

# Hamilton School

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

## #WELCOME BACK

### Diary

#### Dates:

#### 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

#### Half Term:

Mon 31 May to  
Fri 4 Jun

#### Summer Term 2:

Mon 7 Jun to  
Wed 21 July

# Newsletter

No. 35

Feb / Mar 2021

**#WELCOMEBACK**



**This half term we welcomed back all our students. It's been so good to see the school full of students and they have made fantastic progress settling back into the routine of school. They've enjoyed seeing their friends again!**

**We still have a few staff shielding and we're looking forward to the summer term when everyone will be back on site.**

**#WELCOMEBACK**

This half term has continued to provide challenge for everyone here at Hamilton. COVID-19 continues to impact the school but everyone has really pulled together to ensure support is given to everyone where needed. For the first half of the term we worked hard to ensure as many children as possible were offered places. Since Monday 8th March we have had all children back in school.

### Covid-19

We have not had any children who haven't returned due to COVID related anxieties. We are continually working hard to ensure that COVID-19 has the least amount of disruption as possible. Lateral flow tests are available to staff to take twice weekly. If a member of staff were to test positive we would be in touch with any contacts of that person to ensure that they were aware to isolate while waiting for the results of the PCR test which is a more accurate test of whether someone does or does not have COVID. We would like to remind you that if your child shows any signs or symptoms of COVID; persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell, then please ring 111 for advice and keep your child at home. If your child is ill and unable to come to school then please can you let us know before 7:30 in the morning as this really helps us to save money on staffing in some instances.

### Staffing

I have not been at Hamilton much this half-term. I am currently also interim head teacher at Langley School in Sutton Coldfield. I am not sure how long I will be required for. I would like to thank all the staff for their great work. It really shows the strength of the team.

Jess, who has been acting up as Deputy Head while Katie was on maternity leave, has now gone on maternity leave herself. She has done a great job in very difficult circumstances. We wish her all the best and hope she enjoys a well-deserved rest!

We hope you all enjoy the Easter break and hope for a more settled summer term with, hopefully, the lifting of some of the restrictions. The new summer term will begin on Monday 19th April.



**Jon Harris**  
Headteacher







# Attendance

We are so happy to see all of our students back in school. We missed them so much! We know that alongside covid-19, our children are going to get sick. Can you please ensure that you contact school by 7.30am if your child is going to be off school. It is incredibly helpful when we arrange staffing for the day. If you are having any problems getting your child in to school, please let either Lindsay or Sarah know (email: [pandi@hamilton.bham.sch.uk](mailto:pandi@hamilton.bham.sch.uk)). We will be happy to help you with this.



## Friends of Hamilton



We've not been able to organise any events during lock down but we've still kept fundraising. Kate applied for £1,500 from the M6 Toll Charity for some outdoor play equipment and was successful! We're looking to put in some movement equipment to help pupils with their balance.

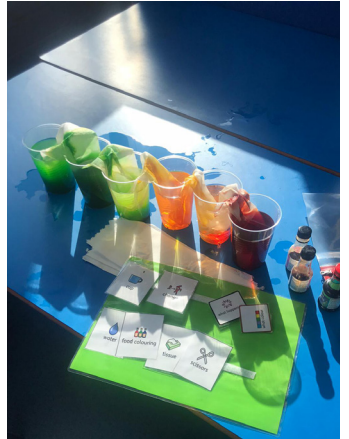
## Example Play Equipment

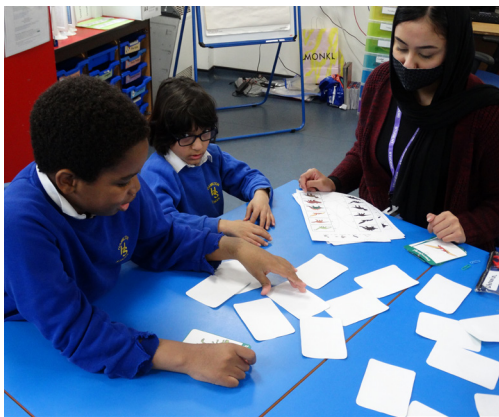




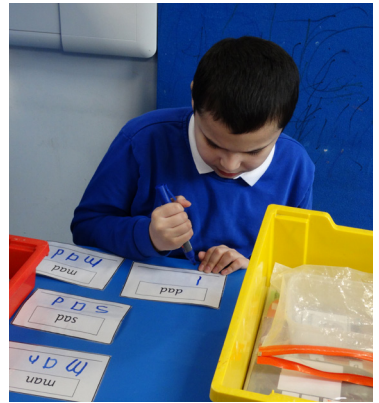












Over the last 10 weeks three Student Physiotherapists and one Student Occupational Therapist from the University of Worcester have been on placement at Hamilton School.



**University  
of Worcester**

With the help of school therapists, they created a Therapy Hub. The Therapy Hub is a mixture of both virtual and face-to-face, allowing teachers to refer children for help with their therapy needs. The service includes; sensory regulation, movement assessment, exercise programs and providing support to families through advice and education when children can't access school due to lockdown.

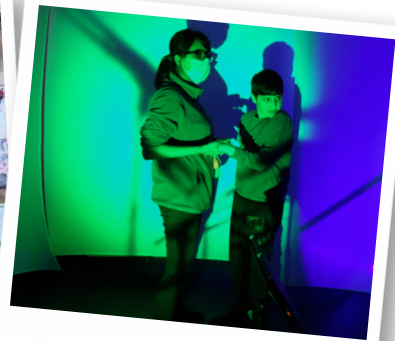
The team were also involved in researching and redesigning ideas for the outside Hive area (the school highlighted areas that required renovation). We are hoping that the renovation will provide an outside area for the children to regulate their sensory needs.



**mac**  
Midlands Arts Centre

We were very lucky to have artists stay with us for a week to give the students sound and painting experiences. One classroom was turned into a sensory space with music and lights. In another room students were able to make swirly paintings.

Many of the students visited the rooms several times to get used to it and they really enjoyed it.





# Care Packages



We have all had to face difficult and uncertain times throughout the pandemic and to support our families we have been sending out weekly care packages. This is to ensure that our families have a sufficient amount of food, drink and toiletries to keep them going. We have put together 15 easter care packages. If you are in need of a care package, please contact Sarah Eaton or Lindsay Cotton





# Spotlight Interview



**Sarah Eaton**  
**Pastoral Manager**



Pastoral



Manager

What is the best bit of your job?

Supporting parents to understand some of the ways that Autism affects their children. I answer parents' questions, organise workshops and signpost them to other sources of support. I've also really enjoyed putting weekly hampers together for some of our families.

What does your role entail?

- Admissions to school
- Helping pupils move to their secondary school in year 6
- Supporting teachers with Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) learning
- Safeguarding
- Supporting teachers with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP)
- Making sure that pupils get the transport to school that they need
- Monitoring attendance and following up with parents
- Organising parent meetings and workshops
- Being a charity trustee of Friends of Hamilton charity

I want parents to know that we are there for them and we'll always endeavour to support them. I'm only a phone call or email away!

Telephone: 0121 464 1676 or email: [seaton@hamilton.bham.sch.uk](mailto:seaton@hamilton.bham.sch.uk)



# 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](mailto:enquiries@trusselltrust.org)**



## If your family need help:

**Family Support Duty Line**

**0121 675 3689**



**Tel:**  
**Email:**  
**Web:**

**0121 464 1676**  
**[enquiry@hamilton.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hamilton.bham.sch.uk)**  
**[www.hamilton.bham.sch.uk](http://www.hamilton.bham.sch.uk)**