



### Head Talk

Well, here we are; the last newsletter of the school year! Where did that year go?! What a year we have had. The children and the staff of the school have worked incredibly hard again this year and over the last few weeks in soaring temperatures, and I would like to thank everyone in the community for their help and support this year in ensuring that children have made progress and learnt new knowledge and also had fun!

This year started well in September, welcoming our new children to the school and over the year we have had Ms O'Neill join us to cover for the absence of Mrs Wright. In the spring term Miss Clow, Mr Aldridge and Mrs Lawrence all found jobs in new schools for lots of different reasons and today we have said an emotional goodbye to them all. We are very excited that Miss Smith, Miss Dinnadge and Miss Scarle are joining us and they had a fab morning meeting their new classes on the 9th July. This term we have had a brilliant Summer Fete which has raised just over £12,500! Feedback from parents and carers about this event has been excellent and it felt like a mini festival. We also ran our junior sports day at the CRGS fields for the first time this year. The event was great and we have taken feedback for improving the event next year. The infant sports day on the junior playground was a joy as normal and both events were a marvel of organisation and logistics. In between all of this we have had school trips, (including taking the whole of Year 3 to London and the British Museum for a day) year group plays and assemblies.

This week we released school reports to all families which detailed the hard work that children have undertaken this year. Our SATs results arrived yesterday and we have spent time analysing our results, and I am very pleased to say that we are above national averages in all areas and in some areas, we are significantly above national

averages. Our Year 6 outcomes can be viewed on the school website.

This week I had the pleasure of watching the Year 6 play in the afternoon on Tuesday and the evening on Wednesday. It was a brilliant set of events and a fitting celebration of the children as they make their way to their final few days in primary education. The enterprise morning run by them was also a huge success.

As we finish today, I have been reflecting on the community spirit shown by the children and parents/carers this year and how lucky a school we are to be able to have this 'feel' about the place. Hamilton Primary School has been here since 1914 and has been a meeting point, a shelter and a hub of the local area. You can't underestimate the importance of this.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a brilliant and restful summer holiday. The children will return on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**.

### E-Safety Nugget

You may wish to look at the Children's Commissioner website link on ['What I wish my parents or carers knew'](#) This is a great guide on supporting your child in the digital world.

### Allergy Awareness

We are a 'no nuts/nut aware' school. This means that we do not allow any food on site that contains or may contain nuts. We have a number of children who have life threatening allergies to nuts and we ask that you check the ingredients of any food or snacks that you send your child to school with. We have seen an increase in chocolate spreads coming into school. These often contain nuts and we are unable to monitor every child's snack and lunch items. Please also tell your child not to share their food with other children. We have some coeliacs in school and if they have



products containing wheat, they become very unwell too. If you would like further information, please have a look at our Allergy Policy on the school website:

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

### Government savings on days out

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the Great British Summer Savings scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom

As part of this campaign, the government has launched an attraction finder website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

### Parking

There are concerns about parents/carers parking up very early and idling their engines and there are concerns about parents/carers parking illegally and dangerously too. I have witnessed all of these taking place. We need to come together as a community to help each other out. Our main priority is the safety of the children. With illegal and dangerous parking, using our loading bay or

parking on the zig zags, children are being put at risk. There is a simple solution to this. Please park and stride. If most parents/carers chose to park in the surrounding area, and walk in for 2-5mins, we would save a lot of worry. We have a map on the school website that details where you can park. [It is under our Travel Plan section.](#)

### The Big Future Survey

[The Big Future survey - have your say!](#) Please use this link with your child to take part in the latest survey from the Children's Commissioner. The commissioner wants to hear from children and young people aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country. The survey asks about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they would like to see in their communities, and what they believe a good childhood should look like today. **Currently 10 children from Hamilton have filled this in and the commissioner has written to me about this. Please help us to fulfil our obligations.**

Participation in The Big Future also provides schools with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to civic engagement. The findings will help inform national conversations and decision-making about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

### Attendance

At this time of year we are noticing a number of families extending their holidays either side of a school closure period. Every day your child loses in school, puts them a little further behind. Please help us by not taking holidays during term time. Our records up to this point in the year show that 119 children have had an absence before or after a school holiday. This is over 25% of the school. I appreciate that holidays are expensive in the school breaks, but it is very hard for us to help your child if they are not in class.

Our Attendance Policy can be found on the school website:

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

**Our current attendance is 96.9%.** This is good, but we could do even better. 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 groups are Year 5 with 97.7% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

## Spotlight on SEND – Thank you

We've officially made it to the end of term! A massive **well done** to all of our children, especially those with additional needs or those who have had extra challenges to overcome this year. You have lived up to our Core Values and made us all incredibly proud. To our parents and carers: thank you for every meeting you've attended, every conversation we've shared, and for working so closely with us to support your children. I always love celebrating their progress during our One Plan meetings, TAFs, and Annual Reviews. Working together like this is what makes the real difference.

## Hamilton's Gazette Takeover

On the 16<sup>th</sup> June, budding journalists from Year 5 had articles published in the Colchester Gazette. Children were invited to submit articles that were researched and written as part of their homework. The results were outstanding: Eddie Kantoich and Margo Runicles' piece about St Helena Hospice; Rose Cretu's call to action on plastic pollution; Hartley Maddox's article about the 'padel' craze; Eliot Peake's interview with Green Party candidate,

Cecily Spelling; and Celine Ratnayake's myth-busting article about hantavirus were all published. This was a wonderful opportunity for Hamilton children to show-off their excellent writing skills in a real-world context - and they did the school proud.



## Pupil News

Congratulations to Oake Howson (4SW) who has achieved her GRADE 7 distinction in Irish Dancing.



## Calendar Dates

### Summer Term 2026

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026 Summer Holidays

### Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 Non-Pupil Day

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 First Day of Term

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
Year Ahead Meeting for the NEW EYFS 6-7pm  
Year Ahead Meeting for Year 3 - 7-8pm

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
Year Ahead Meeting for Year 1 - 6-7pm  
Year Ahead Meeting for Year 5 - 7-8pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
Year Ahead Meeting for Year 2 - 6-7pm  
Year Ahead Meeting for Year 4 - 7-8pm

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026 Year Ahead Meeting for Year 6 - 6-7pm

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
Managing your child and their device and what to look out for in messaging groups and AI - 7-8pm

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026 Non-Pupil Day

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026 Half-Term

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026 First Day of Term

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2026 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027 Christmas Holidays

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026 First Day of Term

## Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

[parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk](mailto:parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk)