



So another week (and month) has passed us by with the start of 2019 remaining busy, productive and testing in equal measures but we remain on track for continued progress and the foundations for the future are taking shape. Please see overleaf for more detail. On a personal level I have enjoyed supporting the teaching across classes over the last week or so and I'm genuinely excited by the appetite to learning your children are showing. Stay safe and warm this weekend and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday for what will be another remarkable week. Mr Joy

Be in it (here) to win it...

School attendance for the month of January finished at 94.4% which was close to 2% below the national average. To help encourage 'remarkable' attendance we would like to put down a challenge to all children of Hamford. Every pupil who has 100% attendance over the next 2 weeks (February 4th to February 15th) will receive an exciting prize in the all school assembly on Friday 15th February.



We're on a Cup run...

Congratulations to the Boys Football Team who battled hard for a 3-2 victory in the Primary Schools Cup against a spirited and competitive St Clare's Primary School. Despite very cold and muddy conditions great teamwork and commitment shone through from the whole team. On we go to the next round.



Lost Property

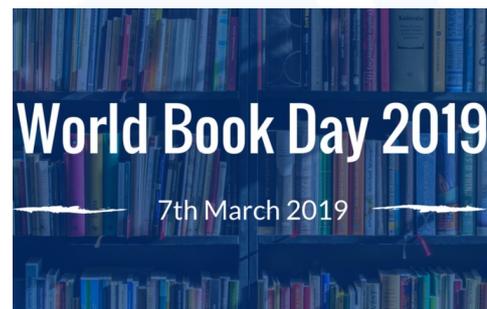
The lost property box is overflowing! Please make sure all clothing is named as this makes it so much easier to return it to the rightful owner. Please can all parents and children come and reclaim as much as possible. Due to the volume of items, anything left at the end of next week will be sent for recycling.

Thank you!

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



Golf - After School Club

If you have signed your child up for the Golf After School Club, please note that it will start next week (Tuesday). Children will be returned to school and ready for collection at 4.30pm.

Good News Club

Unfortunately Good News Club will be cancelled on Tuesday 5th Feb due to unforeseen circumstances. Apologies for any inconvenience

Dates for Your Diary

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

Friday 15th March-Red Nose Day

Dinner Menu Next Week will be Week 2

Dear Hamford Parents and Carers

OFSTED

I jinxed it - I mentioned OFSTED once in the last newsletter and get a phone call the next school day! If only I could predict the winning lottery ticket numbers in the same way!

OFSTED did visit and thoroughly scrutinised every aspect of school life at Hamford.

They spent the majority of the time in classrooms, watching teachers and talking to children as well as looking in books and meeting with school leaders and children. As I eluded to in the last newsletter it is likely we will no longer be graded as 'Good'.

The recent years have seen a decline in standards and as I have said on many occasions this is simply not good enough! We must, can and will do better.

OFSTED recognised our early efforts and impact from September 2018 but must evaluate across the period of time between reports (last OFSTED was March 2014.) The official report with grading will be made public to you as parents before it goes live on the OFSTED website and I am happy to discuss where we are as a school and where we intend to improve moving forward.

We are building for the future and must go through a period of change to improve, which has already begun but will take time to firmly establish Hamford as a good provider and more in the future. I am looking to start holding parent meetings and will provide dates and times soon to share some of the developmental areas identified by myself and OFSTED.

Polite reminder:

Can I remind parents to work with us regarding some recent changes to drop off arrangements. There have been a few instances in recent weeks of parents/carers coming into classes whilst children are being registered or dismissed and it is not acceptable to challenge staff in front of the other children.

Parents evening (TLC)

We will be holding the next round of TLC (Teacher Learning Conference) meetings on Monday 4th (4.30-7.30 pm) and Tuesday 5th (3.40-6.00 pm) March. Arrangements for bookings will be released soon and I encourage you all to book an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher. There will also be a chance to meet with the SENDCO (drop-ins) on either evening should you wish to do so.

In preparation, the children will bring home a **mid-year report** to show where they currently are and targets set for the remainder of the school year. We will also share how children are developing their work ethos and provide valuable attendance information with you. This 'new' report will give you more information about the attainment of your children at the half way point in this academic year. This follows feedback from the parentview and the previous TLC event last October. Also, a number of parents have expressed an interest on the gate in the morning wishing to know more about their child's learning and I hope this will help provide valuable information in supporting your child at home and in school.

Recent changes:

We welcomed Mr Hillier to the team last week and the children have all had PE with him and I must say I have been impressed by the buzz coming from the smiling faces following those workouts! We have also advertised for a Vice Principal to increase the capacity and leadership at Hamford as we grow in the coming years. There's lots to get excited about at Hamford!

Weather:

Please be aware that should school need to close due to adverse weather conditions this will be advertised on the Essex school closure website and via Dream 100 along with all the usual social media channels. It will be in the interest of school safety if this is to be the case. We have been gritting the pathways and playground all week and will endeavour to keep school open and children safe during the winter months.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.



Mr Joy
Principal