

Hamilton School

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



HamiltonSch



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Newsletter

Nov / Dec 2021

No. 39

Autumn Term 2:

Mon 1 Nov to
Fri 17 Dec

Spring Term 2:

Mon 28 Feb to
Fri 8 Apr

Christmas Hols

Mon 20 Dec to
Mon 3 Jan 2022

Half Term:

Mon 11 Apr to
Fri 22 Apr

Spring Term 1:

Tues 4 Jan to
Fri 18 Feb

Half Term:

Mon 21 Feb to
Fri 25 Feb



Classroom I

This half term FS have enjoyed their topic 'festivals and celebrations.' The children focused each week on a different festival and explored this across the curriculum. Some of these include Diwali, Bonfire night, Remembrance Day, Children in Need, Eid, St Andrew's Day and will finish with Christmas.

One of the favourites for our children was Diwali- the festival of light. The children made their own salt dough diva lamps, made rangoli patterns with coloured rice, explored a range of lights in Science, and began to sort the difference between light and dark.

Children made a range of foods in cooking such as chapatti, vegetable stir-fry, pudsey cupcakes, chocolate hedgehogs and soup. They enjoyed tasting these along with the different spices we added.

Children enjoyed the class sensory story 'The invitation.' This was explored in small groups and we used sensory props to support with understanding. This half term we have really pushed on our mark making and fine motor skills. We have been making marks in a range of materials such as; shaving foam, corn flour and water beads.

Finally, we have carried out many Science experiments. We have made slime, explosive pumpkins, dancing rice and are excited to make Santa's magic milk! Another fantastic half term, well done FS!

FS



Classroom 2

It's been a time to celebrate in IJH! We have been getting stuck in to celebrations from around the world, from Diwali to Thanksgiving, and Remembrance to Christmas.

The pupils have engaged in a wide range of creative mini projects to make decorations for our topic. It has brought even more colour and joy to the classroom than ever before.

As part of our English lessons, we have explored the magical world of nursery rhymes. The pupils have loved exploring sensory trays filled with characters from the traditional tales.

From everyone in IJH we hope you have a lovely break and look forward to more adventure in the new year.



Classroom 3

We have had a fun filled half term in class 1HH. During this half term we have been busy with our topic 'Let's Celebrate'. The children have enjoyed learning about different celebrations through exploring celebrations in lessons like art, cooking and music. In English the children have focused on 'The Hungry Caterpillar', they have explored the story through sensory pouches, sensory books and sensory play.



1HH

Classroom 4

In Class 2LM our topic this half term has been 'come and join the celebrations!'

We have enjoyed learning about winter celebrations and events such as Remembrance Day, Children in Need, Halloween, Diwali and St Andrew's Day and Christmas.

In cooking we have loved making Pudsey cupcakes, firework cookies and rice crispy reindeers! In EAD (Expressive Art and Design) we have enjoyed making flags, cards, poppies and Divas. We even made our own fireworks in Science!



2LM

Classroom 5

This term 2CP have been "Joining in the Celebration". We have celebrated birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and many more events. We have made Christmas sensory pouches, completed a treasure hunt for Thanksgiving and had a smash cake party. We've had a great time learning to bake cakes and follow recipes.



2CP



Classroom 6

Class LG has enjoyed their Topic -
'Come and Join the Celebration'

They have explored and taken part in lots of different celebrations such as Remembrance Day, Diwali, Birthdays, Children in Need day and Christmas through cooking, sensory play, creative activities and sensory stories. We are excited for our next terms topic, which is "Sensational". Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and New Year!



It's the end of an incredible year. 2021 has been so challenging in so many ways. It's also the end of a really tough term. It's a shame that Covid is still such a big issue in school life and has made things very complicated at times. We haven't been able to do our festive events and that's a real shame.

We are saying goodbye to a couple of staff this term. Dujoun has been with us for a long time as a TA and is going to work at Oscott Manor with many of our old students and many of our future students! Nisha has been with us since 2017 and is moving to Coventry – she has a job as a TA down there. We thank them both for their work and wish them well.

This is also my final newsletter as Head teacher at Hamilton School. I am going to work for the Education Impact Academy Trust (EIAT) with children and young people aged 2-25. I have been here since September 2013 and it has been a real journey! I am proud of the work that the staff have done to make it the great school that it is. No school is perfect but I know that the staff work incredibly hard, in difficult circumstances, to ensure that the students have a really good experience day in day out. I have always put our work with families at the centre of our approach and I hope that we have helped you in your lives. At a time when there is a complete lack of integrity, professionalism, empathy and talent at the centre of power and decision making and influence in our country, I am proud that staff at the school have worked in the impressive way they have during these times. Please be active in your communities to demand better things for the country and to ensure that you can exercise your voting rights at any future elections.

Katie Williams will now lead the school forward and she is fully equipped to do so having been a key part of the school's success. There is also a very committed senior and extended leadership team in the school supporting the work of staff. 2022 will present more challenges and it is vital that we continue to work together to transform lives.

I wish you all every success for the future and thank you for your support.



Jon Harris

Spotlight Interview



Inclusion



Manager

Charlie Phillpotts

NEW Inclusion Manager

Tell us about yourself.

I have worked within the specialist educational sector for 9 years, working with different age groups of children from 4-30 years old. This has allowed me to gain experience in many areas ranging from school life, adolescent, and residential placements. Supporting individuals and their families with many barriers they may face.

Tell us about your new role. What are you excited about?

My new role at Hamilton is a role that will support the school in many different areas ranging from; EHCP plans, monitoring attendance and supporting families with this. As part of the behavior team, monitoring the behavior data and implementing support strategies for both at school and home life.

I'm excited to become part of the Hamilton team, building and maintaining positive relationships with our children and their families. Supporting them to gain access to the support they need.

Tell us about a career highlight.

There have been many highlights throughout my career, supporting individuals in a classroom setting and celebrating those small achievements and supporting individual in a residential setting progressing into a supported living accommodation.

What do you think you will bring to Hamilton?

Throughout my career I have been given the opportunity to work alongside a wide range of professionals, giving me transferable skills and knowledge that can be an asset to Hamilton. Together with my alternative thinking and problem solving.

Classroom 7

This term, our topic has been Come and Join the Celebration.

We have looked at different celebrations throughout the term, such as Diwali, Remembrance day, Children in need and Christmas.

We have all worked well in Maths and English. We have loved learning and looking at a variety of stories.

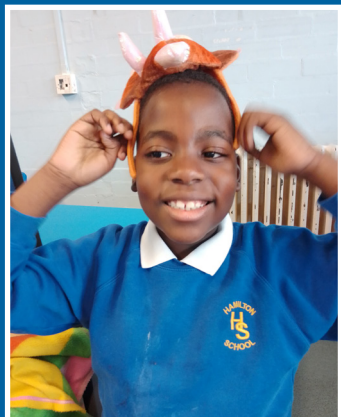
We have had a lot of fun in Art. We have participated in making various art pictures relating to the topic we have been looking at and have used various tools and different skills to complete the activities.

We have all loved science this term! We have had fun participating in different science experiments, from observing the reaction of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to making colourful slime!

In cooking, we have made lots of yummy things relating to the celebration we have been looking at. We have especially enjoyed making cupcakes and biscuits.

It has been an exciting term in 2LCo!

Merry Christmas from all of the staff and pupils in 2LCO.



Classroom 8

This half term in ISS, our topic has been "Come and Join the Celebration!" We have had a lot of fun learning about lots of different festivals such as Thanksgiving, Diwali, Bonfire night, Hanukah, Remembrance Day and Christmas.



We completed some fantastic artwork such as painting, stamping, splashing and many more. In science, we have been looking at colours and how we can mix them to make new colours. Some of our experiments included, melting different colour ice cubes, walking water, underwater fireworks, mixing colours in milk to create colour spirals and candy chromatography.



In PE we have been looking at balance, co-ordination and dance. Pupils have been dancing and copying the actions on a whiteboard, climbing, jumping, balancing and pupils have taken part in parachute games.

Classroom 9

This half term, our topic was "Come and join the celebration!" We have been learning about lots of different celebrations and about how we recognise religious and historical events. We have been learning about Remembrance Day, Diwali and Christmas amongst many others. The children have enjoyed commemorating these events and have learnt a lot! We can't wait to enjoy our next topic in January.

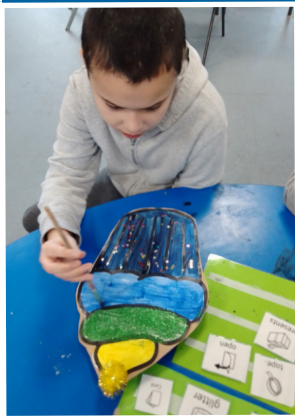


Classroom 10

This term in 2SR our topic was "Come and join the celebration". We celebrated a range of special events; Diwali, Bonfire night, Remembrance Day, Children in Need and Birthdays.

The pupils enjoyed crafting and exploring many items in art and cooking. We decorated breadsticks dipped them into chocolate and sprinkles and made the edible sparklers come to life! In art we made vibrant rangoli patterns using coloured rice to represent happiness and positivity in 2SR. We really enjoyed celebrating class birthdays by dressing up in party hats and wrapping presents as well as going on a birthday hunt around the school!

All of us in class 10 have worked hard this term and are excited for our next topic, which is "Sensational". We hope you have a lovely Christmas and New Year!



2SR

Classroom II

This half term our topic has been "Come and Join the Celebration!" We have had a lot of fun learning about lots of different festivals such as Thanksgiving, Diwali, Bonfire night, Hanukah, Remembrance Day and Christmas.

In science, we have been looking at colours and how we can mix colours to make new colours. Some of our experiments included, melting different colour ice cubes, walking water, underwater fireworks and candy chromatography.



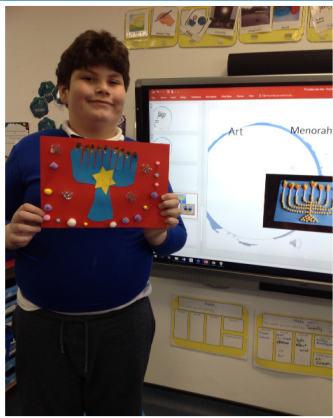
Classroom 12



This term, we have learned about some fun celebrations such as Diwali, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Remembrance Day, Universal Children's Day and Christmas.

In Art, we made Diwali lamps, Thanksgiving turkeys and created pictures of Menorah lamps. In Cooking we made samosas, latkes, poppy biscuits, pumpkin pie and other delicious recipes!

In PHSE we learned about our rights as children to be happy and learn and also about healthy eating and healthy bodies. We have been extending our typing and research skills in computing as well as doing lots of celebration activities on Busy Things!





Over the past 10 weeks, we have welcomed and worked with 4 therapy students from the University of Worcester. They have all been working alongside Alison Double (Occupational Therapist) and Juliet Bick (Speech and language therapist) with our pupils at Hamilton.

The students have re-designed the climbing wall outside to make it more accessible for more pupils to use in the future. We hope that this can be used more regularly as an alternative activity for pupils.



The students have been working with the therapists from 'Well-Life' and hosted Tuesday afternoon Pre-PE sessions for our pupils. These sessions gave our pupils extra support to a range of physical exercises which would improve their co-ordination, balance and motor skills. These sessions have been a great success throughout this term and we have been able to get more children onto the programme each week, we look forward to developing these ideas in the next coming term!



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