

Head Talk

3 Days of snow closure! That's what we will remember for some time yet. I have never closed a school for that long before and I would like to thank all the families associated with the school for their support over the closure days. These are not easy decisions to make and the school recognised that it is difficult for everyone involved. At the end of the day it is about ensuring the safety of children, staff and parents. We do hope that the school communicated well with you all throughout the closure days. It was lovely to have the snow for a few days, but it was also great to see it go, although I hear there may be some more on the way!!! I would also like to thank all of the families that attended our Learning Conferences last week. The feedback from both children and parents was very positive; especially about viewing the progress books. Could I please remind parents that did not book an appointment that the school uses an electronic booking system and that parents are given a number of reminders about booking places. Whilst school staff are able to see parents outside of the Learning Conference window, this is only for parents who have an emergency situation on the week of the conferences. If you are unable to attend your Learning Conference please call the school to inform the class teacher. You are very welcome to arrange appointments throughout the year with your class teacher to talk about your child.

Church in School—School in Church

A Hello from Rev Paul

Although many of you will know me, with Nick Hutchings encouragement, we thought it would be good to introduce ourselves to both school and church. Nick has recently written an article sharing news about the school for our Christ Church News; I am now offering the same about Christ Church.

If you do not know me, my name is the Revd

Cannon Paul Norrington. As Rector of Christ Church, I have been a friend of Hamilton School taking regular assemblies, providing a space for shared educational and worship activities and experiences for nearly 16 years. Many of you will have visited the church especially at Christmas when we host carol services and our very own Carols for Kids, a much loved event in the church year.

When people think about the church or even the clergy, they may think we are only open one day a week and indeed vicars have a very easy life! But actually Christ church is a 24/7 response to the community within it is set. Many of you reading this will know that at the heart of our church is desire to share God's love and care through the offering and building of community. We do so in many ways inviting everyone to share in meeting together not just on a Sunday but across the week. We often boast about serving the best coffee and cake in Colchester—well almost!

We are currently in the season of Lent, a time when I encourage our community to review personal priorities, reflect on life styles and perhaps acknowledge the need to make changes to our lives, routines and so on. For many, this time of preparation is a wonderful gift and opportunity to discover 'that there is more to life than this', whatever this may be! Lent then comes to fruition at Easter and the church's joyful celebration of new life freely given through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Look out for our Easter card which will be coming your way soon. Look us up over Easter, we are here for all the family and would love to get to know you more. Happy Easter

Revd Canon Paul Norrington
Rector of Christ Church

Service Times and Dates

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Good Friday 30th March
10.30 am Messy Church
2.00 pm Last hour at the Cross
Easter Day
6.30 am Sun Rise Service with breakfast
9.30 am Family Worship

Non Uniform Day

Thank you to everyone that took part in the non uniform day last week. We raised £383.97. This will be put towards the school charity of the year: Walking with the Wounded.

Zig Zag Lines and Loading Bay

Frankly I am fed up writing on this subject! Can I please remind parents not to park on the zig zag lines outside of the school entrance or in the loading bay. It is illegal and dangerous. This week the school had its food delivery, but due to parents parking in the loading bay the food company parked on the zig zags putting lives at risk. The loading bay is for the schools purposes only. It is not a 'spare' parking bay.

Childcare Vouchers

Have you got a child going to Aylmerton in 2018 and do you get Childcare Vouchers from your employer. If so, you may be entitled to pay for some of the trip with vouchers. Please pop into the school office to discuss with Mrs Lisa Moore or Mrs Lisa Bain.

Year 1 Assembly

On Tuesday afternoon Year One held a group assembly to show parents the work we have been doing this year. The children spoke about the different topics which we have covered, including Toys, Starry Night (about the painter Van Gogh), Traditional Tales, Animals and Australia. Some children read their writing, some showed pictures or talked about their maths work and we showed a delightful video of an animal dance based on The Gruffalo. The children finished their assembly with an Australian song, The Kookaburra. All the

children have worked very hard and performed brilliantly. We would like to thank all the parents, grandparents and carers for attending and hope you enjoyed it.

Year 3 Greek Day

On Tuesday 13th March, Year 3 were visited again by Mark from Portals to the past (under his Greek name of Nineus).

He ran a fantastic day full of Greek history, myths, games and quizzes for the Year 3s to fully immerse themselves in the Ancient Greek world.

Here is what some of the Year 3s had to say about the day:

"I really liked the stories because they were full of detail and they were just really fun, I really enjoyed it!" Darcy—3LLB

"I liked the whole day but the main bit I liked was when Mark showed us all the equipment the soldiers used because they actually looked like the real thing." Prish—3ND/SW

This day has really inspired them in the lead up to their production 'Go for Gold' which is set around the origins of the Olympics which will be on Thursday 29th March at 2pm. The Constantine Road gate will be open at 1.50pm

Thank you to parents for providing the fantastic costumes and to the children for their excellent behaviour, Mark enjoyed working with you all again!

Year 3 Team

Year 5 Layer Marney Tower

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic Viking day at Layer Marney Tower. We learnt about invaders and settlers, home life and trade. We were able to

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making Viking jewellery, brooches and experienced weaving. Archery was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you to all parents for the wonderful costumes and to our parent helpers for their time.

EACH

Thank you to every one that contributed to the fund raising the school did last year for the charity EACH. We raised £2310.00 for them.

Hamilton Hub

Can we please remind you that if your 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

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

Foundation Production

The foundation classes have been working very hard on their class production.

Rainbow Parents are invited to come along and watch on Wednesday 21st March - 2pm start.

Sunshine Parents are invited to come along and watch on Thursday 22nd March - 2pm start.

The Constantine Road gate will be open at 1.50pm on both days.

Please note pushchairs/prams will not be allowed in the hall due to restricted space.

Easter Eggstravanganza!

The PSA are organising an Easter Eggstravanganza after school on Thursday 22nd March 3.20pm—5pm.

There is a variety of activities planned including an Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Hat Parade and a bake sale.

PSA Quiz

The new date for the PSA Quiz will be Friday 27th April 2018.

Parents Support Group

Please find attached details of a new support group that has been set up for parents in Colchester.

Pupil News

Congratulations to Callum Smith (1MA) who was awarded a 20 metre back crawl certificate at swimming.

Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2018

Wednesday 21 st March 2018	Foundation Play 2pm—RAINBOW PARENTS ONLY
Thursday 22 nd March 2018	Foundation Play 2pm—SUNSHINE PARENTS ONLY
Thursday 22 nd March 2018	PSA Easter Egg Hunt after school
Tuesday 27 th March 2018	Foundation trip to Marsh Farm
Thursday 29 th March 2018	Year 3 Production at 2pm gates open at 1.50pm
Thursday 29 th March 2018	Last Day of Term

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16 th April 2018	First Day of Term
Friday 27 th April 2018	Break the rules day
Friday 27 th April 2018	PSA Quiz
Tuesday 1 st May 2018	Year 1—Victorian Day
Thursday 3 rd May 2018	Non Pupil Day
Monday 14 th —Friday 18 th May 2018	Year 6—SATS Week
Thursday 24 th May 2018	Class Photos
Thursday 24 th May 2018	Year 5—Production
Monday 28 th May —Friday 1 st June 2018	Half Term
Monday 4 th June 2018	Non Pupil Day
Thursday 13 th June 2018	Celebration Evening
Monday 18 th June 2018	KS1—Sports Day at the Garrison Athletic Track
Monday 25 th June 2018	KS2—Sports Day at the Garrison Athletic Track
Friday 20 th July 2018	Last Day of Term

Email Information