



NEWSLETTER

Friday 30th January 2026

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CORE VALUE - HONESTY

Head Talk

Welcome to this week's newsletter. We have had a busy few weeks back and the children are learning well. This week we had a 'Peer to Peer' review with 2 headteachers from local schools coming in on Tuesday morning with a focus on the action point from our last Ofsted inspection: *To investigate whether the support provided to pupils with SEND is based on an accurate understanding of their needs and that staff who work with these pupils have a secure understanding of how to deliver this provision.*

We had a very positive morning walking the school with Mrs Arnold (SENCo) and looking at learning and talking with children who have additional needs. The report has not been written up yet by the visiting heads, but I will share the headlines with you all once I have the report. What I can say is that the children and staff were brilliant and we did not 'prepare' anything different for this supportive visit.

We have also had our Year 5 children swimming this week and I would like to thank all the staff, especially Mr Greatorex, who is getting into the pool to support a child, so that they can access the swimming lessons.

You may also have noticed that Constantine Road is going to be impacted by the gas works that are taking place. At the moment we think the road will be closed at the junction with Maldon Road from the 9th February. This means there will be limited access to the school. Please plan your journey in advance and know that there will be very limited parking in the roads. If you can walk to school, please do.

Last week we had a successful online SEND Parents' Forum. The notes and video can be found on the school website under the SEND page. [I have](#)

[linked to it here for you for ease.](#) There is a transcript of the meeting too.

Next week Year 5 are visiting the Mercury Theatre for an industry day and I know they will really enjoy this.

As always, Mr Greatorex and I are available at the school gates in the morning or on the playground in the afternoons to have a chat with. Please pop over to say hello.

Have a good couple of weeks.

E-Safety Nugget

This week's focus is on the use of AI. This is becoming almost an everyday term that our children are using in school. The NSPCC has written some guidelines on this for parents/carers. It is worth reading and can be found here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai/>

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%. I want this number to be 97% or higher. We have had a



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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.

Year 2 Assembly

Year 2 would like to invite their parents/carers to their assembly on Thursday 12th February. It will start at 9.15am.

Year 5 Assembly

Year 5 would like to invite their parents/carers to their assembly on Friday 13th February. It will start at 2.15pm.

SEND Spotlight – Using Visuals

We have always used visuals in school to support language and communication but we are now using a programme called Widgit so that there is a more uniform approach across the school. The programme allows teachers to create visual timetables, symbol-supported worksheets, and communication grids, helping pupils to navigate the school day independently. If you come into school you may see these it has been used to create door signs, in social stories and on staff lanyards to support communication. EYFS have used the programme to create communication boards to support children's language development. They are on the wall in a central place and the children will take an adult to the board to help them try to explain a problem or ask for something. It has been really successful and the staff working in EYFS have seen children's use of language and confidence grow.



Languages @ Hamilton

Did you know that our bilingual children in school collectively speak over 25 languages! This means we have a thriving multicultural community at Hamilton and we are excited to begin celebrating this even more. Does your family speak another language at home? We would love to hear more about your first language and traditions from your home countries. Feel free to contact us by email or approach adults in school to tell us more about you and your family's experiences!

汉密尔顿学校语言学习

您知道吗？我们学校的双语学生总会说超过25种语言！这意味着汉密尔顿学校拥有一个蓬勃发展的多元文化社区，我们非常高兴能进一步庆祝这一点。您的家人在家也说其他语言吗？我们很乐意了解更多关于您的母语以及您家乡的传统。欢迎您通过电子邮件联系我们，或者与学校的老师或工作人员分享您和家人的经历！

Idiomas en Hamilton

¿Sabías que nuestros niños bilingües de la escuela hablan más de 25 idiomas? Esto significa que tenemos una comunidad multicultural próspera en Hamilton y nos entusiasma celebrarlo aún más. ¿Hablan otros idiomas en tu familia? Nos encantaría saber más sobre tu lengua materna y las tradiciones



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de tus países de origen. No dudes en contactarnos por correo electrónico o contactar a los adultos de la escuela para contarnos más sobre tus experiencias y las de tu familia.

World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you everyone who contributed to the Romania 500 Smiles appeal. In total, our 80 boxes were part of a total of 800 boxes that were shipped to Romania and delivered to children just before Christmas. It was an amazing contribution from our school and it helped me to make 80 children very happy. The families are now battling extreme cold in Romania so the warm hats, scarves and gloves will be greatly appreciated.



Year 3 & 4 Cross Country

Cross Country is an event designed for autumn and winter, where runners take on different terrains in all weather conditions. In this spirit, Years 3 and 4 sent teams to the Colchester Cross Country event at the Northern Gateway Sports Ground on Wednesday 21st January. In the lashing rain and over the sodden ground, the children took on runners from schools all over Colchester. They were fantastic ambassadors for Hamilton, keeping their spirits and heads held high, despite being soaked to the bone. Their teamwork shone through at the finish line where mud-splattered children stayed to cheer each other on and congratulate each other on making it to the finish. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who braved the conditions to support the children. They helped make it a memorable experience for them all.



Mr O'Loughlin



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Collecting Other People's Children

If you have arranged for someone else to collect your child from school, please put it in writing to the school office on parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk before 3pm each day.

If we haven't been notified in writing we will not be able to release your child.

Pupil News

Congratulations to Ashton Holdsworth (1LG) who has been running a mile a day for MND Association. Ashton has raised £400 for MND.





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Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2026

Wednesday 4 th February 2026	Year 5 trip to the Mercury Theatre
Monday 2 nd , 9 th & 23 rd February 2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Monday 9 th February 2026	Year 6 to Philip Morant to watch Beauty and the Beast
Tuesday 10 th February 2026	Year 6 – Siege Walk in Colchester
Thursday 12 th February 2026	Year 2 Assembly to Parents - 9.15am to 10am
Thursday 12 th February 2026	Year 3 trip to London
Friday 13 th February 2026	Year 5 Assembly to Parents - starting at 2.15pm.
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
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 1 Assembly to Parents - Time to be confirmed
Friday 27 th March 2026	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2026

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

Email Information

If contacting the school via email, please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk