



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES



Further to a letter to parents sent from the Chair of Governors today, I would like to add my sincere congratulations to Mrs Parkinson for being appointed as the next Head Teacher of JHSW. Following a very robust interview process yesterday, it is clear that she is just the right person to take on the role and I am confident that the school will be in very safe and capable hands when I leave at the end of this academic year.

Learning Review Meetings for Early Years & Foundation Stage and KS1 pupils took place last week and we hope you found that the information shared with you was useful. We asked you to complete a short survey following your appointment and the findings from these surveys will be collated and analysed to be shared with you, the Leadership Team and the class teachers, in our continued attempt to monitor and evaluate the quality of information we provide.

Opportunities for parents/carers to talk with the class teacher to discuss pupil progress occur twice during the academic year but we are keen to advertise our 'open door' policy so if parents/carers have a concern about any aspect of the school at any other point we are happy to find a mutually convenient time to talk to you. Mrs Parkinson and I are also available if you feel you need to contact us about an issue too. Our school aims to be fair, open and honest when dealing with any concern, issue or complaint and to resolve it through open dialogue and mutual understanding. Please do speak, or write, to someone at the school at your earliest convenience, rather than using any other means to communicate a concern. We believe we are best placed to support you.

This week we have enjoyed all that 'Discovery Week' has brought. The children have had designated time to explore science, maths and Growth Mindset activities. Do ask them about what they have been learning.

As we reach the end of the first half of the Spring Term we are already looking forward to what the next half will bring. We are starting with Arts Week which has a 'Printing' theme and will provide our pupils with the chance to engage in related drama, music, and art activities.

Two weeks later we will be focusing on reading, with different activities featured every day. It will culminate with our celebration of World Book Day on Friday 7th March where we hope children will come to school wearing a costume of a character from their favourite book. Please make sure children will be warm enough in their costumes and avoid too many props! Our Year 1 pupils have P.E. on a Friday so they will also need to be able to get changed out of and back into their costume—thank you.

A reminder that Monday 24th February—is an INSET day so there are no children in school. Teachers will be spending the day completing curriculum related tasks in school.

I hope you manage to have a restful half term break and are able to enjoy some quality time with your children. There are a number of bugs going round at the moment, so I hope everyone stays well during the break and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 25th February.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

In the last newsletter, Matt Glanville (one of our co-opted governors) shared his experiences of visiting our brilliant Out of School Club. It is honestly one of the best things about being a governor at John Hampden – coming into the school and getting to see the children’s activities and learning in action.

I have the privilege of being the link governor for History and Geography, led by the fabulous Year 1 teachers Mrs Norman and Mrs Burrows. It feels like a complete self-indulgence to have this governor role, as I’m a complete History geek myself so any opportunity to share that enthusiasm is wonderful.

In the last week of January, I was invited to visit Year 2’s marvellous Great Fire of London Day. This was the second year I’ve been to see this fabulous immersive experience day at John Hampden School and I was more than a little excited to see a new cohort of children get lost in the magic of history.

The smell of baking was the first hint that something special was going on, with the children in Red Kites classroom preparing Mrs Spencer’s historic 17th century bread recipe. To the backdrop of a lot of scrubbing encrusted dough off the tables, Mrs Spencer captivated the class recounting the story of the Great Fire. I find it humbling to see our 6- and 7-year-olds talk confidently about “primary sources” of evidence, and think about what evidence and ‘facts’ can be relied on and which can’t – an important life lesson!

Herons classroom was transformed into a theatre, as Mrs Bowman worked with the children in groups to act out scenes from the Great Fire story – trying to put out the fire with water buckets, pulling down houses to stop the fire spreading, fleeing across the Thames. One of the most fascinating parts of a school visit is to see how the teachers combine learning from so many parts of the curriculum into each lesson.

Hats off to the staff in Firecrests classroom who were managing the huge potential for mess as the children enthusiastically embarked on impasto artwork, mixing paint and shredded paper to make beautiful Great Fire silhouettes.

The teachers’ dedication to this immersive day was as ever a sight to behold, and I’m so grateful for the chance to see their skill. But my final thoughts were how the children took so much from the experience – every child I talked to had a favourite fact or a reflection on the Great Fire story: how people escaped over the roofs, the location of Pudding Lane, why Thomas Farinier hadn’t put the fire out properly. It was a privilege to see our budding historians in action.



Rachel Coffey
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, James Edley, Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Reminder

World Book Day is coming soon (Friday 7th March). Children in all classes are invited to come to school dressed up as a character from their favourite book. World Book tokens will be in their child's book bag week commencing 25th February.

If you are interested, there is a chance for children to earn a Blue Peter badge

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>

P.E. Kit

Your child will be bringing home their P.E. kit to be washed during the half term holiday. Please could we remind parents that kits must be returned to school on the first day back because P.E. lessons start immediately and your child cannot participate if they do not have the proper kit. Long hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons and earrings removed or covered with tape.

Requests

- Please note that parents should not use mobile phones whilst they are in the school building and should avoid being on the phone within the school grounds wherever possible.
- Children need a coat in school everyday
- Please name your child's clothes—we have so much unnamed lost property.
- Parents of children attending our After School Club or any other after school club should not use the staff car park .
- Children should not be bringing toys/ cuddly toys into school—please see the class teacher if this decision causes concern for you or your child.
- We have been made aware of a few cases of headlice in the school— please check your child's hair and treat accordingly
- If you have any spare girls knickers that you could donate to the school we would be grateful—these will be used for toileting accidents.

THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR CO-OPERATION.

Do you or someone you know have a child born
between

1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022?

We will soon be starting to offer places in our Early Years Class for September 2025, so if you are interested in trying to secure a place you may like to make an appointment to attend our Early Years Open Morning, planned for **Saturday 22nd March from 9.30 to 11.00 am**. The Early Years classroom and outside learning areas will be open for you and the prospective new pupil to view, and teaching staff will also be available.

Please see the flyer in the Miscellaneous Section of this newsletter and contact us if you would like to come along.

4. CURRICULUM SECTION

Science at John Hampden School



At John Hampden School we actively encourage our pupils to question the world around them. As a school we are keen to harness our pupil's naturally inquisitive natures and develop these further. We are eager to provide our pupils with opportunities to develop and enrich their understanding of nature, processes and methods of science through different types of scientific enquiry.

Our aim is to install a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. We hope that our passion and enthusiasm for the subject shines through in our provision and that our love of learning will be a catalyst for a generation of budding, future scientists.

The children are exposed to first hand practical experiences to ensure that their learning is engaging and meaningful. Ultimately, we want to equip our pupils with the scientific knowledge to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the times to come. Who knows what they will be required to solve in the future?

Discovery Week

The children thoroughly enjoyed 'Discovery Week' and were provided with plenty of opportunities to explore science through first hand experiences. During the week, every class planned and carried out an investigation linked to their current topic.

In **Foundation Stage** the children revisited floating and sinking. They carried out an investigation using raisins and sparkling water. They made predictions about what might happen using their current understanding.

They described what happened and thought about why.



During Discovery Week, **Year One** investigated which materials would be most suitable for a pair of trousers for 'Everywhere Bear' to wear to keep him dry. They decided that a waterproof material would work best. They tested different materials to find out which ones absorbed and didn't absorb water.



In **Year 2**, the children have enjoyed working on their materials topic. They have investigated materials that dissolve by making bath bombs. The children made predictions about what they thought might

happen when they put them in water. They enjoyed watching the bath bombs dissolve and talked about irreversible changes. After they wrote up their experiment.



Also, the children looked at what materials could be used to make a flying object fly the furthest. They worked in groups, planned and made their rockets. Then they threw their rockets, recorded the results and evaluated the results. If that wasn't enough, the children also enjoyed a visit from Sublime Science and learnt about the weather, tornadoes and vortices, lighting and electricity and the wind amongst other things. They were truly captivated by our Scientist visitor!



Sublime Science

To celebrate our love of science and to create a sense of awe and wonder, Sublime Science came and delivered a range of practical workshops to each class. From exploring how sound is created with a whirly tube to investigating climate chaos - all of the children excelled at being scientists. The children fully immersed themselves in the experience and were completely engaged in all of the activities. Many questions were generated for future exploration!



5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Maisie - I liked it when he showed us the experiment with electricity because I learnt new things.



George – I liked the experiment where he blew in the big bag. We learnt a lot about air and I got to take part too.

Evie – It was really fun and I learnt something new about electricity.



Leo – It was really fun and interesting. I loved the plasma ball.

Alex – I really enjoyed the workshop when it only took puffs to get air into the really long bag. It was the air being pushed.

Theo – Air leaves space for when more air comes.



Jacob – It was so cool. I loved the air-zooka.

Bella – I loved the squishy balloon



Dougie – I really enjoyed it when the scientist made the balloon fly with the leaf blower.

Noah – I liked it when Bob went in his house and there was fire in his house and he didn't pop.



Reggie – I learnt how the air pressure works and if you put fire into a jar, it pushes the air out.

George – I enjoyed seeing Bob going through.



Millie – I really enjoyed hearing the noise that sounded like a thunderstorm. It was exciting.

Ella – I liked watching the air hit our hair and hearing the noises it made.



Eimile – I liked it when the metal squeaked.

Hugo – I liked it when he blew the wind at me.



Arlo – We heard new sounds. Some were loud and different. He made it vibrate.

Tilly – If something vibrates it makes a noise. If it vibrates, it is moving fast.



6. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

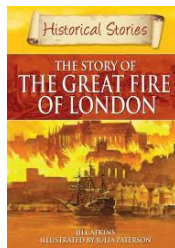
We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. Since the last newsletter we have made progress linked to the actions outlined below and we've also had validation from Ofsted!

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Our Learning Review meetings took place during the week beginning 3rd February when teachers shared their observations and assessments of children. They also provided information outlining some targets which could be worked on at home as well as in school.

Year 2 pupils shared in a Great Fire of London day last week. Pupils and staff came to school wearing costumes of the era and the children participated in a range of activities to bring their learning to life.

Pupils continue to read at school on a very regular basis. This may be individual reading to a member of staff, group guided reading or other curriculum reading linked to a particular theme or topic.



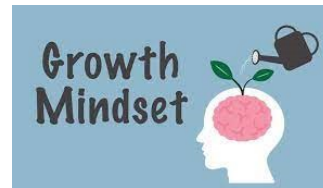
GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

We continue to be pleased with the excellent response from pupils to the 'Scroll of Honour' initiative. We are consistently noticing more children taking the initiative to offer help to others or to tidy up or to demonstrate the school values in action without any prompting. We are delighted that a whole range of adults in the school spot this type of behaviour and we hope that this will further enhance the ethos of kindness and respect for people and property whilst also celebrating the success of those who demonstrate our core values and follow our behaviour expectations.



GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES

This week has seen a particular focus on the importance of a growth mindset. This week, teachers have planned activities and resources to support this learning.



Over the last term and a half we have been working hard to instil a sense of responsibility in our pupils for moving sensibly and safely around the school at all times. 'Wonderful Walking' is always encouraged within the school building but children are obviously free to run around freely at playtimes and lunchtimes. It is a pleasure to watch the classes entering and leaving the hall beautifully at assembly times.

GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Governors have been busy organising for the recruitment of a new Head Teacher for JHSW. A representative from the Local Authority is also part of the recruitment process as we are a Buckinghamshire maintained school.

We have been pleased to host visits from colleagues from other Bucks schools and beyond who have come to view our EYFS provision, having been signposted by external advisors. Others have come to view our excellent practise as an Early Years Children's Champion in Communication and Language. We have also organised visits for others to see our outside learning provision.



8. MISCELLANEOUS



JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER
Loving to Learn

OPEN MORNING – SATURDAY 22nd MARCH FROM 9.30—11.00

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FROM SEPTEMBER 2024?



The John Hampden School Wendover is organising places for a new cohort of children in their Early Years Class from September 2024. We can offer your child:

- **Up to three terms of high-quality education in a purpose built learning environment**
- **Excellent facilities and resources – an irresistible learning environment inside and out**
- **Outstanding transition arrangements**
- **A gentle introduction to school**
- **Highly qualified, experienced and caring staff committed to developing the potential of every child**
- **A friendly and welcoming environment**
- **Five morning sessions 8.45a.m- 11.45a.m, universally funded**
- **Chargeable lunch club**
- **Optional afternoon sessions 12.15p.m-3.15p.m (up to 30 hours of flexible free entitlement)**
- **Breakfast Club from 7.45a.m, After School Club until 6.00p.m (Childcare vouchers accepted)**

Eligible children will be born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 and admission criteria apply.

To book a slot for the Open Morning please contact the school office 01296 622629, email office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or view the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!

Please note a place in the Early Years Class does not guarantee a place in the Reception Classes at the school.



Primary Play Space

A free session for primary-aged children and their parents/carers. There will be a variety of crafts, games and activities for you to explore as a family. Snacks and drinks provided.



Berryfields
Family Centre
Tuesdays
3:15 to 4:45pm



Elmhurst
Family Centre
Thursdays
3:15 to 4:45pm

SCAN ME



No booking required
Starts W/C 23 September



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