



Head Talk

Welcome to the last newsletter before the Easter Break. I am sure you are all looking forward to the time together with family and friends and I do wish you all a restful break. We are back to school on **Tuesday 23rd April.**

To end this term, Year 1 had a wonderful day at school celebrating all that was Victorian last week. It is always a wonderful experience for the children to dress up and become immersed in the day. Last week also saw the Year 6 parents attending an information evening about SATs. The presentation can be found on the school website under the key information and Year 6 tabs.

PSA Thanks

I would like to thank the PSA and the parent body as a whole. Over the Easter Holidays we will be installing 8 Smartboards in to 8 classrooms. These boards give the teachers the ability to provide an interactive learning experience for children in the school. We have had screens like these for over 15 years, but these are the new generation, which means they no longer require a projector. We could not have afforded these without the funds raised by parents. They will have one of the greatest single impacts on how a teacher teaches and those teachers receiving a board are very excited! This does give us a problem, as there will be 7 teaching areas that will not get a board this year. So, I have asked the PSA if they could make buying the other 7 boards a project for the next year, so that all teaching spaces have this technology available to them. Thank you in advance to all parents for your generosity.

School Choir

I had the privilege of watching our school choir at the Charter Hall this week. They joined with 16 other local schools to celebrate singing in the 69th Annual Colchester Schools Music Festival. The

children did a fantastic job and I would especially like to thank Mrs Debbie Baker for all of the practices and organising our attendance. I would also like to thank Mrs Debbie Knight for her support on the day.

School Uniform

I would like to remind parents that boots are not part of the school uniform policy. Please ensure your child comes to school in the appropriate footwear. As a reminder the policy is as follows:

School v-neck jumper or navy, knitted style v-neck jumper or v-neck school cardigan or v-neck, knitted style navy cardigan **(Phased for current pupils until a replacement jumper is needed)**

1 x Light blue school logo polo top (to wear for events outside of the school grounds)

Light blue polo top

Grey trousers or grey shorts and black socks

Plain navy pinafore or skirt with plain navy tights or navy socks

Black, low heel, school style shoes

P.E. Kit

1 x White school logo polo top

Plain navy shorts

White socks

Black plimsolls or trainers (for indoor and playground use)

Trainers (Juniors only - for field use)

Dark blue or black tracksuit bottoms (winter field use)

Dark sweatshirt or jumper (winter field use)

General Rules

No nail varnish

Shoulder length or longer hair to be tied back with a simple dark coloured scrunchie or elasticated band

Hair bands should be of a plain style in a dark colour with no adornments



Rotary Club – Art Competition

Reminder - the deadline for entries into the Rotary Club art competition (Years 1 - 6) is Monday 1st April. The theme is 'Our Blue Planet'. You can use paints, pencils, pens, chalks etc but please no 3D art, photography or printing. Judging will take place over the Easter Break.

Full name, date of birth and class need to go on the back. Please give your art into your class teacher or to Mrs Smith.

Get creative and good luck!

Foundation trip to Danbury Park

Rainbow and Sunshine class had an amazing day at Danbury Country Park! The children loved every minute of their Room on the Broom experience. They were soon transported into the story by searching for the witches' belongings that had fallen from her broom. The children then made magic wands and cast lots of spells including turning Miss Gilvray into a cat! Thankfully she was turned back in time to help the children make a new broom stick for the witch. After a morning of hard work, they were relieved that it was lunchtime! After lunch they got to play in the witches' playground, make magic potions and make mud monsters! Sadly, after so much fun it was then time to go home. The children all loved the coach!

The children were real superstars and were a real credit to the school! Thank you to all our parent helpers.

Year 1 – Victorian Big House Day

On Tuesday 19th March the company History Off the Page came into the school to work with Year One children who are learning about the Victorians. The Junior Hall was set up with the different "rooms" which would have been in a big house in Victorian times. The children visited the different "rooms" and took part in the activities that would have been carried out there, for example, washing in the laundry, sewing and taking tea in the library, preparing food and menus in the kitchen. The

children learned a lot about what it would have been like to have been a servant or member of the family in a big house. In the afternoon the children performed musical hall acts such as singing, being a comedian, mind reading, the strong man. The children all behaved well and learned a lot about the Victorian music hall. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and was a great addition to our Victorian topic. A big thank you to all parents/carers who provided such wonderful costumes and to all those parents/carers who came to help on the day.

World Book Day

On Friday March 8th, Hamilton pupils celebrated World Book Day. Teachers and pupils dressed up as their favourite literary characters and book tokens were awarded for the most creative costume in each class during an assembly on the day. KS2 winners were: Ellie Dove, Felix Davey, Charlie Mason, Issy Townrow, Martha Arneaud, William Stych, Hugo Trim and Jude Coffey.

KS1 winners were: Arthur Vakil Tcherniak, Samuel Jacklin, Luke Green, Ammar Undrill, Tilly Bevan and Linton Whittaker.

A variety of book-based activities took place throughout the school. The book swap proved to be a big success and pupils thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to exchange books. Some year groups drew alternative front covers to their favourite books while other year groups played Book Bingo. Some KS1 and KS2 classes had the opportunity to share their reading books with each other and it was lovely to see pupils collaborating in a friendly and supportive way. Well done to everyone who participated in a fantastic day based around a shared love of reading!

Friday 15th March 2019

Thank you very much to everyone who wore their own clothes and donated to Red Nose Day we raised an amazing £412.64.

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes, bought cakes and entered the raffle. We raised an



amazing £361.61 for this year's school charity – Dementia UK.

Year 3 Production

Year 3 will be performing their play 'A Glint of Gold' on Thursday 4th April 2019. The play starts at 2pm with the gates opening at 1.50pm for parents and shutting promptly at 2.10pm with no admittance after that time.

Easter Eggstravaganza!

This egg-cellent (sorry!) event will take place on Wednesday 3rd April, straight after school. A great time was had by all last year, with brand new activities and a wonderful atmosphere. Not to mention a visit from the Easter Bunny who danced the Conga!

Flyers have been sent home with the children for you to complete and return, along with your payment. Please, please, please volunteer yourself, your husband, teenager or grandparent to help on a stall. We need LOTS of volunteers to make this event happen!

Just like last year, there will be the Easter Conga; where children can show off their home-made Easter bonnets with the chance of winning a prize from Mr Hutchings! So, get yourselves on Pinterest and start planning. Oh, and baking! Sweet and savoury snacks will be gratefully received.

An Easter message from Christ Church

'The things we forget to remember - Easter...a time for new beginnings'

A friend of mine once shared a bewildering conversation about the meaning of Easter. He was taking a school assembly and asked the children what they knew about the Easter message when one child spoke up and said, "It's about the Easter

bunny". Then another child said, "It's about Easter eggs"! Then the first child added, "Yes, it's about the bunny that put the Easter message inside the egg!" For many people, such a question might have no answer at all. Yet we all celebrate Easter in some way or form.

I am not sure what happened next, but here was an opportunity to remind the children that while they are thinking about bunnies and eggs, there is a much bigger story to be heard. It is a story that a forgetful world has failed to remember; Easter is a time for new beginnings. What a story! Jesus comes to us. From child to man, from being loved then hated, to death on a cross, laid to rest in a tomb bursting open on the third day. Easter celebrates new life in a resurrected Jesus.

What will this Easter mean for us? Will bunnies and message laden eggs feature highly in our celebrations? Or will it be a time for new beginnings for us by not forgetting what we should have remembered. That the story of an empty tomb is not just a missing body mystery but the image of the resurrection and the life as promised and received by all who see and believe in Jesus and celebrate on Easter day.

Easter is a time for new beginnings for each of us. My hope is that we will make space to be immersed in the story of the first Easter and make this Easter day the start of a new adventure together. Join us over Easter at Christ Church. Explore the Easter story at our 10.30 am Messy Good Friday family gathering or on Easter morning at 9.30 am family service celebration. I look forward to meeting you.

God's blessing for Easter.

Revd Paul - Christ Church

Pupil News

Congratulations to Tilly Prichard (3JA) who has been offered a place in the Essex County Gymnastics Squad.



Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2019

Wednesday 3 rd April 2019	Easter Eggstravaganza after school
Thursday 4 th April 2019	Year 3 – Play at 2.00pm
Friday 5 th April 2019	Last Day of Term

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23 rd April 2019	First Day of Term
Thursday 2 nd May & Friday 3 rd May 2019	Non-Pupil Days
Tuesday 7 th May 2019	Formal PSA meeting – Infant Hall at 7.30pm
Friday 10 th May 2019	Summer Disco
Thursday 23 rd May 2019	Class Photos
Thursday 23 rd May 2019	Year 5 Play
Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May 2019	Half Term
Monday 3 rd June 2019	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 7 th June 2019	Break the School Rules Day
Thursday 13 th June 2019	Rainbow Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Friday 14 th June 2019	Sunshine Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Monday 17 th June 2019	KS1 – Sports Day at Garrison Athletics Track
Monday 1 st July 2019	KS2 – Sports Day at Garrison Athletics Track
Tuesday 16 th July 2019	Year 2 Play
Wednesday 17 th July 2019	Year 6 Play in the afternoon
Thursday 18 th July 2019	Year 6 Play in the evening

Email Information

If contacting the school via email please use:

parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk