

## Head Talk

Welcome back to school after, what I hope was, a restful half term. School has started well this term with Year 6 children visiting Colchester to have a guided walk around the town, focusing on evidence of the Siege of Colchester. Year 4 children also took part in a cross country event for local schools on Wednesday. I am very pleased to announce that the boys team were ranked 1st and the girls 2nd overall. This is a fantastic achievement and allows for some of the children to progress to the county finals. The personnel and finance governors met this week and a school budget was agreed this year.

## Year 6 SATs information evening

Last week Mr Lerner ran an evening event providing information to parents about the National Exams taking place in May. The presentation for the evening can be found by visiting the school website and clicking on the key information link and choosing the Year 6 resources link. There are also some very useful revision resources contained on this page. Thank you to all of the parents that came along.

## School Development Plan

The school is busy planning for next year and during April, the new plan will be delivered to parents and available on our website. We have consulted with parents, via the parents' forum and with children via the school forum. The results from the parent questionnaires in November have also been taken into consideration

when looking at what the school needs to focus on.

## Idling Engines

Could I please ask that parents switch off their engines when waiting to drop off or collect children from school. This will help improve the air quality around the school for the children and parents. Thank you.

## Learning Conference

Learning Conference week will be Monday 5th to Friday 9th March 2018. Please note there will be **NO CLUBS** apart from recorders this week.

## Cross Country

12 children from Year 4 recently took part in an exciting cross country competition against 15 other schools with girls finishing in 2nd place overall and the boys an amazing 1st place overall. They all ran brilliantly and every child's position scored for the team. In the girls' competition Nina Godden Murphy was 1st overall while Naomi Sandercock was 2nd. The teams showed their strength in depth with Nia Wright 15th, Nivedha Kunnath 23rd, Morna Ray Abraham 26th and Annella Mayne 50th. The boys finishing positions were Joshua Hill 4th, Charlie Smalley 7th, Alessandro Vargas 15th, Kobe Rooney 27th, Oliver Payen 32nd and Ethan Fennell 46th. Well done to all of you and thank you very much to all the

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parents who helped with transport and came to spectate. Mrs Norris

### **Discovering the history around us**

Colchester's rich history was the subject of Year 6's guided tour of the town centre on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February as they looked to add context to their knowledge of the English Civil War and the Siege of Colchester. Children were fascinated by the story of One-eyed Gunner Thompson and the devastation he caused before being blown off the tower of St Mary's church by cannon fire; and how the grass will never again grow on the spot that Royalists, Lucas and Lisle, met their grisly fate outside the castle; as well as many other stories from the excellent tour guides.

The children followed up the tour by writing a letter imagining they were trapped with the walls during the siege. Their excellent, personal writing made it very clear just how much they had learnt from this experience.

### **Bag 2 School**

We are pleased to announce that Hamilton Primary has organised another clothes and shoe collection with Bag2School, something we have taken part in several times before.

Bag2School is the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools.

It helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping

to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However it is a fact that as a nation we still send 350,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year.

By getting involved in our Bag2School collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles in the bag provided—this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, (please refer to <http://uk.bag2school.com/> for full details). By taking part it will raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse whilst also being a very different kind of fundraiser!

If you fill the donation bag and still have more then you can use any other bag to donate your items and don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well!

Donation bags will be sent home with the children on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March and Bag2School will be collecting from our school on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to the KS1 library by 9 o'clock on the morning of collection date and help us have a really good collection.

Many thanks! Miss Batchelor

### **Topic Overviews**

Please find attached Topic Overviews for your child for this term.

### **Hamilton Hub**

Can we please remind you that if your

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child is booked into the Hub and they are not going to attend a session that you contact the Hub to notify them. We have had a couple of incidents recently where children have gone on play dates, the Hub weren't informed so are looking for the child.

The Hub contact details are as follows:-

email: [hub@hamiltonprimary.com](mailto:hub@hamiltonprimary.com)

tel: 07787 016231

Opening times for this number are:

Monday: 7.30am - 9am & 1.30pm - 6pm

Tuesday: 7.30am - 9am & 2.45pm - 6pm

Wednesday: 7.30am - 10am & 2.45pm - 6pm

Thursday: 7.30am - 9am & 2.45pm - 6pm

Friday: 7.30am - 10am & 2.45pm - 6pm

## **Free Course—Is Your child Safe Online?**

There is a free workshop being held on Wednesday 28th March. Please see attached for more details.

## **School Charity Non Uniform Day**

This will now be held this Friday 9th March. Children are welcome to come to school in their own clothes for a donation of £1.00. All money raised will go to this years school charity Walking with the Wounded.

## **PSA Quiz**

Unfortunately due to the weather last week the PSA made the decision to postpone the quiz they were organising for Friday 2nd March. As soon as a new date has been agreed all teams that entered will be notified.

## **Pupil News**

Well done to Amelie Fells (1MR) who decided to donate 8" of her hair to the Little Princess Trust. This charity makes free wigs for children and young adults, who for various reasons, have lost their



own hair.

## Calendar Dates

### Spring Term 2018

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> —Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Learning Conference Week - No Clubs
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 3—Fire Service Home Safety Talk
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	Year 3 Production at 2pm
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
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> —Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Year 6—SATS Week
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Class Photos
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Year 5—Production
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

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