



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

<b>2-7-24</b> <b>County Induction Morning—all children visit their new class/school</b>	<b>12-7-24—Annual Reports sent home</b>  <b>12-7-24 FJH Summer Barbecue</b>
<b>11-7-24</b> <b>Open Evening—come and walk around the school with your child 6pm-7pm</b>	<b>Farewell to Foundation Stage assembly—parents invited</b> <b>17-7-24 Caterpillars @2.30pm</b> <b>18-7-24 Ladybirds@ 2.30pm</b> <b>19-7-24 Honeybees @ 2.30pm</b>

## 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES



With only a few weeks until the end of the academic year, our thoughts turn to plans for September 2024. Fortunately, we are not saying goodbye to any teachers at the end of the year but there are some changes to the staffing organisation for the Autumn Term.

We have successfully recruited one new part time teacher who will start with us in September, and the organisation of teaching for the Autumn Term will be as follows:

Mrs Wheeler will continue as the teacher for Crickets class.

Miss Tiffin and Miss Fox will continue to lead classes in the Foundation Stage team and they will be joined by Mrs Parkinson who will have a class responsibility. These teachers will be supported by Mrs Batt, Miss Walker and Mrs Fox respectively.

Year One classes will be taught by Mrs Norman & Mrs Burrows (job share), Mrs Griffiths and a new teacher, Miss Bell (job share) and Miss Burns. Mrs Dale, Mrs Black and Miss Lailey will be supporting them.

The Year Two teaching team will be made up of Mrs Spencer, Mrs McNally/Mrs Mannering (job share) and Mrs Bowman. Mrs McLoughlin, Mrs King, Mrs Gooch and Mrs Wilton will be supporting them.

Miss Francis will continue in the role of Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator and Mrs Dowell will continue as our Nurture Support Co-Ordinator.

Mrs Shrimpton will continue to work in the school providing cover in a range of classes during the week and Mrs Mannering will also be providing expert music teaching and additional cover when she is not in Firecrests Class. Mrs Gough will remain at the school for one day a week but will not have a class responsibility.

Today, Foundation Stage and Year One children will be bringing home a letter informing you of their new class teacher/s for September, so do look out for it in their book bags.

Ensuring a smooth transition into, out of and within John Hampden becomes a priority for us now and we are about to start a planned programme of transition arrangements to prepare the children for the next stage in their school journey. We thought you would be interested to know what these activities are so I have included details in the same letter. **We look forward to seeing you and your children** at the Open Evening on 11th July. This is a chance for the whole family to tour the school, meet staff and visit old and new classrooms.

On Friday 12th July you will receive your child's annual report.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns regarding the transition arrangements for your child.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

As the school year draws to a close so does my time as a governor. If I'm honest when I first started four and a bit years ago, I wasn't sure what a governor actually did so I thought I'd use my last newsletter article to talk about the role.

There are 15 of us in total and we all meet together twice a term. Half of these meetings are attended by a professional clerk who makes sure the agenda covers all the items we're legally responsible for. Important things like ensuring the safety of the children & staff, and that the school is making best use of its budget. Our role is totally focused on strategy and accountability. Day-to-day running of the school is very much down to Mrs Barnes but we'll always ask for more details if we feel we need to understand something better.

Most governors are also members of a couple of sub-committees that focus on specific aspects of running the school. I'm on the Teaching & Learning committee for example because I'm interested in how IT is used and taught in classes. Typically, you're also assigned a link teacher who is responsible for a subject you're interested in. In my case it's Mrs Shrimpton - the school's IT lead. We catch up two or three times a year and talk about lesson strategy, any challenges that have come up and plans for the future.

I've been asked a few times what experience you need to become a governor and whether it's a lot of work. The most common way to get started, as I did, is as a parent governor. The only requirement for this is to be the parent or guardian of a child currently at the school and a willingness to help for four years. That's it!

Is it a lot of work? In my opinion it's a fair bit yes. It probably averages out to 2 or 3 hours a week overall. In the first year there's a lot of online training to be completed (as well as the meetings I mentioned above) but you do get a lot of support from the school and other governors. And you can pretty much set your own schedule. As one of the wiser governors told me recently, "the more you put into the role, the more you get out of it."

So, are there any perks? You don't get paid – let's get that out there straight away but you do get to see behind the scenes of the school in action. Watching how the children learn is hugely rewarding and being able to ask the staff about particular teaching techniques and future plans is fascinating. There are all the softer benefits too like running the bottle tombolas and helping out with sports day which is a great chance to meet so many parents (particularly the year I forgot to put enough losing tickets in the Christmas tombola!)

Interestingly most schools struggle to fill their governing boards but we usually had every space taken in the time I've been there. This helps to show just how important the role is seen locally.

Overall, I've absolutely loved my time with what, in my eyes at least, is already an outstanding school. If becoming a governor (when there's space!) appeals to you please do chat to Mrs Barnes or any of the governors about what's involved. For now though, that's it from me. I hope you all enjoy the remaining term-time and have a fantastic and relaxing summer holiday.



Toby  
Co-opted 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, James Edley, [Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES



#### **BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB (OOSC)**

The John Hampden School Wendover runs a high quality wrap-around-care provision for pupils at the school, as well as for siblings and Year 3 pupils at Wendover Junior School.

If you are looking for reliable, fun and professionally run childcare for your son or daughter, now or for the next academic year, do contact the OOSC Team:

Out of School Care contact number: 07506195699

Out of School Care email address: [oosc@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:oosc@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk)



#### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

We will be receiving a delivery of new uniform stock in the next few weeks and we hope that any parents of children who already attend the school and wish to purchase uniform for the next academic year will complete a uniform order form, available on the school website (under the key information tab), and return it via email or through the postbox in the entrance hall. We will get the order ready and send it home with your child before the end of term. Whether it is a new reading folder, P.E. kit, a sun hat or a complete set of new uniform—we hope to have enough stock for you to be prepared

for the Autumn Term.

#### **Early Years Class 2024-2025**

We still have places available in our Early Years (Crickets) class for September 2024. If you are interested in a place and your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, you are welcome to contact the school and register your interest. Contacting us soon will ensure your child can be helped to settle quickly by participating in all the planned transition activities this term, prior to the September start.

#### **P.E. Kits**

Following our planned sports day, this is just a reminder that children do need to bring their P.E. bags back to school as P.E lessons are continuing. Thank you.



#### **SCOOTERS**

This is just a reminder that children (and adults!) should not ride their own scooters or bikes within the school grounds. Please only start riding when you have exited through the school gates. Please also leave your scooter in the scooter park by the front gate—don't park it outside your child's classroom.

Thank you—this is for the safety of everyone.

## 4. CURRICULUM SECTION

Yo, ho, ho, me hearties!

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June, Year 2 were treated to a lovely visit from the author, Mary Hoffman. Mary shared her story 'Pirate Baby' with the children and talked to the children about her love for reading and books. She talked about Pirates and pirate language. The children learnt some Pirate songs and got their own pirate names too! Mary inspired many of them who would like to be an author one day, and told them to follow their dreams and read, read, read! Also, this experience inspired the children with some ideas for their story writing of Pirate Stories. Thank you to Carl Gosling, at Real Magic Books in Wendover too. He helped me to organise the event for the children. Some children purchased a signed copy of Mary's book direct from Real Magic Books. If anyone is still after a copy, he has some extra copies at his shop. We really hope to explore further opportunities like this for other year groups in the school going forward. It was a really jolly experience and here are some of the comments our students had to say about the visit... Mrs McNally

Red Kites

*I enjoyed listening to the story that she read because she had written it. She was the author! Max*

*It was great to see her dressed like a pirate and I liked getting a pirate name... and also she taught us some pirate phrases like 'pieces of eight!'* Evalyn

Hérons

*I enjoyed learning 'pirate language'. Tom*

*I liked that we got to make up our own pirate names. The author got us to choose words, from 2 chests, and that made our names. Mine was Dolphin Masher. Millie*

*I enjoyed singing the Pirate songs. Charlotte*

*I enjoyed listening to her story because I liked the pirate language in it. Leo*

Firecrests

*I enjoyed learning and understanding the pirate words and phrases. I can use some of the ideas in my pirate story! Harley*

*I enjoyed everything, particularly that Mary was dressed up and showed us the pirate equipment – the cutlass and maps. I can't wait to write my pirate story too! Poppy*





## 5. PUPIL SECTION

A couple of weeks ago our Year Two children enthusiastically took part in a Sports Morning with the Year Three children which was organised by the Junior School. They were grouped into 11 teams where they worked collaboratively with perseverance and determination to engage and achieve in the different activities. Some of the sports activities included tennis, obstacle race, shot putt, ball skills, long jump and football to name a few. The children were fully engaged and had an enjoyable morning practising new skills and developing existing ones whilst also making new friends and seeing new teachers.

### Red Kites

*Kalina* – “I enjoyed doing the activities because they were really nice and I got to see my friends from Wendover Junior School and the chance to meet new friends too.”

*Adam* – “I enjoyed the football because I scored a goal!”

### Firecrests

*Frankie* – “I liked tennis because the children who were helping us were helpful and they gave me confidence to bounce the ball lots of times.”

*Ronnie* – “I really liked the parachute where you get to crawl under it and you see all the colours, it was really cool! Also, I liked the twisting around the chairs and racing people.”

### Hérons

*Rose* – “The multi-skills was great fun and I loved playing sharks and pirates because the golden chicken made extra fun.”

*William* – “I really enjoyed the morning especially the basketball because you needed control and accuracy. I scored 5 baskets!”



# SUMMER BBQ AND MAGIC SHOW

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 6.30-8.30pm

Sausages and burgers from Block & Butcher

Licensed bar

Pudding Stall

Sweets

Ice lollies

Simon's Amazing Magic Show 7-8pm

Please pre-order your food on ParentPay before midday on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July

We will place the order with Block & Butcher that afternoon.  
Food tokens will be sent home in book bags before the 12<sup>th</sup> - please  
bring these with you on the day.

We need volunteers for the BBQ and the bar - just  
half hour slots.

Please let your class rep know if you can help, or  
email [fjhvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:fjhvolunteers@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you there.  
From the FJH team x

# NEW FJH CHAIR REQUIRED

I've been the FJH Chair for 2 years and I am looking to hand over the baton come September.

Our AGM will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September where a new chair (and committee) will need to be voted in.

I've really enjoyed my time as Chair. I totally learnt on the job (!) but have found it to be a really rewarding and fulfilling position.

A few things I've enjoyed:

- Liaising with Mrs Barnes and Mrs McNally regarding the FJH calendar and funding priorities. It's been really interesting getting to know more about the school.
- Chairing meetings - about 5 per school year. These can take any format (we meet in the pub) as long as funding decisions are properly recorded and minutes taken. I'd never chaired a meeting before but it's often just a handful of parents brainstorming ideas.
- Getting to know a lot more parents from different year groups. I've made some great friends.
- And, together with the team, putting on some fun events for the children which I really feel help create both the sense of a school community and lasting memories.
- The FJH shed - it's FULL of props, prizes and paraphernalia!

If you're interested and would like a chat please contact me at [fj volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:fj volunteers@gmail.com) or on 07815123537.





You could always co-chair with a friend. You'll have a really supportive team around you who I couldn't have done it without. Mrs Barnes and the school staff couldn't have been more supportive and I'll still be an active 'friend' as Morrie has another year at the school. So, whoever takes over can count on my support.

Go on, give it a go!

Kate Walker

# 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:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION</b></p> <p>As we head towards the end of term, our subject leaders are required to reflect on the programmes of learning that have been delivered in each year group across the school and to evaluate their action plans. The impact of their work this year in developing their subjects is recorded and shared with the link governor. We are pleased that our governors have regularly come into school to meet subject leaders and to observe the different areas of learning being delivered. Visits are always followed up with a written report.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES</b></p> <p>On 5th July the annual attendance figure for each pupil will be calculated. This percentage figure will be included on your child's annual report which is due out on 12th July. 95% is the expected attendance figure for our pupils. Any unauthorised absences are also shown on the end of year report. The expectation is that no child should have unauthorised absence on their school record. If your child is unable to attend school this should be communicated on the first day of absence so the reason can be recorded.</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>Transition arrangements are now at the top of our agenda. We have spent time in the last two weeks confirming the staffing and the organisation of classes for September 2024. The transition programme is being rolled out now and starts with the meeting for parents of new EYFS pupils. Our new pupils will make the first of their three visits to the school next week and all pupils will be given the chance to visit their new classes very soon. At JHSW we work hard to provide as many activities as possible to ensure our pupils (and their parents) are well prepared for the next step in their educational journey. Our aim is for the children to be able to get to know new teaching staff and new learning environments prior to the summer break to alleviate any associated worries or anxiety.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOAL D: LEADERSHIP &amp; MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Our final full governing board meeting of the academic year took place last week and we worked collaboratively to start to establish the priorities for our school improvement plan 2024-2025. The plan is formulated by taking account of stakeholder views, data analysis, external feedback and new educational directives/initiatives. Parents views are important and analysis of the recent annual questionnaire has helped to identify areas to focus on from a parental perspective. Class Council Circle Time and School Council Meetings help to guide us from the perspective of our pupils.</p> 



## YEAR 2—ECO GARDEN VISIT

On Wednesday 27th June, Year 2 were fortunate enough to be invited to explore an eco-garden right in the heart of Wendover. Fortunately, the weather was fantastic and we went on an eco-hunt armed with clipboards trying to identify the different eco-friendly methods used in the garden. Among these methods were solar panels, and water butts. On their journey around the garden pupils were able to apply their knowledge of germination and life processes from our Science topic by looking at the magnificent array of plants and beautiful trees. The pond was a source of great amazement because it was filled with life and the children loved seeing the newts amongst other wildlife close up. It was also an opportunity to see many mini beasts nestling amongst the plants such as caterpillars, wood lice and worms. The children also had the chance to apply their knowledge from health week to identify the fruit and vegetables growing in abundance in the allotment area. Mr Duggan gave a powerful and engaging speech about climate change and how we can all do many things to protect the planet starting with recycling.

A massive thank you to Mr and Mrs Duggan for allowing us to visit their beautiful garden and to all the parent helpers who assisted us too, without you all it would not have been possible.

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS

The John Hampden School Wendover

### **Midday Meals Supervisor Vacancy**

We have a vacancy from September 2024 for a Midday Supervisor Working hours would be 12 noon – 1.30pm Monday to Friday (7.5 hrs per week) term time only. The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children, however this is not essential as full training will be given.

Start date: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Closing date: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

The salary will be Bucks Pay Range 1A.5 (£23,104 Pro rata, £11.98 per hour)

If you are interested in this post please call the school office on: 01296 622629 or email: [office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk) to receive an application form.

Please return completed applications as soon as possible. Suitable candidates may be interviewed before the closing date and John Hampden School Wendover reserves the right to withdraw the position if an early appointment is made.

### **Safeguarding Statement**

**The successful candidate will have due regard for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as stipulated by the Child Protection Policy. Safer recruitment procedures are in place and any appointment will be subject to satisfactory references and statutory checks including an enhanced DBS check and an online search.**



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As Part of our sponsorship we will be donating £100 to the school, for every parent/guardian or teacher that successfully sells their property through Christopher Pallet Estate Agents in Wendover.

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# HAMPDEN

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

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](mailto:Jeff.harris@hampdenfs.co.uk)

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

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

ON YOUR MORTGAGE



# AYLESBURY ON SEA

Sunday 7 July, 11am-4pm, Vale Park

Free  
Event

60  
tonnes  
of sand

Land  
train

Circus  
workshop

Prize  
bingo

Singing  
mermaid



**AYLESBURY**  
TOWN COUNCIL





# BUCKS COUNTY SHOW

## Children's Competitions

For Under 5's to 16 with free entry to all competitions

Unlock your creativity at the Bucks County Show! Kids of all ages can participate in exciting categories like painting seaside scenes, building Lego vehicles, crafting animal shapes from fruits and veg, photography and baking delicious rock cakes.

Show off your unique talents and make this year's event unforgettable.

Full details overleaf!

Prize money is awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

[buckscountyshow.co.uk](http://buckscountyshow.co.uk)

**FREE CHILD  
TICKETS**  
(SEE OVER)





## Children's Competitions

Please state age on day of show on entry form. Entries are free of charge!

CH1 A fingerprint picture (under 5yrs)

CH2 Vehicle made of Lego/Duplo or similar materials (5-7yrs)

CH3 Sugar and spice rock cakes – see set recipe (5-7yrs)

CH4 Animal made from fruit and/or vegetables (5-7yrs)

CH5 An A4 painting or drawing entitled 'The Seaside' (5-7yrs)

CH6 Painted stone – 1 item (5-7yrs)

CH7 Chocolate & vanilla pinwheel biscuits – see set recipe (8-12yrs)

CH8 Logo creation – theme of 'Outer Space' (8-12yrs)

CH9 A painting or drawing entitled 'The Olympics' (8-12yrs)

CH10 A floral arrangement in a mug (8-12yrs)

CH11 Flowerpot person – max height 70cm, self-supporting (8-12yrs)

CH12 Sugared pretzels – see set recipe (13-16yrs)

CH13 Decorated photo frame – any medium (13-16yrs)

CH14 Design and make a board game – using any materials (13-16yrs)

### Children's Photography (Entry fee £1)

Each exhibit must be unframed and mounted on stiff black card.

Maximum size 50cm x 40cm. Prints may be colour or black and white.

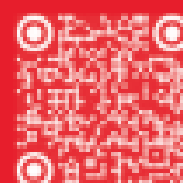
H41 Toys (5-9yrs)

H42 Friends (10-13yrs)

H43 Water (14-16yrs)

H44 Clouds (any age) H45 On my travels (any age) H46 Bucks County Show (any age)

Please visit [www.buckscountyshow.co.uk](http://www.buckscountyshow.co.uk) or scan the QR code for more details and set recipes, which will be found in the Home & Garden Schedule.



## FREE CHILD TICKETS

You can book entry tickets online and take advantage of our FREE child ticket offer.

The offer is to get up to 3 FREE child tickets (up to 16yrs) with a full paying Adult or over 65 ticket when purchased online. To take advantage book online using code 'SCHOOL24' at checkout.

This offer ends at midnight on 28th August 2024.

<https://buckscountyshow.ticketsrv.co.uk/tickets/schoolbookings>



**Windmill Education presents...**



12th to 15th August  
26th to 29th August

# Kids Lego Adventure



Run in a stunning  
studio setting in  
Weston Turville



9.30 - 12 Mon to Thurs

**£25 per session**

*Including  
STEM  
activities!*

Lego Challenges

Brain Boosters

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