

Head Talk

We have had lots going on at school over the past two weeks. I am sure you all had a chance to see the 'Bug Man', Martin Rapley's visit to the school, via our social media accounts. There were some very brave children and teachers around! If you didn't get a chance to see the pictures of the bugs, then have a look on our website home page, as the Twitter feed has some interesting images! The Police also arrived this week to have a chat with Rainbow and Sunshine classes. Don't worry, they weren't in trouble!!! We had an officer who came along to talk to the children and show them an unmarked car. We had the sirens going off on the playground. It was all very exciting. Have a happy couple of weeks.

Scooters and bicycles on the playground

Can I please remind all families that children are not to ride bicycles or scooters on the playground as we have had a couple of near misses this week with other children or adults nearly being knocked over.

Parking at school

There have been a couple of very near misses over the past 2 weeks of children and parents nearly being knocked over by cars in Constantine Road. Please do not park on the zigzag lines. It is illegal and puts lives at risk. In the same vein, the zigzags are not a drop off zone either. They need to be kept clear during the

times stated on the signs so as to allow safe access to the school site. The same needs to be said about the 'loading bay' by the school gates. Parking is hard at school, so please either arrive earlier or park further away and walk in. I don't think it will be long before we have a serious accident.

Firstsite

You may not be aware, but Grayson Perry has a display of some of his tapestry's at Firstsite at the moment. They are amazing! Firstsite is free to enter and I would encourage you to visit with your child to look at them. You might want to be aware that Grayson can be heard narrating his poem 'The Life of Julie Cope' which does contain some swear words.

School Lottery

The PSA have started a school lottery. You can still join and tickets cost £1 a week. A percentage of each ticket sale goes to the PSA accounts, so you are raising money for the school at the same time as having a chance of winning a £25,000 jackpot each week. The web link is: <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play>

Science Week

Last week we enjoyed a visit from Martin Rapley—The Bug Man. Martin brought in a variety of animals including a tarantula called Molly, a chameleon called Tripod and Snakey the snake. All classes spent

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an hour with Martin and learnt about such things as habitats, animal classification and diet. This visit has greatly enhanced the children's learning about animals and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the PSA for funding this science event.

"The funniest part was when the frog jumped onto my head!" Indi K, Year 1

The tarantula tickled my knee when I held it, it was really fun." Fatima, Year 3

"I really enjoyed watching Tripod—the chameleon, eating the locusts with her tongue." Sam A, Year 5

Buddhist Visitor

On Wednesday 24th January, KS2 welcomed Buddhist Sthiranaga from Colchester's Buddhist Centre. He spoke to the children during the KS2 assembly about some of the key values of Buddhism (like kindness and contentment) and how they relate to the school's values (respect, fairness, friendship, courage, effort and honesty). It was a great opportunity for the children to learn more about the Buddhist faith. If you are interested in finding out more about Buddhism, the Colchester Buddhist Centre has an open day on Saturday 27th January between 11.30am—4pm.

Mobile Phone / App Awareness

We have been advised of an incident at another Primary School involving a free app called **Diso Video Chat**.

Please can parents be aware of this free app that can be downloaded onto smartphones. This app enables users to communicate via video chat with **strangers**.

We ask that you all check you have all the parental controls enabled on your devices at home including disabling the function to download free apps. Parental controls on any device only **reduce the risk** and you should also ensure that you are monitoring your child's online activity and try to understand what they are using and how.

Book Fair

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Book fair last week. Once again, it was a great success and we sold over £1200 worth of books. This means the school will receive £300 worth of new books which is fantastic! An extra special thank you to the Year 6 pupils who helped with the running of the Book Fair.

Mrs Wright

Year 5 Assembly

Year 5 will be holding their class assembly next Friday 2nd February starting at 2.20pm. The gates will be open from 2.15pm.

PSA Quiz - 'Save the date!'

School quiz fundraiser on Friday 2nd March. Forms will be coming out soon so start organising your team (a maximum of 6 people).

Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2018

Friday 2 nd February 2018	Year 5 Assembly at 2.30pm
Tuesday 6 th February 2018	Parents Forum 7–8pm
Monday 12 th —Friday 16 th February 2018	Half Term
Wednesday 21 st February 2018	Year 6—Sats Information Evening 7–8pm
Thursday 22 nd February 2018	Individual Pupil Photos
Friday 2 nd March 2018	PSA Quiz 7.30pm
Monday 5 th —Friday 9 th March 2018	Learning Conference Week
Thursday 8 th February 2018	Year 4 Assembly—Afternoon
Tuesday 13 th March 2018	Mr Gibbon (Philip Morant) to discuss homework with parents
Tuesday 13 th March 2018	Year 3—Greek Day
Wednesday 21 st March 2018	Foundation Play 2pm—RAINBOW PARENTS ONLY
Thursday 22 nd March 2018	Foundation Play 2pm—SUNSHINE PARENTS ONLY
Tuesday 27 th March 2018	Foundation trip to Marsh Farm
Wednesday 28 th March 2018	PSA Easter Egg Hunt after school
Thursday 29 th March 2018	Last Day of Term

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16 th April 2018	First Day of Term
Thursday 3 rd May 2018	Non Pupil Day
Monday 28 th May —Friday 1 st June 2018	Half Term
Monday 4 th June 2018	Non Pupil Day

Email Information

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