



Head Talk

We are nearly at the end of the first full week back at school. Where has the time gone?! We are very busy getting ready for some school events that will be popping up in the coming week. This week the Year 6 children took their annual residential trip to the North Norfolk Coast, where they studied the local area, geography and geology. They may also have had some fun! In the coming weeks we will be working towards our Harvest Festivals which will be taking place on the 28th September. A list of items that we are collecting will be issued to you.

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended the Year Ahead meetings this week. On Monday at 6pm the Year 6 meeting will take place, followed by the 'When Should I Give My Child a Mobile Phone' training. If you have been to this presentation before, then I have only updated the slides based on the latest figures and research, so don't feel you need to come again! The slide deck will be sent out to you all. **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!**

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.

NSPCC Advice

As your child/ren get older, you might be starting to make decisions about whether they can be left at home alone or go out alone. The NSPCC has written a really useful guide for parents and carers. Follow this link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/in-the-home/home-alone/>

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.

Leaving the school site at the end of the day

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.

Attendance

Attendance at school is still a focus this year. We have started well, and we currently have an average attendance rate of 97.5%. This is great, and I would like to see this maintained or even improved. Currently, Year 1 has the highest attendance rate of 98.9%!!!! 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>

Spotlight on SEND

Welcome back! We're so happy to have the children back with us and have loved hearing all about their summer adventures.

We're looking forward to a great term ahead. Getting back into the swing of school isn't always easy, but we've been so impressed by how brilliantly our children with additional needs have settled in. Thank you for all the hard work behind the scenes at home to make this transition so smooth.

Parent Course Opportunity - Beyond Good Beginnings course is a free 8-week, face-to-face course for parents and carers of autistic children. More information about the course can

be found on the Local Offer website or through the link here:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/search-support-groups-and-activities/beyond-good-beginnings-course#>

You can register your interest in attending through the following link:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TzK0qFwVFUKg8X7YzJqZL2dU5mblzpVGqA2ctdx2nLhUMVhPSjVRVvk9PTVpHSFE5MjU1OUNFWjg4Ni4u>

SEND Parents Forum

The SEND Parents Forum will be held on Wednesday 23rd September starting at 1.30 pm.

Parents Forum

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

Dates for Year 5

Year 5 would like to attend 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.

Pupil News

Congratulations to Vinny Ford (6SB) on winning his first LTA Tournament.



Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2026	
Monday 14 th September 2026	Year Ahead Meeting for Year 6 - 6-7pm
Monday 14 th September 2026	Managing your child and their device and what to look out for in messaging groups and AI - 7-8pm
Friday 23 rd October 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	SEND Parents Forum 1.30 – 2.30pm
Monday 28 th September 2026	Harvest Festival
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 9 th December 2026	Year 5 Play to parents in the afternoon
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
Wednesday 10 th February 2027	Year 5 Assembly in the afternoon
Friday 12 th February 2027	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2027	Half-Term

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk