

## Head Talk

Over the last 2 weeks the children have enjoyed visiting space via virtual reality and recreated the Great Fire of London. What it brought home to me was that we don't have to travel very far to enable the children to have brilliant learning experiences and memorable events. The staff at Hamilton work very hard to ensure that we have an exciting and engaging curriculum for the children to take part in. Last week the school also recognised the Act of Remembrance. We were very fortunate in that Felix Friedlein played the Last Post as the infant and junior children stood on the back playground with all staff to remember those that have lost their lives in conflict to protect us. A very poignant moment indeed.

Please don't forget the PSA Christmas Market. I would like to correct the mistake I made and get the correct timings this time!! It takes place on Saturday 25 November from 4pm until 6pm. If you are able to help please do contact the PSA members. They have a new set of pages on the school website. Have a look for the PSA tab.

## Learning Conferences

This week the learning conferences took place. It was a real pleasure to meet parents and children and talk about learning with them. There were lots of great things to hear about and children were excited to share their progress. Thank you to everyone that took part.

## Parking

I would like to remind parents that the zigzag lines outside of the school on Constantine Road **are not a drop off zone**. It is illegal to stop on the markings during the times advertised on the signs. By parking on the lines you are putting children's and parents lives at risk. I must also advise parents that there is a 20 mph speed limit on Hamilton and Constantine Road. It is almost impossible to drive over this limit during the end of the school day, due to the traffic in the roads, but after school has finished cars are travelling down the road breaking the limit. We still have a number of children on the school site until 5.45pm. Please do obey the signed limits of the road.

## Year 2—Great Fire of London Day

Last week Year 2 took part in the fantastic Great Fire of London Day held in the Junior Hall. We dressed as people from the time of 1666 and had a brilliant day pretending to visit shops which would have been found in London at the time. The children were able to make numerous items to bring home from the weavers, the chandlers, the leather worker, the apothecary and the baker during morning. In the afternoon we became archaeologists and dug through the soil for fragments and left overs from the buildings after the fire. Year 2 had a superb day and we'd like to say a massive thank you to all the parents that came along to help.

The children learnt many more facts about

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this period and are now excited to begin making their model houses in class.

### **Year 5—Space Day**

Last week, Year 5 enjoyed Space Day. The children experienced a virtual reality space experience, in which they visited various planets in the solar system. They were also able to try space food, which went down rather well, and used fruits to look at the relative sizes of the planets in our solar system. The afternoon saw the children creating some rather magnificent capsules to deliver their ‘Eggnauts’ back down to Earth. They worked together in teams, cooperating and discussing ideas enthusiastically, before Miss Keitch dropped them from on high! Mr Wilkinson had the pleasure of checking for broken eggs. He only got egg on his hands four times! Well done to all the children for a wonderful day!

### **Christmas Dinner Day**

The school Christmas Day will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper or T-Shirt again this year.

**The school office will be closed between 11.45am to 2.00pm in order to help serve the lunch.**

### **PSA—Christmas Market**

Twelve days to go until the Christmas Market and we cannot wait! Flyers will be going home in book bags this week for you to pin to your noticeboards at home. Please bring along your family, friends

and neighbours as this event is open to everyone. To give you a little teaser, there will be... Stories with Santa in his grotto; mulled wine and other ‘adult drinks’ luxury hot chocolate; gift stalls selling jewellery, Christmas stockings, wreaths and decorations; a cake, mince pie and sausage roll stall; children’s Christmas crafts and more!

Just a reminder that we have boxes in the school foyer for our donations. We haven’t had many yet so just a little nudge to say that we need bottles of alcohol, fizzy pop and juice, unwanted gifts (in original packaging), filled party bags (empty ones with instructions will be coming home this week) and nearer the time, your baked goods. Also, if there is anyone who can lend us sets of fairy lights or large Christmas trees, please get in contact through our Facebook page or at [hamiltonpsa@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonpsa@gmail.com). This is the first year that the PSA are doing an event like this and we’ve all been working hard to make it a success so please support us!

### **Christchurch Christmas Fayre**

Christchurch will be holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November between 11.00am to 3.00pm. See the attached leaflet for more information.

### **Data Collection Sheets**

We are still awaiting the return of some data collection sheets. It is important these sheets are returned. We have

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recently tried to contact parents only to find out that the telephone numbers we have are incorrect.

### **Cyber Safety Events**

Please find attached information on a Cyber Safety event being held at North Primary School, John Harper Street in Colchester on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December. This event has been organised by Will Quince and is free to attend, everyone is welcome.

## Calendar Dates

Autumn Term 2017	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	September 2018 Open Afternoon—1.30pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	PSA Christmas Market 4-6pm
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	September 2018 Open Afternoon—1.30pm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Foundation—Christmas Bauble Workshop
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Christmas Dinner—Wear a Christmas Jumper
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Year 1 & 2—Nativity—6pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Year 4 Play—1.30pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Year 1 & 2—Nativity—6pm
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	KS2 Carol Service—6pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	KS2 Carol Service—6pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Last Day of Term

## Spring Term 2018

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018	First Day of Term
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> —Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Book Fair after school
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> —Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Half Term
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018	Individual Pupil Photos
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Last Day of Term

## Email Information

If contacting the school via email please use the [parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk](mailto:parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk) address.