

Head Talk

A week ago the children took part in an act of remembrance at 11am. We all stood on the junior playground in silence as a mark of respect to the people who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world. It was an especially emotional occasion considering the history of the school in being a military hospital in its early days. Over the last couple of weeks the school has also had its Learning Conferences. I would like to thank the parents who have offered their feedback on their conferences to staff. It has been very useful. As we march towards Christmas, keep an eye on the school website diary so that you can keep up with events. Have a happy weekend!

School Website

I thought it might be useful to remind parents of a couple of useful pages on the school website. We have a page under the office section of the site, which now contains electronic versions of important letters that we have sent home with the children. This is a good place to visit from time to time, just in case a letter is lost. We also have a section on the website with the school term dates and non pupil days. The home page also contains a diary of events that are taking place during the year.

Lost Property

You may have noticed that there have been a couple of additions to the shelters on the infant and junior playgrounds. In

order to try and keep the school tidy, we have moved our lost property items into plastic bins which have been stored in the shelters. If your child has lost anything, please do feel free to have a look in the new bins!

EACH

Children took home their sponsor forms this week for the circuit training event taking place on Friday 1st December. The children are really looking forward to raising money for a brilliant charity. Please give generously.

Foundation Stage Autumn Walk

The Foundation Stage classes went on an Autumn walk last Friday. They had a lovely walk to Abbey Field and spent time searching for and collecting Autumnal objects. They also tried hard to find different types of trees and learnt some of their names. The children behaved beautifully and remembered all the road rules to keep themselves safe.

We would like to thank all the parents that helped with the trip. It was very much appreciated.

Year 4 Roman Day

On Thursday 17th November, 'Portals to the Past' transported the Year 4s to Iron Age Britain under Roman rule. In the morning, the children explored the dramatic change in the lifestyle of even the lowliest of citizens after the arrival of the Roman legions. They took a tour

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through a bath-house and also had the opportunity to handle real Roman artefacts to get a real hands-on experience of history. The afternoon provided even more excitement with a display of Roman and Celtic weapons and armour and a walk through Boudicca's final battle with the Romans. The day ended with our very own gladiator show where the children took on various roles from the Roman emperor down to the slaves. The children were kept entertained all day and learned so much! It was a fantastic day which the children (and teachers) thoroughly enjoyed. Huge thanks to parents for the wonderful costumes—the children really looked the part!

Mrs Wright and Mrs Richardson

Please note the Year 4 production 'The Warrior Queen' will be on Friday 9th December at 1.45pm

PSA Cake Sale

A very big thank you to Years 1, 3 & 6 who supplied the cakes last week and to everyone else who bought them. The stall raised an incredible £277.54 which is an £80.00 increase on the Year 1, 3 & 6 cake sale last year.

Break the School Rules Day

Just a reminder that Monday 21st November is break the School Rules Day. A letter was sent home regarding this a week ago.

Children are allowed to break the following rules:-

1. Wear nail varnish or a temporary tattoo
2. Wear non school shoes (but no football boots)
3. Wear a hat all day—including in the classroom
4. Wear a different coloured jumper or cardigan
5. Have a crazy hair style or spray your hair a different colour

For each rule broken you need to pay a £1.00

Reception Admission Round 2017 -18 Entry

The primary school admission round for Reception places for the 2017-18 intake opened on the 14th November. Parents are able to apply online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

The statutory national closing date is 15th January 2017.

Please see the attached document.

Classes for Parents, Grandparents & Carers

ACL works on behalf of Essex County Council to increase numeracy and literacy skills across the adult population of Essex.

Schools have been identified as a valuable channel to raise awareness of the need for and benefits of good English and Maths skills amongst adults, through the role parents want to play in supporting children with their learning.

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Essex County Council, ACL offers a wide range of free, face to face tuition. Please see attached document.

Data Contact Sheets

We are still awaiting the return of some of these sheets. It is important that they are returned so we have up to date telephone numbers in case we need to contact parents/carers.

Class Parties

The KS1 class Christmas parties will be held on the following dates in the afternoon:-

Year 1—Friday 16th December

Year 2—Monday 19th December

Foundation—Tuesday 20th December

KS2 dates are still to be decided and you will be notified in due course.

SATS info evening

Just a reminder for Year 6 parents that there will be an information evening on Wednesday 23rd November at 7pm in Miss Keitch's classroom. The evening will provide you with the opportunity to see the types of questions your children will be answering in the national assessments in May next year.

Christmas Dinner

The school Christmas Dinner is on Tuesday 13th December.

Our numbers are considerably lower than last year and we would like to remind you that the cut off date for ordering the Christmas meal will be Friday 2nd December.

If you have not already ordered this meal and would like your child to have this then please contact Mrs Moore in the office asap.

A reminder of the meal choice is Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, seasonal vegetables and a festive dessert followed by mince pies.

The cost of this meal is £2.30 for Junior children and free for the Infants.

There will be no facility to change to a hot meal on the day due to ordering restrictions.

Any child not wanting to have a Christmas Dinner will need to provide a packed lunch (this includes Infant children on this day).

Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2016	
Monday 21 st November 2016	Break the School Rules Day!!
Monday 28 th November 2016	Year 6 to watch Cinderella at Philip Morant
Wednesday 30 th November 2016	Influenza Vaccine Day (forms to follow)
Monday 5 th December 2016	Year 5 trip to Royal Observatory, London
Friday 9 th December 2016	Year 4 Production 'The Warrior Queen' - 1.45pm
Wednesday 14 th & Thursday 15 th December	KS1 - Carol Concert
Friday 16 th December 2016	Year 1—Christmas Class Party
Monday 19 th & Tuesday 20 th December	KS2 - Carol Concert
Monday 19 th December 2016	Year 2—Christmas Class Party
Tuesday 20 th December 2016	Foundation—Christmas Class Party
Wednesday 21 st December 2016	Last day of term for pupils

Spring Term 2017

Thursday 5 th January 2017	First day of term for pupils
Mon 13 th February—Fri 17 th February	Half Term
Friday 31 st March 2017	Last day of term for pupils

Email Information

If contacting the school via email please use the parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk address.