

Hamilton School

An honest school that strives to do the best.

HamiltonSch



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**Apr - May
2023**

No. 48

Newsletter



The beginning of the Summer Term has gone well at Hamilton. With the nice weather has come an increase in the number of trips children have been accessing as well as our first residential since all of the disruption caused by Covid. The residential was really successful and all children had an amazing time.

Expansion - Secondary

In this half term's newsletter I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to give an update on Hamilton's expansion. As you should all be aware we have made a temporary change to the age range of the school meaning that in September we will have three Year 7 classes. This is a very exciting opportunity for us. Very soon we will be expecting the temporary building to be put in place at the back of the playground. We are in discussions with landscapers regarding redesigning some of the other outdoor areas we have which are not currently used, to create more outdoor space for those children in Primary to replace the space taken by the temporary building.

With regards to the curriculum for the secondary pupils we are in the process of developing an exciting curriculum that will prove to be both inspirational and aspirational. This is really exciting work and we are visiting lots of schools currently to look at the provision they offer in order to ensure we are putting in place the best possible curriculum for our pupils.

Look out for further updates regarding a permanent secondary department for Hamilton. More information on this will be coming soon!!

Expansion - Primary

In January we had 6 new pupils join the school and have had a couple of further pupils join this half term. This resulted in an extra classroom in the form of the Portakabin which is currently situated at the back of the school. We have an old caretaker's house on site which is not currently in use. Over the Summer this will be knocked down and over the next 12-18 months (hopefully!) we will see a new extension to the Primary site. This will replace the Portakabin and add an additional classroom. This room would not be with the intention of taking in further pupils but used to reduce the numbers in some of Key Stage 2 classes which will be hugely beneficial to all pupils. We are also hoping this new build will include a new and better sensory room as well as a second floor with more meeting spaces for EHCP reviews and a long awaited staff room. We do not currently have a space for staff and this is very much needed.

There are lots of exciting plans for Hamilton and the Secondary expansion is proving to benefit the Primary site as well. We continue, as ever to ensure we are providing the best quality of education for our pupils as possible.

Staff changes

This half term we have welcomed some new members of staff. As welcome additions to our teams we have a new teacher, Maxine, and some new Teaching Assistants, Toni, Namrata and Sujan. We have also welcomed Bakhtawar back from her maternity leave. After half term we have another Teaching Assistant returning from maternity leave and will welcome yet another Teaching Assistant, Kelly Ann. We are continually growing the team and it's lovely to have some fresh faces in the school!

At the end of June we will be losing Simon, our Network Manager. He is off to pastures new and we wish him all the best in his new job at Oscott Manor.

Finally

Next half term will be a busy one with Sports Day and we are also currently beginning to organise the Year 6 leavers/ graduation celebrations. We also have the end of the exciting Arts Project that we have been involved in as part of the Cooperative Trust. More information on all of these exciting events will be handed out after half term so look out for this!!

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 5th June.

Katie Williams

Headteacher





Class 1 have enjoyed their new topic 'Sand and Water'. Children explored different textures in the sand using a range of tools and seaside shells.

In Maths, we worked hard focusing on capacity. We used a range of containers to measure out different amounts and children could categorise empty and full bottles on the desert island.

Our English story was 'A Day at the Seaside'. Children explored sensory objects linked to the story and matched words and images linked to it. Some children wrote some phrases to match images of the story using a laptop.

We have enjoyed getting creative and painting with shells, colour mixing with food colouring and water and using sand to make our own patterns and to categorise rough and smooth textures.

In Music, we have explored different tempo's and rhythms. We loved making our own beats using a range of instruments.

We look forward to our final half term together.

The staff are proud of each and every one of the children in class 1. Bring on the final summer term together. Have a great break all.



Class Two



We've taken to the Seven Seas for this half terms topic of 'Pirates'. Class 2 have enjoyed finding their sea legs in a selection of swashbuckling activities from ship building and flag design, to creating mysterious treasure maps. The pupils loved our key texts of 'Portside Pirates' and 'What Pirates really do' to help them become immersed in the maritime world.

In Cooking we have focused on using a potato masher to make some delicious (if not messy) dishes. The mashed potato was a hit, as were the delicious falafels. The tuna boats were certainly a sensory experience if not the biggest hit for the tasting session.

The pirate themed fun took a pause while we engaged in the coronation celebrations with cake decorating and the creation of a fabulous crown.

We would like to take the time to thank Simon for all of his tech support of our class and all the best for you new adventure.

Have a lovely half term from everyone in class 2.



Class Three

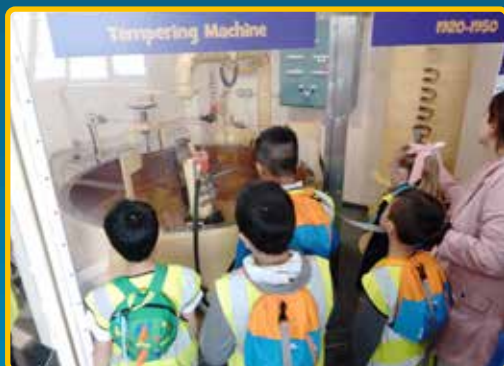
The children in class 3 have loved learning all about their topic 'Pirates'. In English we have explored sensory books where we found maps, shiny coins and lots of treasure. In Science, we explored water and sand and how items can sink or float.

The children had loads of fun making sand castles and mark making in the sand. In cooking we have been practicing the skill of kneading, the children have enjoyed playing with playdough and making different dough mixtures. Well done to all the children in Class 3 for all their hard work this half term, have a lovely half term break.





This half term class 4 have been learning all about sea creatures with our topic "Under the Sea". We have been exploring sea creatures and have been very creative in our art lessons, making our own newspaper sharks, jellyfish with wobbly legs and walking crabs!



UNDER THE SEA

Class Five

This term our topic has been 'Under the Sea'. What better way to explore this than reading 'Under The Sea' by Anna Milbourne. The class have loved the weird and wonderful creatures that we have read about such as a sea cow. The children have created some fabulous art pieces too! We have created our own sea creatures. We have delved into both fiction and fiction elements of the sea as we have also had fun learning about mermaids.



Class Six

Class 6 has really enjoyed the first rays of sunshine in Summer term 1. Our topic for this term was 'Under the Sea', children learned all about the sea, animals, different habitats and water inspired lessons. In English, children enjoyed reading 'Speedy Shark' and 'We're going swimming' books. In Maths, children enjoyed counting fishes, giving fishes, posting seashells and "magnetic fishing" games. Our entire Science lessons were water based with experiments such as, 'fizzy water grapes', 'walking water' and 'fizzy sea, chalk, lemon, lime and sea oil". During our Understanding of the World lessons, children went on various animal hunts ranging from farm animals to pets. Children have had an amazing role-play lesson for the King's Coronation where they dressed up as the King and had a tea party. This term we have also celebrated children's Birthdays, Class 6 definitely loves a slice of cake! Well done to all Children in Class 6 for being such a fun and hardworking superstars.





We have had a 'whale of a time' this half term learning about our topic 'Under the Sea'. The children have enjoyed reading the '5 Little Mermaids' book in English and learning about the different oceans and animals. In Art, we have made lots of sea animal crafts and we have done some finger painting, collaging and weaving. The children especially enjoyed making paper plate turtles.

In cooking, we have made lots of different dishes including starfish sandwiches and sea creature biscuits.

We have looked at sinking and floating in our Science lessons as well as melting. The children enjoyed trying to melt ice using different tools. We also had fun melting chocolate with their favourite part being tasting the chocolate!

We are looking forward to our next topic 'Let's Get Active' when we return for the final half term.



Our topic this half term has been 'Pirates'. We have had fun completing lots of different activities relating to this topic.

In Art sessions they made some Boats, Pirates, jewellery boxes and collages. We also did some Pirate themed dressing up and sensory play exploring with jewellery.

In Cooking pupils explored different textures of food through sensory trays, made sandwiches, wraps, pizzas, cheese twists, decorating cakes and biscuits.

We also carried on going shopping each week to buy some ingredients for our cooking lessons, the children have explored the new environments and in shop helped to find items from our shopping list.

All the team from class 8 wishes you all a lovely break. We look forward to seeing the pupils return for the 2nd half of the Summer Term for lots more fun activities relating to our new topic – 'Let's Get Active'.





This term our topic has been “Under the Sea”. We have been learning about different sea animals and key facts about the oceans around us.

In Science, we have loved carrying out lots of experiments. Our favourite experiment has been looking at items that float or sink and ice painting. We have loved exploring the under the sea tuff trays especially with sand and water. In Cooking, we have loved making a range of things, for example - cheesecakes and coronation biscuits.

This term we also enjoyed learning about the Coronation. We loved making our crown and enjoyed the coronation sensory session in the hall.

We have all had a lot of fun this half term!

Have a lovely half term





Class Ten



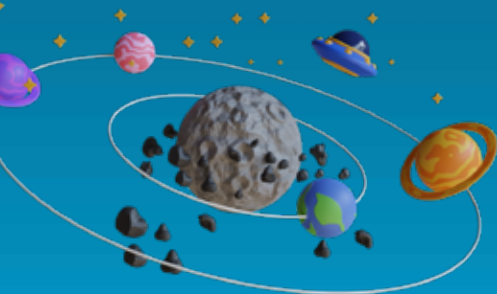
Class 10 has enjoyed their topic 'Under the Sea'. We learnt about under the sea by reading the books "Commotion in the Ocean" and 'Rainbow Fish'. We have also enjoyed going swimming at Handsworth Leisure Centre. We had a lot of fun making a crown as a class for the King's Coronation. The activities around the school were the best! In our PSHE lessons we learnt about personal hygiene - how to brush our teeth and wash our hands. We loved our messy play this term. We learnt how to make fruit skewers, pizzas and trifles in our cooking lessons. During our 'Understanding the World' lessons we learnt how plants grow, and had endless fun exploring the garden, and of course we loved celebrating our birthdays!





Our topic was 'Sea and Space' this half term. We learned about some different seas in Computing and Understanding the World, such as the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. We researched sea creatures and we even saw some in real life at the Sea Life Centre! We created a beach in a cup in Cooking and made sea creatures out of fruit. In English we have been learning a story off by heart called 'Back to Earth With a Bump'. It's about a boy who travels through space at night trying to find the Sun. We have created a Solar System in Art and made rocket hotdogs in Cooking. We also had an amazing time at Legoland on our school trip!

Class Eleven





Class Twelve

In Class 12 we have been learning about 'Space and Sea'. We have learnt lots about the different Oceans in the World and the Planets in our Solar System. In Science we looked at floating and sinking and even made our own miniature rafts.

This half term we have been on lots of adventures. We went to Aston Villa to take part in a football tournament, we also went to the Safari Park to see lots of animals and even ride some rides.



This term our theme has been 'Pirates'. We have enjoyed making pirate hats and faces. In cooking we have been practicing key skills such as chopping, mixing and grating. We have had lots of fun during our Forest School sessions, making a tepee, planting potatoes, making bird seed cakes and planting watercress seeds. We had a great time during our class trip to Sandwell Valley Park. We explored the forest and found lots of minibeasts. We also enjoyed playing in the Sandwell Valley playground and had a lovely picnic on the grass.

Class Thirteen



Transport Update

We are working hard at Hamilton to ensure that all of our students get the chance to access the outdoors, and where it is possible, walk to and from school. We introduced Walk to School Week, where we encouraged our families to walk to school. Where this was not possible, we invited families to take a walk after school. We received lots of lovely messages from families who found this to be a great success. Well done to everyone who participated in this event. Please keep sharing your lovely messages and photos of your walks with me on class dojo.

Anti-idling initiative



We are introducing an Anti-idling initiative. We are asking that all vehicles do not continue to run their engines whilst stationary, and instead turn off the engine. This will help us to create a safer, fume free environment for all of our students. We are also contacting all of our minibuses and taxis too. Thank you for all of your help with this.

Walking trips



As the weather continues to warm up (well hopefully it does), we will be increasing the amount of walking trips that the children can go on. This will give us the chance to explore the local environment, learn crucial road safety skills, and reduce the amount of times we are using our minibuses.

Parking on Hamilton Road



We understand that for some children even the shortest walk can be very difficult, and can have many risks attached. But where it is possible, and if your child can manage this safely, we would appreciate it if Parents parked further away from the school and then walked the short distance to the school. This will give the taxi's a chance to park closer to the school, and also help the Parents of the children who must park close to the school for behavioural/sensory reasons to park close enough for staff to support them into school. Please come and speak to me if you have any worries about this.

Sarah Eaton





TERM DATES



Dates

Half Term

Mon 20 February to
Fri 24 February

Spring Term 2

Mon 27 February to
Fri 31 March

Easter Break

Mon 3 April to
Fri 14 April

Summer Term 1

Mon 17 April to
Fri 26 May

Half Term

Mon 29 May to
Fri 2 June

Summer Term 2

Mon 5 June to
Tues 25 July

Training Days

Monday 24 July 2023
Tuesday 25 July 2023

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