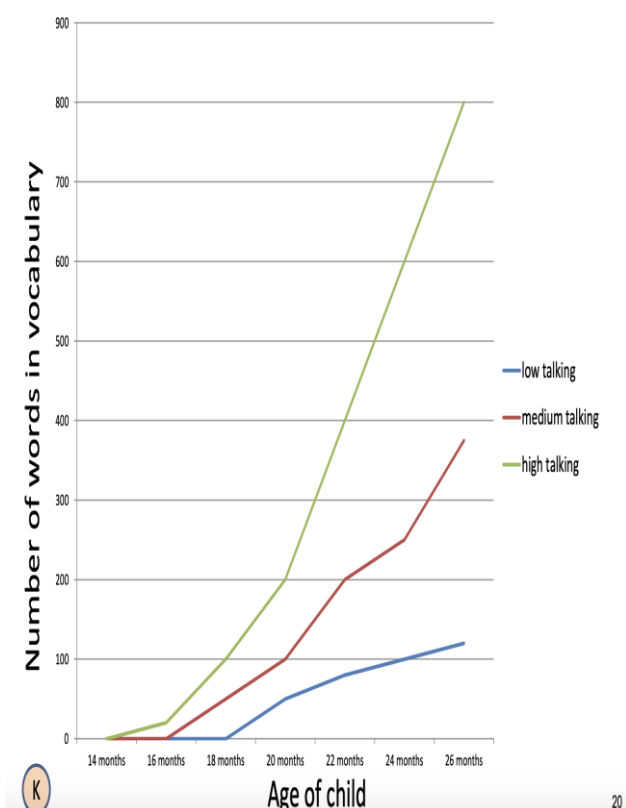


Head Talk

This week I wanted to highlight the importance of talking with your children and the impact that this has on their educational development. We all lead very busy lives and look to provide the best life possible that we can for our family. Sometimes this might mean prioritising work over family time. This is something that we all do for short periods of time.

During our staff training day on the 24th February, I was shared the following image of some research from the 1990s.

Levels of Mothers Speech to their child – Huttenlocher et al 1991



As you may be able to see, in households where there is a lot of talking between a carer and their child, the child will on average have 800 words at the age of 26 months, compared to a child with low

talking in the home, who will have 125 words. If this disparity continues, you can see that a child in a low talking household would be significantly disadvantaged.

This information got me thinking about the number of grown-ups that come to school on a daily basis to pick up children, who are engaged on calls, whilst collecting children. By ending a call before picking a child up, this section of time can be used to talk with your child about their day, encourage them to talk back to you and encourage them to use new words. You could make a significant difference to your child's language acquisition over a relatively short period of time.

As always, Mr Greateorex and I are on the playground at the end of the day should you wish to come across and have a chat.

E-Safety Nugget

This week I thought it would be helpful to share the NSPCC link about supporting your children to browse and watch online content safely.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/watching-and-browsing-online-a-parents-guide/>

This is very helpful guidance. Make sure you have a read.

Borrowing books electronically

This week I thought it would be helpful to share the 'Borrow Box' App with you. This is an app that allows children to borrow e-books from Essex Libraries, using their library card number. The link to follow is here:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/using-our-elibrary/borrowbox>

We often forget that we don't need to purchase every book that we want to read. We can borrow them in physical form and online.

If your library card has expired or you don't have one, you can follow this link to register:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/user/register>

Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will be taking place on **11th March and 13th March** between 3.40pm and 6.30pm. Infant children's teachers will be in the infant hall and the junior teachers will be in the junior hall.

Learning conferences are a chance to catch up with your child's class teacher and to have an update on how your child is progressing in their learning. We will provide you with some specific data and ask for your help in supporting your child's learning. Your child is welcome to attend the meetings, as they can often add a depth to the conversation.

Think Pharmacy First

Most pharmacies in England are now providing the NHS Pharmacy First service, which allows community pharmacists to provide advice and, where appropriate, supply NHS medicines to treat the following conditions:

- Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- Shingles (aged 18 years and over)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)

If you or your child has symptoms that suggest you, or they may have one of these conditions, you can walk into a pharmacy and be offered a consultation with a pharmacist in a private consultation room. Your GP surgery or NHS 111 may also refer your child (or you) to the service if you contact them, but they believe it is appropriate for you to be seen by a pharmacist.

If your child or you have symptoms that suggest one of the above conditions, why not give the Pharmacy First service a try?

Watch the [animation](#) on Pharmacy First from Community Pharmacy England.

For more information, visit [nhs-services/pharmacies/how-pharmacies-can-help/](https://nhs.uk/services/pharmacies/how-pharmacies-can-help/)

Attendance

At this time of year children often have colds and runny noses and feel generally under the weather. School attendance is still vital for children as any missed time means missed learning and catching up for your child. The NHS has a document that supports parents/carers in deciding if their child is too ill to go to school. The link to this is here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Our Attendance Policy can be found on the school website:

<https://www.hamiltonprimary.com/office/policies>

Our current attendance is 95.7%. This is low. We have had a number of children who have been unwell, and some families have taken holidays too. If your child has below 90% attendance, they will be classed as being persistently absent. This is not good. It means your child is missing too much education. Please ensure your child attends school. If we have concerns about your child's attendance, we will be writing to you and offering you a meeting to discuss any support that you may need. Our attendance should be 97% or above.

Please help us to help your child. Our leading attending year group is Year 3 with 96.7% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

Spotlight on SEND

The SEND Roadshow is back and is taking place at The Colchester United Jobserve Stadium on Wednesday 19th March 2025. I went to the last roadshow and found it really helpful to speak to agencies face to face. We have been able to support some children and families with services that we were unaware of by attending. You can simply turn up and wander round, children are welcome, or book yourself onto a free workshop. Attached to the newsletter are posters for Early Years and Primary.

Year 3 Flatford Mill

On Wednesday 26th February, Year 3 went to Flatford Mill for a geography field trip and, despite the very wet weather, everyone had lots of fun. The children learnt how to measure the width, depth and flow of streams and rivers. They also went pond dipping and found some very interesting creatures! The children represented our school brilliantly and the level of their 'rivers' knowledge was commended.

Just One Tree

Thank you very much to everyone who donated to Just One Tree and wore green on Friday 14th February. We raised a total of £399.34. This will account for 399 trees being planted around the world.

World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March, the school took part in World Book Day and it's always a brilliant opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate all things reading. Many children dressed up as their favourite book character and others opted for a 'cosy' outfit instead. Each child

received a £1 book token which can be redeemed at many book stores and World Book Day has specifically put forward 15 titles that are valued at just £1. Do take some time to visit your local bookstore or library and feel inspired by stories! During the week, children have enjoyed a poetry book called 'Apes to Zebras'. Teachers have invited their classes to produce their own poetry as a result. Keep an eye out for some excellent displays popping up around school. Finally, we hope to have some author visits during the summer term. Thank you to all the children and staff for participating enthusiastically in the celebrations! Mr Aldridge.

Year 5 Play – Star Warts

Year 5 would like to invite their parents/carers to watch their play on Thursday 3rd April starting at 1.30pm.

No Clubs or Hub in Learning Conference Week

There will be **NO** morning or afternoon Hub on Tuesday 11th March or Thursday 13th March due to Learning Conferences. There will also be **NO** Clubs after school either day due to Learning Conferences.

Year 3 Play - Minotaur

Year 3 would like to invite their parents/carers to watch their play on Wednesday 21st May.

Sports Day – Infant and Junior

In a break from tradition we will now have both the Infant and Junior Sports Days on the same day. The Infant Sports Day will take place from 9.30am on the Junior Playground on Monday 7th July and should be included in an hour. The Junior Sports Day will take place at the Garrison Track as per normal and will start from about 1.20pm. Further information will be released nearer the time.

Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2025

Tuesday 11 th March 2025	Learning Conferences – 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Wednesday 12 th March 2025	PINS - Final Coffee and Chat session delivered by Libby 1.30-3pm
Thursday 13 th March 2025	Learning Conferences – 3.40pm to 6.00pm
Thursday 20 th March 2025	Year 5 Viking Workshop
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Year 5 Play to parents starting at 1.30pm
Monday 7 th April to Monday 21 st April 2025	Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	First Day of Term
Thursday 1st May & Friday 2nd May 2025	Non-Pupil Days
Monday 5 th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	Sunshine Class Assembly to parents 2.30pm – 3pm
Wednesday 21 st May 2025	Year 3 Play to parents – afternoon
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Rainbow Class Assembly to parents 2.30pm – 3pm
Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2nd June 2025	Non-Pupil Days
Monday 7 th July 2025	Sports Day for Infants – 9.30 am Junior Playground for Juniors – 1.20pm Garrison Track

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk