



Head Talk

This is the last newsletter before our half-term break. The children and staff have worked incredibly hard since our return from the Christmas break. I know everyone is looking forward to a great rest and some time to spend with family and friends and maybe a little sunshine and less rain!

This week I had the privilege of being able to attend the Year 5 class assembly. The event showcased what the children have been learning this year, and it was wonderful to see the joy in which the children presented their learning. Thank you to all the staff involved in getting the children prepared for the assembly. It is one of the additional things that we do at Hamilton that allows children to value the work that they present. I also had the joy of going to the British Museum with Year 3. It was a wonderful day where we took the train, and the Elizabeth Line to get to the museum to have a look at the Ancient Egyptian and Greek Exhibitions. Thank you to the staff who planned such an excellent trip and to the parent/carer volunteers who came with us.

We have also celebrated Safer Internet Day again this year. This has provided us with another opportunity to talk with children about how they interact with the internet and social media, with a focus on AI this year. I am grateful to parents and carers for supporting us in our work to enable children to use the internet and social media responsibly.

The PSA have been hard at work getting ready for a bake sale on the last day of term. As I write, I know this will be a popular event, and thank you again to everyone who purchased a cake! The money will be used to support the improvement of areas of the school. We are raising funds to support a refurbishment to our library space.

The school team has also been working hard looking at improving our knowledge of the LGBTQ+ community and we had some excellent training from [The Diversity Role Models Charity](#) to our teachers in January. We have also been working very hard on the Ofsted action point from last year. This month we were visited by 2 local headteachers who reviewed our provision for SEND. The report was very positive indeed. I have included a couple of quotes from it for you:

- A lot of thought has gone into the support around SEND, with the SENCO taking a clear lead in the provision around the school.
- Many of the plans for children are specific and thorough, and support staff in meeting the children's needs.
- We observed significant level of support staff across the school. This demonstrates the school putting a very high priority on funding a high level of support for children. This is not typical with most mainstream primary settings and as a result teachers are extremely generously supported, and children receive a great deal of targeted support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and I would like to wish you a fantastic half-term break.

E-Safety Nugget

As we have celebrated Safe Internet Day this week, I thought it would be useful to provide the link for parents/carers to the Safe Internet Day website. The link is here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will be taking place on **17th March and 19th 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. Bookings will open over half-term, and I would ask that if you have children in the infants and juniors, that you allow a 10min break between meetings, so that you can get yourself between the halls. We are very tight on the 10min meeting slot and bells will sound to move families on. This ensures that every family can be seen fairly.

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.

Meetings can be booked via the MCAS system from **9am on the 16th February.**

Parents' Forum

This term's forum will be taking place on the 3rd March at 2pm. The link for the session is here:

Parents' Forum

Tuesday, 3 March · 2:00 – 3:00pm

Time zone: Europe/London

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/utd-jynt-dff>

Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3873 3148 PIN: 357 305 417#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/utd-jynt-dff?pin=3885423655283>

SEND Spotlight

Essex County Council are running a SEND roadshow at Colchester Football Ground on 25th March between 9.30am and 12.30pm. This is a drop-in service and many agencies will be there for

you to talk with. For further details, please click the link below:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/local-offer-roadshow-north-east-essex>

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 96.9%. This is good, but I would like it to be above 97%. 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. Please help us to help your child. Our leading attending year group is Year 4 with 97.9% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

No Nut School

Just a reminder that we are a **NO NUT SCHOOL**. This means children **CANNOT** have peanut butter or Nutella in their sandwiches. They should not

have any food that may contain nuts for snack or in their lunch boxes. Children are not allowed to bring houmous to school due to allergies.

Hamilton Hub

During Learning Conference week Hamilton Hub will be **OPEN** every morning to children who attend the hub.

It will **NOT BE OPEN** on Tuesday 17th or Thursday 19th March after school.

Please make alternative arrangements for your child those afternoons.

World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or wear a 'cosy' outfit. Please see attached letter for more information.

Eco News:

This month the results of The Big Garden Birdwatch (which is organised by the RSPB) will be announced. It is an annual science project where people spend one hour counting birds in gardens or parks. Over 520,000 people participated in 2025 counting over 9.1 million birds, but what's the point of the bird watch? Well, the Big Garden Birdwatch is meant to keep track of the population of specific species of bird to see which are going extinct and it is crucial for scientists because it is data that professional researchers could not gather solidarily.

If you want to find out more and see this year's results so far, go to: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

By Millie Remington

Year 3 Football Competition

On Friday 30th January, the Year 3 football team took part in a football festival, organised by Colchester Utd, at Shrub End Sports Ground. They played eight other schools in a fun and exciting festival that focussed on enjoyment and teamwork, as opposed to results, tables and qualification. In this spirit, the team set-out to show off the school's core values and represented Hamilton wonderfully: they won, lost and drew games, but no matter the result, they all just wanted to just keep on playing! It made for a fun and memorable experience for all concerned.



Medicines at School

Just a reminder that the school will only administer medicine if your child has to take it four times a day.

The office is unable to store any medicine in the fridge.

Pupil News

Congratulations to Isabelle Edwards (3AW) who has qualified for the eastern regional championships this April coming 3rd in her age group.





Calendar Dates

| Spring Term 2026 | |
|---|---|
| Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026 | Half Term |
| Friday 27 th February 2026 | Year 3 Assembly to Parents - Time to be confirmed |
| Monday 2 nd March 2026 | Year 5 Swimming Lessons |
| Tuesday 3 rd March 2026 | Parents Forum 2-3pm |
| Thursday 5 th March 2026 | World Book Day – Children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or cosy clothes |
| Tuesday 17 th March 2026 | Learning Conference – No Clubs or Hub AFTER school |
| Thursday 19 th March 2026 | Learning Conference – No Clubs or Hub AFTER school |
| Wednesday 25 th March 2026 | Year 5 Play to Parents - Afternoon performance – time to be confirmed |
| Thursday 26 th March 2026 | Year 1 Assembly to Parents - 9.30am start |
| Friday 27 th March 2026 | Non-Pupil Day |
| Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April 2026 | Easter Holidays |

| Summer Term 2026 | |
|--|---|
| Monday 13 th April 2026 | First Day of Terms |
| Wednesday 20 th May 2026 | Year 3 Play to Parents - Time to be confirmed |
| Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026 | Half Term |
| Monday 1 st June 2026 | Non-Pupil Day |
| Monday 20 th July 2026 | Non-Pupil Day |
| Tuesday 21 st July to Friday 31 st August 2026 | Summer Holidays |

| Autumn Term 2026 | |
|--|---------------|
| Tuesday 1 st September 2026 | Non-Pupil Day |

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk