



NEWSLETTER

Friday 12th December 2025

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Head Talk

Merry Christmas to one and all! I am sure many of you are now getting into the Christmas spirit. At school, we are looking forward to a very busy final week of term. Next week will see all of our Christmas celebrations happening. We will have the infant Nativity and the junior Carol Service. Programmes have been issued for these events, and we welcome everyone to each of the performances. We have tried our best to accommodate everyone's request for each performance. Today we have had the awesome EYFS and Year 2 Christmas songs and Mulled Wine festival! It was truly a joy to see the children perform, and the atmosphere on the playground really did feel special. We will also be having our Christmas lunch on Tuesday next week. **Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper, instead of their school jumper, for the day. They can also have a hairband that celebrates Christmas time too!**

On Thursday 4th December the PSA welcomed Chaplin's Theatre group who performed Dick Whittington to the children. They all had a fabulous time and I would like to thank the PSA team for arranging this and paying for this for the children of the school.

This week also saw the Year 4 children performing their play to parents/carers. It was a wonderful performance, and you could clearly see how much effort the children had put in to learn their lines and perform with such confidence.

The last day of term will be **Friday 19th December and children will return to school on Monday 5th January 2026.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Hamilton Team for their hard work and dedication this term. It has been a pleasure working with them and you as a community. I

would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Mini Mr Hutchings and Mini Mr Greateorex from the Year 1 Nativity.



Year 1 Nativity

Two services will be taking place, the first on **Monday 15th December at 2.15pm** and the second on **Tuesday 16th December at 5pm. These services will take place in the infant hall.** For the afternoon service, the school gates will open at 2.05pm, and you will be led into the school via the 'Hub' door. For the evening service, the double gates on Constantine Road will be open, and you will be able to park on the hard surface of the junior playground. Again you will be led into the building via the 'Hub' door. Children will need to arrive in costume at 4.45pm and adults will be let in 5mins later once we have got children settled. The service will last no longer than 30mins.

Junior Carol Service

This will take place as normal at Christ Church. There will be an **afternoon service on Wednesday 17th December at 2pm.** The evening service will take place on **Thursday 18th December at 5pm.** Children will be walked from school to the church by staff for the afternoon performance, and they will return to school to be released to



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parents/carers as normal. On Thursday evening, children will need to **arrive at Christ Church at 4.45pm. Coats will need to be left with parents/carers** whilst children enter Christ Church from the side door. Parents/Carers will enter the church from its main doors from the car park. The service should finish by approximately 5.45pm. Tickets will be issued by the school office for both services. **For the junior carols, we will be making a collection for the school charity and the church at the end of each service. Please bring some money along, if you can.**

If your junior child attends the Hamilton Hub, there is limited capacity for some children to be taken directly from the Hub to the church by Mr Greatorex and Mr Hutchings.

E-Safety Nugget

As we move towards the Christmas season, please be aware of any scam texts, emails and social media messages that may come to your child. Please talk to them about not clicking links and not visiting sites that could be bogus. You might also want to look at the following link to support you with information about online dangers: <https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>

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 97.2%. This is great, and I would like to see this maintained or even improved. Currently, Year 3 has the highest attendance rate of 98.1%!!!! 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>

SEND Spotlight – 5th December 2025 - Governor Feedback

Last week we hosted members of the school governing body for the day. It was my pleasure to take our Chair of Governors, James Bacon, and our Inclusion Governor, Kathryn Reddick, on a Learning Walk about the school to share the range of support we have in place to meet the additional needs of some pupils. It is easy to overlook the range of provision in place and the hard work it takes from staff to provide this when we are doing it every day, so it was nice that this was recognised. The governors took the time to speak to some of the children about their learning and find out what



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school was like for them during the day. They fed back that they "... were particularly pleased to see how well the school is meeting the needs of SEND pupils, and the positive impact of the school's inclusive approach."

19th December 2025 - Spotlight on SEND - Essex Family Forum 'family Impact Survey'

"Have your say - Essex Family Forum 'Family Impact Survey' 2025!"

Essex Family Forum are conducting this survey to measure the current levels of parental satisfaction with local services for SEND Families and to compare with the data collected within our previous surveys. As the Parent Carer Forum, we know that there is work being undertaken to improve services for children and young people with SEND. However, we are also aware that families' experiences are still inconsistent and can vary greatly.

This survey will help identify where there is positive impact from the changes being made, but also what the barriers to a positive experience for families still are. As the Parent Carer Forum, we use your feedback in this survey to influence further policy decisions and work to develop support and information for families.

Your voice really does make a difference! Please take the time to complete this survey by clicking the following link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRMGD8Q> There is a hard copy of the poster attached as well.

Hamilton Hub

All bookings and requests for Hamilton Hub should be made via the School Office.

Please do not pay for sessions via MCAS and think it guarantees you a space in the Hub.

Squash Roman Cup Finals

Last Thursday, the two Year 5 Hamilton squash teams took part in the finals of the Roman Cup tournament at the Corporal Budd gymnasium. Two weeks ago, both teams qualified for the 'Gold Group' having both finished third in their respective qualifying groups. That meant a higher standard of opposition and a dreaded fixture where the two teams needed to play each other! Both teams performed admirably, showing amazing stamina as each child played 7 games over a period of three hours. Every child picked up valuable points for their team and had moments of success; but each of them demonstrated resilience, fairness and courage in games that did not go their way. The two teams finished the competition in 5th and 7th respectively, a huge achievement in Hamilton's first year playing squash.

There was a moment of great pride when Celine Ratnayake was recognised in picking up the Award for Sporting Conduct, an award that would have been fitting for the whole squad!





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Tag Rugby Tournament

On Thursday, Year 6 sent a team to take part in a tag-rugby tournament at Maldon Rugby Club. The team got off to a difficult start, losing their first two games and being repeatedly penalised for minor infringements (such as holding the ball with only one hand). However, they didn't let their heads go down and learnt fast; soon they were using their skills and teamwork to score tries galore. In fact, the team scored 23 tries in total across their eight games, including 6 for Harry Lawrence, and 5 apiece for Jake Morley and Ronnie Hunt). They finished strongly with Giselle Ansah touching down for a last-minute 4:3 win in their final game. The team narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing the tournament in fourth: an impressive result!

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who drove the team to and from Maldon and supported them throughout.



School Choir

"The Hamilton Choir", led by Mrs Lawrence and Miss Chicken, had a fantastic morning on Thursday as they paid a special visit to Lancer House.

The children performed a brilliant set of eight Christmassy songs, filling the room with music and setting a truly lovely festive spirit for all the residents. The children sang their hearts out and made Mrs Lawrence and Miss Chicken incredibly proud!

Following their performance, the children and residents enjoyed a lovely "catch up" time. They

shared stories, discussing their Christmas plans, their favourite things about the season, and what they had asked Santa for.

A huge thank you to the staff at Lancer House who were so welcoming and kindly treated the children to delicious biscuits and sweets.

It was clear that everyone involved had a thoroughly lovely time, and we are delighted that our choir could help spread some festive joy!"



Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2026

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 10th November for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place starting in September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15th January 2026**.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.



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Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2025

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 2 nd January 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5 th January 2026	First Day of Term
Monday 12 th , 19 th & 26 th January 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 20 th January 2026	Online SEND Forum 1.30pm to 2.30pm
Monday 2 nd , 9 th & 23 rd February 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Thursday 12 th February 2026	Year 2 Assembly to Parent's - Time to be confirmed
Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term
Friday 27 th February 2026	Year 3 Assembly to Parent's - Time to be confirmed
Monday 2 nd March 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 3 rd March 2026	Parents Forum 2-3pm
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 1 Assembly to Parent's - Time to be confirmed
Wednesday 20 th May 2026	Year 3 Play to Parent's - Time to be confirmed

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk