

Jan / Feb 2022

No. 40

Hamilton School NEWSLETTER

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



HamiltonSch



@HamiltonSch

Spring Term 1:
Tues 4 Jan to
Fri 18 Feb

Spring Term 2:
Mon 28 Feb to
Fri 8 Apr

Summer Term 1:
Mon 25 Apr to
Fri 27 May

Half Term:
Mon 21 Feb to
Fri 25 Feb

Half Term:
Mon 11 Apr to
Fri 22 Apr

Half Term:
Mon 30 May to
Fri 3 Jun

**NEW WEBSITE
LAUNCHED!!**

www.hamilton.bham.sch.uk





CLASSROOM 1 - FS

Wow what a busy Spring term we have had! We have had two new pupils join us which means we now have a total of eleven children in class. All children are settled and happy and building some really nice bonds and friendships.

Our topic this half term was Transport. We have focused on a different transport method each week. We loved creating our own buses, painting with cars, making our own sea slime to explore boats and making a hot air balloon with balloons! We even created our own run way with soil and stones and pretended to take our toy planes down the runway!

In Maths, we have worked hard on identifying quantities to 5, engaging with a range of number songs using sensory props and loved exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We have used shapes to build things.

In English, our story has been the journey home from Grandpa's. We have experienced the journey using different transport methods. We have worked well at identifying objects, matching pictures to symbols and worked on our communication with the speech therapist Juliet.

We are all so pleased with our children, well done FS!



CLASSROOM 2 - 1JH

This half term has been all sorts of fun as we have delved into our topic of 'Let's Play!'

We have seen toys come to life in our art lessons, using them for mark making and printing. One of our favourite activities has been messy play, taking the toy theme and sensory exploration to fun levels. Our story books have lit up our imaginations with sensory adaptations of tales such as 'Monkeys Playtime' and 'Whatever Next'. In science, we have been looking at a range of changes such as melting ice for water play, and creating play dough and slime.

We have had a fun filled half term in class 1HH.

During this half term we have been busy with our topic 'Let's play'. The children have enjoyed learning through play and doing fun science activities which involved lots of messy play. In English the children have focused on books like 'monkey playtime' they have explored the story through sensory pouches, sensory books and sensory play as well as looking at different ways they can make marks through fun tuff trays.

CLASSROOM 3 - 1HH



This half term 2LM have been learning different ways to explore our topic 'Sensations.' We have looked at the different seasons and what we might see, hear and touch in different times of the year. We enjoyed reading 'A Skip through the Seasons book' where we looked at a range of activities we can do in the sun and the snow! We created science experiments using sweets and saw different colour reactions taking place. 2LM have also had lots of fun exploring our senses in the classroom using musical instruments!

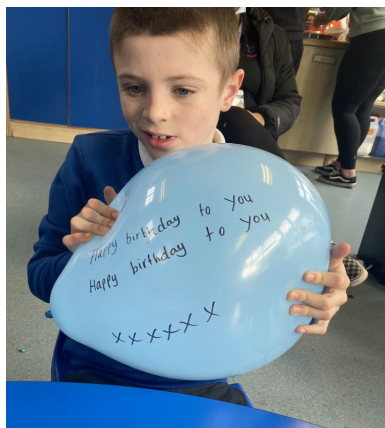
CLASSROOM 4 - 2LM



This term in 2CP we have enjoyed participating in different celebrations including 2 birthdays! The children really enjoyed celebrating both birthdays - especially engaging in the parties!

We have cooked a variety of different foods that all the children have loved eating and exploring! In our science lessons we have witnessed lots of chemical reactions and had lots of fun when categorising hard and soft materials! In Art, the children have learnt a variety of different processes to engage and stimulate our children's creativity when making their masterpieces! The children are really engaged in our morning routine and really enjoy singing hello to their peers!

CLASSROOM 5 - 2CP

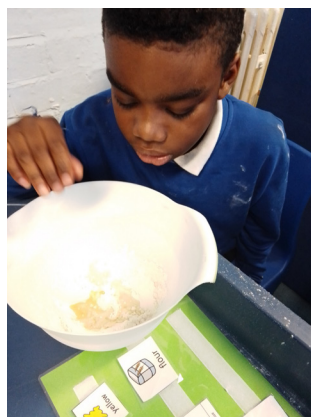


The topic this half term is “Sensational”. This topic allowed us to use our senses (hear, smell, sight, touch and taste). This term, in English, we have also been reading ‘the Tiger that came to tea’. This book has allowed children to explore different food that a tiger might eat. Our Tiger had a lot of food and so made sure we cooked him some sandwiches and fruit salads.

We also mixed different colours to see the outcome of our mixing. Not only did we mix paint, but we also mixed different ingredients to make some fun slime and playdough. As a class, we have made shadow puppets, painted using bubble wrap and played different musical instruments.

We are excited for our next term’s topic, which is “Journeys around the World”. Wishing you all a fantastic half term break!

CLASSROOM 6 - 2LG



The start of 2022 has certainly been interesting! Covid has caused a large amount of disruption to classes due to the impact of illnesses on staff attendance. We have tried our hardest to keep classes open and running and only partially shutting rooms due to cases of COVID. Thank you to all our families for supporting us over this time and being understanding of the situation. Hopefully now things will improve and get us back on track.

Moving forward

We are looking now at ways in which we can move the school forward and continue our outstanding provision. We have had a number of new staff over the course of the last year and we are working all the time to use Friday afternoons effectively in order to ensure staff all have the relevant training to allow us to provide the best education for the children possible.

Trips

Over the next half term we will be looking to start getting the children back out on trips in the local community. This is a good way to enrich our curriculum and teach children valuable life skills away from the school building. If you do not wish your child to go out on any trips with school please make sure you let us know.

Parent meetings

It has been really difficult over the past couple of years to hold parents meetings. Virtual meetings via Teams are difficult and not everyone has the technology to enable them to join. We will be looking at ways to reinstate face to face meetings. In the meantime, while we begin this process, we will be holding virtual meetings on a Friday morning. Myself and Sarah will be looking at what different topics of discussion we could have. If anyone has any suggestions of topics for parents meetings, either virtual or face to face, then please let Sarah know.

Senior leadership team appointments

With my appointment as Headteacher one of the first things we have done is ensured that we have appointed a Deputy Headteacher. Jess Derrer, who was previously Assistant Headteacher and is currently on maternity leave, has been successful in this post. We look forward to Jess coming back in this role when she returns from maternity leave in the not too distant future.

And finally...

As ever we want the link between school and home to be strong and encourage open communication. We are always here to support our children and their families, so if you need us just call. I hope you all have a good half term and we will see you again on Monday 28th February.



Katie Williams Headteacher

Spotlight Interview



Office Manager

Karen Allen
Office 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.

You have a busy job – what else does it entail?

I do all the finance for the school – this includes paying invoices, managing the petty cash..... and I organise recruitment of new staff and making sure that we do all the right checks.

If money was no object what would you what to see in school?

More minibuses so when the time is right our pupils can go on more educational visits.

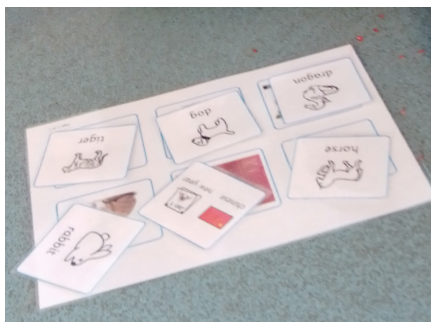
Our topic this term has been “Sensational”. We have had a lot of fun learning about our different senses such as touch, taste, hear, sight and smell.

In science, we have carried out different experiments. We loved looking at items that could float or sink and had fun with the water play using different materials. We loved making scented playdough and used our senses to touch and smell various flavours.

We have been working on our independence skills. We have been learning how to do our zips on different clothing items and to put our shoes on and off. We have been working on our fine motor skills by completing various activities, including threading.

We have had an exciting term in 2LCO!

CLASSROOM 7 - 2LCO



This term 1SS have enjoyed their topic- “let’s play”

We have enjoyed getting creative and making some lovely artwork. Such as paper mache hot air balloons, painting with different textures and making Chinese lanterns to celebrate Chinese new year.

In science pupils have loved doing different experiments such as making slime. Which they all loved and got stuck in. It was so lovely seeing them so engaged exploring and touching the slime.

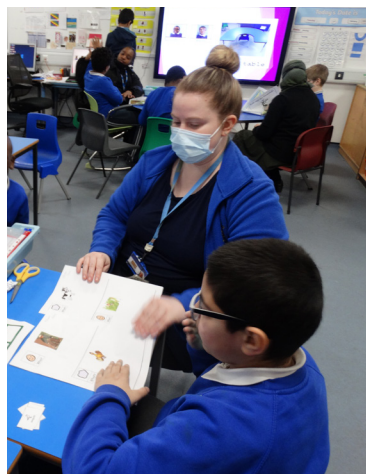
All of us have worked super hard this term. Well done 1SS!

CLASSROOM 8 – 1SS



In 2BJ we have been on an adventure exploring and learning new skills through our theme 'Sensational', with fun and exhilarating activities within our curriculum. The pupils have engaged in sensory play and experiments where they keenly used their senses to navigate and discover such as an exciting experiment in science where 2BJ had a Mentos and Coke blast off!

CLASSROOM 9 - 2BJ



The Topic for 2SR this term has been “Sensational”. We have been very busy exploring and learning about the bodies different senses.

In Science we have been learning about the different smells and tastes we like and dislike. We also focused on how to make slime and linked it to the different senses. The pupils loved making edible slime, textured slime, and different scented slime for example, Marshmallow slime, vanilla and coco slime and lavender slime. In Art the pupils have designed and made different musical instruments such as microphones, drums and rain makers, they have also made feely hands with different materials and particularly enjoyed painting with ice and different flavoured tea bags- Mango and strawberry was a hit!! Lastly, we had a beach theme week in class and the pupils got a chance to explore Gelli Baff, sea shells and bucket and spades.

Well done class 10 for all your hard work! I am thrilled for our next topic “Journeys Around The World”

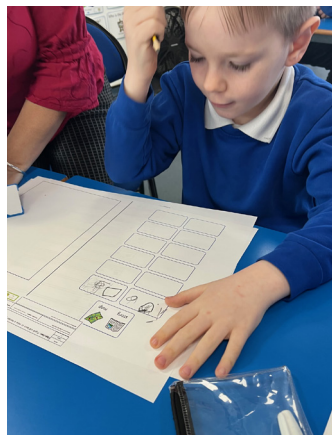
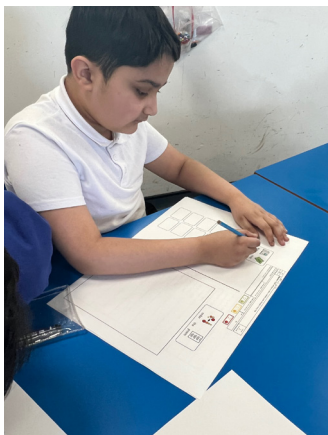
CLASSROOM 10 - 2SR



This half term in 2PB, we have been learning about responsibility. In understanding the world, we have learnt about recycling, why it is important to recycle and all of the different things that can be recycled.

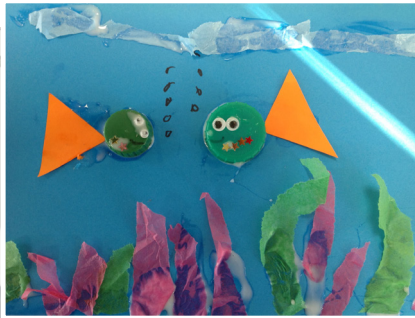
In science, we have been learning about germs, where they live and grow and how we can get rid of them. The children really enjoyed collecting swabs to place in our petri-dishes to see what will grow. We also tested where had the most germs in the classroom by using bread and observing how much mould grew and where.

CLASSROOM 11 - 2PB



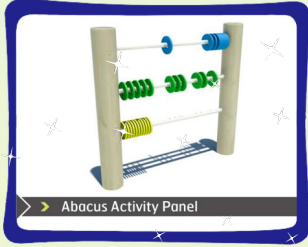
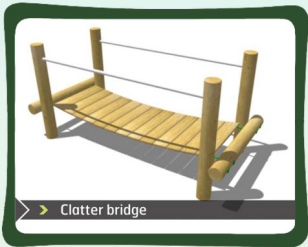
The children in 2LC have been learning more about Responsibility this half term. They have learned about some responsible occupations such as the emergency services as well as healthy eating and how to be more responsible at home and at school, including recycling and reusing materials. In art, they have created some art work out of materials that could be recycled or reused, such as bird feeders and bottle top pictures. As part of cooking, they have made meals that they could take responsibility for such as sandwiches, toast and fruit salad. One of their Science experiments was to observe mould growing on bread which was related to hygiene and the importance of washing hands.

CLASSROOM 12 - 2LC



NEW

During half term we're having some new play equipment installed which has been funded by the charity Friends of Hamilton through generous donations from Assura, Handsworth Lions and LoveBrum.



SOVEREIGN
Bringing imagination into play

On Tuesday, 8 February 2022 we celebrated the Safer Internet Day (SID) with actions taking place right across the globe. With a theme once again of “Together for a better internet”, the day called upon everyone to join together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, and especially for children and young people.

Parents and carers, play a crucial role in empowering and supporting children and young people to use digital technologies responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Indeed, parental influence, guidance and education have a significant and long-lasting impact on children’s safety and wellbeing in the online world. Therefore, there are plenty of ways for you to help your children all year round whether it is by ensuring an open dialogue with your children, educating them to use digital technologies safely and positively, or acting as digital role models. To help you achieve that, you may want to have a look at some resources on the SID website where you’ll lots to use with your children.

<https://www.saferinternetday.org/resources>

Another fantastic website is National Online Safety, who produce Guides for parents on a variety of online topics, the most recent being ‘The 10 Top Tips for Respect Online: Inspiring Children to Build a Better Digital World’ You can find this and more here:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>



Our Team



Sarah Eaton
Strategic Pastoral
Manager



Charlie Phillpotts
Inclusion Manager



Kim Evans
Pastoral Support
Assistant



Nicole Birkin
Pastoral Support
Assistant

Pastoral and Inclusion

We have made some changes to our pastoral team. We are now able to offer more support due to an increase in capacity. Charlie is the new Inclusion Manager, and has previously worked at both Selly Oak Trust and QAC college.

Nicolle and Kim have both worked at Hamilton as teaching assistants for a long time. They are passionate about providing pastoral support to our families.

It is an exciting time for the team and we are really eager to work with as many families as we can.

If you require any help or support, please call the school or alternatively, contact the PANDI team at pandi@hamilton.bham.sch.uk

Admin Reminder

Please remember to pay your child's dinner money and snack money on a Monday. If you have any problems accessing your Parentpay account please contact the School Office.

Thank you



ParkRide Bike

ParkRide Bike Project at Hamilton School

Over the last 2 weeks on a Friday 13:30-15:00, we have been running a bike project designed to give the children an opportunity to develop their mobility and coordination. The sessions have been fun and exciting for those who have participated, and the school would like to open it up to anyone who wishes to attend with their child. The children enjoy it, and it helps them become familiar with the state-of-the-art bikes ParkRide use at their public events in various parks around Birmingham.

If you would like to take part in the coming school session after half term on Friday 4th March please email; worcsstudents@hamilton.bham.sch.uk.

Please note due to space in the playground there is a limit to the number of pupils who can take part each week.



Sensory Room Consultation

We want to update our sensory room to make it more useable for a larger range of students so we're asking staff what they would like to see in the room.

We've had some great ideas back so far:

Cause and effect toys, lights that are dimmed, music chimes, cushions or beanbags, toys with laces/buttons/Velcro, plush toys, wall lights for touch.

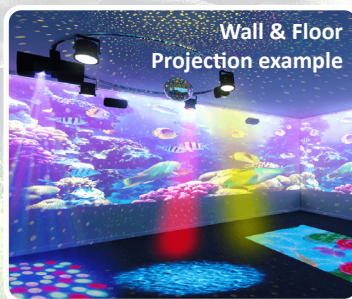
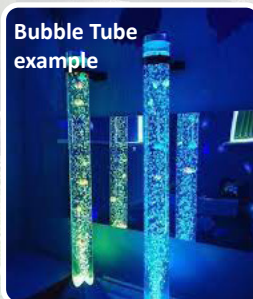
Interactive floor projector.
Cause and effect wall

Lights on ceiling, bubble tube, large cushions, projector with option to change scene e.g under the sea, beach, cave!

Mood lighting, wall and floor projections, music, and aromas that can transport students from the deep blue sea to the outskirts of space

Responsive projection e.g balloons on the floor to pop. moving/falling items to drop and fall on pipes for example. Sufficient storage and organization for groupwork resources. Soft 'chairs' for pupils to observe and regulate from. Sensory toy box of sturdy cause and effect toys specifically for the sensory room.

We'll be fundraising for new equipment and hope to have the project completed in the next 12 months. If you have thoughts or ideas then please let us know.



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