



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:	UPCOMING EVENTS:	
Message from Mrs. Barnes 1	Saturday 25th November —FJH Christmas Fayre	5th December—Crickets Christmas Performance
Governor Section 2	Friday 1st December —INSET Day—no pupils in school	Week commencing 4th December Foundation Stage Christmas Performances
Important Messages 3		Week commencing 11th December KS1 Christmas Performances
Curriculum 4		
Pupil's Section 5		
FJH 6		
School Improvement 7	Week commencing 4th December - Assessment Week	18th December—Christmas Parties
Miscellaneous 8		19th December—School finishes at 1.30pm for Christmas holiday

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

As we head towards December and the end of the Autumn Term we are all looking forward to the enjoyable activities that are a feature of this time of year in an infant school. This week the rehearsals for the Foundation Stage Nativity have stepped up a gear and rehearsals for the Year One and Year Two Christmas performances are being planned. (You should have received letters about costumes) The parties are being organised and preparations for the FJH Christmas Fayre are well underway. Very soon everywhere you look in the school there will be further signs that Christmas is approaching!

For the Christmas Performances space in the hall is at a premium. Please note that you will be entering the hall up steps via a side route so please do not attempt to bring pushchairs into the school. Our pupils and staff work very hard to put on these performances and we would ask you, on this occasion, to make alternative arrangements for all younger siblings as they can find it difficult to sit still and quietly and can spoil the enjoyment for others. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

The Friends of John Hampden Christmas Fayre is tomorrow- Saturday 25th November, and I am sure that will really start to make us feel festive—my thanks to all the FJH committee for demonstrating, once again, their amazing organizational skills in the run up to this event. Also thanks to all the volunteers, governors and staff who will give up their time to run stalls—we hope to raise lots of money so do come along and support us. We are hoping that any money raised by the FJH this year can be used to purchase new resources for all year groups and to purchase and install improvements to the outside learning environment for our Year Two classes—this would make a huge difference to the opportunities we offer. We are incredibly lucky to have such an active PTA and we truly do appreciate the time and effort that so many volunteer committee members provide. Many of them are already very busy people and the staff, governors and pupils at the school would just like to say a really big THANK YOU for all their hard work.

Christmas parties are planned for **Monday 18th December**. We invite the children to come to school wearing party clothes/Christmas jumpers and suitable footwear on that day (the children will be going outside at play-times so clothing needs to be appropriate for colder weather). We will be asking you to provide your child with their own Christmas party packed lunch on this day rather than the hot meal option and, as this is a special occasion, we are happy for them to have any food which you consider to be appropriate e.g. sweets, chocolate etc.

Each year we are amazed by the wonderful lunches that are provided. Lunchboxes are often specially decorated, some even contain particularly Christmassy items. (The FJH provide every child with a Christmas Cracker to enjoy at the party)

The Foundation Stage children eat together in the Octagon and the KS1 children join together to eat in the hall which is beautifully decorated by the Friends of John Hampden. If we are lucky, a very special visitor usually arrives carrying a big sack of presents while the children are eating!

PLEASE REMEMBER FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER IS AN INSET DAY

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Hello

For those of you that don't know me yet, I am a relatively new parent governor (appointed in January 2023) and my daughter is now in year 2 at John Hampden. As Peter mentioned in the last newsletter piece, Health & Safety week proved popular with the children and my daughter was no exception; she happily shared lots of what she and her class had learned.

The 'Loving to Learn' ethos is not confined to the children at John Hampden and I'm happy to say that it extends to include the teachers and us as governors. As a group, we're keen to refresh our existing knowledge and keep up-to-date with the latest developments to ensure we're doing the best job we can for the pupils, parents and staff. We have a wide range of training available to us; much of which we can undertake online and through webinars; which is especially useful when gaining knowledge of areas we might not deal with in our everyday lives. With this in mind, we recently had a training session which was delivered face-to-face at the end of a Governors' meeting to challenge our preparedness for a potential OFSTED inspection and to provide awareness of what they look for. As you know OFSTED inspections assess various aspects of the school from quality of teaching to leadership and management and outcomes for pupils culminating in an assessment of the overall effectiveness of the education provided.

As governors, our role is not to get involved in the day-to-day running of the school, however, we do need to be aware of what's happening in the school. We have various ways of doing this including reports from the school, observational visits and of course, feedback from pupils and parents. Within the school, for the children, there is the Pupil Voice initiative which, coupled with the School Council, provides a means for the children to raise their thoughts and bolster their positive engagement. For parents, there is Parent View (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/7367/13>), which gives you the chance to tell the school what you think about your child's school. You can and do also have opportunities to speak with teachers. With this in mind, I wanted to stress that the door is always open for you to share any concerns or compliments with us as governors. I recognise that, unlike the teachers, we are not in the school to catch-up with day-to-day but if there's anything you'd like to discuss or share with us, please do feel free to get in touch. The easiest way to start is to email the Chair of Governors Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk alternatively, if you know one of us and see us in-and-around school, we can always pass on any requests, thoughts, praise or concerns you might have if you prefer.

Melanie Bradley
Parent Governor,



The Governing Board is always willing to listen to parental queries and to explain in more detail what the Governing Body does. They do realise, however, that it may not always be appropriate to speak to them at the school gate so please feel free to email the Chair of Governors, Ben Gattlin, Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion or if you just have a query about the school.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As we head towards December we find many pupils wish to send Christmas cards to their friends in the school. We accommodate this by installing two Christmas post boxes which will be in position from Monday 4th December. One is positioned in the Foundation Stage Octagon area and the other one, for Key Stage One pupils, is positioned near the school office. If your child would like to send some cards this year please would you check the envelopes to ensure the cards can be easily sorted and distributed.

Each envelope needs to have the name and class name of the recipient clearly written on it.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide parents with class lists, but I am sure your child will remember the names of their very close friends.

We will encourage all children who bring cards into school to post them in the post boxes because the children are always very excited when the Christmas Post arrives in their classroom. Regular deliveries are made in the days leading up to the end of term. **LAST POSTING DAY IS FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER** and final deliveries will be made on Monday 18th December.

The following information may help you with envelope writing!

Foundation Stage	Year 1	Year 2
Caterpillars - Miss Tiffin	Squirrels—Mrs Mannering	Firecrests - Mrs McNally/Mrs Gough
Ladybirds- Miss Fox	Hedgehogs - Mrs Norman/Mrs Burrows	Herons - Mrs Bowman
Honeybees—Mrs Griffiths	Badgers—Miss Burns	Red Kites - Mrs Spencer

Adverse Weather Conditions

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.bucksgov.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.

REQUEST FOR BOXES/CONTAINERS

Year One are keen to gather any donations of boxes/containers to help with their maths teaching. They would particularly welcome the following shapes: cones, cylinders, cubes, spheres, pyramids. These empty boxes/containers should not have contained nuts. Please could any donations be given to the school office or to a member of staff from Year One in a bag labelled 'Maths' to prevent them being passed on for junk modelling! Thank you.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Just to let you all know that we raised a fabulous £278.05 for this good cause. Thank you for your support.

REMINDER

We hope to see children standing with their parents in the class lines at the beginning of the day rather than running around and playing with others—this is so they can enter the classrooms calmly and ready to start their day. Also, please help us to reinforce the message that 'rough play' at school is not appropriate.

We politely request that you do not allow your children to play with, or on, the equipment outside the EYFS classes when you are bringing or collecting your child from school. We have reiterated this message with the children in school so we would appreciate you reinforcing this message too.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES (continued)



MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL OR STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2023

Parents/Carers of Year 2 children at John Hampden must apply for a Junior School place for their child. The Junior School online application service opened on 4th November 2022 and the deadline for online applications is midnight on 15th January 2023.

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start school in September 2023, an application for a Primary School place must be made in the next few months. The Primary School online application service opened on 4th November 2022 and the deadline for online applications is midnight on 15th January 2023. Please note that a place in the Early Years Class at John Hampden does not guarantee you a place in the school—an online application must still be made. Parents should use the Buckinghamshire School Admissions website to make the application.

STARTING IN THE NURSERY CLASS AT JHSW IN SEPTEMBER 2023

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 they are eligible for a place in our wonderful Nursery Class from September 2023. To register your interest please download an application form from the school website or email or phone the school office.

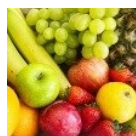


4. CURRICULUM

Health Week

This special focus week enables staff to plan and deliver important elements of the health curriculum. We were delighted to welcome visitors into school to share vital messages about how to keep healthy. Representatives from Halton tennis and from Wendover Squash & Tennis club taught KS1 classes some racquet & ball skills while Foundation Stage classes enjoyed doing fitness activities led by students from The John Colet School. Other visitors from the John Colet included a dance squad who performed an amazing dance based on the Barbie movie! Other students led a football skills session for Year 2 and later in the week, Year 12 students delivered healthy life styles workshops for Year 2 classes. Mrs Beck delivered a fun-packed Zumba session to Year 2 classes with the assistance of Beatrix and Maya from WJS. Year 2 classes set out obstacle courses for the FS children which were very well received! Mrs Gaglione delivered wonderful drama sessions, instilling confidence and creativity to classes across the school. Dr Evans shared valuable and reassuring information about health and what happens when we need to see a doctor. A local dentist and his assistant kindly spoke to FS children about taking care of our teeth. Premier Sport ran PE sessions with a focus on the importance of exercise to stay healthy and Mrs Hodgkinson led an energetic early morning dance session with lots of families in attendance - the perfect healthy start to the day!

Classes were excited to take part in making a healthy snack (see the various recipes to try out at home in the Miscellaneous section) as well as participating in a range of interesting and interactive activities using a variety of resources both inside and outside the classroom. Many fantastic stories were read in connection with themes taught.



Lessons included; the importance of a healthy lifestyle as well as regular exercise. Daily online fitness breaks saw staff & pupils endeavour to keep up with Joe Wickes, Oti Mabuse & DJ Raphi! Other lessons focused on how to look after ourselves, highlighting the importance of a good night's sleep and drinking plenty of water as well as dental health with the help of an online programme by Dr Ranj. Mrs Shrimpton and Mrs Barnes also provided fun and informative activities about health during computing lessons.



Mental health was another important feature of the week, including practical tips for calming down & relaxation. There was an assembly about developing a growth mind-set and the importance of resilience and another about the school initiative that encourages families, where possible to walk, cycle, scoot or park & stride to school. Sharing worries was another important message shared.

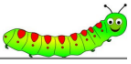










A huge thank you to all of our visiting speakers including; the staff and pupils from Wendover Junior School, students and staff at The John Colet, parent visiting speakers and other contributors involved from our local community. Thanks to them for giving the time to support this special focus fortnight and for making it so successful. A huge thanks also to all of the staff at John Hampden for their hard work and to Peter Hooper, the PSHE Governor for coming into school to support our focus fortnight. I am sure that you will agree that the children acquired a lot of new skills and have generally improved their understanding about how to stay safe as well as the importance of good physical and mental health in day to day life. Do ask your child(ren) about what they have been doing and encourage them to tell you about what they have found out.

Jo Spencer

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Here are the comments from some of the children about Health week.

	Elsie enjoyed watching the dance that the John Colet dance squad performed for all of the classes. Leo really liked making a fruit kebab, adding on the different fruits and then eating it! Caterpillars also really enjoyed following the obstacle course set up by Year Two.
	Ella liked making a fruit kebab, she said that she liked the grapes best and said that her kebab was yummy! Wilbur enjoyed our visit from the dentist who talked about the importance of brushing our teeth.
	Hugo really enjoyed making a fruit kebab and reported that it tasted really good. Harriet commented upon the fact that it is important to brush our teeth twice a day. She also enjoyed our visit from the dentist.
	Irmak was excited to make the fruity Pick 'n Mix because he got the chance to eat it straight after he had made it! Harry was pleased to be able to practise tennis skills (led by Halton Tennis) and also learnt about different types of exercise.
	Logan really liked all of the activities in health week but particularly enjoyed making the fruit salad. He reported that he ate it all up! Lucy loved trying out lots of different exercises to keep fit but her favourite one was the dancing.
	Freddie liked trying different types of fruit and felt grown up, making the fruit salad all by himself. Logan commented that during health week, he did exercises every day – he said that he loved the dances led by DJ Raphi.
	Tom was really happy to follow a recipe to make the Rainbow Tutti-Frutti. He cut up the fruit by himself and said that he can't wait to make it again at home. Erin also really enjoyed making the healthy snack because she got the chance to try different types of fruit.
	Emily enjoyed making the Rainbow Tutti-Frutti. She added a fruit that she hadn't tried before and reported that it was really tasty. Otto explained that it was great when the John Colet students came to our school to teach Year Two children football skills. He said that he enjoyed joining in with the many activities.
	Finley loved it when he got the chance to learn football skills led by the students from the John Colet. He said that the lesson was brilliant! Isla liked making the healthy snack because the fruit in her cup was colourful like a rainbow, she also said that it was healthy and tasted really good.

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN (FJH)

Christmas Fair

Firstly, thank you for bringing your hamper items into school this week.
Your donations help make 10 really special prizes for the raffle.

Preparations are well underway but we need your help. We need volunteers on the day. Pair up with a friend and man a stall for 45 minutes. It's good fun and the children love seeing their parents 'working' at school.

KEY DATES

NOW! Drama Fun and Games from Dramarama!
Pre book now at <https://www.dramaramaclubs.uk/john-hampden-fair>
13:00-13:20 - ages 4 to 7 (15 spaces)
13:20-13:40 - ages 5 to 8 (12 spaces)

NOW! **SignUp open.** Please sign up to volunteer at <https://signup.com/go/qimbWNz>
We can't do this without you! If you could spare just 45 minutes of your time to help on a stall we'd be SO grateful.
Two grotto slots will be reserved exclusively for volunteers' children.
The grotto is always oversubscribed so it's a good perk for those able to volunteer.



NOW! Raffle tickets available NOW. It's a good one!

13 Nov Santa's Grotto tickets available. 150 tickets up for grabs on ParentPay. £4 per child.



20 Nov Jam Jars. Please hand them to your child's teacher.
WRAPPED SWEETS ONLY & NO NUTS PLEASE

24 Nov **Donation Day! Mufti Day!**
Please bring your donations to the school office. Children are welcome to wear their own clothes to school in exchange for all your wonderful donations:

- **Gifts for Wrap a Present** - anything new and unopened.
- **Christmas jumpers** - all sizes
- **Toys** - anything your child would love to win - new or excellent condition toys, books, games, stationary, craft materials etc.
- **Bottles** - something to drink, cook or even wash with!
- **Bakes** - your lovely creations for our bake sale

Please give what you can. Your support is very much appreciated.

A huge thank you, in advance, for your generosity and enthusiasm
in helping to make our fundraiser a success

From the FJH team

Registered charity no. 1070370

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. Since the last newsletter we have made progress linked to the actions outlined below:

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION	GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES
<p>Each teacher in the school is required to take on a middle leader role by taking responsibility for at least one subject area. In this way we are attempting to ensure that every subject taught is valued and delivered in the most effective way. At John Hampden we strengthen this leadership role by matching a Governor to each subject too. Subject leaders and Governors communicate regularly so there is a shared understanding of developments and initiatives. Whenever possible Governors support by visiting the school to see their subject area in action and we are pleased that these visits have already started.</p>	<p>We firmly believe that happy children will learn well but it is equally important that we have a happy and motivated team of adults in the school. Support for staff this term includes individual job chats as part of the Performance Management Cycle, snap shot observations of staff at work and professional dialogue linked to well-being and work life balance.</p> <p>Behaviour monitoring for pupils continues and we are working hard to spot the triggers for particular behaviours and to plan strategies and interventions that meet the needs of all. Ensuring there are clearly understood consequences when behaviour expectations are not followed is important in order to implement our behaviour policy effectively.</p>
GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT
<p>We are in the process of revising our Early Years Foundation Stage transition questionnaire to gain opinions from parents about the transition arrangements we put in place this year. Traditionally we have always worked hard to ensure transition arrangements are strong. It is important for us to reflect and evaluate how successful the arrangements this year have been. We will be asking for feedback from staff, pupils and parents to ensure we hear the views of all concerned.</p> <p>Since returning to school after the half term break a number of extra-curricular clubs have been running at lunchtimes and after school for our KS1 pupils. The clubs are well attended and provide opportunities for pupils to develop or learn skills and enjoy a new or familiar activity. We are pleased to be able to offer these opportunities and we are delighted with the positive feedback.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>The first Finance, Premises, Health & Safety Committee meeting of the school year took place recently. Austerity measures over several years had been impacting positively on the school finances but unfortunately restrictions linked to COVID-19 meant we lost a significant amount of self-generated income during periods of school closure. It is encouraging to note that now these income generation streams are running effectively again, the timescale for our deficit reduction plan is now back on track once more.</p>

8. MISCELLANEOUS



Recipe for Rainbow Tutti Frutti

Bowls of different fruits accessible to all children plus spoons for ladling

1 cup

1 spoon

1 safety knife

1 chopping board

Ingredients:

Mango pieces, pineapple, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, flavoured yoghurt

Instructions for the child:

Ladle fruit with a spoon onto a chopping board

Chop the fruit

Layer in a cup between spoons of yoghurt

Enjoy!

Recipe for Fruity Pick & Mix



1 bowl or tub

1 safety knife

1 plastic plate for chopping

1 spoon

Ingredients:

Banana, mango pieces, pineapple rings, grapes, dried apricots, raisins, clementines halved
for children to peel a segment or other fruit

Instructions for child:

1. Chop the fruit on the plastic plate

2. Place the fruit in your bowl or tub

Enjoy!

Recipe for Fruit Kebab



1 kebab stick (pointy end removed)

1 safety knife

1 plastic plate for chopping

Ingredients:

Banana, mango pieces, pineapple rings, grapes, dried apricots, raisins, clementines halved
for children to peel a segment or other fruit

Instructions for child:

1. Chop the fruit on the plastic plate
 2. Feed the fruit onto the stick and the kebab is ready to eat
- Enjoy!

Recipe for Face on a plate



1 plate

1 safety knife

1 chopping board

1 spoon

Ingredients:

Cherry tomatoes, cucumber, courgette (spiralized by an adult), carrot (spiralized by an adult), peppers, banana, mango pieces, pineapple rings, grapes, raisins, clementines halved
for children to peel a segment

Instructions for child:

Chop the fruit and vegetables on the chopping board
Arrange on a plate to make a face (spiralized veg for hair)

Enjoy!



Hampden Financial Services are proud to be offer Parents, Guardians and Staff of John Hampden School the opportunity to review their mortgage and also raise funds for John Hampden School.

For every mortgage completed via Hampden Financial Services, Hampden Financial Services will make a £50 donation to John Hampden School.

So whether you are looking to remortgage or move home please contact us via below and just mention John Hampden School when you make initial contact.

Phone – 07812 063256

Email - Jeff.harris@hampdenfs.co.uk

Feel free to check out our reviews on Facebook and google under Hampden Financial Services

Terms and Conditions are available on request

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS
ON YOUR MORTGAGE