 2.15pm
Tuesday 15 th December 2026	Year 1 Nativity at 5pm
Wednesday 16 th December 2026	KS2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6) Carol Concert at 2pm
Thursday 17 th December 2026	KS2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6) Carol Concert at 5.45pm
Monday 21 st December 2026 to Friday 1 st January 2027	Christmas Holidays

Spring Term 2027	
Monday 4 th January 2027	First Day of Term

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk