

Hamilton School

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

HamiltonSch



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Newsletter

First Day Back

**MONDAY
6TH JUNE**

06.06.2022



Diary • Dates

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

NEW SCHOOL YEAR
Autumn Term 1:
Tues 6 Sept

Apr - May 2022

No. 42

The first half term of the Summer has gone well. Classes have begun to take the children out of school on trips to enrich the curriculum and this will continue for the rest of the summer term. As well as all the fun and engaging lessons teachers plan day in, day out we have also had a highly trained animal handler come into school to introduce a variety of different animals to the children which was highly successful. This enabled us to expose the children to animals such as a snake, a gecko and a kinkajou that they may not otherwise get to experience first hand. At Hamilton we will strive to continue to offer children opportunities such as this to add to their experiences and help enrich their learning.

Attendance

Attendance at school for children is incredibly important. At Hamilton we work hard every day to create a highly individualised approach to learning for each child that ensures we are meeting all their individual needs. The structure and routine is really important to the children and ensuring we have a consistent approach to strategies in place to support children's learning is crucial. Unfortunately this academic year there have been factors out of everyone's control that have resulted in the attendance figures being lower than we would like. COVID itself does not affect attendance figures however the knock ons of COVID does. For example, due to COVID, we advise that if children are unwell, particularly if they have cold or flu like symptoms that they should stay at home until better. This means that parents may keep children at home whereas pre-COVID times they would not have which has a negative impact on the school's attendance figures. The issues we had with transport at the beginning of the year also had a negative impact on these figures.

Another reason for our lower attendance figures are that this academic year, so far, we have had several requests for holidays during term time. As a Headteacher I am only able to grant a leave of absence during term time if there are considered to be exceptional circumstances. These would be:

- Death of a parent/carer or sibling of the pupil
- Life threatening or critical illness of parent or sibling of the pupil
- Parent/carer recovering from a critical illness or surgery who is unable to get their child into school.

Each request we look at on a case by case basis and take all factors into consideration including each family's individual circumstances and the needs of the child concerned. If the request is not agreed then we will be sending you a letter to inform you of the implications and remind you that there is the possibility of legal action that could be taken in the form of a fine. Holidays that take place during term time can set a child back in their progress. The break from routine can have a negative impact on behaviours and communication and therefore have an impact on a child's learning. Please can we ask that you only request for a leave during term time if it is a situation where you have no choice. Times that we wouldn't be able to agree a holiday would be, to get cheaper tickets on a flight/ hotel or to visit family abroad where there are no extenuating circumstances.

All information regarding how the school deals with attendance of pupils are detailed in the Attendance Policy and can be found on the school website.

As a way to encourage higher attendance in classes we will be looking at the individual attendance every half term for each class. Any class whose attendance is above 93% will have the opportunity to treat the children. The school will pay for whatever treat the class decide to do. For example this half term there have been 4 classes where the attendance is above this figure. One class has decided to have a Disney themed morning where activities in lessons will have a Disney theme, they will then have a Disney movie on over dinner while eating food the children particularly like such as pizza and chips or McDonalds. Another class has chosen to go to Burton Adventure Farm for the day. Pictures of these activities will be available on social media. I am hoping this is a positive way to encourage a boost in attendance.

If anyone has any questions or thoughts on attendance then please let myself, Sarah or Charlie know.

Transition to the new school year

We are currently working hard on class lists for next academic year. It is an incredibly tricky job to ensure that the children are placed in the best class possible to have their needs met and to ensure that each class team has the skills to support the children in the class.

Everyone should be offered a Parents Evening the week beginning the 27th June. During this meeting your child's teacher will be able to share with you the class and the class teacher for next academic year.

We will do lots of transition work to ensure information is passed from class to class to make the children's transition to the next academic year as smooth as possible.

Staff Leaving

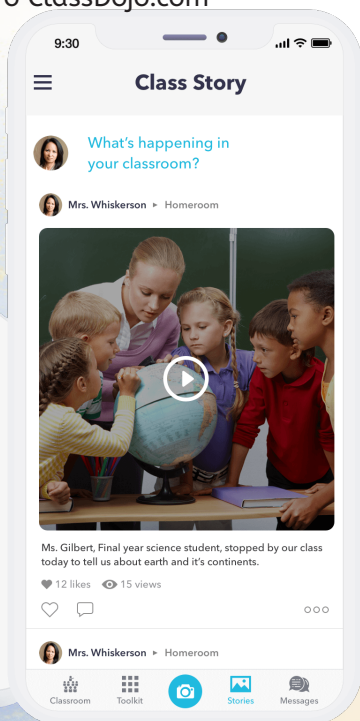
At the end of this half term we have a couple of members of staff who we are sorry to say are leaving us. Claire Taylor, who is a Teaching Assistant in 2LM is leaving to go and work at another school and unfortunately Juliet Bick, our Speech and Language Therapist, is also leaving us. We are sorry to see both of them leave and wish them all the best in the future.

I hope you all have a lovely half term and we look forward to the coming Term. As ever if there is any support you need from us please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Katie Williams
Headteacher

Photo c/o ClassDojo.com



We are now a few weeks into our Class Dojo Trial with a selection of classes.

Thank you to all the parents associated with these classes for signing up to Class Dojo.

Parents who have the Class Dojo App are able to see photos, videos and messages from their child's class and other whole school 'stories' (Posts from other teams within school).

If the trial continues to go well we hope to roll this out to all classes soon.

CLASSROOM 1-FS

Our topic this half term was Home Sweet Home. We have enjoyed exploring a range of houses from around the world and have had a go at pretending to live in some, such as igloos and shacks!

The children have engaged well with making their own houses in Art using a range of materials such as brick, straw and bubble wrap. They all stuck in and engaged well.

At the start of the half term, we celebrated Eid. In English, our sensory story was Zubair's Eid. This was a story about a little boy celebrating Eid. It allowed children to gain some understanding of the prayers, celebrations, and reasoning behind Eid.

The children have been busy in Science as always! We enjoyed a dancing rice experiment, making mud with coco powder and we made our own balloon rockets with baking powder. We have started to predict using symbols and pictures to support what we think will happen in Science. The children have been very enthusiastic with this - well done!

In Maths, our progress has soared and the staff are all so pleased. We have enjoyed filling and emptying different containers with a range of objects, exploring shapes and recently took part in a shape hunt around school. We have many mathematicians in the making!!

We have had many birthdays to celebrate this half term also. Children have enjoyed making birthday cards and banners and exploring many sensory party objects.

I cannot believe we go into our last half term Summer 2 already! We have had so much fun and been so, so busy this year!

Let's make the last one a super one- I am sure it will be great!





1JH stepped out into the wild for our topic this half term. We have discovered a vast array of wild animals in our lessons, including defrosting frozen creatures, and following messy footprints in science. With a bit of luck, our Minibeast hotel will be home to a whole community of insects for the summer. The children were engrossed in the English stories this term, with tales of Goldilocks and Noisy Farm leading the way. Our cooking lessons have allowed us to create banana penguins, avocado bunnies, and croissant crabs.

Have a great half term break and enjoy the Jubilee Festivities!



CLASSROOM 2-1JH



CLASSROOM 3 - 1HH

Our topic this half term was 'Into the wild'. In 1HH we have enjoyed learning all about the wildlife and animals in the wild, through our topic and through our books in English.

In English we have loved reading our sensory stories about Wild Animals, Noisy Farm Animals and Goldilocks and the three bears. In Maths the children have continued to make great progress learning through sensory tuff trays which has been great to see.

The children have enjoyed loads of fun science experiments and activities as usual this half term. The children have loved making animal foot prints using flour, they have made a bug hotel outside, exploring bugs frozen in ice and making bird feeders.

In Art we have enjoyed making loads of different art pieces. We have made tigers by sticking string onto their heads to make their manes. We have stuck and peeled cello tape to paper to make tiger prints and we have done load of other mark making, colouring, and painting activities.

Well done to all the children in 1HH for all your hard work and we are looking forward to seeing you in Summer 2.





This half term 2LM's topic of 'In your element' has seen us follow some exciting, colourful recipes such as making earth cake pops, kite biscuits and volcano crispy cakes in our cooking sessions. We have looked at different images of fire and wind, understanding some differences and where we might find these elements in everyday life. We created tissue paper pictures of Earth and a salt dough Earth too! The class have also been exploring water and wind in our Science lessons creating different sized bubbles and flying kites in the creative zone. The children enjoyed using a hairdryer to make the bubbles float into the sky quickly! The visit from the animal man was also a highlight for the class too.

Well done 2LM for another super half term.



CLASSROOM 4 - 2LM

CLASSROOM 5 - 2CP



The topic for this term was 'In your element; Earth, Wind and Fire. Children enjoyed learning about nature by looking for different plants and flowers in the garden area. During art children have enjoyed learning different art techniques such as toy printing, hand printing, gluing and decorating a template of sun using sand. Children also enjoyed many sensory activities during science - making lava lamps, volcano eruption and self-inflating balloons.

Children absolutely loved the animal lady and had lots of fun engaging with animals.

Children also liked 'Old lady swallowed a fly' story. They recognised animals using their communication boards!



This term 2LB have explored the topic 'In Your Element' where each week, they have learnt about earth, fire, wind and water. During this term, the class have created volcanos, kites, planted herbs and much more!

The children have explored the difference of land animals and sea animals. Whilst the class have enjoyed the different elements, we even looked at space elements as this term we have read 'Aliens love Underpants'. The children really enjoyed creating our earth and thinking about ways to look after it.

CLASSROOM 6-2LB



CLASSROOM 7 - 2LCO

This term 2LCO has been looking at the topic of "In your Element: Earth Wind and fire.

We have had a lot of fun in our curriculum lessons. In art, we loved making different weather by using various tools and materials. We also made our very own 3d volcano eruption.

In science, we loved carrying out a range of experiments and using different skills. We love making our own volcano eruption using food colouring, bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. It was fun to see the reaction.

We have all been working hard in English and have loved looking at the different stories. We have also been working on our fine motor skills.

Within this term, we have also looked at the Platinum Jubilee. We have made different decorations and crowns that we wore to the parade.

It has been a super fun term in 2LCO!





This term 1SS has been looking at the topic “Into the wild”.

We had so much fun exploring the wild during our lessons. In cooking, we loved making different animal themed recipes such as fruit peacocks and animal sandwiches.

In art, we have done jungle animal painting and sea animal painting. We have also been learning about the animal’s habitats.

During this term, we have also learned about the Platinum Jubilee. We have made crowns, flags and other decorations dedicated to it.

1SS had so much fun this term!



CLASSROOM 8 - 1SS

CLASSROOM 9 - 2BJ



Here we go! In 2BJ we have been exploring different elements whilst developing our understanding on our focused topics earth, wind and fire. Through colourful and interactive activities this term, 2BJ have travelled to the hot and vibrant beach, cooked delicious healthy meals to fuel our bodies and explored different types of music that relates back to each element.

We have also discovered the different seasons in science and developed our understanding of different habitats as well as how it affects the animals and how the earth adapts, through Understanding the World we participated in gardening, learning the importance of recycling to keep our planet safe! Whilst art welcomed us with a cool autumn, nostalgic beaches and beautiful earthy elements.

We ended the term with a fantastic trip to visit animals at the Adventure Farm, we were thrilled to feed the animals whilst also having the chance to go on a big tractor. Bring on the next term.



2SR's topic this half term has been "In your Element: Earth Wind and fire.

We have really enjoyed looking at this topic in particular our art sessions. We have been looking at the different elements – Earth, wind and Fire and have made some good pieces of work; such as making fires with raw materials, using fans and hairdryers to represent wind and exploring hot and cold materials.

In science, we looked at the different ways of melting ice, crayons and chocolate. We explored how the chocolate was cool and hard when it was a solid form and once we applied the heat via the microwave and hair dryer it became hot and changed into a liquid form. The pupils really enjoyed this experiment of course tasting the chocolate as we went along!

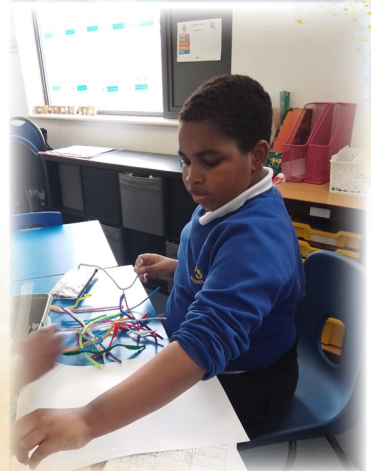
Lastly, we have enjoyed making decorations for the school Jubilee celebrations. We made handprint bunting, union jack paper chains and designed our own crowns that we will wear during our royal wave

Well done 2SR for your fabulous work this half term



CLASSROOM 10 - 2SR

CLASSROOM 11 - 2PB



This term in 2PB our topic has been Where the Wild Things Are. In Understanding the World, We have been learning about different kinds of wild animals that live in the jungle, rainforest and desert. In Science, we have been learning about plants and what helps them to grow. We really enjoyed watering them every day and seeing the difference soil and cotton wool made.



Our topic this half term was “Where the Wild Things Are”. We have learned about the story of Max and the Wild Things in English. We created our own adventure stories about Max’s new adventures with strange creatures in far off lands.

In our topic work, we studied different habitats such as the rainforest, the desert and the polar regions. We learned about the different plants and animals that live in these wild places. We have created factfiles and posters in Computing, made fruit and veggie minibeasts in Cooking and used pastels to draw landscapes in Art. Our Science has involved planting seeds and observing how they grow in different environments.

Finally, we had a great time celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee!



All change in the Administration Team at Hamilton



After 5 years' Tonia is leaving us to go and work in the City Council's Route to Net Zero team as part of her mission to save the planet. She says, "I've really enjoyed working at Hamilton School and I'll miss



*Tonia
Clark*

the staff and the pupils. I am hoping to work with schools in my new role to encourage them to become carbon neutral by 2030".

Her replacement is Ruth Barrett, who has worked at Leigh Trust, Pines Special School, St Paul's Girls' School, Corpus Christi School and, also, British Telecom. She is very experienced and knowledgeable and will be a real asset to the school. Ruth has just started at the school and she says, "I'm looking forward to meeting parents and pupils and working with the Senior Leadership Team."

Tonia and Ruth are working together on the handover and then Tonia leaves on 27th May. "The school finances will be in very good hands with Ruth," Tonia said, "We were very lucky to appoint her in this current job market".

Ruth Barrett

SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER





YouTube Kids

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device.



1

Download the YouTube Kids app

2

Input your child's name age and birth month

3

Select the types of videos you want to include based on their age and your own personal choice

4

If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos to accept or reject.

5

Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

Advice for Parents & Carers

REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS

BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT

DISABLE SEARCH CONTENT

RESTRICT VIEWING TIME

MONITOR WATCH HISTORY

WATCH TOGETHER

This information can be found in more detail on the National Online Safety website as part of their #WakeupWednesday campaign:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

Parents and Carers Coffee Morning

25 May 2022

Thank you to everyone who came to Hamilton Schools first, Post-Covid coffee morning. It was lovely to see so many Parents/Carers. We are hoping to hold more coffee mornings in the new school year. They are a wonderful way for Parents to connect with school and other parents of children with autism. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve these meetings, please let me know.

Sarah Eaton



The next coffee morning will be on
Wednesday 6th July at 9.45am-11am.

Future Sensory Garden.....

We are looking to repurpose the garden at the rear of the old Site Managers' house into a sensory garden for our students.

A sensory garden is a garden environment that is designed with the purpose of stimulating the senses. This stimulation occurs courtesy of plants and the use of materials that engage one's senses of sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound.

Current Garden



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