

Hamilton School

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

Diary

Dates:

Autumn Term 2:

Mon 2 Nov to

Fri 18 Dec

Xmas Holidays:

Mon 21 Dec to

Fri 1 Jan

CPD Training Day

Mon 4 Jan 2021

Spring Term 1 2021:

Tue 5 Jan to

Fri 12 Feb

Half Term:

Mon 15 Feb to

Fri 19 Feb

Spring Term 2:

Mon 22 Feb to

Thur 1 Apr

Half Term:

Fri 2 Apr to

Fri 16 Apr

Summer Term 1:

Mon 19 Apr to

Fri 28 May

Nov / Dec 2020

No. 33

Newsletter



This half term we have been learning all about Celebrations! We have loved learning about Bonfire Night, Diwali and

Christmas. We have explored different sensory trays with objects related to each celebration, completed matching boards and enjoyed cooking new dishes.

We have also been exploring lots of styles of mark making - our favourite is the shaving foam! FS have had a great half term and have settled into Hamilton life. Well done FS.

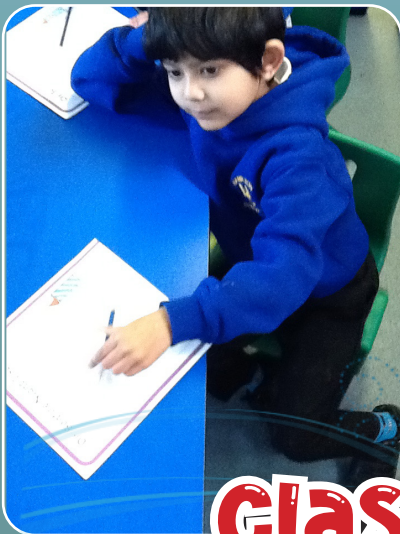


Classroom 1



We have been spending a lot of time in the garden and learning about autumn and nature. We enjoyed the colourful autumn leaves.

We have also been learning about Remembrance Day.



Classroom 2



Class ISR have had a very creative half term. Our topic was festivals and celebrations and we have learnt lots about different festivals linked to different cultures. In Science we have looked at light and dark sources. We created our own light boxes to use in a dark room as well as glow in the dark stickers and objects. We linked this with Diwali the festival of light.



We have carried out a range of experiments in Science. These include; walking water, dancing rice, lava lamps, exploding pumpkins and popping candy canes.

We have enjoyed some winter walks in our local area which has helped us with our independence.

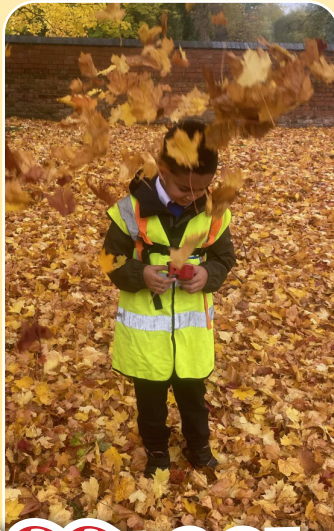
ISR have had a really successful end to the year. We cannot wait to see what 2021 holds for us.



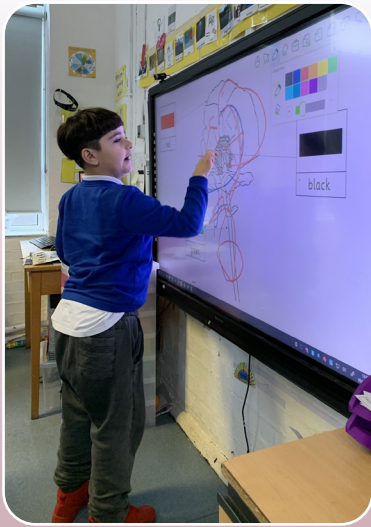
Classroom 3



We have been exploring nature in Handsworth Park. We completed a nature trail and a history activity of matching the monuments in the park to their pictures. We had lots of fun in the play area too. The students have been developing their road safety skills on the way to the park by having a line leader where they raise their hand when arriving at the pavement – this has been really positive.



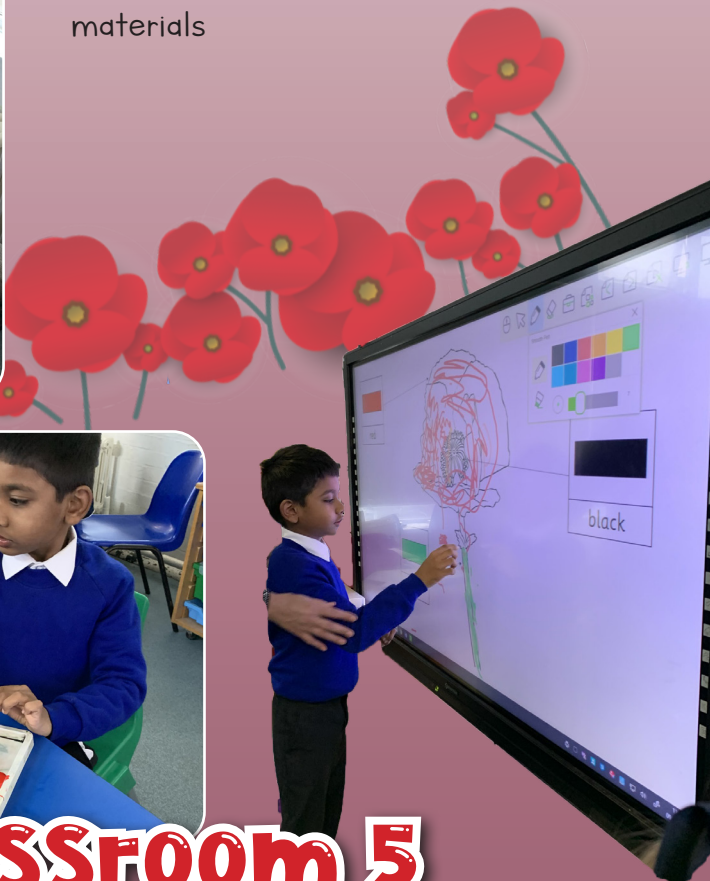
Classroom 4



2JH have been exploring activities around Remembrance Sunday and how to draw & make poppies with different materials



Classroom 5





Class 2 LG have been exploring the world and planets around with our curriculum topic being, 'Under Attack'. We have had so much fun looking at different festivals and celebrations and have loved our science lessons on exploring and changing different states. We have started going for a walk to the park to get our bodies moving out and about.

Classroom 6



Welcome to the final newsletter of 2020 and let us hope that 2021 is a better year.

Just as I am proud of how we responded during the first national lockdown, I am delighted with the quality of education and continuity that the staff have provided for the students. Our reviews of teaching and learning this half-term have been very positive. Given the complexity of what we do, there are always things to improve on and, as our mission statement says, we will always be striving to be a 'great' school.

COVID-19

We have tried very hard to avoid disruption to your lives and those of the students. There has been very little impact so far in terms of students having to isolate. Our main challenge has been with the amount of staff who have had to isolate or stay off work to look after their own children.

Funding

Covid has cost us and continues to do so. This is mainly in the form of extra cleaning and staffing to replace staff who are not in work. We are looking at a budget deficit and trying to save money, alongside campaigning for better funding for Special Schools – both nationally and in Birmingham. I am part of a group of Head teachers actively involved with this work. Ringing school if your child is not going to be attending school really helps us to save money if you can let us know at school by 7.30 am.

Training days

Our next training day is Monday 4th January 2021. School will be closed to students that day. I explained in my recent letter, and in the video, our reasons for doing this. Monday 25th January is no longer a training day. We have one more to plan later in the school year.

Festive period

It has been very different in school this year and you really wouldn't know it was Christmas (some people think I have finally reached my aim in this regard!) I have missed watching the productions and seeing families responses to their children actively taking part. However, we have had to choose both safety and continuity this year as our main priorities.

I am very concerned about January and the situation that we will find ourselves in due to what I fully expect to happen. This is mainly rising Covid case rates and a big increase in the number of staff and children having to isolate. If I was Prime Minister, Christmas would be very minimal this year and I wouldn't have allowed / encouraged large 3 household bubbles to form.



I urge you to resist the temptation to have large gatherings and to be sensible. There will be a big impact on school and we will all lose it if people engage in a five day free for all. I predict even more schools will have to close in January due to this.

Please have a safe and sensible festive period. I am really looking forward to a bit of 'isolation' if possible! However, you should be aware that schools are expected to continue with 'track and trace' (yes, we have been the ones doing it) up until Christmas Eve so you may very well get a phone call in the holiday if we are notified of positive cases and your child is considered a 'contact'.

The new half-term will begin for students on Tuesday 5th January 2021. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2021.

Jon Harris
Head teacher



Thank you to Handsworth Lions Club for their generous donations to the charity for play equipment and playschemes.

Thank you to the Sanghera family for the lovely presents for all of our students.

We've all struggled to raise money this year with our normal events unable to go ahead and so their kind donation is even more special this year.



**The Raffle was drawn live
on Facebook On
Tues 15th Dec**

**Winners should have been
contacted by now**

**Thankyou to everyone who
bought tickets**



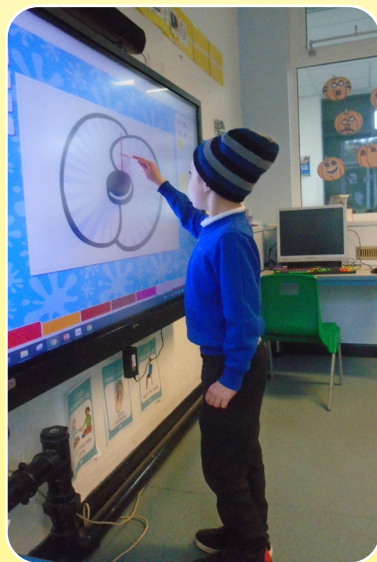
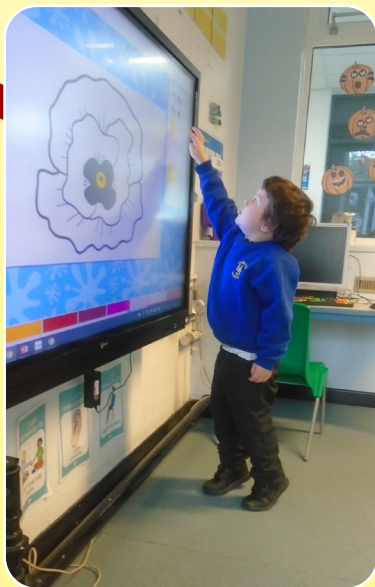


It's always sunny in Class 7. We've been dressing up for hot days and cold days. We were well wrapped up on our visit to Handsworth Park.

We have loved our science experiments this term, making new potions for Halloween, looking at snow and ice for winter! We have also enjoyed the celebrations of a range of cultures and places, including St Andrews Day, Diwali and Bonfire Night! Lots more celebrations to come. Have a lovely break 2DP you've earned it.



Classroom 7

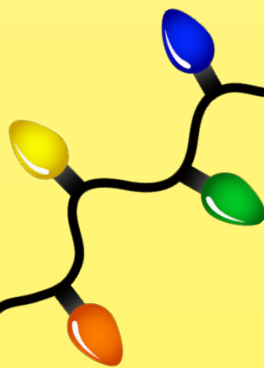


This term, we have been very musical. We are getting good at playing instruments together and listening to each other play.

We also enjoyed colouring in Poppies on our interactive board for Remembrance Day.



Classroom 8





In 2BJ we have really enjoyed celebrating a variety of festivals. We dressed up for Diwali, made Diwa lamps, explored sparklers and pumpkins for Halloween and Bonfire Night and had a great time observing the results of some fabulous science experiments.



Classroom 9



2JD have been practising life skills and we have learnt to cook vegetables.

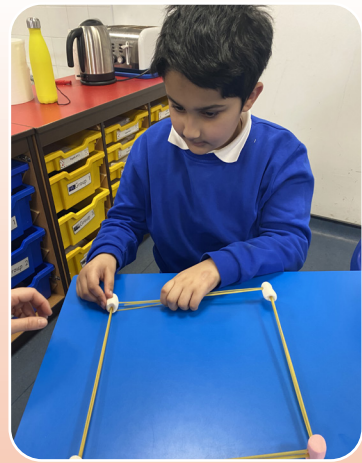
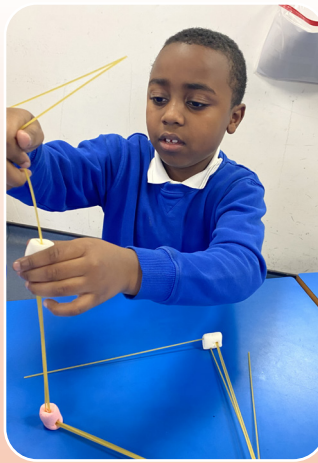
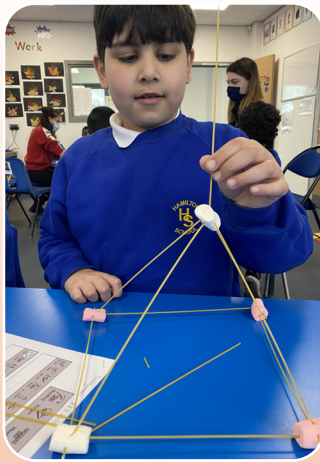
We enjoyed tasting the vegetable curry and it was good fun chopping the vegetables remembering to be safe while doing it.



We've cooked a range of food from around the world and we enjoyed tasting omelettes, pasties, pizza, curries, brownies and rainbow muffins. We have also been exploring the local area and keeping ourselves fit by going on long walks in

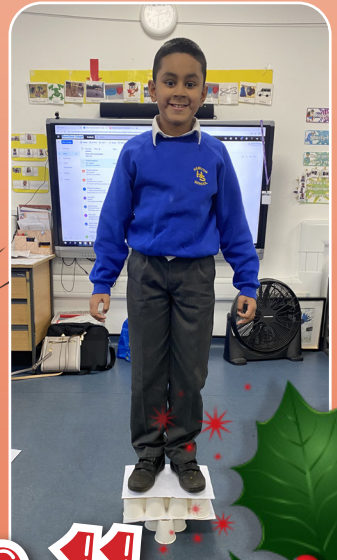
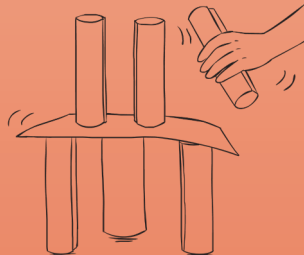


Classroom 10



This term our topic is science, we have been learning about building. We built lots of different structures using different materials. We learnt how to make our structures stronger by using triangle shape bases and strong materials.

We have really enjoyed experimenting with different materials and ways of building. We were especially amazed when we made a structure strong enough for us to stand on using paper cups and cardboard.



Classroom 11



In 2LC we have created art work based on our topic 'Join the Celebration'. We made diva lamps for Diwali, poppy wreaths for Remembrance Day and bonfire collages for Bonfire Night. We also created wintry pictures linked with the Jack Frost story we learned in English..



Classroom 12

Spotlight interview..



Juliet Bick Speech and Language Therapist



Tell us what speech and language therapists do?

Speech and language therapists support children, adults and their families who have communication difficulties or difficulties eating, drinking, or swallowing.

What do you normally do in a speech and language therapy session?

I might watch the child doing a familiar activity in class-either by themselves or in their class group. Sometimes I will see the child by themselves to find out more. I might use objects, pictures, or toys to do this.

Communication is about 2 people so the adults might need to change what they are doing too!

Many of the students at Hamilton do not talk at all; are you able to help them?

Yes, because my job is more than speech. It is about communication. So, we work on other ways of communicating - for example by the child giving photos or symbols. Before speech can be a useful way to communicate children need to work on lots of different things.



What is the main thing that parents and carers can do at home to help their child?

Doing things with your child that they like. If they are enjoying themselves, you can both enjoy playing the game or doing the activity together. This will lead to lots of opportunities to communicate with each other.

Juliet Bick



ST. JAMES'S PLACE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

We love our new AmazeY Play hut and Musical Trail funded by St James' Place Foundation.

Students love to play the instruments and run around and through the hut.

We've already started fundraising for some more big pieces of play equipment. Thanks to Assura for their donation. We want to put some wobble boards in next year.



Food & Toiletries

We have had some generous donations of food and toiletries. If you need any food or toiletries please email pandi@hamilton.bham.sch.uk or ring school and ask for Sarah or Lindsay.



**Ready
Set
Ride...**



This term some Hamilton students have been taking part in a cycling programme run by Physiotherapy Students from the University of Worcester. They have been learning the fundamental skills required to ride balance and pedal bicycles. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and we look forward to continuing the programme in the New Year!

Keep a look out for further information when the new term begins!





internet
matters.org

A banner with a white background and a border of colorful circular icons representing various digital concepts like social media, gaming, and safety. The text 'Keep your kids safe on the web' is in pink. Below it, in blue, is 'Now we can help you make the right choices for your family with internetmatters.org.' At the bottom left, it says 'Let's talk' with a play button icon. At the bottom right is the 'internet matters.org' logo.

Keep your kids safe
on the web

Now we can help you make the right
choices for your family with
internetmatters.org.

Let's talk

internet
matters.org

Children across the county will unwrap a vast range of electronic gifts this Christmas - raising safety concerns from parents. Phones, Smart TVs, gaming consoles & smart speakers may well be under the tree this year, but what can you do to keep your kids safe?

Parental Controls

Give your child a safe space to explore their curiosity online. Step by step guides from Internetmatters.org will help you to set up the right controls and privacy settings on the networks, gadgets, apps, and sites they use to give them a safer online experience.

What are parental controls?

Parental controls are the names for a group of settings that put you in control of what content your child can see. Combined with privacy settings these can help you protect your children from the things they shouldn't see or experience online.

Visit internetmatters.org/parental-controls/ to view guides from all Tech angles to help keep your children safe.



Useful External Contacts:



The Waiting Room

<https://the-waitingroom.org/mth>

Birmingham and Solihull Health & Wellbeing services at your finger tips

TWR provides an alternative approach to taking control of our own health and well-being. It is a virtual bridge across "The Information Chasm" that connects support services to the recipient almost instantly.

If you're worried that a child is being harmed:
Children's Advice and Support Service Birmingham

Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 5:15pm

Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Telephone: 0121 303 1888

Emergency out-of-hours

Telephone: 0121 675 4806

For your nearest foodbank:

01722 580 180

Email:

enquiries@trusselltrust.org

If your family need help:

Family Support Duty Line

0121 675 3689



We would like to give a Huge Thank you to Iceland for their recent generous offer. We will make sure they all find a good home.



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