

Hamilton School

Striving to be a great school where people work together to transform lives

Newsletter

Sept / Oct 2021

No. 38

A warm
welcome
to all new
students and
their families

Half Term:

Mon 25 Oct to
Fri 29 Oct

Christmas Hols

Mon 20 Dec to
Mon 3 Jan 2022

Half Term:

Mon 21 Feb to
Fri 25 Feb

Autumn Term 2:

Mon 1 Nov to
Fri 17 Dec

Spring Term 1:

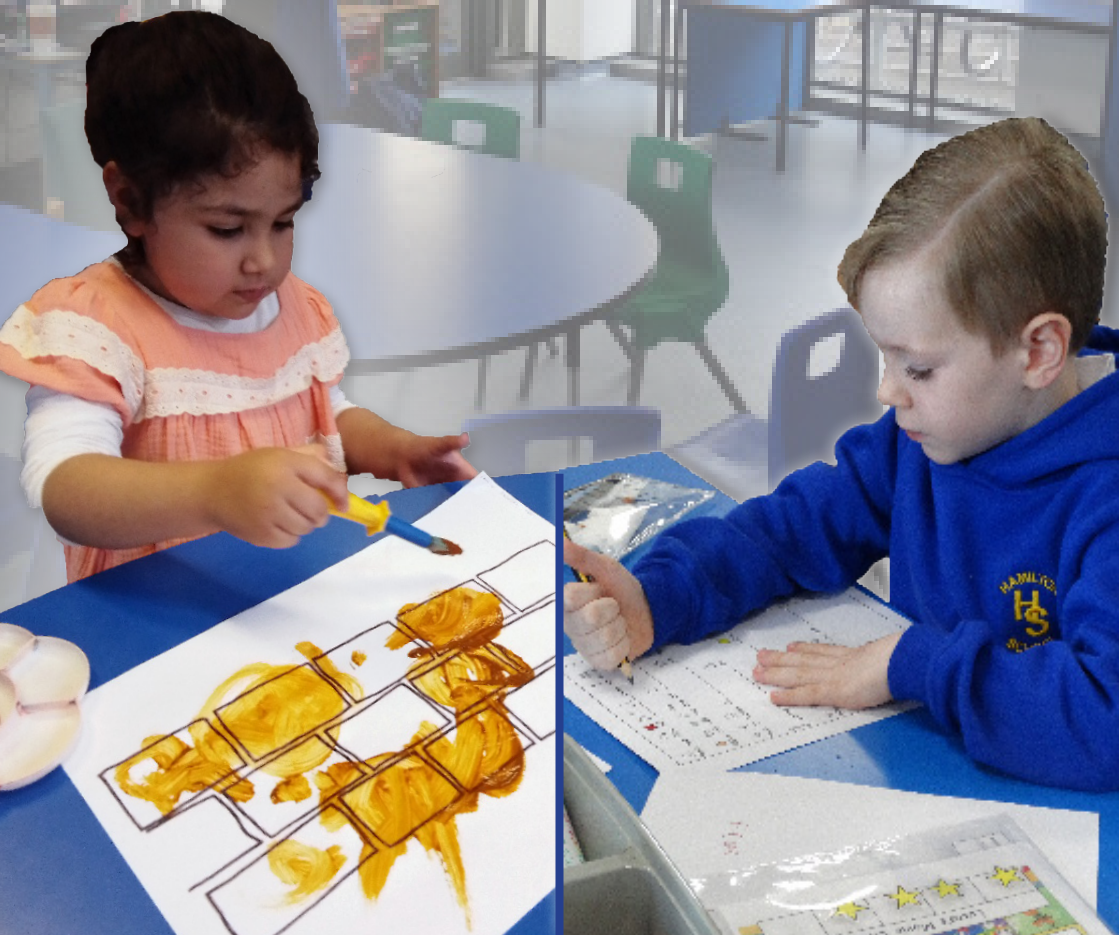
Tues 4 Jan to
Fri 18 Feb

Spring Term 2:

Mon 28 Feb to
Fri 8 Apr

 HamiltonSch

 @HamiltonSch



Classroom I

What an incredible start to Hamilton and the school year!

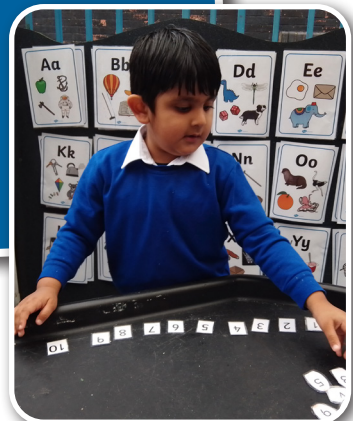
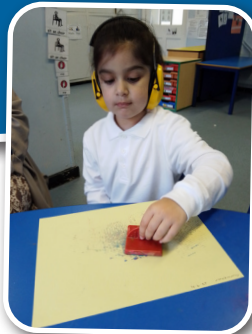
FS have had so much fun exploring their topic nursery rhymes. We have focused on a rhyme each week throughout English, Maths and Curriculum and all engaged well. One rhyme in particular we all liked was Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. We sang this and began to match images and words linked to the rhyme. We counted stars made of foil and rice during Maths and made our own salt dough stars in Art.

We have enjoyed exploring glow in the dark objects and light up toys in the sensory room as part of understanding the world. We have shown great interest in exploring cause and effect toys and shown we can activate different switches.

We have made use of our outdoor space a lot this half term. Each week we go to the Hamilton garden where we have planted our own lettuces, beetroots and cabbages. We then picked these and used them in our cooking lessons.

We have tasted many new foods and began to identify things we like and dislike. We all had great fun in the fruit-tasting lesson. The class team are excited to continue all of this fun learning and are all so proud of how our new shining stars have settled into life at Hamilton School, well done FS!

FS



Classroom 2



We have had a fun filled return to school for class IJH. Over the course of the term, we have been busy taking part in our 'light it up' topic. The children had such fun exploring a range of light up toys and making light themed artwork.

In cooking we have been getting creative making a range of foods such as fruit salads and hot drinks from chai to chocolate.



IJH

Classroom 3



Pupils have settled in really well in their new class. They have been busy exploring different types of sensory play through sensory pouches and sensory books linked to the story 'Three Little Pigs'. Pupils have loved exploring and playing with light up toys, cooking, feeling and tasting different textures of food and taking part in our 'light it up' topic.

ISR



Classroom 4



This half term in class 2LM our topic has been Lights, Camera, Action! We have enjoyed making shadows in different areas of the school, creating a Hollywood walk of fame, eating and cooking lots of popcorn and making tickets for the main event. We explored the films we liked and disliked and even created our very own classroom cinema to watch a film!

2LM



Classroom 5



In 2CP this term we have really enjoyed seeing all the children back in class and enjoying the structure of school life.

The children have enjoyed cooking together, exploring an array of sensory trays and getting messy whilst creating masterpieces in Art.

They have enjoyed exploring different chemical changes in Science, especially with their milk art and they have really enjoyed karaoke in Music where they have been making noises and speaking into the microphone.

All our children have been really engaged in their Maths and English work and have really enjoyed the working in a group with their new friends.

They are making great strides in their learning whilst having lots of fun and bonding with their staff and peers.

2CP



Classroom 6



2LG have had a very fun start to the year! Our topic is Music, Lights, Action and we have been very creative, exploring light and dark. We have loved making our own popcorn in science and creating our own popcorn art. We enjoyed making rainbow toast using different colours and even made our own microphones to have a sing! Our music lessons have been really fun, playing the big drums with the music man.

2LG



First half-term of the new school year!

This half term has continued to provide challenge for everyone here at Hamilton. COVID-19 continues to impact the school – thank you for your co-operation with that. The staff worked incredibly hard to try and resolve the transport issues that blighted the start of the school year. It really felt like a double whammy that was out of our control!

We are evolving our approach to managing Covid as the situation develops. We are having to make different decisions in different scenarios. We hope that you understand this. Balancing your families and your child's safety with their learning

Staffing

I have not been at Hamilton as much this half-term. I recently finished as interim head teacher at Langley School in Sutton Coldfield. The staff have worked very well in my absence. This half-term has seen the departure of some great staff – Serena Duncan, Lindsay Cotton (Inclusion Manager) and Rhiannon Lewis (TA). They have all gone on to work with other services where their knowledge of autism and its impact will be invaluable. I am proud that they will continue to do great work to the benefit of others.

We recently appointed a new teacher, Harmandeep Hayer, who will be starting straight after half-term. We will also, hopefully, have appointed a new Inclusion Manager and head teacher by the time we break up for half-term!

Ringing school if your child is not going to be attending school

It really helps us to save money if you can let us know at school by 7.30 am if your child is not going to be attending school on the day. This is money we could spend on more resources rather than supply cover as we always re-deploy staff. Can I please urge your co-operation with this and thank people who do it.

Final thoughts

There have been many challenges to deal with this half-term. The students are generally well settled, despite the regular changes. I have real concerns for the winter in terms of Covid. The situation in schools is very difficult but the public messaging from some MP's and others suggests that it isn't a big deal anymore. The case numbers are incredibly high and we are only too aware of the higher impact of Covid on people with SEND and certain communities. Please continue to treat things seriously and be cautious.

I wish you all a happy half-term. School resumes on the 1st November.

Jon Harris

Headteacher Appointed

We are delighted to have appointed Katie Williams as Head Teacher from January 2022. Katie has worked at Hamilton since 2007 and she has been promoted from class teacher to

Assistant Head to Deputy Head during her time here. Katie stepped up to manage the school on the days when Jon was helping at Langley School this year and she got a real taste of the role. She has lots of ideas to improve the school while maintaining the 'Hamilton Way'. We are all really looking forward to working with her in her new role!

#NextChapter



Friday November 19th 2021

Colour me in Pudsey





The topic we have been looking at is Music, Lights, Action.

We have all worked well in Maths, and in English, we have loved learning and looking at new stories.

We have had a lot of fun in Art, making our own movie clipboards, and have used various tools and different skills to complete the activities.

We have all loved science this term! It has been fun looking at the different reactions when we mix bicarbonate and vinegar together! We have also explored different light sources and learning how to turn things on and off. It was exciting to use the different lights and torches.

In cooking, we have made lots of yummy things, from pizza faces to brownies! We really loved trying the brownies.

It has been a very exciting term in 2LCo!

2LCo



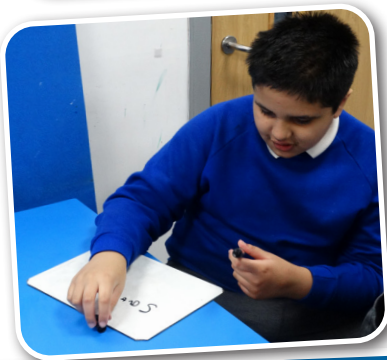
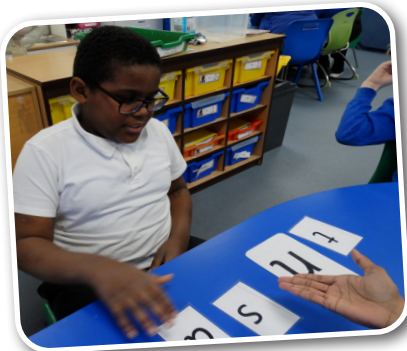
Classroom 7



This half term our topic is, 'Light it up'. Within this topic pupils have been looking at a range of colourful, bright activities. This includes finger painting, collages, messy and sensory play. Pupils have also been using flashlights, exploring bright and dark rooms and playing with glow sticks in dark rooms. Pupils have drawn around shadows and observed their own shadows on the playground. We thoroughly enjoyed making glow in the dark and bright coloured sensory bags.

Classroom 8

ISS



**This half term our topic has been
"Music, Lights, Action"**

**All of the children settled in well to 2BJ
in September and we have all been
working hard.**

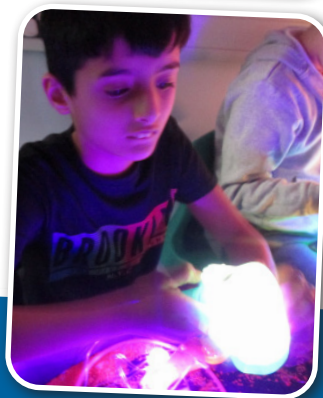
**We have been doing a lot of different
activities in art, which we have all
enjoyed very much. We have made a
junk model camera using cereal boxes and craft supplies.
We have also made our own puppets that we used in a
small puppets show with our friends.**

**We have made our own popcorn to eat while we enjoyed
watching a small clip of the Lion King.**

**We can't wait for our next topic, "Come and join the
celebration!"**

2BJ

Classroom 9

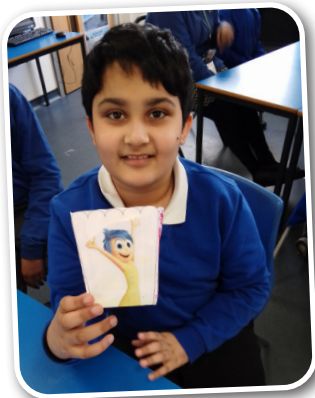


This term 2SD topic has been "Lights, Camera, and Action". The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and crafting many items in art and science with different materials. Some of the things the pupils have made are lanterns, puppets, stars and trophies. In science we have been looking at the different sources of lights, including inside lights and outdoor lights. The pupils really enjoyed sorting and matching the different sources. Lastly, our popcorn afternoon went down a treat with the pupils, they enjoyed scooping and filling their popcorn into their individual boxes and then eating it.

All the pupils have worked hard this term and are excited for our next topic, which is "come and join the celebration."

Classroom 10

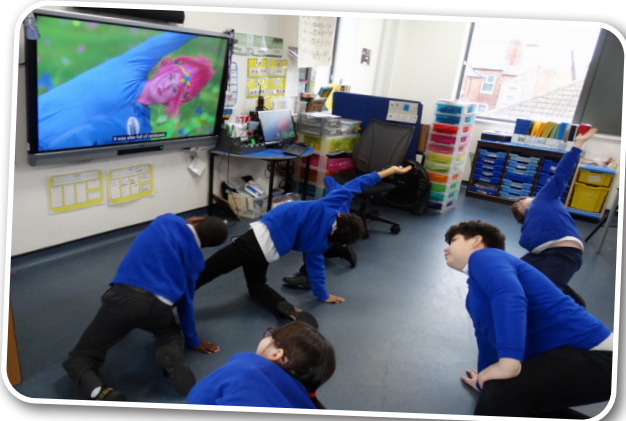
2SD



This term in 2PB our topic has been 'On the Box'. We have been learning about the different features of films when comparing old and new films. We have also learnt about the different film genres and discussed our favorite films. In science we did lots of different experiments with popcorn, including seeing how many cups of popcorn could fit into a cup full of milk. We used so much popcorn this term we had to make our own popcorn boxes in art to hold it all. Finally, in cooking we have been making lots of cinema snacks like chocolate, cake pops and guacamole.

2PB

Classroom II



In Class 2LC, our topic this half term is 'On the Box'. We have enjoyed sharing with each other the different programmes, movies and games that we like. We have compared old and new Mickey Mouse cartoons as well as thought about different genres of movies. In Art, we have made a paper plushie of our favourite character and a cardboard vehicle for them to travel in. We have also created a puppet theatre to create a show of our own. In cooking, we have made "movie" cupcakes and Mickey Mouse biscuits.

In computing, we have created factfiles of our favourite characters and also written a movie review for our class book. Related to this, in PHSE, we have had a focus on e-safety and safe online practices so that we can enjoy using technology 'On the box', appropriately and without harm.

Classroom 12

2LC



**New School website
coming soon....**

www.hamilton.bham.sch.uk

PARENTS AND CARERS MEETING SURVEY



Pre-Covid19, we held Parents and Carers meeting once every half term at school. This gave Parents the chance to meet together and discuss important topics such as, anxiety, sensory issues, diet, communication, school improvement, and lots of other things!

Could you fill in this Google form via the link below to let me know how you want to see the meetings held in the future?

Sarah Eaton

<https://forms.gle/JzAeepo7pTHy9veV6>

SCHOOL UNIFORM

All the school uniform for Hamilton is available online. Here is the link:



Click to visit School Trends

<https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/HamiltonSchoolB218AH>

If you are having any problems buying school uniform this way please phone the school on 0121 464 1676

Spotlight Interview



ICT



Manager

Simon Cordon

ICT Network Manager

What does your role entail?

My main roles are:

- *Looking after all aspects of the school Network (Servers, Computers & Laptops) giving all students and staff the tools to work to the best of their abilities every day.*
- *Managing and maintaining the school website and Social Media platforms enabling open communication with parents on school matters and information.*
- *Can provide guidance and support to parents and on aspects of ICT and E-Safety*
- *Produce the Half termly School Newsletter*
- *School Photography*

You mention guidance and support to parents, Please elaborate.

Online safety is very important to all children to protect them from harm. I can point you to information from Anti-virus to parental controls for your devices, free applications to help support your children at home. Please email me at scordon@hamilton.bham.sch.uk with any IT related questions and I will do my best to assist you.

If money was no object, what would you introduce at school?

I would build an Immersive Interactive Sensory experience area. An Immersive Interactive Sensory Environment provides an alternative learning environment for staff to inclusively engage, stimulate and engage anyone who walks through its doors. Interactive technology is used to instantly transform the space into an immersive multisensory experience. Mood lighting, wall and floor projections, music, and aromas will transport you from the deep blue sea to the outskirts of space. Taking you out of reality and into a deeply immersive sensory world.

e-Safety

for parents and carers

PARENTAL CONTROLS

internet
matters.org

Parental controls are the names for a group of settings that put you in control of what content your child can see. Combined with privacy settings these can help you protect your children from the things they shouldn't see or experience online.

Many parents are put off using controls and settings as they think they will be difficult to set up, or complicated to use. With step by steps guides provided by Internetmatters.org, we can help make it simple and straightforward.

The below website contains instructions for all sorts of devices from phones to computers, entertainment apps, Social Media platforms and Broadband providers.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>





Friends of Hamilton



LoveBrum is a registered charity that supports hidden gem projects across Birmingham that are often volunteer led and that deliver real change, with outcomes that can be seen, measured, enjoyed, and loved.

They support the 'hard-to-reach' projects; those causes that do not receive the platform or funding that they probably deserve. They aim to support over 36 projects per year, and to reach out to all corners of our city to remind people how great Birmingham is.

Every penny raised from individual memberships and fundraising stays in Birmingham and goes straight to the chosen causes.

Friends of Hamilton School applied for £2,000 replace existing outdoor play equipment which is broken and unfit for purpose and replace it with new items. If you would like to see the video that Mrs Carter made about the project you can see it here:

<https://lovebrum.org.uk/cause/hamilton-school/>

We were so excited to be successful and we've asked Sovereign to supply new play equipment. We're hoping that it can be installed soon.



Are you entitled?

Even if your child has a packed lunch it's worth registering for free school meals.

This is because the school gets £1,300 of extra money for every pupil on free school meals and we use this money to buy extra things for pupils like speech and language therapy and resources.

It also means that if your child is isolating due to covid you'll get vouchers from the school and in the holidays the Government and the Council have been paying for vouchers as well.

If your employment situation has changed or you've not let us know before that you're on benefits it's definitely worth looking into. If you claim:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)**
- **Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit, provided the parents are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190**
- **Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax credit**
- **Universal Credit – for those applying on or after 1 April 2018, their household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits they get)**

You will be eligible for free school meals. Please let school know and bring in or send in proof of benefits.

It's definitely worth doing

Tel: 0121 464 1676
Email: enquiry@hamilton.bham.sch.uk
Web: www.hamilton.bham.sch.uk