



## Head Talk

We had an excellent visit from the Para Band last week. The children were treated to a wonderful performance by the live band. We were very grateful for their visit and it shows how well the local community works with us. Next week Year 2 will be having a day at school researching into the Great Fire of London.

Do keep an eye on the school website. We are using our Twitter feed to show you some of the events taking place at school and to celebrate the brilliant work that the children are producing. You don't need to have a twitter membership to view this content as it is just displayed on our site.

Have a great couple of weeks.

## Bike to school

I have noticed that more children are beginning to cycle to school. This is something that I would like to encourage. I would however like to remind children that if they are cycling to school, they **must wear a helmet**. If a child is seen arriving at school with a bike, but no helmet, I will be asking them not to bring their bike until they wear a helmet too.

## Outdoor PE and Clothing

With the weather turning so cold, please ensure that children come to school with appropriate P.E. kits such as warm jogging bottoms and sweatshirts. Outdoor P.E. sessions will continue during most weathers, and children need to be adequately and warmly dressed. Many thanks.

## Parking and Residents

Can we please ask that parents are considerate to the feelings of the residents in Constantine Road and Hamilton Road when dropping off and collecting your child/ren from school. Please do not sit in your cars with the engines running.

## Half Term Holiday Orchestra

Colne Valley Youth Orchestra is holding its Holiday Orchestra on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 February 2019 in Lion Walk Church. It is aimed at musicians working at Grades 2 – 5 on their instruments, including clarinet, flute, violin, trumpet etc. It is an enjoyable two days rounded off with a concert on the Tuesday night. Price £35. Please contact [claire.budgen@sky.com](mailto:claire.budgen@sky.com) for further information.

## Essex Libraries

Essex County Council is consulting on its proposed strategy for library services over the next five years. The strategy sets out the priorities for library services, based on public feedback from a county-wide survey of users and non-users earlier in 2018, to shape a service that's modern, focused and fit for the way we live now and in the future.

The consultation launched on 29 November and lasts 12 weeks, closing on **Wednesday 20 February 2019**. During this time there will be information drop-ins at every local library.

Find out more and complete the survey online at [www.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation](http://www.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation).

Families can complete the survey together, or as individuals. Children and young people under 16 are asked for parental permission at the outset. A quarter of the responses so far are from families and one in 20 are from under 16-year olds. We want to hear from as many children and young people as possible. The survey can also be done over the phone on 0345 603 7639 and is available in large print, on paper or as an [EasyRead](#) version as well. Call the number above or visit your local library to request any of these.

## Foundation Trip

The date for the Foundation visit to Danbury Park has been changed to **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019**.



## PSA Quiz - 'Save the date!'

School quiz fundraiser on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Forms will be coming out soon so start organising your team (a maximum of 6 people).

## Snow Days

I thought it would be helpful to clarify what the school will do if we have heavy snowfall over the next few weeks.

The school will aim to be open every day.

Dependent on the amount of snow that falls, we may have to have a gradual opening for children and staff. Some members of staff live a distance away from the school, which could mean that they would not be in school before the school day begins.

If this is the case, we would place children in the school halls with the staff that are on site until we had enough staff to place children in their classrooms. Children would enter school at the normal opening time.

If for any reason we could not open, we would put a message through our social media accounts, via parent mail, on the front page of the school website and via Essex County Council's website. Local radio will not be informed, as in the past, as this service has now been stopped.

Please be aware that the school office may not be able to take telephone calls early in the morning, as staff may not have been able to get to site early enough. If there are no messages from the school about a closure, then assume that we are open.

If conditions deteriorate during the day and it becomes unsafe for staff to travel home, classes may well be joined together so that staff can be released early.

The school takes the view that children enjoy the snow and we would therefore encourage them to

go out for break and lunch and to play in the snow. Please ensure your child comes to school in the appropriate clothing. Children would be able to store wellie boots outside of the classroom.

## Non-Pupil Days 2019-20

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

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

## Pupil News

Congratulations to Adanna Udechuku (3SW) who passed her first LAMDA acting exam in November with a 'Distinction'. Adanna scored an amazing 96/100 points!



## Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2019	
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 at 2.30pm
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 at 2.30pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 3 – Assembly at 2.30pm
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 at 2.30pm
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 6 – Siege of Colchester Guided Walk
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 at 2.30pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Foundation trip to Danbury Park
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Year 3 – Play at 2.00pm
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Last Day of Term

Summer Term 2019	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019	First Day of Term
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May & Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2019	Non-Pupil Days
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019	Half Term

### Email Information

If contacting the school via email please use:

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