



Children are the Future

Hamilton Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Graeme Aldous
Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks., HP13 6SG
Main Office Tel: 01494 522231 Fax: 01494 440576
Hampden Road Tel: 01494 437317 Fax: 01494 442000
e-mail: office@hamilton-school.co.uk website: www.hamilton-school.co.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

21 July 2010

Dear Parents

I would like to offer a huge thank you for the welcome you have all given me in my first year as Headteacher of Hamilton School. It is not a position that I have taken at all lightly and during this year we have been extremely thankful for the support that the parents give the school in many ways.

Many parents give up a huge amount of time coming in to school to help at a number of activities, from reading, supporting school trips, sports day to name but a few. The relationship between home and school is so crucial for children and I am always heartened to see all our events so well attended.

I would particularly like to thank those who support the Friends of Hamilton with such things as cooking barbeques or serving drinks at sports day, to putting up marquees and counting money on hot dog days. It always impresses me that there is so much enthusiasm to do things for the school to help it improve.

Earlier in the year I sent out an hmail outlining the information that had been gathered about everyone's thoughts on the school and where we are going. As the term draws to a close I felt it a good time to reflect on some of those areas. Many of the changes that I have brought in as Head have been in the classroom and this may not be visible to parents. We have worked very hard as a staff this year developing assessment in the classroom and focusing on the pupils' learning. Also putting in processes to ensure that there is accurate tracking of pupils' progress. The Year 2 meeting about assessment was received very well and we intend to run a number of events next year for parents so that you can better understand how the children are assessed and how this is used to inform their targets for improvement.

In order to move forward in this area, Miss Fulton has already set up a working party of parents who have met to discuss some areas of the school they wish to move forward, and I have a number of people who have volunteered to be part of a working group to look at the future of the school. We will have our first meeting early next term. I will be collating the view of parents from our recent questionnaire in order to discuss an action plan on how to move forwards.

One of the main areas for improvement that came up earlier in the year was the learning environment. I have spent much time this year discussing with governors the maintenance, repair and redecoration and we have planned some works in the summer holidays, which will continue over the coming years. Our major redevelopment this year was the new windows at Hampden Road, which I am sure you will agree aesthetically has made a great difference.

We have also been discussing the learning environment for the children both inside and outside. One of the areas in school is displays. We have been working on the classroom and halls, where the children's work is displayed with a notice about what the children are learning. This enables children in other year groups, and parents, to gain an understanding of what the other year groups are learning. The pupils and staff were also very keen to develop the outdoor learning environment. I have discussed this with Friends of Hamilton who are happy to further fund equipment for outside learning.

One of the other areas that was mentioned was that of hot school meals. If you are reading this after your children have finished school, then as you are reading, our kitchens are being redeveloped in preparation for starting hot meals during next term. When the building works are complete we will have a parent meeting in order to present to you how the system will work and share the menus with you. This is an extremely exciting time as we will be one of the first schools in Buckinghamshire to introduce hot school meals.

I have been very pleased with the progress made in pupil attendance and thank you for your support. When I first started at the school I was concerned that a number of pupils had an attendance record of below 95% which is a real concern as this has a dramatic effect on progress. You can see the progress in the following results.

Term	No of pupils below 95%	No of pupils below 90%
Autumn	317	136
Spring	217	103
Summer to 24 June	186	89

Next term we will also be asking for your support in decreasing the number of times pupils are late, as this also has a detrimental effect on their progress. The pupils come in unsettled, disturb the lesson and have missed the main teaching points. As the first lessons of the day are English and Maths, this has a real impact on their progress.

One of the other areas we have made real progress on this year is developing early reading in school. We have been working closely with the local authority to develop early literacy skills and have developed guided reading throughout the school, so that there is dedicated time to improve these valuable skills, outside the Literacy and Numeracy hour.

Wishing you all a happy and safe summer.

Yours sincerely



G Aldous
Headteacher