

Hamilton School

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

HamiltonSch



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Newsletter

Spring Term 2:

Mon 28 Feb to

Fri 8 Apr

Half Term:

Mon 11 Apr to

Fri 22 Apr

Summer Term 1:

Mon 25 Apr to

Fri 27 May

Half Term:

Mon 30 May to

Fri 3 Jun

Summer Term 2:

Mon 6 Jun to

Thurs 21 July

CPD Training Day

Thurs 21st July

**HAPPY
EASTER**

Feb - Apr 2022

No. 41

CLASSROOM 1 - FS

FS have had a very busy half term. Our topic was Toys. We have enjoyed exploring a range of light up sensory toys, experiencing using some old, wooden toys from when staff were young and beginning to categorise these into old and new.

We have had a different toy focus each week, which has meant we have all explored our favorite toys and made crafts to link with these. Printing with lego, salt dough dinosaur fossils, making our own puppets and creating our own mud bath for farm animals are just a few of our favourites!

We have engaged well with two stories in English. Desmond was one we all particularly took a big interest in which looks at a little boy in a toyshop exploring toys.

We have all progressed rapidly in Maths this half term, identifying 3D shapes, building with different construction materials and ordering numbers in a variety of ways.

We have had the chance to go out into Hamilton garden each week where we have planted our own vegetables and fruits. We now have our own dirt bed that we plant and grow in weekly.

A super, productive, successful Spring term, we look forward to Summer!



It has been a tasty term in IJH as we have looked at the topic 'Food Glorious Food!'

The pupils have engaged amazingly well to a massive selection of activities, from fizzy colour lemons and erupting watermelons in science, to green popcorn and pizza pinwheels in cooking.

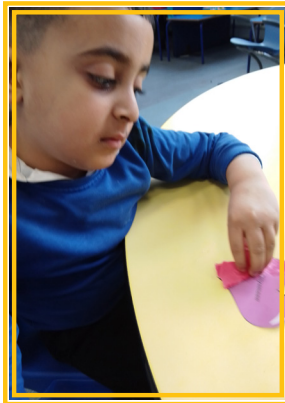
We always love seeing everyone get stuck into a good book, and this term didn't disappoint. We have looked at a number of food themed books in English such as the Very Hungry Caterpillar, and The Teddy Bears Picnic. All of the pupils have worked extremely hard to share their attention and interact with the sensory stories, and put it to good use in a very welcome return to outdoor visits with our own teddy bears' picnic.

From everyone in IJH, have a wonderful Easter and we can't wait to get stuck in with the summer term.



CLASSROOM 2-IJH

CLASSROOM 3-1HH



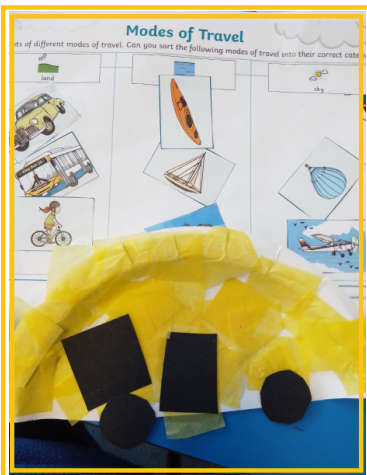
Our topic in IHH this term was 'Food Glorious Food'. Each week we explored different foods from pasta, potatoes, fruits and chocolate. The children loved exploring food this term through loads of messy play and fun activities.

In English the kids loved exploring 'The Tiger who came to tea' and 'Going on a bear hunt'. The children enjoyed learning outside by going on a bear hunt in the playground and having a picnic with the tiger. All the children worked really hard throughout English and Maths, developing their attention skills and engagement within their activities, so well done to all the children in IHH. We hope you have a great Easter break.

This half term, 2LM have been learning about 'Journeys around the world'. We have completed lots of art activities, making our own cars using tissue paper, card and created our own traffic lights. We have looked at different types of transport and listened to the sounds they make. The class has also enjoyed lots of exciting cooking lessons to celebrate special times including St Patrick's Day, Pancake Day and Ramadan. We have also designed cards for Mother's Day during our computing sessions which was really fun. Well done 2LM!



CLASSROOM 4 - 2LM



CLASSROOM 5 - 2CP



Unfortunately, this has been my final half term in Hamilton school, as after the holidays I will be moving onto pastures new. I just wanted to take the opportunity to express how much I have loved every second of it here and working with the most amazing cohort of children and staff!

I have been so lucky to work with so many staff and children during my time here and I can't thank everyone enough for making the last 3 years of my career SO special. The experiences we have all shared together have created such an exceptional bond that I will always treasure!!

During this half term, we have spent our time learning new skills, cooking up a storm and doing some super cool new experiments in Science.

The children have loved it! We have also been on our 'farewell' trip to Cannon Hill Park, McDonalds & Swimming. The children really enjoyed going out for the day and having a special treat with the class! After all their hard work the past year they 100% deserve it :)

Spending that quality time with the children and staff before leaving was well - needed and the perfect way to say, 'Goodbye & see you soon.'

Have a lovely Easter & Good luck for the next term 2CP! I will miss you all.

This term we have been exploring different journeys around the world. This has led us to look at local landmarks in Birmingham and around our school. We have also been reading the story 'The Smartest Giant in Town' that tells us the story of a giant that went to town to buy clothes and meets some friends on his way home. We have had lots of fun making our own flags, learning about different transport and virtually visiting the town centre.



This half term has seen the school continue to grow and develop. We have had fewer cases of COVID around the school and this has given us a much more 'normal' half term. With the appearance of the nicer and warmer weather we are looking forward to a summer term where we can offer more opportunities to enrich the curriculum in meaningful ways for the children.

COVID management

Now that restrictions have all been lifted we will be doing what we can to ensure we are doing all we can to stop any possible outbreaks of COVID-19 in school. We will be ensuring hygiene levels are at an all time high with extra cleaning of touch points continuing in the morning and staff being encouraged to ensure children are regularly washing their hands and that surfaces are wiped down using the appropriate cleaning equipment. Classroom will continue to be well ventilated. This will be easier now we are coming into the Summer. You should have received a letter detailing more information about our management of COVID including the most recent government guidance. This information will also be available on both the website and the school's Facebook page. If anyone would like to discuss this further with us then please give us a call. We are hoping that there will be minimal disruption due to COVID in the coming term.

Curriculum enrichment

At Hamilton we are always looking at ways to provide children with experiences that are meaningful to them. This term we had someone come into school to deliver a 'Silly Science' session to those pupils for whom it was appropriate. This was very successful and the children that could access the session thoroughly enjoyed it. Next term we are looking at having the 'Animal man' in school. This will allow children the opportunity to have up close experiences of a range of animals they may not otherwise encounter. This is something we are hoping the whole school will be able to access. In addition to opportunities like these we are beginning to do school trips again.

Trips out of school are a good way for children to learn outside the school environment and also a way for them to build on important life skills such as independence. If you would not like your child to go out of school on trips then please make sure you let us know

Parent meetings

We are hoping to have some parent meetings in place during the Summer Term. These may be either virtual or face-to-face. As ever it is really important to keep the link between home and school going. If there is any support you require from school or if you have any ideas regarding parent meetings and how you would like them to look then please let Sarah Eaton or Charlie Phillpotts know.

This term we will have three classes trying out a new paperless form of communication with parents. This would mean not using the home school books but using an app called Class Dojo instead. Look out for further information regarding this. It will only be being used for children in classes FS, 2LC and 2LM for now but if it proves successful we will look at using it across the school in September.

Finally

We are losing a couple of staff from school this Easter. Fitz Batchelor, who has been the Building Service Manager at Hamilton since 2006 is retiring. Catherine Pitt, who is one of our Teachers is leaving as well as Nicolle Birkin, who is one of our Teaching Assistants. They will all be very much missed and we wish them all the best in the future. We are going to be having a training day on the last day of the summer term, Thursday 21st July. This will be a day where we will be focusing on transition for new children coming into the school in September as well as looking to ensure all information is transferred to new class teams for the existing pupils.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 25th April.

Katie Williams

CLASSROOM 7 - 2LCO



Our topic this term has been "Journeys around the World". In art, we have had fun making different transports using various materials. We created pictures of the world using shaving foam paint. It was a lot of fun!

In science, we have carried out different experiments. We loved exploring, making snow and looking at how we can melt ice.

It has been nice to be able to go out into the garden. We even planted some strawberries and some sunflowers. We cannot wait to see them grow.

We have been working on our independence skills. We have been learning how to wash up and sorting clothes that are clean and dirty. We have been working on our fine motor skills by completing various activities, including threading. We have had an exciting term in 2LCO!

Our topic this half term was 'Food Glorious Food'

We have carried out various fun activities such as painting with potatoes to make different stamps on the page. We have also carried out various tasting sessions during cooking which has included brownies, cupcakes. Toasties and many more.

We have also looked at various science experiments that include food such as cola fizz fountain, various egg experiments.

Pupils have been trying to focus on tasting new foods during snack time with a focus on eating some fruit prior to toast. This has made great progress throughout the class to help pupils eat healthy.

We have had a very fun half term working with food.



CLASSROOM 9-2BJ



Our topic for Spring 2 has been "Journeys around the world" We have chosen a different country every week to learn about. We have learnt about England, Jamaica, India, Pakistan, Kenya and France. We have explored the different cuisines, clothing and culture and have had a great time.

Our topic for this term has been "Journeys around the World". The pupils have really enjoyed learning about the different countries and cultures. In art, we have enjoyed making different flags, dressing up in the countries traditional clothes and making different sculptures. In cooking, we have made food related to the countries cuisine. Some of the things we have made pasta and pizza, tuna patties, plantain rice and peas and veg curry, rice and chapattis.

The pupils really enjoyed looking at India; they enjoyed making their own Rangoli pattern, spray-painting with bright colours and having water and Holi powder fight.

When the weather has been nice, we have been able to go out into the garden to dig and explore the different garden beds. We have also taken our music lesson outside with the speaker and parachute, which the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed.

Well done 2SR!!



CLASSROOM 11 - 2PB



The Famous Five



This half term in 2PB our topic was the Famous Five. We have been learning about lots of different famous people. In Understanding the World, we have learnt about Queen Elizabeth and the Royal family, Neil Armstrong, Mother Teresa and Queen Victoria.

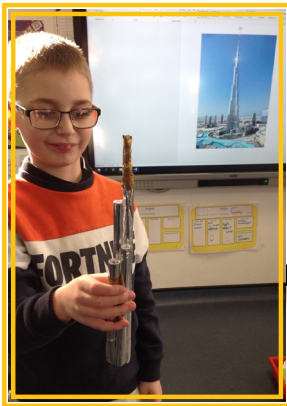
In Expressive Art and Design, we have been looking at different famous artists including Van Gogh, Picasso and Wassily Kandinsky. We enjoyed replicating some of their most famous work.

During science week, we had a mad scientist come in to school to do a silly science workshop with us. We really were fascinated by all of their different experiments.

This half term our topic has been "Famous Five". We have learned about the members of our royal family and also five famous buildings: the Eiffel Tower, the Burj Khalifa, St Basil's Cathedral, the Statue of Liberty and the Great Pyramid of Giza. We have made factfiles on the computer and 3D models of the buildings in art. In Cooking, we have made food from the different countries that the buildings can be found in, such as crêpes from France and falafels from UAE.

We took part in some 'Silly Science' where we had a visiting Scientist who taught us about forces and gravity.

We also enjoyed celebrating Red Nose Day with a rainbow theme and have written lovely poems about Spring time!



CLASSROOM 12 - 2LC

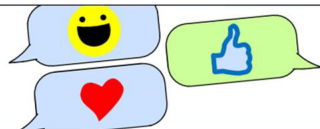
**The new play equipment has now been installed on site
and the children are enjoying exploring every piece.**



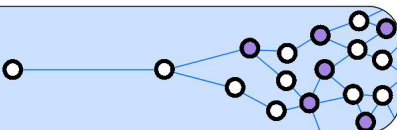
SOVEREIGN
Bringing imagination into play

8 tips to stay safe online

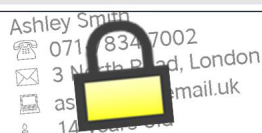
1 Be nice to people online.



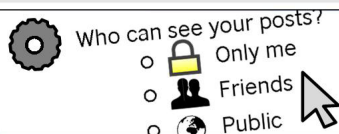
2 Take care with what you share.



3 Keep personal information private.



4 Check your privacy settings.



5 Know how to report posts.

Report this comment



6 Keep your passwords safe.



7 Never meet anyone in person you've only met online.



8 If you see anything online that you don't like or you find upsetting, tell someone you trust.



It's not Goodbye, its...

Hello to a new
Adventure...

This week we say 'Hello
to a new Adventure to a
number of staff...

Fitz Batchelor - Site Manager

Fitz retired this week after 16 years at Hamilton School. He has worked hard to keep the old building safe, warm and dry and was part of the team that worked with the builders on the new building. We'll miss him very much and wish him well in his retirement



Catherine Pitt - Teacher

Catherine has been a real asset to the school and has created fantastic bonds with the children, families and staff at Hamilton School. She will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in all her future endeavours and know she will continue to shine everywhere she goes.



Nicolle Birkin - Teaching Assistant

Nicolle joined the school in 2018 and worked here as an agency worker before that. She achieved her L3 teaching assistant certificate and has helped on playschemes too. She is leaving to work in an SEN Resource Base. We wish her well! She'll be missed.





UNITED BY
BIRMINGHAM
2022

#HAF2022

Looking for things to do with the children over the spring holidays?

Bring it on Brum! is running **FREE** activity clubs in Birmingham for children aged **5-16**, on **FREE** school meals.

Activities include, sports and games, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and music.

Every child will be given a nutritious meal too.

If you're in need of a little extra help this spring then check out your nearest Bring it on Brum! location and register your child today!

www.bringitonbrum.co.uk

@bringitonbrum



Birmingham
City Council



Department
for Education

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

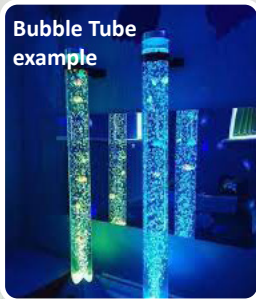
Lights on ceiling, bubble tube, large cushions, projector with option to change scene e.g under the sea, beach, cave!

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

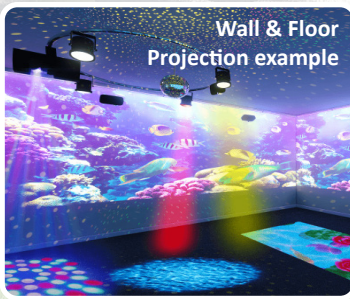
Responsive projection e.g balloons on the floor to pop. moving/falling items to drop and fall on pipes for example. Sufficient storage and organization for groupwork resources. Soft 'chairs' for pupils to observe and regulate from. Sensory toy box of sturdy cause and effect toys specifically for the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

Bubble Tube example



Wall & Floor Projection example



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