



Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to the start of the new school year. It marks a very exciting time for me as a new headteacher as this is the beginning of my first year. It seems a long time since I was appointed last September. I am looking forward to working with you and leading the school into the challenges of the future. I trust that you all had a good break and are all looking forward to another busy year. I especially welcome all families who are new to the school.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Welcome

New teachers for September are:

1Y Miss Yaxley

2E Miss Evans

3F Miss Fulton

4W Miss Whichelow

### Meet the teacher week: 14-17 September

Next week you will have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher for a brief introduction and to make them aware of any important information concerning your child's welfare. Teachers on both sites will be available from Monday to Thursday for half an hour after school (from 3.25 at Priory Road and 3.40 at Hampden Road). Information on each child has already been handed from their last class, but you may like to meet your child's new teacher. Please note that we will make provision for your children at Hampden Road if you are late collecting them because of Contact Week. If you have any concerns which will take more than a few minutes to discuss, please make an appointment to meet your child's class teacher at another time. Mrs Sandy Hawkes at Priory Road (522231) or Mrs Nazya Malik or Mrs Sarah Emmett at Hampden Road (437317) will be able to arrange an appointment for you.

### Parents Evenings

Dates are on the attached calendar.

## NOTICES

### Uniform

Please note that for your child and other children's safety earrings must be removed for PE. Your child will not be able to take part if their earrings are not removed.

### Naming Uniform and Belongings

Please ensure each item of clothing your child/ren wears and any item they bring to school is labelled with

their name. There are already clothes in Lost Property which are not named and so there are sadly already, at this early stage in the term, children with items of uniform missing.

### Haircuts

Please remember that hairstyles for school term time must be conventional and indistinctive.

### Mobile Phones

Request for a child to bring a mobile phone into school must be made in writing, addressed to me. Once permission is given, the phone must be handed into the office on arrival at school and collected at the end of the school day. Our mobile phone policy is available at both school offices and is on the school website: [www.hamilton-school.co.uk](http://www.hamilton-school.co.uk).

### Shoe Aid

This term we will be taking part in Shoe Aid. From 21 September there will be collecting boxes at both sites for any shoes you no longer need, which can be used by Shoe Aid for Africa - they are particularly collecting sports shoes in line with the football World Cup in South Africa in 2010. Thank you.

### Start of School Day

Please remember that as soon as the whistle goes for the children to line up, parents should leave the playground.

### Breakfast Club

I have been asked to remind you that places in Breakfast Club must be booked in advance, by contacting the Hampden Road office. Parents cannot just drop their children at school at 8.30 and expect a place to be available, as we need to have correct staffing levels.

### Hamilton School Admissions 2009/10

If you or any of your friends have a child whose date of birth falls between 1 September 2005 and 31 August 2006 your school application needs to be submitted to

the Local Authority by 13 November (paper applications by 5pm, on-line applications by midnight). We now have a supply of the Guide to Parents and application forms - please come into the Priory Road office to collect one if you have a child of the right age.

Every year, a few parents who have children already attending the school fail to gain a place for their younger child because they have not submitted their application on time. We do not always know about siblings who have been born after the initial Admission Form has been completed, so we are unable to help some of you to avoid the difficulties that you will face if you do not apply on time. We want to avoid this, so please ask at the office if you have any questions.

### **Lateness**

The school day starts promptly at 8.45 at the Priory Road site and 9.00 at the Hampden Road site.

Should your child arrive late into school, it is very important they do not go to the office but follow the procedure and give their name to the member of staff on the gate, and not try to slip past unnoticed. If a child does this, and their name is not marked on the register as present, our Building Secretary has to telephone you to ascertain that your child is safe. Should your child be persistently late, we have an obligation to make a report to the Education Welfare Officer.

### **Sickness**

If your child is not able to come to school due to illness, please phone the school between 8.15 and 9am on the first morning of absence so we know your child is safe.

### **Lunches**

Our mid-day supervisors have reported that some children have not been eating their lunches as they say they do not like what has been given to them. Please check that your child has eaten their lunch - the contents of the box are not emptied at the end of lunchtime, so should go home at the end of the school day. If your child repeatedly does not eat his/her lunch, please reconsider what you are putting in their lunchbox.

### **Parent Volunteers**

School life is enhanced by parents being involved, either with Friends of Hamilton (more later), volunteering to help with library sessions, listening to children reading, or accompanying school trips, or helping with the Walking Crocodile. I am very grateful for your time and energy spent with us. There may be ways you can help out, and from time to time we may ask for your help.

### **Swine Flu**

Current government advice suggests that the threat of swine flu is not as significant as previously thought, but we need to remain vigilant. **The most important advice is that children who have symptoms of flu-like illness should stay away from school** and as far as possible not mix with others until they have recovered and are free of symptoms. If a child develops a flu-like illness in school, he or she will be isolated from other pupils until a parent or carer can come to collect him or her. This is to avoid spreading the infection as much as possible. Once all symptoms have passed and they feel well enough to return, they can do so. But they should not return while they have any symptoms. Should you have concerns about your child, please phone NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or use the following weblink: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1240732817665>

Meanwhile, we are taking a calm and commonsense approach and promoting within school good hygiene and the steps that can be taken to prevent the spread of germs.

### **Parentmail**

As part of our drive to be a sustainable school, we are keen to make use of a system of email for communicating with parents. As well as cutting back on the forests of paper we use each term sending letters home, there are other benefits to an email system: paper doesn't go missing on the journey between classroom and home, and doesn't get left in a drawer. If you have an email address which you haven't yet provided us with, please do so by sending the office an email - [office@hamilton-school.co.uk](mailto:office@hamilton-school.co.uk)

### **Headlice**

A sheet is attached giving information on the prevention and treatment of head lice. This information is also available on the school website (see head of page). As head lice is an on-going community problem please keep this information for future reference.

### **Voucher Schemes**

We will again be collecting vouchers available from many supermarkets, including Morrisons 'Let's Grow' as well as for the Times Books for School voucher scheme.

### **Easy Funds for Hamilton**

Many of you have already raised funds for Hamilton by using EASYFUNDRAISING by clicking on the logo on Hamilton's website. It's such an easy way to raise funds - when you've buying products via the internet, please consider going through the easyfundraising link.

## Free School Meals and Access Fund

A letter will be going home to all families who we know are eligible for Free School Meals, asking them to update their evidence. If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please contact the office for further information.

## Parking when collecting children from school

From next Monday, 14 September, anyone parking on the Priory Road car park at the end of the school day will need to display a current permit. The car park will open at 3.05 and be locked at 3.30.

### REMEMBER : ON THE PLAYGROUND

### PEDESTRIANS HAVE PRIORITY OVER CARS

Please use the recommended clock-wise one way system, park and get out of your car to collect your child. Please do not park and expect your child to cross the car park while you wait in the car.

If you are not using the playground car park, please be sensitive to our local community when parking; we have already received a complaint from a resident of Lady Verney Place.

Also, please do not park on the pavement at any time, it is illegal to do so and makes our children more vulnerable - let's keep our children safe.

A suggestion I have received from a parent is that parents could drop children at Priory Road and leave more quickly so that more cars can park and drop children, rather than parking and waiting for 10 minutes to wave children into the building.

We want to make our roads safer for our children - please help by being considerate and responsible.

## Contact Information

Our office staff have mentioned that they regularly find that contact information has changed and they haven't been given new phone numbers and changes of address. Forms are available in each office so that you can give us your changes of details: it is vital that we are able to contact parents/carers during the school day as necessary.

## School Shop

The School Shop will again be open on Monday afternoons between 3.15 and 4pm in the Priory Road hall. My thanks go to those parents who volunteer their time to organise the School Shop, benefiting the whole school.

## FRIENDS OF HAMILTON

### Hot Dog Lunches

The first Hot Dog lunch this term will be on Friday 25 September.

Hot Dog days are held by Friends of Hamilton on the last Friday of each month during term time. Hot Dogs cost 70p each and children may order 1 or 2 standard or vegetarian hot dogs.

Please send your child/ren to school with their normal lunch - except for their sandwich or equivalent - along with the correct hot dog money, contained in an envelope marked with the child's name, class and type of hot dog required, either standard or vegetarian. No change will be given.

### Parent Governor election

A reminder that nominations for the vacant parent governors are due in by noon on Wednesday 16 September.

Yours sincerely



Mr G Aldous  
Headteacher

## HAMILTON STAFF VACANCY

### Urgently Required Mid-day Supervisor for Hampden Road site

We are looking for a Mid-day Supervisor to work for one hour in the middle of each school day. If you are interested in this post, please contact Mrs Jefferson on 437317.