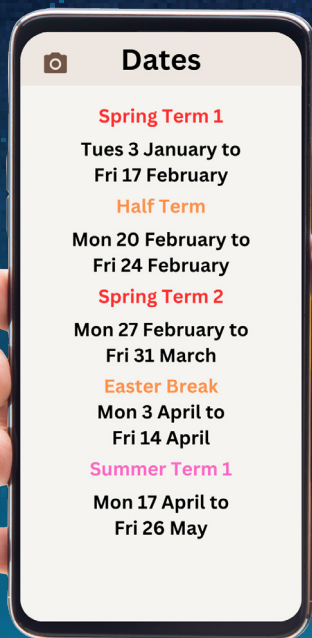


Jan - Feb 2023

No. 46

Newsletter



**LIGHTER EVENINGS
ARE ON THEIR WAY**

Happy New Year! The first half term of 2023 has been very busy and eventful! This January we have had the addition of 5 new children into our school. We would like to welcome all our new families to Hamilton.

Consultation period for the proposal for Hamilton School to temporarily extend the age range from 4- 11 years to 4-13 years from September 2023

Thank you to all of those who sent back the consultation form expressing their views on this. Thanks also to those of you who were able to attend, either in person or on Microsoft Teams, the day on the 23rd January for parents to question members of the Local Authority. This was very successful and I hope those that attended were given the answers they needed to support them to feel confident in filling out the form. The consultation period has now finished and governors have looked through the forms that returned. The majority of people were in favour of the proposal and so the Governing Body has made the Local Authority aware that they have unanimously agreed to the temporary change to take place from September 2023. This is very exciting for Hamilton School and we are committed to ensuring we work to give the children that will be staying at Hamilton, the best education possible. We are already working on extending our Primary curriculum and are working with other ASD specific all age schools in the city to ensure our curriculum offer is the best it possibly can be.

New classroom

We finally have our new classroom in the form of a portakabin. This half term has seen a lot of building work take place on the spot in the playground where this now sits and many children have enjoyed watching the progress from a safe distance! The day the building was put in the playground using a big crane from the fire station at the back of the school, was very exciting and many children enjoyed watching this process from the safety of the upstairs corridor of the new build! We now have our new Class 13 situated in the portakabin and they are enjoying the space the room offers!

Site clearance

As part of the changes to the outdoor areas, through the placement of the Portakabin and the temporary secondary build that will arrive over the rest of the academic year, we are looking to develop other outdoor areas that currently are unable to be used. This has involved getting people in to clear a lot of the land and we are hoping at the end of this work to have 3 new outdoor spaces that the children can use. We will keep you informed of developments in this area!

Attendance

Whole school attendance as of 26th January 2023, is 91.04%. We are aiming to improve this to above 93%. We strive to work with children and their families to ensure that we are as supportive as possible. Our pastoral team regularly review children's attendance and put in support where needed. Please do contact us if you are in need of support regarding attendance.

Staff changes

In January we welcomed several new staff to the Hamilton Team. We have a new teacher in Class 10, Stella and across the school we have a couple of Teaching Assistants who are new to the school, Fahima (Class 11) and Suwaiba (Class 13). We also have some Teaching Assistants who have been working at Hamilton as long term supply and are making the move to permanent staff. These are; Musarat (Class 2), Nosheen (Class 2), Zohra (Class 3), Sufiya (Class 6), Faye (Class 8), Valeria (Class 10) and Shamshad (Class 8). As we have new people starting at the school we are also losing one of our teachers, Letitia Carter, at the end of this half term. Letitia is a much valued member of the Hamilton Team, she is moving on to an Assistant Head role elsewhere and we would like to wish her lots of luck in this new role. At the end of this half term our Inclusion manager, Charlie Philpotts, is going on maternity leave. We also wish her lots of luck in her new role as 'Mum'!

As ever in school we are looking to ensure that all the children receive the best education possible. We are interviewing for new teachers on Thursday 16th February and currently have an advert out for more Teaching Assistants. We continue to ensure staff are equipped with the appropriate skills to allow them to support the children effectively. We use Friday afternoons to put on staff training that will help us to move the school forward and continue to give the best quality of education possible.

I hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 27th February.

Katie Williams
Headteacher



Our topic this half term was weather. We have focused on a particular element of weather each week. For rain we made



our own rain clouds in Science using shaving foam and oil, for snow we made cloud dough with baby oil, cornflour and winter sprinkles and when focusing on rainbows we did a 'walking water' experiment where we made food colouring run along kitchen roll in glass jars - we had so much fun and developed our understanding on changing materials.

In writing, children have made marks with a range of sensory tools; one we particularly loved was mark making with cotton wool on pegs like clouds!

Children have been busy every Tuesday walking to the supermarket to buy our ingredients for cooking on a Wednesday.

Children have responded so well to shopping and some of them have had their own shopping list to find the ingredients.

We have begun some I:L sessions with the new speech and language team. This will be an ongoing process now for the rest of the year.



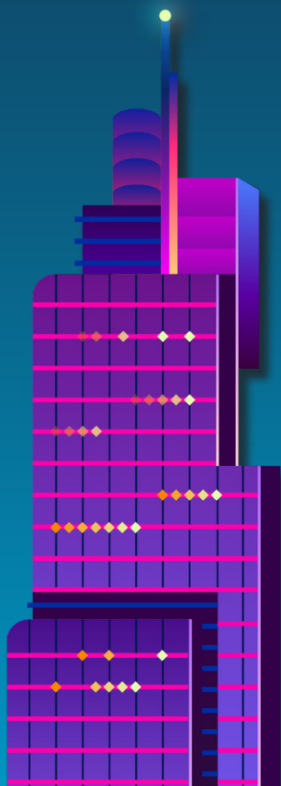
CLASS

1

Buildings are fascinating and amazing structures that surround so many of us. This half term, Class 2 have been exploring some incredible architecture from cultures around the globe. We built our own Burj Khalifa, assembled the Eiffel Tower, and constructed The Golden Gate Bridge.

To end such an engaging half term topic, we visited the MiniBum Exhibition at the ThinkTank in Birmingham. Everyone was thrilled to take part in the soft play building site and role play buildings.

Everyone in Class 2 would like to thank Harry from the West Bromwich Albion Foundation for his support in our Thursday PE lessons, and wish him well for his new adventures after half term.



This term our topic has been 'Let's build it'. The children have enjoyed learning to make their own buildings and structures. In science we have practiced making our own structures using a range of materials, we explored the materials and discovered how they were all different, some were hard, some were bendy and others were shiny.

In English, we enjoyed reading 'Whatever Next' and 'Three little Pigs'. We enjoyed reading both and learnt how we could build things using the materials we found around us. The children helped make their own rockets where they then pretended to go to space. We also painted our own rockets which were smaller.

The children have begun to work with our new Speech and Language team and had some great I:1 sessions with the children to further support their communication. This has been really beneficial and the children are looking forward to the next sessions.

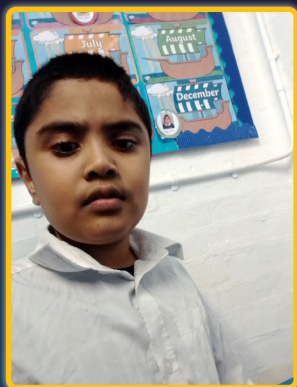
Hope you have a lovely break and we will see you all soon!





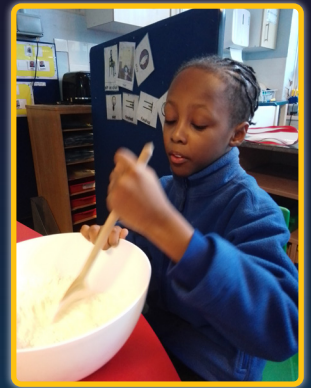
This half term class 4 have been learning all about Neighbourhood Watch. We have been looking at what is in our neighbourhood and have designed our own ideal neighbourhood. We have been doing alot of work around people who help us, from Doctors to Firefighters and we have been to visit a fire station where we got to go in a fire truck and wear the equipment.





This half term, our topic has been 'Neighbourhood Watch'. We have been learning about the important people in our society such as the builders in our school. We have also learnt about the fire brigade, lifeguards at the beach, the police and surgeons. We have had lots of fun in our Science lessons too! We've mixed different materials like builders, experimented with objects that sink and float for our lifeguards and looked at different bones like the surgeons.





What a wonderful start to 2023. This term's topic was "Neighborhood Watch". Children have enjoyed learning about "people who help us" such as the police, doctors, nurses, chefs, teachers and many more professions. All our lessons were highly influenced by our theme. In English children enjoyed reading and exploring books about "police officers, doctors, chefs and school". Children worked hard at categorizing objects into their correct categories. In Math's children participated in developing their fine motor skills through posting, threading, pressing and twisting. Children worked especially hard at demonstrating extended periods of concentration. In Science, children enjoyed making marshmallow playdough and building templates using laminated body parts. Children's absolute favorite was a music group activity (pass the parcel). Each child had a highly motivated object inside the parcel.

Great job Class 6, you made all your teachers very proud.



Class 7 have had an excellent start to the year 2023! Our topic this half term has been Neighbourhood Watch. We have had fun completing a lot of different activities relating to this topic, including learning about some of the people who help us in the community, for example, nurses, police officers and firefighters.

We have been going shopping each week to buy some ingredients for our cooking lessons, the children have helped to find items from our shopping list and have given the money to the cashier.

This half term, we have also been swimming, all of the children had lots of fun in the pool, splashing and playing!

Class 7 wishes you all a lovely half term holiday. We look forward to seeing the pupils return for the 2nd half of the spring term for lots more fun activities.



CLASS

7



Our topic this half term has been 'We can build it'. We have had fun completing a lot of different activities relating to this topic through art sessions, sensory play and cooking.

We also started 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 half term holiday. We look forward to seeing the pupils return for the 2nd half of the spring term for lots more fun activities.



This Half term, our topic has been "Neighbourhood Watch." We have had a lot of fun exploring and learning about people that help us within the community e.g. police, firefighters, nurses, and teachers. We loved dressing up each week for role play and learning more about the people who help us.



We have loved reading Room on the Broom this term and we have all done brilliant work in Maths. In Art, we have completed a variety of art projects and it has been fun to see our artwork on the display board. In cooking, we have made a variety of things such as fruit skewers, pizza, and biscuits.

We had fun on number day, where we got to participate in a sensory session in the hall with activities relating to numbers. We also created our own class number 9 superhero.

We have had an exciting term and we hope you all have a lovely half term and will see you for Spring 2.



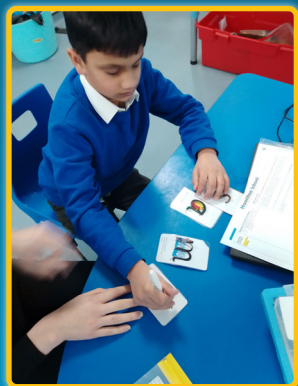
This Half term, our topic has been "Neighbourhood Watch." We have had a lot of fun exploring and learning about people that help us within the community during our lessons!

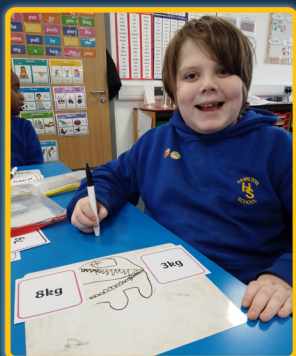
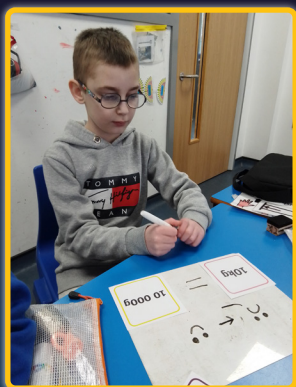


We have enjoyed reading a new story the 'Aliens in underpants save the world!' and we have done amazing work on counting to 10 during Maths. In Art lessons, we had so much fun mark making and copying different line patterns with a variety of paintbrushes.

We also had fun on Number day where we turned our class number 10 into a superhero!

We have had an exciting term and we hope you all have a relaxing half term!



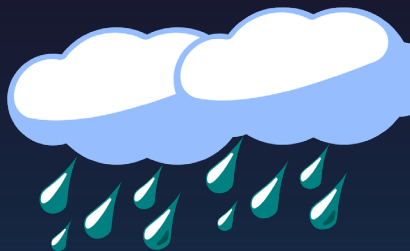


This half term, our topic has been "Our Planet". We have made our own planet Earths with papier mache. We have learned about the seven continents and five oceans and learned which animals live in which continent or ocean. In Science we have focused on weather and done some interesting experiments about rain and wind and explored waterproof and absorbent materials. In Cooking we have looked at where our food comes from on a world map and baked bread and made some dishes with vegetables where we looked at how the food gets from farm to fork.

As well as this, in Computing we have documented our exciting Building Project where we have seen Classroom I3 brought in by crane and taken photos of the progress in our playground.

CLASS

11



We have had a really exciting term in class 12! We have enjoyed going swimming at Ladywood leisure center and have been learning to float as well as swim on our back and front.

Our topic has been Our Planet, in art we have been making a paper mâché globes ensuring our continents are in the right place! In science we have been looking at different kinds of weather and investigating how clouds hold water until there is too much and it starts to rain.





Forest School



Class 13 have had lot of fun exploring the outdoors as part of forest schools. We have explored different natural materials, made a decomposable bird feeder and created our own nature pictures. We have also been exploring "gravity" and making paper aeroplanes. The children have had lots of fun attempting to make the best plane and racing each other to see whose the fastest!

CLASS
13



We know times are tougher than ever. We have been seeking advice from external agencies that can support you through these tough times.

The following websites are useful to have to hand.

The waiting room is a bank of services that offer support on a range of issues. Check them out by visiting the website below

<https://the-waitingroom.org>

There is also help and advice at your local children's centre, and your local citizens advice centre.

<https://bhamforwardsteps.co.uk/childrens-centres/>

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

There is also hundreds of ways to save money with Martin Lewis, the Money saving expert.

You can find out about this here:

MoneySavingExpert
Cutting your costs, fighting your corner

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>



NSPCC

Number
Day Friday
3rd Feb



Don't get hooked!

How to spot a phishing email

Phishing is the use of fake email messages that claim to be from a company or someone you trust. Their aim? To gather your username and password to compromise your account.

Be wary of emails that ask you to validate or verify your account.

Phishing emails tend to be poorly written and may include spelling mistakes and odd formatting.

Look out for emails which have a sense of urgency and imply you might lose access to your account.

They may appear to be from a company or someone you know.

Be wary of links in emails. Is the destination the same as the link you see? Try hovering over the link to check.





**Our new
Portakabin**

Here it comes.....



Free Money Advice

We provide free advice for
debts and benefits including:-

- Welfare benefits entitlement
- Universal Credit and Council Tax
- Debt Advice, budgeting and money management
- Utilities advice- gas, electric and water

Contact us-

0121 250 0765



money.advice@bsettlement.org.uk

Birmingham Settlement,
359-361 Witton Road, Birmingham B6 6NS
www.birminghamsettlement.org.uk
Registered charity no. 517303
FCA license no. 700033

**birmingham
settlement**
developing communities, changing lives



Tel:
Email:
Web:

0121 464 1676
enquiry@hamilton.bham.sch.uk
www.hamilton.bham.sch.uk