



Children are the Future

Hamilton Primary School - *hmail GA15*

Headteacher: Mr G Aldous

Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 6SG

e-mail: office@hamilton-school.co.uk

website: www.hamilton-school.co.uk

13 October 2010



Dear Parents,

All parents of children at Hamilton are automatically members of the Friends of Hamilton Association and their Annual General Meeting will take place tomorrow, Thursday 14 October, at 7.30pm in the Hampden Road hall. Refreshments will be provided. Once again, FoH raised a magnificent sum of money last year which will be used entirely in the interests of the children attending Hamilton, so your child will undoubtedly benefit time and again from the hard work of FoH supporters. I am also most grateful to FoH for the activities they organise which do not have fund raising as their main objective but enable members of our diverse community to get together, make new friends and enjoy themselves. Please make every effort to attend, and contribute to future events.

SCHOOL NEWS

NSPCC fund raising collections

Thank you to all the parents and children who helped raise money for the NSPCC. We can proudly say we raised £1543.03 from years 1, 2, 3 and 4.

NOTICES

Time-keeping

The changes to the start of the day at each site have been very productive and allow more time for lessons and learning. However, there are a large number of children who continually and persistently arrive late for school.

To remind you:

Priory Rd: the start of the school day is 8.45am.

The whistle blows at 8.40am and pupils enter straight after. All pupils must have entered the building by 8.45am.

Hampden Rd: the start of the school day is 9.00am.

The whistle blows at 8.55am and all parents are asked to leave. All pupils must have entered the building by 9.00am.

Arriving after these times is counted as late.

This is what is recorded on your child's attendance record. The Educational Welfare Officer monitors registers for attendance and lateness on a regular basis and is required to contact the parents of those pupils who are persistently absent or late. She will work with you to improve these areas.

One of the most important things that you can do to support your child's progress in school is ensuring they arrive on time. It means that they are ready and calm for the start of lessons and don't miss the main input and teaching point. This is very unsettling for children and affects the learning of all the children as the teacher needs to explain the lesson again to individual pupils instead of spending time supporting the learning of all. Please support school by ensuring your child/ren arrive at school on time every day in a calm and

organised way. Please read the attached pages entitled 'Every Lesson Counts' from the Educational Welfare Officer.

Please may we remind parents to also collect their child/ren promptly at the end of the day. This time is 3.15pm at Priory Road and 3.30pm at Hampden Road. If you know you will be late, please use our After School Activities Club to ensure the welfare of your child. This runs from 3.15-5.30pm on Monday to Thursday and 3.15-5.00pm on a Friday at Priory Road at a cost of £5 per session. We also have a Walking Crocodile so that children can attend from Hampden Road. Please speak to your child's school office for information.

Harvest Assemblies

These are taking place at:

1.30pm on Tuesday 19 October at Priory Road, and
2.00pm on Wednesday 20 October Hampden Road.
Attendance at these events is by invitation only.

Invitations to relatives and grandparents have been sent out this week for Priory Road. Hampden Road has invited the Caribbean Day Centre and St Andrew's Church members to their assembly. Please don't forget to send in your donations of food contributions, which will be shared with our visitors on the day.

Black History Month

During October school is supporting the national Black History Month. Each year group and site is approaching this in their own way. Please encourage your child to enter the poster competition. The child who creates the winning poster wins a prize for themselves and prestige for the school.

Trips

Year 3 have just visited High Wycombe Chair Museum at Stewart Linford, the woods near the Rye and Wycombe Museum. These were highly enjoyable and informative visits.

Year 5 returned from the Isle of Wight on Friday. Fun was had by all. Children were reported to have

behaved fantastically well, worked as a team and the good weather made it all the better still!

Year 4 are visiting High Wycombe town centre this week as part of their comparative study with Llandudno.

YEAR 6: PLEASE NOTE: The Green Park meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening, 14 October, has been rescheduled for after half-term. Details will follow.

Coats

As the weather and Autumn is clearly upon us, please ensure your child brings a named coat to school every day to wear at play and lunch times. Lunchtime lasts an hour and this is a long time to be without the correct clothing.

Eid

We hope you enjoyed the Eid day as much as we did. The day was a huge success and a fantastic way to draw our whole community together. A huge thank you to Ms Baig for her wonderful assemblies explaining Eid ul-Fitr. Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend and take part in the day sharing food and looking at what their children had been learning. Lastly, thank you to all the parents who kindly donated an amazing quantity of delicious food which everyone shared and enjoyed.

Assessment

We have an assessment week at the end of this half term. Following this all children's progress will be reviewed. Please support your children by ensuring they attend school regularly and on time. Information from these assessments will be shared with parents at the Parents' Evenings after half term. *See the calendar on the attached sheet for dates.*

Uniform

Correct uniform and smartly dressed children are valued highly at Hamilton Primary School. Please support school by ensuring your child is correctly dressed on all occasions. By now all children should have all the correct uniform allowing for stock problems from the school shop. Uniform checks will be carried out this week. Please support your child by ensuring you provide them with the correct uniform. This includes hair band colour, sock type and colour and pyjama leg coverings. Please note these should not be cropped white tight fitted leggings. The uniform rules are attached so that everyone is clear.

Please remember to look in lost property boxes at both sites. All unnamed lost clothing is taken to charity shops.

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN NEWS

Since the last *hmail* I have received more comments from parents about the inconsiderate parking at the start and end of the school day. I reiterate my message to all who drop off and collect children: Please show respect for the people that live in this community and do not obstruct their driveways or park in areas that are clearly marked 'private'. We are still having issues with cars parking on the zig-zag areas outside of school to deliver and collect children at the start and end of the school day. This selfish parking is dangerous and could cost lives. Please give some consideration to the health and safety of all our children.

A further reminder for parents with children at Hampden Road that the front car-park should not be used to park when collecting children at the end of the day.

I am encouraging parents who have any issues with incidents of poor parking to write to Parking Services, Wycombe District Council, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe HP11 1BB or phone 01494 421420. Unless enough complaints are received direct to Parking Services, they will not consider the problem worthy of their intervention!

FRIENDS OF HAMILTON

Bonfire and Fireworks Evening

Tickets are now available for the Bonfire & Fireworks on 5 November at Hampden Road field. A flier has been sent home giving information, details of which are below:

A family ticket (up to 5 people) £16.00 each

A single ticket £6.00 each

Gates open at 5.30pm

Bonfire will be lit at 5.45pm

Fireworks will start at 6.30pm

Refreshments will be available from 5.30pm

This has always been a great evening, with a fantastic display of fireworks. I would recommend you come with your family, and bring some friends!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please note the earlier calendar that was sent to parents as a parent mail on 24th September has been amended. Please disregard the information that it contains. The up to date version for the second half of this term is attached.

Yours sincerely


Mr G Aldous
Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Calendar for November and December 2010

Date	Event	Who / Where	Time
NOVEMBER			
Monday 1	FOH Committee Meeting	PR staffroom	7.30pm
Friday 5	FOH Bonfire Night	HR	5.30pm gates open 5.45pm bonfire lit 6.30pm fireworks start
Saturday 6	Friends of Hamilton Family Photo Day	PR hall	Times detailed on flier sent home. Booking essential.
Thursday 11	Diwali celebration	HR hall	6.00-8.00pm
Monday 15	FoH Class Reps meeting	HR hall	7.30pm
Thursday 18	Parents' Evenings		HR - 4.00-6.30 PR - 6.30-9.00
Wednesday 24	Parents' Evening		PR - 4.00- 6.30 HR - 6.30-9.00
Friday 26	Hot Dog Day	Both buildings	lunchtime
Monday 29	Shortenills	5B	am and pm
Tuesday 30	Shortenills	5J	am and pm
DECEMBER			
Wednesday 1	FoH Clothes Collection	Priory Road only	
Thursday 2	FoH Clothes Collection	both HR and PR	
	Shortenills	5P	am and pm
Friday 3	REC and new Nursery visits	PR	am
Saturday 4	FoH Buy a Present Day	HR	9.30 - 12.00noon
Tuesday 7	Christmas Making Day	Years 3 and 4	
Wednesday 8	KS2 Christmas Celebration	All Saints, Parish Church	7.00pm
Thursday 9	Parents consultations	Nursery	am
	KS 1 Christmas performance	HR hall	9.30 and 6.00
Friday 10	KS1 Christmas performance	HR hall	9.30 and 1.30
	Fundraising Bring and Buy Sale	PR Year 4 only	
	Parents consultations	Nursery	am
Monday 13	Nursery/Reception Christmas Celebration	PR hall	am
	Christmas Making Fair - activities for all year groups	PR hall	3.30-5pm
Tuesday 14	Nursery/Reception Christmas Celebration	PR hall	am
	Parties - HR - Years 1,2,5 and 6	HR	
	Parties - PR - Years 3 and 4	PR hall	pm
Wednesday 15	Nursery and Reception Parties	PR	
	KS2 Disco	Hampden Road	3.30-5.00
Thursday 16	FoH Panto event	Wycombe Swan	Collection times HR 12.45 PR 1.00
Friday 17	School breaks for Christmas Holiday	ALL	end of school day

UNIFORM

The school has a regulation uniform and the co-operation of parents is required to ensure that each child is provided with and wears the correct dress. Details of the uniform are below.

All items must be named.

Nursery - Boys and Girls

The only uniform item required for boy and girls is a Hamilton school sweatshirt*.

Grey Boys - Years: Reception to Year 6

- shorts or trousers, with grey socks.
- Reception, Years 1 & 2: Hamilton school blue polo shirt (with embroidered crest)*; alternatively, long or short sleeved conventional white shirt with school tie*.
- Years 3 & above: White conventional long or short-sleeved school shirt with school tie*.
- Dark green cardigan, dark green v-neck sweater or school sweatshirt*.
- Black shoes (not boots). Dark, closed-toe sandals may be worn in summer.
- Sensible coat or anorak when weather dictates.

Girls - Years: Reception to Year 6

- Dark green pinafore dress or dark green pleated/kilted skirt of a sensible length, with green tights or plain white socks, short or long (not sports socks); alternatively, grey school trousers with grey socks.
- Reception, Years 1 & 2: Hamilton school blue polo shirt (with embroidered crest)*; alternatively, long or short sleeved conventional white shirt with school tie*.
- Years 3 & above: White conventional long or short-sleeved school shirt with school tie*.
- Dark green cardigan, dark green v-neck sweater or school sweatshirt*.
- Black sensible shoes with a low heel (not boots). Dark, closed-toe sandals may be worn in summer.
- Green or white cotton tailored trousers and/or a white shoulder-length Hijab may be worn for religious reasons.
- In the summer girls may wear a green and white checked or striped dress.
- Sensible coat or anorak when weather dictates.

PE and Games kit must be named and will include:

- Plain white or school T-shirt.
- White or dark green shorts or dark green PE knickers.
- Plain black or plain white plimsolls.
- Plain white socks.

In addition in Years 1- 6 children require:

- Training shoes for outdoor use.
- Dark green tracksuit.
- Dark green games skirt may be worn for some activities.
- Leotards and footless tights may be worn for religious reasons.

Shorts, skirts and tracksuit bottoms must not have pockets.

Long hair must be tied back using only soft hair ties.

Children may only take part in physical activity when correctly dressed.

Dress Rules

- Children with long hair must have it tied back at all times by green, black or white hair accessories.
- Hair styles must be conventional and indistinctive.
- Children wearing a white school shirt must wear a school tie.
- Children may wear school sun hats* at the discretion of the school in summer.
- All articles of clothing should be named.
- A named watch and small plain ear studs may be worn. Jewellery necessary on religious or medical grounds may only be worn at the request of parents and when written consent has been granted by the school.
- Children should wear sensible and safe school shoes. Fashion footwear is not allowed.

*items available from the school shop

Every Lesson Counts

A guide to school attendance

Every child has the right to receive full time education

- Children can only make the most of educational opportunities if they attend regularly and on time.
- Lessons lost will never be found.
- 95% attendance or below is a cause for concern.
- It is not a parental right to take a child out of school for a holiday.

What does the school do?

Provides 190 days of planned curriculum delivery – not a day should be missed.

Listens and supports

Liaises with the Education Welfare Officer

Reports levels of school attendance to:

- The Local Authority
- The Department of Education and Skills
- Ofsted

Monitors attendance

Reports a child's attendance, at least annually, to parents

Informs parents of their child's unacceptable absence and:

- Invites parents to a meeting to discuss the issue
- Alerts the EWO to unacceptable patterns of absence where home/school contact has not improved the attendance

The following reasons for absence will not be authorised

- Looking after the house
- Looking after other family members
- Illness of another family member, i.e. pupil kept off school when sibling unwell
- Shopping during school hours
- Birthdays
- Day trips
- Holidays

Most common acceptable reasons for absence

- ✓ Illness of child (not the parent)
- ✓ An emergency medical or dental appointment that has not been possible in out of school hours
- ✓ A religious event

Anyone wishing to take their child out of school on compassionate grounds should write to the school, requesting permission and explaining the situation.

Parental Responsibility

Education Act 1996, Part V1, Chapter 11, Section 444

1. *If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to regularly attend the school, his/her parent is guilty of an offence.*

In a few cases where a child persistently misses school and parents are aware of the situation but have been unable to provide a reasonable explanation to the school for the absence, the parents may be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court.

What if???

Your child misses 10 days of school (20 sessions)

- They already have a 95% attendance

Your child misses 20 days of school (40 sessions)

- That's only 89% attendance – the equivalent of half a day off per week for a whole year.

Your child misses 38 days of school (76 sessions)

- That's 80% attendance – the equivalent of a day off a week for the whole year

What if your child is late?

- He/she might feel self conscious and humiliated.
- He/she misses registration which may result in an absent mark; this would be an unauthorised absence.
- He/she misses the beginning of lessons which contain the introduction to the work from the teacher.
- He/she will be 'catching up' for the rest of the lesson.
- He/she misses the social part of the beginning of the day.
- He/she may be reluctant or refuse to enter the classroom.
- He/she will cause disruption for all other class members.

What does the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) do?

- Monitors attendance
- Works with the school and parents to resolve a child's attendance problems
- Telephones, writes or visits your home when necessary

What can you do to help?

- Report the absence of your child as early as possible on the first day of absence.
- Ensure that your child is in school for registration – don't let him/her miss out on the first part of the day.
- Arrange a meeting after school if you need to speak to the class teacher.
- Do not take holidays during term time.
- Understand that the beginnings and ends of terms are as important as any other time in school.
- Do not allow your child time away from school unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Encourage a pattern of punctuality and good attendance with your child – let him/her see it matters.
- When one of your children is off school make sure that you get the others into school – ask a friend to take them in and check to ensure arrival at school.
- Take notice of how much time your child has been away from school.
- Let us know if you are about to leave the area, change your address or any of your contact numbers. Ensure that we always have up-to-date contact information.

BE CONCERNED OVER YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE