



Happy New Year to one and all, the break came and went and seems like a lifetime ago already. The children and staff have returned fresh, full of energy and ready for another term of hard work and play. You may have noticed the negative press Hamford has received regarding standards and progress recently. As I mentioned before Christmas our standards must improve and we will not hide from that. OFSTED will be due soon and will base some judgements on last summer's results, which will show the school to be no longer Good as a provider, but as you know results alone do not define a child, school or community. We will go further, be brave and provide opportunities and experiences for our remarkable children to show just what they are capable of! Mr Joy

Astronomical Society Visit



Last Friday evening KS1 came back to school in the dark to do some stargazing! We were lucky enough to have the North Essex Astronomical Society visit us with their specialist equipment. We learnt lots about different planets and their properties and got to go outside with hot chocolate and biscuits to look at the magical stars! Thank you for all your donations, without them this wouldn't be possible. **Miss Fava**

Good Luck Mrs Kemp

On behalf of class 3/4K we would like to wish Mrs Kemp all the very best for her maternity leave, we look forward to meeting your new addition to the Kemp family very soon. Of course, in light of Mrs Kemp's departure for maternity we are delighted to welcome Mrs Moore to Team Hamford. Mrs Moore has enjoyed 2 weeks of handover from Mrs Kemp and together with Mrs Day will ensure learning and progress will be at the heart of each and every day.

Breaking News... 'Hillier signs for Hamford'



Breaking news doesn't get any bigger than this. You can forget Brexit and maybe even West Ham beating Arsenal last Saturday, this news is bigger! From Monday 21st January our children of Hamford will have their very own full time PE Coach. Sean Hillier is a local sporting celebrity. As an ex Colchester United player and FC Clacton's all time leading goal scorer, Sean joins us from 8 years of youth coaching and development with Chelsea Football Club and will drive participation and enjoyment of sport & PE across all ages within Hamford. As an active FA Coach Mentor we are very lucky to have Sean 'sign' for Hamford and we all wish him well.

CSSE 11+2020 Exam Entry Dates

For parents/carers wishing to enter their child for the 11+ examination, registration will commence from **14th May until 1st July 2019 inclusive**. The tests will take place on **Saturday 21st September 2019**. CSSE schools will be holding open days/evenings during June/July 2019.

For more information please visit: www.csse.org.uk

EYFS & KS1 Family Phonics Course

A reminder to EYFS & KS1 parents that the Family Phonics course will be starting on Thursday 24th January at Hamford.

The course will run over 4 weeks and is designed to help parents understand how we teach Phonics to your child. This is a great opportunity to learn how to support your child at home. Please come to the school office to book your place.

After School Clubs

Our lunchtime and after school clubs kicked off with a bang this week. Can we give a big shout out to Aline Robinson.

Aline is giving us her own time in running the Cheerleading Club this term.

If anyone is interested in Cheerleading outside of school take a look at www.royalaces.net Finally, we have a small number of places left for a handful of clubs, please speak to Mr Smith or Mrs Fowle for anymore detail or visit the clubs section on the Hamford website.



Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 24th January-Family Phonics 1pm-3pm
Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February-Half Term
Monday 4th March-Termly Learning Conferences
Tuesday 5th March-Termly Learning Conferences
Thursday 7th March-World Book Day

Dinner Menu Next Week will be Week 3

Dear Parent/Carer

Safeguarding

You may be aware that another potential safeguarding incident occurred on Wednesday after school this week, when an elderly man offered sweets to two year 6 pupils. Following discussions with several local parties, it has been confirmed that the man in question is a resident of a local care home and is regularly seen out and about. I have met with the team at the home and discussed the incident in detail. As a school, we will continue to notify you when any such incident occurs in the interest of keeping all children safe. The pupils were very mature in how they dealt with it and we thank them and their families for this. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents of Year 5/6 pupils to discuss travel plans, routes, contingencies etc with your children if they walk to and from school independently. As always, please feel free to ask and/or inform the school about any aspects of safeguarding in the future. Mr Henderson and Mr Joy are the Safeguarding leads for the school but you can speak to any member of staff who will pass any information on.

Yours Sincerely



Mr C Joy
Principal