

## Head Talk

Wow what a half term! Can you believe it is 6 weeks since we came back? The children have worked incredibly hard this term and we have had some high points to the term. Last week I had the privilege of attending the Year 5 class assembly, where the children shared their learning with parents. This week I attended the Year 4 class assembly and was struck by how much work the children have undertaken, the breadth of the learning and the joy that they have taken in completing the tasks set. Hamilton truly is a great school. This week the children have also been learning about voting and how women changed the face of politics. On Wednesday the children welcomed Julie Young (the ex Mayor of Colchester) who talked about her time in office. I would like to wish all the families associated with the school a fabulous half term. We will see you back at school on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> February.

## Deputy Head

On Wednesday this week the school interviewed candidates for the post of Deputy Head teacher. The day was very tough for the candidates with them having to teach a group of children, observe a lesson, complete a couple of challenging data tasks and presenting to a panel of Governors. They also underwent an hours interview. I am extremely pleased with the outcome of the interviews and I will let parents know in due course the name of the next Deputy Head teacher at Hamilton Primary School.

## Parent Forum

On Tuesday night we held our termly Parents' Forum. We discussed the School Development Plan and the new Core Values of the school. We also discussed the premises work being carried out over the half term among other topics. The minutes for the meeting are on the school website as is a copy of the presentation on the night. Thank you to those parents that attended.

## Premises work over the half term

The PSA very kindly agreed to pay for a sun shade to be purchased for the infant playground. This will be installed during the half term holiday, outside of the Foundation Stage classrooms on the infant playground. The PSA also purchased some new benches for the children to use and some picnic benches with 'games' tops and 'whiteboard' tops to further enhance the learning and play space. As a result of these new purchases, Mr Williams will be removing the rotten 'blue shed' on the infant playground and the rest of the rotting stage on the junior playground. I am sure the children will really enjoy their new equipment. My thanks go out to the PSA and all parents for being so generous in your giving at school events. Without you, this would not have been possible.

## KS1 and KS2 Assemblies

On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, the school enjoyed a visit from Habib an Imam from

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Colchester's Mosque. He spoke to the children during the KS1 and KS2 assembly about some of the key values of Islam and the importance of community. It was a great opportunity for the children to learn more about the Islamic faith.

We also had a visit on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February from George—a member of the Humanist Society. George spoke to both key stages about Humanism, the importance of asking questions and being happy!

### **Year 5 Assembly**

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Year 5 presented their work to their parents. They were able to show off all their brilliant work, ranging from art, poems, writing and D.T. They were able to show the effort that has gone into all their learning so far this year.

### **Year 4 Assembly**

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, the Year 4 pupils treated parents to a taster of their learning over the past 5 months in their year group assembly. Highlights included: interesting facts about the Romans, a musical rendition on the recorder some incredible artwork and a powerful performance of the Haka! The children had great fun and enjoyed sharing some of their fantastic work. Well done Year 4 for a brilliant year group assembly!

### **School Charity Non Uniform Day**

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March the school council have decided that they would like to raise

money for the school's charity this year— Walking with the Wounded by having a non-uniform day. Children are asked to bring in a minimum donation of £1.00

### **PSA Quiz - 'Save the date!'**

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

## Calendar Dates

### Spring Term 2018

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> —Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Half Term
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2018	Year 6—Sats Information Evening 7–8pm
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018	Individual Pupil Photos
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	Non Uniform Day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	PSA Quiz 7.30pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> —Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Learning Conference Week
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Mr Gibbon (Philip Morant) to discuss homework with Year 6 parents
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 3—Greek Day
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	Foundation Play 2pm—RAINBOW PARENTS ONLY
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	Foundation Play 2pm—SUNSHINE PARENTS ONLY
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Foundation trip to Marsh Farm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Last Day of Term

### Summer Term 2018

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	First Day of Term
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018	Non Pupil Day
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Class Photos
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May —Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2018	Half Term
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Non Pupil Day
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Celebration Evening
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Last Day of Term

## Email Information