



## Head Talk

Welcome back from your half term break. I do hope you had a chance to rest and relax and enjoy some of the excellent weather.

The children have returned well to school this week and we have already started off as we mean to go on! Some Year 6 children have been attending booster classes for writing, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling before school in the mornings, some Year 5 and 6 children represented the school at Cross Country on Wednesday and they did very well, Year 5 have visited Wagamama's in town, Year 6 have had a tour around the town looking at the Siege of Colchester and finally Year 4 performed their class assembly to parents on Tuesday afternoon.

Coming up next week are the learning conferences. Thank you to all of the parents that have booked their slots. As a quick reminder, all meetings will now be taking place in the junior hall. Children's work will be available in classrooms for parents to look at before or after their conference and the school bells will ring as normal.

Have a good couple of weeks.

## Behaviour Event

Thank you to all of the families that have signed up for the Essex Steps Behaviour Event on **Tuesday 12th March**. We currently have 42 parents coming along. This is an event for parents only, so no children are allowed. The school gates will be open so that parking is available on the junior playground. We will be **starting at 7pm sharp** and we expect to be finished by 9pm. If you would like to attend, please do sign up via parentmail. We will have coffee, tea and biscuits available on the night.

## Year 6 Philip Morant Event

Just a quick reminder to Year 6 parents that Scott Holder (Headteacher of Philip Morant) and Peter Gibbon (Assistant Head of Philip Morant) will be at Hamilton on **Wednesday 13th March at 7pm**. The meeting will last about an hour and will give parents the opportunity to have an open discussion about provision at Philip Morant in Year 7. Please sign up via parentmail if you are coming along.

## Parking

I would like to remind parents that Hamilton and Constantine Road are resident permit parking only for most of the day. Restrictions are lifted for a short period to allow parents to park to drop off or pick up children at the beginning and end of the day. If you arrive early you will be outside of the restrictions lift and therefore you will be liable for a parking fine. I always encourage families to travel to school without a car, if possible, as this enables children to build their stamina, have an active life and save fuel costs! I would like to remind parents to park sensitively as both roads are primarily for residents to park. Poor parking may result in enforcement officers and further restrictions in parking around the school.

## World Book Day 2019!

Hamilton School will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March and would like pupils to dress up as their favourite book characters. Hamilton's Book Day is a day later than the international celebration so it doesn't clash with learning conferences on Thursday 7th; this will avoid meetings between the likes of Dumbledore and Willy Wonka!

We will also be doing a **book swap** this year and ask all children to donate a book (old or new) which will then be given to a child in the parallel class and they



will receive a book in exchange! Please could these books be brought into school asap.

## Year 3 – Egyptian Day

On 8th February, Year 3 took part in an Egyptian theme day and all had the opportunity to dress up as ancient Egyptians, pharaohs, gods and even mummies! We began the day by learning about the pharaohs of Egypt and examined some Egyptian artefacts, including a genuine piece of mummy bandage! After break, we split in two groups. One group played an ancient board game called Hounds and Jackals (a bit like snakes and ladders); the other group did some Egyptian Maths and learned how to measure in cubits. Then we swapped over. In the afternoon, we learned about what happens following the death of a mighty Pharaoh, including the mummification process, burial ceremonies and, finally, the crowning of a new Pharaoh. We ended the day by doing some Egyptian hunting which involved foam javelins. It was an interesting and fun filled day!

## Year 5 – Visit to Wagamama

This week, Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Wagamama in Colchester. Wagamama is a British chain of restaurants which serve Asian food based on Japanese cuisine.

The children enjoyed a tasting of unusual spices and sauces prepared and served in the restaurant (including cherry soy sauce, ginger and pickled veg) and learned about the sustainability ethos which Wagamama works towards. We talked with a waitress about reusing plastic, energy types and about how food waste and cooking oil are recycled.

Next it was time to blend our own fruit and veg juices! The favourite in 5AW was the mango, apple and ginger juice but we managed to drink them all. Delicious!

After this, Ash the head chef took us down to the pantry to show us the imported, authentic Asian

ingredients used in their dishes and then off to the kitchen to see how they cook. We also learned about career paths in catering and the various jobs involved in running a restaurant.

Finally, we ate an amazing lunch together. A huge thanks to all the staff who made our day so special and informative. They really treated us to a very special experience.

## E-Safety

As you may be aware, E-Safety has been highlighted in the news recently. It has been confirmed by NSPCC that Momo is a hoax. However, in light of this I will be visiting assemblies next week to discuss online safety at an age appropriate level regarding such issue. E-safety is embedded within our computing curriculum. I will be sharing this clip with the children <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/its-personal/when-you-see-something-scary-online>

As a school we do recommend having open discussions regularly regarding online safety with your children.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Gilvray  
Computer Champion

## Exploring Colchester's Rich History

Year 6 took a detailed look at the history of our town on Thursday, with a guided walk around some of the key locations from the 1648 Siege of Colchester.

The knowledgeable guides, complete with period dress, brought history to life with their stories of one-eye gunner Thompson; how Lucas and Lisle met their grisly fate; and just what the Royalists sent back when the Parliamentarians sent notes persuading them to surrender! For more information, ask your Year 6 child for a repeat performance the next time you're in town.



## Cross Country

The Year 3 and 4 cross country races against 24 other schools took place before half term. The children thoroughly enjoyed the morning and gave maximum effort in their races. The final team scores were Year 3 Boys 5th, Year 3 Girls 4th, Year 4 Boys 3rd and Year 4 Girls 2nd. Well done to all of you in your first experience of cross country running.



The Year 5 and 6 races took place this week on a warm and sunny February morning. The children showed their experience, and all ran brilliantly. With the lowest scores winning, we achieved first team placings in all 4 categories of Year 5 Boys, Year 5 Girls, Year 6 Boys and Year 6 Girls which was a tremendous result for the school and means all Year 5 and 6 teams have qualified for the county finals in April. Details to follow soon. Individual medallists for Hamilton were Naomi Sandercock, 1st, Nina Godden-Murphy 3rd, Kobe Rooney 3rd and Kester Waterman 2nd.



Thank you very much to all the parents who attended and helped at both races.

## Learning Conference

Apart from Recorder Club there will be **NO** clubs in Learning Conference week 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

## SATS Evening

There will be a SATS information evening for Year 6 parents on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March between 7-8pm. The meeting will be in Mr O'Loughlin's class room.

## Year 3 Production

Year 3 will be performing their play 'A Glint of Gold' on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The play starts at 2pm with the gates opening at 1.50pm for parents and shut promptly at 2.10pm with no admittance after that time.

## Year 1 Assembly

Just a reminder that the Year 1 assembly is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Parents are invited to come along. The assembly will start at 2.30pm

## Colchester Royal Grammar School Science Fest 2019

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March Colchester Royal Grammar School will be having a Science Fest. Please see attached for more information.

## PSA Valentine Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone that donated and bought cakes on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February. We raised £267.00.

## Essex Police – District Statistics

Please find attached the District Statistics for January from Essex Police.

## Topic Overviews

Please find attached this terms topic overviews for your child.



## Calendar Dates

Spring Term 2019	
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
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Understanding Behaviour Meeting 7-9pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Year 6 Philip Morant Meeting 7pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Year 6 SATS Information Evening 7-8pm
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
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2019	Year 5 Play
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019	Half Term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2019	Non-Pupil Day
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Rainbow Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Sunshine Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Year 2 Play
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Year 6 Play in the afternoon
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Year 6 Play in the evening

### Email Information

If contacting the school via email please use:

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