

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2025



We are all now well settled into our new classes, learning lots and having fun whilst doing so! Below is an overview of some important reminders, dates, and events over the coming weeks. Don't forget to visit our website weekly to see more about what your child's experiencing in school

www.hamiltonsbawnps.com

Parent interviews

Parent Interviews will take place in school after half term on Monday 10–Thursday 13 November. All children will finish school at 1.00 pm on these 4 days to facilitate interviews with teachers. Details will be sent through our School's App mid-October. Please book an appointment, suitable to you, through this App.

World mental health day

World Mental Health Day takes place on Friday 10 October 2025. We want to mark this with a Non-Uniform Day (no football kits please). We will be raising money for a mental health charity chosen by our School Council. If you would like to make a voluntary donation (min. £1.00 per child), this will be collected by your child's teacher on Friday morning.

Book Fair

We are excited to be holding a 'Travelling Books' Fair in our school assembly hall for all parents, friends and pupils from Monday 13th October to Thursday 16th October 2025. This will be open daily from 8.30am and again after school at 2.40pm – 3.10pm (morning only on Thursday). Please plan to attend with your child and help show them the importance of reading whilst supporting school to receive free literacy resources.

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu Vaccinations will take place in school on Tuesday 14 October 2025.

Harvest service

Our Harvest Service will take place in school on Tuesday 21st October 2025 at 9.30am. The service will be delivered by Miss Henderson's P6 class. All parents and guardians of P6 children are warmly invited to this service along with our local ministers. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Please reply to this newsletter to inform us of who will be attending, thank you.

Craigavon food bank

Our Harvest Appeal this year will again be supporting the Craigavon Food Bank. Non-perishable donations for Craigavon Food Bank can be left into school on Friday 17th or Monday 20th October 2025. (see attachment on FB Page or school App)

ASPIRE SHARED EDUCATION PROJECTS

We are awaiting approval and confirmation of our shared education application for funding to participate in a 3 way school project/partnership. This will involve most of our pupils in exciting projects related to topics within the NI Curriculum, visits to each other's schools and shared trips to exciting venues such as W5 Belfast, Parkaneur and orienteering at The Palace Stables. All transport costs and resources acquired for school are also funded through the projects. We will continue to keep you updated as we learn more.

SCHOOL COUNCIL 'GUESS THE WEIGHT OF THE PUMPKIN'

Our newly elected School Council have arranged through Woodview Garden Centre, a 'Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin' competition. Guesses will be charged at 50p for one guess, or £1.00 for three guesses. The competition will commence daily from Monday 13th October and the winners announced at our assembly on Friday 24th October. They are also helping plan a School 'Dress Bright' party on Friday 24th October for P1-P4 (1-2pm) and P5-P7 (2-3pm). Please note there will be no after school clubs on this date only and our Parents Group are kindly helping organise 'goodie' bags. The cost will be £4 per child payable through ParentPay only.

OUR GENERATION SPACES TO BE PROGRAMME (P5-P7)

We are delighted to be part of this wonderful project in partnership with St. Peter's, Collegelands. Spaces to Be is a unique programme, delivered by PlayBoard NI, advocating the use of play as a means of supporting the development of childhood resilience, and as a mechanism for positively addressing differences.

Spaces to Be is an innovative and interactive programme comprising training for our staff and play sessions for KS2 children. Our next play session is on Friday 10th October. Spaces to Be recognises that learning is more effective when it is enjoyed and promotes the power of play and its contribution to positive mental health and resilience.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Thank you to Samuel/Luke and the staff of Sports City, Katarina and Paula for all they do to support our parents and pupils by organising wraparound care in the form of a Breakfast Club, Play Club and Late Club Sporting sessions. Please continue to support these weekly clubs and later in the year we will discuss some possible new activities which could be introduced through Sports City. If your child hasn't yet attended, why not give it a try?

GOOD NEWS CLUB

We are grateful to the Gwynne family who will be facilitating a 5 week after school 'Good News Club' on Tuesday 14, 21 Oct, 4, 18, 25 Nov. from 2.40-3.30. This will consist of songs, bible stories and related activities. Please collect children from the front door at 3.30pm. Let us know by responding to this newsletter if your child will be attending weekly and if walking home, indicate this in your reply also.

For Craigavon Food Bank can be left into school on Friday 17th or Monday 20th October 2025. (see attachment on FB Page or school App)

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS

Following questionnaire outcomes last term, we want to improve communication with you, our school parents. So, later this term, you will receive an overview of our School Development Plan for this academic year. We are delighted to have made a great start to reviewing our school Vision and Values now clearly displayed online and around school. We would encourage our whole school community to get behind us in communicating and living these values daily.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Our main form of communication will continue to be our school App. Please ensure you have downloaded this. Let us know if you are not receiving weekly news and updates and we will help you resolve this. We will also aim to highlight and share more of life in Hamiltonsbawn Primary School through our school Facebook Page. Let us know if your child has accomplished any success or done anything interesting outside of school. We would be keen to feature and celebrate this too!

'FRIENDS OF HAMILTONSBAWN' GROUP

We recently held a successful meeting of school parents and staff to plan and organise some fun events for our community which will take place throughout 2025-26. The first of these is an Autumn Fireside Quiz sheet. Each family will receive 10 quiz sheets which we hope you all can sell to friends, family and neighbours. If you need further copies, please contact the school office. Thank you for supporting us and we would welcome any new members along to our next meeting, especially new families having joined P1.

SUMMARY OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Book Fair 13-16 October, 8.30am-9am & 2.40pm-3.10pm
- Flu vaccination – 14th Oct.
- Good News Club 14, 21 Oct, 4, 18, 25 Nov. (P3-P7, 2.40-3.30pm)
- Return of £10 and completed Fireside Quiz Sheets Fri 17th Oct
- Craigavon Food Bank donations 17th or 20th Oct. (see ideas on FB Page or school App)
- Harvest Service - Tues 21st Oct, 9.30am (All P6 parents invited with refreshments afterwards)
- School Council Pumpkin competition – 13th – 24th Oct
- School Council 'Dress Bright' Party £4.00 – Fri 24th Oct
- School closed 27th October – 31st October for half term.
- Return to school - Monday 3rd November.
- Parent/Teacher Meetings – 10th-13th Nov.
- Community Evening Quiz after half term (date to be confirmed soon)

D.Hutchinson
PRINCIPAL