



The John Hampden School Newsletter

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Issue Nine Friday January 16th 2026

As we begin this new year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2026. I hope you enjoyed a restful break with your families and that the children have returned to school feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting learning opportunities ahead.

During the first few days of this new term, I have had the pleasure of visiting every classroom across the school. It has been wonderful to see all of our children back in their learning environments and I have been suitably impressed by the enthusiasm and positive attitudes they have shown. There is a palpable sense of eagerness amongst our children and it is clear that they are ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that this new year will bring.

As we move forward through the Spring Term, we have many exciting events and learning experiences planned for the children. We look forward to working in partnership with you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Steph Parkinson – Headteacher



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Parents' Evenings

The Spring Term Parents Evenings will be held between Tuesday 3rd February and Thursday 5th February for all classes except Honeybees which will be between Monday 2nd and Wednesday 4th February and Red Kites on the 27th and 29th January. You will need your 'eschools' account login and password to access the platform which will enable you to book a slot to speak to your child/children's class teacher (the same login details you used in the Autumn Term.) The appointments will be for 10 minutes per child and we ask that only one parent in each household books the appointment. The booking system will open at 6.00 pm on Monday 19th January and will close at 6.00 pm on Friday 23rd January. It will confirm your appointment/s date and time—we will not be issuing paper appointments letters or confirmation of appointment slots.

If following your appointment, you would like to speak to me about any matters please come to the main entrance where we can arrange a mutually convenient time and place to speak further. Thank you.





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Curriculum

As the new year and the new term begins each year group has embarked on a new topic. Each week you can find out what your child is learning by visiting the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk. Clicking on the 'Classes' tab will allow you to select your child's class where a weekly 'What we are learning' sheet is available. We hope this will help to give you an outline of what the children will be learning and ideas of how you can support this learning at home, if you would like to.



We enrich our curriculum each term through carefully planned themed days and weeks, designed to inspire curiosity and deepen learning through engaging activities. One highlight is 'Arts Week', which celebrates creativity through art and music.



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Voluntary Contributions

The time has come to request another voluntary termly contribution for each pupil. In a similar approach to last term each year group have sent home an itemised list of activities with a cost against each one. Parents are asked to pay for the activities using the Parentpay website. No child will be disadvantaged if their parents/carers choose not to pay but it may be necessary to cancel activities if not enough contributions are received. We will be sending regular reminders about these voluntary payments to ensure everyone who wishes to pay is reminded to do so.

Thank you





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Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's learning, development and future success. When children attend school consistently, they:

- Make the most of learning opportunities and build strong foundations for the future
- Develop friendships and social skills
- Grow in confidence and resilience
- Benefit from a sense of routine and belonging



We recognise that young children sometimes become unwell and we fully understand that sickness and diarrhoea require at least 48 hours away from school to keep everyone healthy. Please continue to let us know if your child is ill and follow this guidance before returning to school.

Our school aims for all pupils to have attendance of 95% or higher. Authorising absence below this threshold is challenging unless there are exceptional circumstances, in line with Department for Education guidelines. This ensures fairness and supports your child's best interests. May I remind parents that if you wish to take your child out of school during term time you must request a leave of absence form from the school office or download one from the school website. Wherever possible you must give at least one month's notice of the proposed absence.

I am in the process of writing to parents if absence has become persistent. If attendance does not improve you will be invited to a meeting to discuss your child's attendance in a supportive, understanding way to explore any challenges or concerns you may have, identify ways we can support you and your child and together help your child attend school regularly.



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Nurture Support

For many years we have employed a member of staff to provide nurture support for children from Service families and others in need in the school. Mrs Dowell is an experienced, qualified teacher who has also completed other relevant training for the role. Please note, if you ever feel your child would benefit from a little extra nurture support for one reason or another please speak to the class teacher and we will organise for them to be seen in the near future.





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Adverse Weather Conditions

Another reminder that if we need to close the school this winter due to adverse weather conditions the following procedures will be used to inform parents.

1. A decision will be made about the school closure by 7.30am. This decision will be based on health and safety grounds, which may include not having enough staff at school to supervise our pupils.
2. By 7.45a.m the school website home page will be updated with closure details. Greatest Hits radio will have been contacted and should announce our school closure at regular intervals throughout the morning. The Council's website will also list our school closure: www.buckscc.gov.uk
3. If the notices listed above have not been implemented then you are to assume the school will remain open.
4. With these three methods of communication in place, there should be no need for you to telephone the school asking whether we will be open or closed.
5. Should the school open but need to close earlier than 3.15p.m, we will contact you via text or telephone.

Please be assured that school closure will always be a last resort.

It is entirely the responsibility of the parent/carer to decide whether it is safe to travel to and from school in inclement weather and we respect the choices you make. As usual please inform the school by telephone or in writing if your child will be absent from school.





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Coats, Hats, Gloves and Boots

At this time of year, please would you ensure your child comes to school wearing appropriate clothes and footwear. We will be going outside as long as the playground remains ice free. All hats, coats, gloves and boots must be named and it would be really helpful if you could show your child where their name is written on each item of clothing, so they know where to look.



HOME SCHOOL DIARIES

Your child will have received a new Home School Diary at the beginning of the Spring Term. Please would you make sure you sign the diaries every time you hear your child read and encourage them to draw the faces each day so we can gauge how they are feeling at school.



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Governor Section

I hope you are all having a great start to 2026. I am always amazed at how quickly our children settle back into their learning routines after a long holiday.

For governors, the Spring Term is always an exciting time, as it gives us the opportunity to spend time in school during our governor visits. These visits allow us to talk with the children, see them learning in the classroom, and spend time speaking with teachers.

Each governor has a linked subject, and in addition to our Spring Term visits, we also come into school to meet with subject lead teachers. These meetings give us the chance to discuss plans for how each subject is taught across the school. Governors are not required to be trained educationalists, so we are not there to make judgements about the quality of teaching. Instead, our role is to ensure the school is moving in the strategic direction agreed by the governing board and our headteacher, Mrs Parkinson. My linked subject is Design and Technology, and I am looking forward to meeting with Mrs Bloxham, the D&T subject lead, later in the term.

All governors really value the opportunity to visit the school during the day. It is always a pleasure to see how happy the children are and to witness the hard work and dedication of our staff in providing the education our children deserve. If you would like more information about what being a school governor involves, please do get in touch using the email address below. I would be very happy to talk about it with you.

Martyn Dolbear - Chair of Governors
Chair@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk





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Diary Dates – Spring Term 2026

3rd February 2026 – Parents evening

4th February 2026 – Parents evening

5th February 2026 – Parents evening

9th February 2026 – Assessment week

12th February 2026 – School closes for half-term at 3.15pm

13th February 2026 – Inset Day

16th to 20th February 2026 – Half Term

23rd February 2026 – School opens

23rd February 2026 – Arts week

2nd March 2026 – Communication Week EYFS

2nd March 2026 – World Book Week

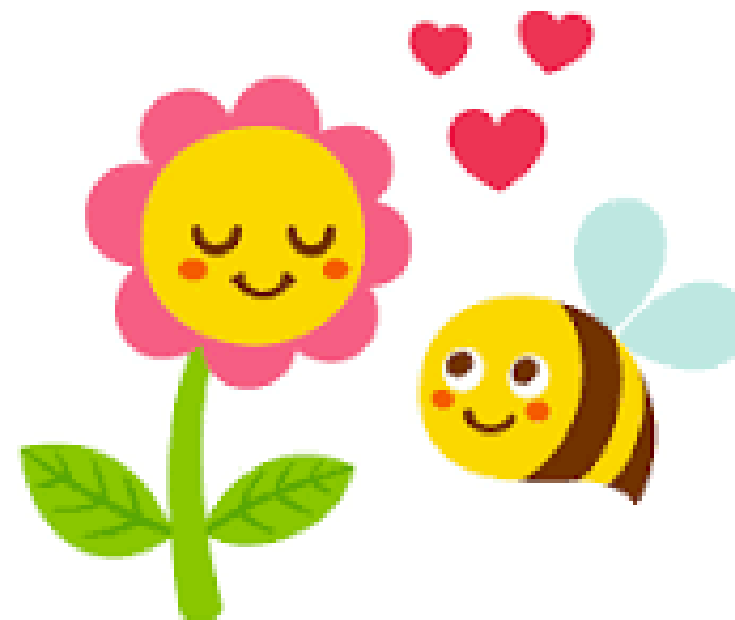
6th March 2026 – World Book Day

19th March 2026 – Phonics Meeting For Year 1 Parents at 2.30 pm

20th March 2026 - Red Nose Day

26th March – School closes for holidays at 1.00pm

27th March – Inset Day





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Enjoy a walk in beautiful scenery and plant snowdrops in support of Child Bereavement UK, then join us for refreshments in West Wycombe village hall.

West Wycombe Park, Bucks

Sunday 1 February 2026 10:30am - 4pm

Last entry at 3:30pm

Only assistance dogs permitted

Advance tickets purchased from our website:

£5 adults, concessions £3 (under 2s free)

Tickets purchased on the gate:

£7 adults, concessions £5 (under 2s free)



childbereavementuk.org/snowdrop

Charity No in England and Wales: 1040419 and Scotland SC042910

**Child
Bereavement UK**
REBUILDING LIVES TOGETHER