

Head Talk

We have arrived at half-term! It has been a busy time for the school and I think one of the longest half-terms I can remember for quite some time. We have packed in masses of education for children and experiences to improve learning and outcomes. Children have been on a residential, made crumbles, Roman coins, created water colour paintings, carried out a year group assembly, taken part in Harvest Festival, been to football competitions, shown potential parents and carers around the school, voted children on to the school council, eco council, and we have also supported 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

We have had Year Ahead meetings for all year groups, a SEND parents' forum and 'When should I give my child a phone' training. This week, the PSA also ran a non-uniform day to raise money for up-and-coming projects.

We have also had a small water emergency this week, when we had an unexpected burst pipe overnight in school. Thank you to all the team who helped manage the situation and to all the community for reacting so quickly to the school having to be closed for the day.

As we break for a week, we will be preparing for the Christmas services, continuing our learning with children and looking forward to other events before the end of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Hamilton team for the hard work that they have put in this half-term to ensure children get the best possible education.

I hope you all have a restful break, and we look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday 3rd November**.

SEND Spotlight

I am often asked by parents and carers about the provision that we have for children that have a specific learning need, or the support that we provide for children that need a little extra help. There are some very specific services that we provide for some children, and then there are adjustments we make in school on a day-to-day basis to support all children. With reference to specific services, I have listed these below:

- In school Speech and Language Therapist (one day every 2 weeks)
- In school Play Therapist (1 day a week)
- In school student Play Therapist (0.5 days a week)
- Access to a parent support adviser (referrals via the school)
- Working with Alternative Provision establishments for some children (Circles Farm, Dedham Therapy Farm, Hatfield Wick)
- Access to a School Inclusion Partner (onsite and online support)
- Access to 1 day a year of Education Psychology support
- Access to Essex Child and Family Service to support medical needs for children
- Working with the Teacher of the Deaf in Essex for support

In addition to this, we provide further support in school. I have listed below some of the things that we provide:

- Meet and greet with specific members of the staff team to allow children a smooth transition into school
- Sensory and movement breaks throughout the day
- Specific learning programmes for children, either on a 1:1 or small group basis
- Adaptive learning in the class so that all children are included in learning



- Part-time timetables for very specific reasons on a short-term basis
- Discussion with children across the school about supporting children with additional needs and what this means as a school
- Regular training for staff from the SENCO and Essex County Council
- A sensory break out room for children that need support in co-regulation
- A swing on the playground for those children that require specific sensory feedback
- Individual support for children with an Education Health and Care Plan

This list is not exhaustive, but as a school we tend not to 'shout out' about our provision. We see it as a standard requirement for all children. We care deeply about your child and want them to be successful. We can't always get everything right, but we are open to learning and welcome feedback to help us further improve.

E-Safety Nugget

Here is the CEOP website. This is a really useful resource for you to look at which explains some of the risks that your child may face online.

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>

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.

Attendance

Attendance at school is still a focus this year. We have started well, and we currently have an average attendance rate of 97.6%. This is great, and I would like to see this maintained or even improved. Currently, Year 3 has the highest attendance rate of 98.8%!!!! 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>

Smoking & Vaping outside the school

I would like to remind parents/carers that the school is a no smoking site and that it would be very helpful if you did not smoke or vape near the school grounds either. Thank you.

School Uniform

As part of the School Uniform **requirement** children **should** come to school **wearing black shoes**. Trainers are only allowed on **PE** days.

Lost Property

Please label your child's school jumpers, cardigans, coats etc. There are two enormous black sacks full in lost property already this term.

If your child has lost some uniform please come and look for it in the Infant Library.

Healthy Snacks

Can we please remind you that your child should bring a Healthy Snack to school each day.

Lollipops, nutty nougat and pancakes with chocolate hazelnut spread inside **ARE NOT ALLOWED**.

Please remember that we are a nut free school.

Office Hours

Just a reminder that the school Office Hours are 8.30am to 4.00pm each school day.

Infant swing after school

Can I please ask parents/carers to make sure children are not on the infant playground swing after school. It has become too crowded and too difficult to manage the children on it. Thank you.

Mornings in the Playground

Please note that parents are **NOT** allowed onto the school grounds in the morning until the gates open at **8.45am**

Football Tournament

On Wednesday 15th October, Year 5 and 6 sent a team to compete in a girl's football tournament at Shrub End. There was initial success with the team going undefeated through the first round of group games. Goals from Giselle Ansah and Ava Gill filled the team with confidence as they progressed to the next stage. As one of the higher placed teams, the second round of group games proved a lot tougher, yet the team stuck together and cheered each other on through a couple of losses. This helped them to come back strong in their final

game and end the tournament on a high. The positive attitudes of the children, who displayed the core values of the school as clearly as the badges on their shirts, made it a positive experience for everyone.



Learning Conferences

These will take place on Tuesday 18th November and Thursday 20th November. Bookings will go live to parents at 9am on Friday 24th October. Bookings close at 9am on Friday 7th November.

Please note that it is one appointment per child. There will be **NO HUB** before or after school either day and **NO CLUBS** after school either day.

Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2025

Friday 24th October 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 18 th November 2025	Learning Conferences – No Clubs or Hub
Thursday 20 th November 2025	Learning Conferences – No Clubs or Hub
Wednesday 10 th December 2025	Year 4 Play to parents/carers starting at 1.45pm
Friday 12 th December 2025	Rainbow, Sunshine & Year 2 Carols on the Infant Playground at 2.15pm
Monday 15 th December 2025	Year 1 Nativity at Hamilton Primary School at 2.15pm
Tuesday 16 th December 2025	Christmas Dinner Day
Tuesday 16 th December 2025	Year 1 Nativity at Hamilton Primary School at 5pm
Wednesday 17 th December 2025	KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) Carol Concert at Christchurch at 2pm
Thursday 18 th December 2025	KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) Carol Concert at Christchurch at 5pm
Friday 19 th December 2025	Last Day of Term
Monday 22 nd December 2025 to Friday 2 nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays

Spring Term 2026

Friday 2nd January 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5 th January 2026	First Day of Term
Tuesday 20 th January 2026	Online SEND Forum
Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk