

Head Talk

Happy New Year! I do hope you had a lovely break with your families and friends. The children have started back at school well this term. The Spring Term is a short one this year. Half Term will be taking place in the week beginning 13th February. This means that we have a lot to get in to a short amount of time! Please keep an eye on the school website. We have a calendar on the front page which lists all of the relevant school events. Class teachers will send home notes for any year group specific events. A copy of all of the important letters sent home can also be found on our website, just in case they get lost on route! I am available on the playground most mornings and after school if you would like to have a chat. Have a brilliant week.

Watoto Choir visit

Year 3, 4 and 5 will be watching a concert by the visiting Watoto Choir at Christchurch on Tuesday afternoon next week. The Watoto Choir is visiting the UK raising funds for their charity which supports orphaned children across Africa. The choir is made up of orphaned children. Christchurch are putting on a number of concerts and parents are welcome to attend.

EACH

Thank you to all of the children and families that took part in our Sponsored Circuit Training event at the beginning of December last year. All of the monies have now been collected and I am very proud to say that the School raised a total of **£1848.07** for the charity. This will be added to the running total that the school is keeping for EACH this year. The Year 4 Production, Nativity and Carol Services raised a further £503.37 which has been split between Christchurch's charity (Compassion) and EACH. Thank you all for your generosity.

Google Expeditions

On Monday 19th December, the Google team came to Hamilton School for the day to take KS1 and KS2 pupils through a range of virtual reality expeditions to places as diverse as the International Space Station, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Great Wall of China. Pupils were equipped with Google Cardboard virtual reality viewers and went on a variety of expeditions with their teacher acting as a guide, leading groups of "explorers" through collections of 360° and 3D images while pointing out interesting sights along the way. The pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the 'Google Expedition' experience. It provided children with a vivid and exciting opportunity to explore some of the concepts and places they have been studying in school in a unique and memorable way. - Mrs Wright

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Parking outside the school

For the children's safety can parents/carers please not park on the yellow lines outside the school or in the loading bay when dropping off/picking your child/children up from school? The main school gates MUST be kept clear at all times in case emergency vehicles need to enter the school.

Topic Overviews

Please find attached this terms topic overviews for you child.

PSA Christmas Quiz

Thank you to everyone who took part in the PSA Christmas Quiz.

Congratulations to Ella Lawrence (1LLB) who won the KS1 quiz and to Cameron Barclay (5FN) who won the KS2 quiz.

Sickness

Just a reminder that to follow Health & Safety Executive Guidelines children should only return to school after having a clear 48 hours after the last bout of sickness/stomach bug.

Chinese New Year Snacks

To celebrate the start of the Chinese New Year—the Year of the Rooster, the Chinese Club will be selling Chinese snacks at break time on the 31st January, 1st February & 3rd February.

If your child would like to purchase snacks they will need to bring some money in a purse/wallet.



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The children will be wearing the bands used at lunchtime to highlight any with allergies.

Pupil News

Well done to Sam Blakemore (5DW) who was awarded 'Student of the Year 2016' by Colchester Tai Kwon Do Club.

Non Pupil Days for 2017-2018

Please note the following dates have been set as non pupil days for the next school year:-

- Monday 4th September 2017
- Monday 25th September 2017
- Monday 30th October 2017
- Thursday 3rd May 2018
- Monday 4th June 2018

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Sumdog Awards December 2016

Due to the ever increasing popularity of the Sumdog award, we have decided to publish the names of the children in the newsletter each month who have achieved the award in KS1 and KS2 so we can celebrate and share their success.

To achieve the award, the children must go on Sumdog and play independently during the month. There is no set amount of time they need to play for so it can be as little or as much as they can.

The children need to take their time and answer questions carefully rather than rushing to complete lots of questions. The children that achieve 95% and above accuracy over the month will have their names printed in the newsletter the following month.

KS1 Awards

Amelia-Rose S
Sophia C
Matthew E
Tilly P
Molly W
Lauren W
Arthur E
Ben M
Rhys K
Esmee
Dua M
Megan M
Prisha B
Edward R
Edward U
Alexander G
Jacob W

KS2 Awards

Ben S
Kwame O
Princess A
Dihan N
Toby C
Charlie C
Chris L
Mackenzie W
Eddie T
Violet B
Eleanor M
Joshua H
Poppy-Lulu B
Sophia M
Amelia C
Sebastian B
James R
Elsie T
Evie C
Max F

Congratulations to all and well done if you took part. We will publish the January results at the beginning of February.

Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 25 th January 2017	Year 2—Great Fire of London Day
Thursday 9 th February 2017	Individual Pupil Photos
Monday 13 th February—Friday 17 th February	Half Term
Tuesday 7 th —Thursday 9 th March 2017	Learning Conference Week - NO CLUBS
Friday 31 st March 2017	Last day of term for pupils

Summer Term 2017

Tuesday 18 th April 2017	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 19 th April 2017	First day of term for pupils
Thursday 4 th May 2017	Non Pupil Day
Monday 8 th May—Friday 12 th May 2017	SATS Week for Year 6
Tuesday 23 rd May 2017	Class Photos
Monday 29 th May—Friday 2 nd June 2017	Half Term
Monday 5 th June 2017	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 6 th June 2017	First day of term for pupils
Friday 21 st July 2017	Last day of term for pupils

Autumn Term 2017

Monday 4 th September	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 5 th September	First day of term for pupils
Monday 25 th September	Non Pupil Day
Monday 23 rd —Friday 27 th October	Half Term
Monday 30 th October	Non Pupil Day

Email Information

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