



## Head Talk

Happy Christmas everyone! This is the last newsletter of 2018. Where has the year gone?! Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been incredibly busy as have the PSA. We have had our wonderful Christmas Market which raised a staggering **£3,704**. Year 5 have visited First Site for some art activities, Foundation Stage have had their Bauble Workshop. The infants have presented the Nativity over 2 nights, the juniors have presented the Christmas story from the point of view of soldiers in WWI over 2 nights and we have managed to have a Christmas dinner, Christmas jumper day and not forgetting the Year 4 play.

Christmas is a time of celebration, time with families and friends and a chance to rest for a few days. It can also be a stress filled time, trying to get presents wrapped, catering for the 5,000 and managing children's excitement until the 25th December. Enjoy the time you have. The Hamilton team wish all the children and families associated with the school a fabulous Christmas break and fantastic New Year. **Children are back at school on Thursday 3rd January 2018.**

## School Charity of the Year

The school council met earlier this month and have nominated Dementia UK as the school's charity for the year. We have already started collecting for them. Keep an eye out in the new year for a fundraising event. I am sure we will be able to collect some funds for a very important charity.

## School Uniform

Can I please remind parents to have a look at the school uniform policy. Some children have been coming to school in boots. This is not part of the policy. I have listed the policy below and it can also be found on the school website.

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

## Non-Pupil Days 2019-20

The Governors have agreed the Non-Pupil Days for the 2019/20 academic year. They are:

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Wednesday 4th September 2019

Monday 4th November 2019

Thursday 7th May 2020

Friday 22nd May 2020



## Year 3 – Buddhist Centre

On 28<sup>th</sup> November, Year 3 visited the Colchester Buddhist Centre as part of their RE work for this term. The children learned about Buddhism and the life of the Buddha. They also visited the shrine room and took part in a simple, guided meditation practice. It was a calm and insightful visit which all the children enjoyed.

## Year 5 – First Site

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Year 5 visited First Site for an exciting morning learning about the different exhibits that are currently on display. They were then given the opportunity to work alongside a resident artist at First Site and created 'space inspired' artwork. This ranged from a mobile that had different sculptural pieces hanging from it to printing and turning their printing into aeroplanes. Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their trip.

## Panto Visit

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November Years 1 and 2 went to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Mercury Theatre. We all had a wonderful time joining in with the songs and the dances. All the children were a credit to the school. They walked into the town very well and behaved impeccably during the production.

We would like to thank all the parent helpers who walked the children to the theatre and stayed to help during the show.

KS 1 Team

## Year 4 Musical Production

Year 4 performed their epic play "Rock Bottom" to the school and their parents this week. The play, set in the Stone Age, was an hour and 20 minutes of songs and jokes and was performed brilliantly by all the children who have worked so hard to produce a stunning show.

Mrs Norris

## Christmas Songs performed by Foundation

We would like the Foundation children to wear Christmas jumpers when they perform to parents on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Rainbows at 2.30pm Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Sunshine at 2.30pm.

## Christmas Market Results

First of all, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the preparation and running of a very successful Christmas this year.

It was wonderful to see so many happy smiling faces on the day, with so much fun had by the whole community of Hamilton children, parents and friends.

An amazing £3,704.00 was raised. This is a whopping £1,077.00 higher than the great result last year!!

This is the outcome of an incredible amount of work by the PSA team in the weeks up to the event along with all the brilliant and enthusiastic helpers and volunteers on the Saturday and in the clean-up operation on Sunday.

A big thank you also to the generosity of all of the stall-holders, sponsors and donors without whom we would not have had the success we have achieved.

I hope everyone feels suitably proud of what we have collectively achieved. Once more, it is a shining example of what the community of Hamilton achieves when it pulls together.  
Verka Stokes

## A Christmas thought from Revd Paul, Rector of Christ Church

'The Gift of Christmas'



I have a list, a Christmas gift list. What gift shall I give? How do I judge? Will they like it or hide it or even worse give gushing thanks for something they will never use and hide away or even give away? And I wonder what difference will my gift make to the one who receives it? Will it have the wow factor, be seen an act of wonderful love and generosity received with joy.

What difference will your gift make? When Jesus came on that first Christmas, he came to make a difference. He was God's amazing gift that would make a lasting difference and change the lives of everyone who were part of his story and indeed our story.

It was Mary who received and carried the gift of life within her obediently loving and caring for Jesus; her life was changed forever. The shepherds received the gift of Jesus with angels singing and journey to be the first people to meet Jesus. People saw the difference in them as they shared their story.

Magi, Wise and kingly men came to worship the new born King. They had seen his star rising bringing precious gifts but in receiving the greatest gift are transformed in heart and mind returning home to share this most amazing story.

Christmas is a time of giving and receiving. May we be open to receive the greatest gift of Christmas, Jesus Christ our saviour and friend. To receive this gift will surely make a difference to all our lives.

I hope to see you over Christmas; our services are set out below. And so, may the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.

Happy Christmas

Revd Paul

## Christ Church Colchester Christmas Services



*December 23<sup>rd</sup> December*  
6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

*December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve*  
6.00 pm Carols for Kids  
11.30 pm Midnight Communion

*December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day*  
10.00am Family Communion Service

### Non-Pupil Day Change of Date

Just a reminder that the Non-Pupil Day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 has been **CHANGED** to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019.

Therefore, all children are **due back to school** after Christmas on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.

### Poppy Appeal

Thank you very much for helping with the Poppy Appeal. We raised an amazing £174.30.



## Calendar Dates

### Autumn Term 2018

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Christmas Songs performed by Rainbow Class - 2.30pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Christmas Songs performed by Sunshine Class – 2.30pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Last Day of Term

### Spring Term 2019

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2019	First Day of Term
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Year 2 – Great Fire of London Day
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	3SW visit to Pizza Express
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 5 - Assembly
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	3JA visit to Pizza Express
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Individual Photos
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 3 – Egyptian Day
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 2 - Assembly
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 3 - Assembly
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2019	Half Term
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 4 - Assembly
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Learning Conference Week - NO CLUBS
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Year 1 - Assembly

### Email Information

If contacting the school via email please use:

[parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk](mailto:parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk)