Our ref: YG.MW

19th July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another fun filled, Magical year has passed by already. The children have once again amazed everyone throughout the year with their super MAGIC learning behaviours and the confidence they have developed, which they have displayed through all of our events.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support at all of our school events this year. We have been ‘wowed’ by the songbirds twice, with their amazing performances at the Victoria Hall and were amazed by the super dance moves at the Dance Extravaganza and not forgetting the children showing off their talents at Sports Day at Northwood Stadium. We have also enjoyed class performances at the Church for the Harvest Festival and the Easter Concert, as well as being bowled over by the Christmas performances. The Year 2 talents clearly shone out in their leaver’s assembly. Their confidence and ability to perform, sing and speak in public shone out. What talents Grove Academy are gaining! Thank you for supporting Hamilton at our events it really does mean a lot to your children and us. There was not a dry eye in the house!

We have celebrated a positive teaching and learning review this year in May, where the children ‘wowed’ the educational consultant with their excellent MAGIC behaviour. Here are just a few comments he made:

* The senior leadership team provides strong direction for the academy and has had a significant impact, notably in sustaining a strong and distinctive ethos and culture, evident throughout the building, and in maintaining consistent levels of performance
* The pupils are friendly and positive in their attitudes to learning. They look smart in their school uniforms and show pride in the academy
* Marking and staff feedback challenged the pupils to improve their work
* High quality learning environment is evident through display in the classrooms and corridors
* The engagement of pupils in the Foundation Stage was outstandingly good: all the pupils were absorbed in learning activities and, with very few exceptions; their involvement was very well sustained.

I am extremely proud of the commitment and dedication from our academy staff. I am sure you will all agree that they hold every child at the centre encouraging them to be MAGIC learners so they can reach their full potential.

Last week, we held a Stakeholder event, where we invited the School Council, Parents/Carers, Trustees and Governors to Grove Academy (our junior school in the MAT) to celebrate this year’s achievements, share our development vision for next year as well as the parent forum and children’s vision. This was a very successful event. If you have any ideas yourself, we welcome and value your ideas and opinions at our parent forum. Look out for the flyer advertising the next meeting.

The areas of development for next year will be as follows;

* To implement a new phonics programme called Read, Write, Inc, to help us to accelerate the children’s phonic ability to read unfamiliar words, thus improving our attainment in phonics and reading at the end of year 1 and 2.
* Continue to develop speaking and listening with a particular focus on increasing pupils’ vocabulary and questioning techniques
* To develop the KS1 playground so the children can be even more active during the school day
* To increase the enrichment opportunities for the children to develop the skills acquired to be happy and healthy citizens of the future.

You have heard me mention attendance and punctuality a lot this year but, attendance and punctuality still remains a huge focus for Hamilton Academy. Even though we have had a huge focus on attendance this year and made it a high priority for all staff, we are still not reaching the national expectation. We need to rapidly improve both attendance and punctuality if we are to meet national expectations for attendance and continue to improve outcomes for all of our children. Thank you to all of you who bring your children to school on time, every day and do not take holidays during term time. This will remain high priority next year.

In line with the new Ofsted framework, we will be raising our expectations towards our uniform policy and operating a zero-tolerance approach towards this, with pupils not wearing full uniform being secluded, so please ensure you are fully aware of what is required. Please see our website for this policy. There is also a useful brochure on our website from Wyndsor Shoes showing which shoes are acceptable at Hamilton Academy. I would also ask for your support in ensuring that if pupils have any shaved patterns or braids, etc. in their hair over the holidays, these are grown out / removed before returning to school as, again, zero tolerance will be shown. I would also like to remind you that we do not permit children to enter school wearing earrings. Please ensure these are removed before your child comes to school in the mornings. Thank you for your continued support with this.

We are desperate for parent volunteers to join our parent forum. School funds from the government have been cut drastically, which has had a huge impact on our budget. Therefore, in order for us to provide some of our ‘wow’ experiences for the children, such as visitors into school, MAGIC day and cooking and food tasting sessions, we really need your support to help raise funds towards these events. This would include supporting us to organise Christmas fayres, discos, film nights etc… It is also an opportunity for you to discuss any issues you may be aware of from a parents’ point of view, gather your opinions on any policies we are reviewing or developing and helping us to plan attendance week. If you are interesting in supporting the school, please speak to Miss Millward on the school gate.

I would like to wish all of our Year 2 children every success at their new schools. They have been such a fantastic cohort and role models to our younger children. They have brought all of the staff such happiness and laughter over the past 4 years. Every child has made everyone at Hamilton proud of them.

Finally, I thank you for your continued support. We really do appreciate the partnership we have with you all. From all of the staff here at Hamilton, have a fantastic, safe, healthy summer and I look forward to welcoming the children back on the 3th September.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Glaister  
Academy Principal