



Head Talk

This week I would like to start with a thank you to every member of the school community. This week the Year 6 children have been taking part in national assessments and the whole school has adapted to the timetable to allow rooms to be used, to be quiet during the assessments and to change break times where needed. The assessments are just a snapshot in time for the children, we know that one set of papers does not sum up a child. We will continue to provide an exciting and rich curriculum experience for all the children in school.

We now only have 1 week left in a very short term. Next week will be busy! We have the Year 3 play to parents/carers and we have the class photos too! We also have Cultural Heritage Day on Wednesday 20th May, where children are encouraged to come to school in their traditional dress. We also have a Surfers Against Sewage non uniform day on Friday 22nd May. Looking ahead to the final half-term of the year we will have the summer fair on Saturday 4th July, the celebration evening on Thursday 2nd July, the Year 6 final play and transition days for Year 6 in June and all other children in July. Keep an eye on the dates in the newsletter so that you can keep up with all the different activities.

As a reminder - we have a non-pupil day on Monday 1st June. The school will be closed to children.

Mr Greatorex and I are on the playgrounds or outside the school gates on most days, so feel free to pop over and see one of us if you need anything.

E-Safety Nugget

I have been made aware of a new website that has serious risks. It is called Omoggle. This is a chat site where users are connected randomly on live video calls. There is no age verification, just a "Yes I am 18" button, but not only that it uses what is

known as a PSL scale to scan faces using AI and people are assigned a numerical rating and placed on a leader board. This is known as 'mogging', meaning to outperform someone else by being judged by their looks.

Here is a link to read a parent/carer guide on this:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/omoggle-parent-guide/>

This week I would like to recommend you take part in a government consultation. It is called: [Growing up in an online world](#). This is a really important time for you to be able to put forward your thoughts and ideas to the government about how you think your child should be prepared for the future.

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.](#)

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 low, but we are above the national average and the Essex average. 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 Years 4 and 5 with 97.7% attendance. Keep up the excellent work.

Healthy School Lunches

We have noted that some children are having very unhealthy items as snacks and lunches (cold fast-food items). This is unacceptable and needs to stop. We encourage children to have fresh fruit and vegetables and the occasional sweet treat as part of a balanced diet. If you think you are entitled to free school meals, please contact the Office Team via the parents email so that they can signpost you to the appropriate forms to fill in.

Chewing Gum not allowed in school

Please can I remind all families that chewing gum is not allowed in school. We have noticed that some children are spitting this out and leaving on staircases and this is getting stuck to clothing.

School Dinners

From September the cost of the school dinners will be increasing to £2.66 per meal.

Year 4 Assembly

Year 4 would like to invite their parents/carers to their assembly on Monday 15th June at 2.30pm.

KS1 – Sports Morning

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 would like to invite their parents/carers to their Sports Morning on Tuesday 7th July. It will take place on the Junior playground at 9:30am.

KS2 – Sports Day

Sports Day for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take place on Tuesday 7th July in the afternoon at Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Field.

Spotlight on SEND – 15th May 2026 – Social Stories

In school, we might use Social Stories as short, simple "how-to guides" for navigating school life, helping children feel confident in new situations and understand the "hidden rules" of social interactions. A great example of this was when Key Stage 2 began walking to the field for PE on Mondays; we used a Social Story to walk some children through the journey step-by-step so they knew exactly what to expect. Looking ahead, we will do the same to help with transition to the next year group. These stories work by removing the element of surprise, which builds confidence and helps children understand who we will meet, where to go, why we follow certain routines, like standing in a quiet line. They are usually a combination of words and pictures and to work need to be read with the child many times so that they know the story. Social Stories are always positive—rather than focusing on what *not* to do, they focus on what will, or might, happen and



provide a plan or a helpful suggestion for a successful experience.

SEND Local Offer Roadshow

The next SEND Local Offer Roadshow for North East Essex is Monday 22nd June. Parents who have visited in the past have shared that they have been useful. Please see the information flyers attached for more information.

Surfers Against Sewage

On Friday 22nd May we will be having a themed non uniform day to raise money for the Eco Committee's chosen charity Surfers Against Sewage. We will be asking for a suggested £1 donation and the children can wear summer themed clothes including sunglasses, hats, shorts and summer dresses. No swimwear thank you. Sensible shoes are always a must in school, so flip flops are not advised either.

Year 2 Football Tournament

On Wednesday 6th May, a team of Year 2 children took part in a football festival at the Shrub End pitches. The festival consisted of a number of skills-based activities which focused on children's dribbling and tackling skills, before a series of friendly 5-a-side games against other schools, where the children got to apply these skills and more. Of course, in spite of the friendly nature of these games, the children were desperate to show off just what they could do: there were some stunning long-range goals from Adam and Seb; fantastic tackling from Charlotte and Annie; wonderful dribbling from Chester and Amayah; a series of saves from Joie-Ella and Grace; and a brace of goals in one game from Henry. Despite one team being a person down, every child got to experience the success of winning games and a great time was had by all of them. A big thank you to the parent helpers, who made our attendance at the event possible.



Year 6 Play

Year 6 would like to invite their parents/carers to their school play on Tuesday 14th July in the afternoon and Wednesday 15th July in the evening.

11+ Selective Test

Please find attached information regarding the 11+ Selective Test which is on Saturday 19th September.

Registration opens from 9am on Tuesday 12th May 2026 until 5pm on Friday 19th June 2026.

Missing Scooter

If anyone has seen this scooter or taken it home by mistake, could you please notify the school office.





NEWSLETTER

Friday 15th May 2026

www.hamiltonprimary.com

[CORE VALUE - RESPECT](#)



Calendar Dates

Summer Term 2026	
Wednesday 20 th May 2026	Year 3 Play to Parent's - 2pm start (Gates to open at 1.50pm)
Thursday 21 st May 2026	Class Photos - Van Cols
Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026	Half Term
Monday 1 st June 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 2 nd June 2026	Year 6 trip to Braintree Museum
Monday 8 th June 2026	Year 6 – Crucial Crew
Monday 15 th June 2026	Year 4 Assembly to Parents/Carers at 2.30pm
Monday 15 th & 22 nd June 2026	One Year 6 Class each afternoon to visit the school allotment
Thursday 18 th June 2026	Cultural Heritage Day
Wednesday 1 st July 2026	Whole School History Day
Saturday 4 th July 2026	Summer Fayre
Tuesday 7 th July 2026	KS1 (Reception, Year 1 & 2) Sports Morning on the KS2 playground at 9.30am
Tuesday 7 th July 2026	KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) Sports Day at Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Field in the afternoon
Tuesday 14 th July 2026	Year 6 Play to Parents in the afternoon
Wednesday 15 th July 2026	Year 6 Play to Parents in the evening
Monday 20 th July 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 21 st July to Friday 28 th August 2026	Summer Holidays
Autumn Term 2026	
Tuesday 1 st September 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	First Day of Term
Friday 23 rd October 2026	Non-Pupil Day

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk