



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

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### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope you had a relaxing Easter holiday and managed to enjoy some time together as a family. It is good to see the children back in school and we are looking forward to all the positive things the summer term will bring. It has become a tradition for the pupils and staff at John Hampden to celebrate May Day each year and next week we will, once again, mark the occasion. The timeline for producing the newsletter means that you will see the photos and the detail of this year's celebration in the next edition, although I hope to put some photos on the website for you to enjoy before then.

As the weather gets warmer we are looking forward to spending more and more time learning outside the classroom. We are fortunate to have suitable outside space to be able to take groups of children outside throughout the school day. Our EYFS and Year 1 outside learning environment has been developed over the years with money being spent on a range of equipment, storage and permanent structures to support learning outside the classroom on a year round basis. One of our fundraising targets is to further develop the Year 2 space so they have comparable provision. My grateful thanks to Kate Walker, Chair of the FJH, who secured a £5,000 grant from Wendover Parish Council. This money has already been spent relocating bicycle storage and concreting over the flower beds outside Red Kites and Herons classes to extend the amount of useable space outside the Y2 classrooms. Our delegated budget is tight so we rely on grants and fundraising to allow us to achieve these types of aim. The Friends of John Hampden are an integral part of our school and their efforts to raise funds to benefit all pupils in the school are truly magnificent. A prime example of this was the Easter Trail on 22nd March. It was so carefully thought through and very attractive, so I am not surprised that it was well attended and clearly enjoyed by all who came through the beautifully decorated gate. My thanks to everyone who put so much effort into providing such a wonderful experience for our pupils.

The next big event from the Friends of John Hampden is the May Fayre. This is traditionally a large fundraiser and we would encourage everyone to come along on Saturday 18th May— the majority of the Fayre will take place outside and there will be plenty for the whole family to do. I know the committee of the FJH will be keen to hear from anyone who is available to help on, or before, the day. If you are able to support them you can contact them via your class representative or email [FJHVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FJHVolunteers@gmail.com)—many hands make light work!

During the holiday we received a firm indication of numbers for our Foundation Stage classes in September 2024. As it stands we will be far from full so we sincerely hope future allocation rounds will see more pupils coming our way, as lower numbers are not good news for our future budget - the majority of our delegated budget share is allocated according to the number of pupils we have on roll. Places have been offered for our Nursery class which will open in the Autumn term, If you are still looking for an Early Years provider please contact the school office for more information—we do have a few places remaining.

Please note, Year 2 pupils will, once again, be taking the standardised tasks and tests (SATs) during the month of May. It will not be possible for me to authorise any leave of absence requests for Year 2 pupils during this statutory assessment period. I hope you enjoy the May Bank Holiday on Monday 6th May.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term. Easter seems rather a long time ago now and I'm finding it hard to believe that my daughter is still making her way through her Easter eggs and treats!

As I am a parent governor, I thought I'd tell you a bit more about the Friends of John Hampden (FJH) and the great work they do to support the school. We've all heard of FJH and are familiar with the various events they organise and host from Halloween and Easter Trails to the Christmas and May Fairs, School disco and Summer BBQ. But I wonder how much you know about how the money raised is spent?

Of course, whilst the events organised and hosted by FJH are great opportunities for pupils, parents, carers, staff and governors (yes really!) to get together and have some fun; they also provide invaluable financial support for the school. For example, did you know that funds raised have been invested in new equipment for staff and pupils including new Galaxy Tablets, reading books and interactive whiteboards for classrooms? But it's not just teaching aides inside the classrooms; outdoor learning areas have been developed, playground equipment purchased, and classroom cloakrooms have been refurbished. All of which contribute to a great overall learning environment for our children.

This year FJH have ambitious plans which comprise improvements to the outdoor learning space for year 2. As those of you with children in year 2 will know, there is no shelter outside the classrooms and while this can cause minor inconvenience at drop off and pick up, a shelter could have a real impact on outdoor learning which is integral to teaching at JHSW and would add greater variety and diversity to activities for the children's day. The aim is, therefore, to erect a wooden gazebo providing much needed shelter to allow outdoor learning to continue come rain or shine.

As I'm sure you can appreciate this is a costly endeavour, but did you know that to support this project, FJH have assisted the school in making a successful grant application to Wendover Parish Council and they have also approached the Lionel-Abel-Smith Trust for financial support. So, while on the surface, you may think FJH is all about bake sales and trails, it's so much more and provides invaluable support to the school that we all benefit from.

I'd like to end by saying a huge thank you to FJH on behalf of staff and governors, we are incredibly grateful for all you do to support our school.

If you feel inspired to get involved, please contact FJH Chair, Kate Walker, at [fjhvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:fjhvolunteers@gmail.com)  
P.S. keep your eyes peeled for the 'Leaf for Learning' initiative...coming soon!



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

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### PEDESTRIAN ROUTE

You may have noticed that during the Easter holiday, a clear pedestrian route was marked out for those who need to reach classrooms by walking round to the back of the school. We have told the children that this has been done for their safety so we would ask that all adults adhere to the marked route in order to avoid walking through the middle of the staff car park. If you need to bring a pushchair and cannot negotiate the new route with this, please ensure your children stay with you as you walk through the car park.



#### YEAR 2 SATS MEETING & YEAR 1 PHONICS CHECK MEETING

The presentations from these two meetings can be found on the school website under the 'Parents' section, if you were unable to attend.

#### REQUEST

If you have any spare school uniform that you no longer need, or underwear, socks/tights suitable for our youngest pupils we would be grateful for any donations. These can be brought to the office for use in case of accidents. We are also desperate for boys trousers suitable for Year 2 pupils. Thank you in advance.

#### REMINDER

This is a further reminder that all school uniform must be named. As we reach the Summer Term more children are taking off their coats, cardigans and jumpers and if they are not named there is the real possibility that they may find their way into the lost property box where it is very difficult to match it with the real owner.



#### WATER BOTTLES & SUN CREAM

In anticipation of some warm, sunny weather to come, it is particularly important that children in Years 1 and 2 bring a **named** water bottle to school. Children are given water at break time but it is good for them to have their own bottle in the classroom so they can stay hydrated. Early Years and Foundation Stage classes have access to water all day long. We advise parents to apply sun cream to their children before they come to school. It is possible to buy cream that only needs to be applied once and this avoids children having to bring their own bottles to school. If you believe your child needs sun cream applied more

often, please let the class teacher know and they can organise times for this to happen. Children should be taught to apply their own cream -thank you.

#### SIGNING HOME/SCHOOL DIARIES

Please can we remind parents that we encourage you to hear your child read for a short amount of time each day. 'Little and often' is the best way and we would ask that you sign your child's diary when you have heard them and indicate which pages you have listened to. Thank you

#### COLLECTING FROM SCHOOL

Please remember that if there is a different arrangement for collection of your child after school you must let the staff know. We will not let a child go with someone that we are not expecting to pick them up.

#### SCOOTERS AND BIKES LEFT ON SITE

Please note that bikes and scooters left on the school grounds are left at the owners risk. The school cannot be held responsible if a bike or scooter goes missing. We do however suggest that a suitable lock is used to keep the scooter or bike safe whilst it is left here during the day.

#### THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Patrick Kernan and his team for delivering bark chippings for the pathways in the vegetable garden without cost.

## 4. CURRICULUM SECTION

### Design Technology at JHSW

Since September, all year groups have been developing their skills in joining materials in Design Technology. Each year group gets opportunities to practice the different joining methods and as the children progress they build on their knowledge from previous years and so by Year 2 they have gained a range of skills in order to join for different purposes. Below are some of the joining methods that they will use by Year 2.



### Year 2 Puppet Workshop and Puppet Making

In anticipation of Joe's aka the puppet man's visit. The children had planned their puppets and had been thinking about the resources they would need and the joins that they would need to use to create their puppets. They also refreshed their skills of curling, quilling and fringing in order to create features for their puppets such as eye lashes and hair.

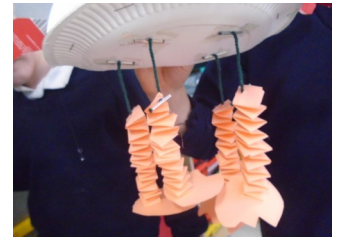
On the morning of the visit, Joe had set up his puppet theatre in the hall. The children were so engaged with the characters that would suddenly appear, such as the talking Bear that popped out of the bin when Joe wasn't looking and the singing and dancing cat. The children were mesmerized by the rabbit sitting in the hat who could do magic tricks.



The puppet show was followed by a puppet animation workshop for each class. Each child was given a puppet and they were given coaching on how to make their puppet come alive through using voices and positioning of the head.

The children were really engaged and practiced their skills with one another. This would enable the children to animate their own puppets once they had been created.

Each class went to their classrooms to create their own puppets. All children were busy and so engaged in making their puppets. Their plans were detailed and they were able to talk confidently about the skill that they had learnt and were applying. Below are just a selection of their fantastic creations.





## 5. PUPIL SECTION

When asked about their experience this is what some of the children had to say:

Red Kites:

"We learned the skills of quilling, making an L brace and making a slot (cross)". Skye and Joshua

"I used the slot technique to put string on my string puppet". Josh

"I used the technique of curling for the tongue and the hair". Edith

"I used a hole punch and a treasury tag to join the tail onto the body". Jago

Firecrests:

"I enjoyed paper folding and adding to my puppets. I liked the magic tricks the rabbit did". Matilda

"I liked the puppet show and when we made them. The show was funny and Joe taught us how to make our puppets move and have voices". Nate

Hérons:

"I liked practicing the paper folding and joining techniques and adding them to my puppet". Bobby

"I liked making the puppets and using the spiral techniques for arms". Maddie

"I loved when the shy rabbit did the magic tricks, they were brilliant". Henry

The visit had a great impact on the children's learning and some of the children came down to Foundation Stage to share their designs and demonstrated how they make their puppets come alive. Well done Year 2!

Emma Griffiths

Design Technology Subject Lead



Join us for the John Hampden School

# MAY FAIR

**Saturday 18 May | 12-3pm**

BBQ	Dramarama
Jam Jars	Ice lollies
Games	Crafts
Wendover Beers	Premier Sport
Tombolas	Chair-o-plane
Refreshments	Cakes
Plant Stall	Raffle
Face Painting	Stall holders
Pimms	Book sale

*and*

*May Day performances from the children!*

**Entry : donation on the door | Join us for lots of fun!**



## MAY FAIR - DONATIONS INFO

Firstly, we really can't make this lovely fundraiser happen without a huge team of helpers on the day so please look out for the SignUp link which will be circulated shortly. Just 45 minutes on a stall would make all the difference. Thank you.

### FRIDAY 10th MAY | DONATION FOR RAFFLE

The prizes for this year's May Fair Raffle will be hampers. On Friday 10th May please could children arrive at school with at least one item for a hamper. We'd like to make as many hampers as possible so more than one item would be amazing! Your donation can be any colour this time!!

Please ensure that all items donated are NEW and UNOPENED

Donation ideas: food items (not chilled or perishable), soft & alcoholic drinks, stationery, toiletries, games, vouchers, candles, sweets, chocolate, new books, hair accessories etc.

Boxes will be outside classrooms

### FRIDAY 17th MAY DONATION DAY! | MUFTI DAY!

On Friday 17th May, children are welcome to wear their own clothes to school in exchange for all your wonderful donations: JAM JARS- this is one of our most popular stalls and tends to sell out quickly. A guaranteed win! Children decorate a jam jar and fill it with sweets. Best decorated jam jars win a prize. Theme - Springtime! WRAPPED SWEETS ONLY & NO NUTS PLEASE Feel free to enter more than one jar! Winners will be announced in assembly on Friday 17th May. Remember to label your jar. TOY TOMBOLA - new or excellent condition toys, books, games, stationery, craft materials. Anything your child would love to win. BOTTLE TOMBOLA - the Governors run our ever popular tombola. Please bring in a bottle of something delicious. All bottles gratefully received, from champagne to shampoo. CAKE STALL - please bring your lovely bakes to the school office on Friday 17th May.

A huge thank you, in advance, for your generosity and enthusiasm in helping to make our fundraiser a success. From the FJH team x

## 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

Year 2 children are about to be assessed as part of the end of Key Stage non-statutory assessment procedures. The assessments (tests) for 2024 will take place throughout the month of May but our teacher assessments are on-going. Y2 parents and carers were invited to a meeting last Thursday to hear about the format of these tests. If you were unable to attend the presentation it has been included under the 'Parents' section of the school website. We will be informed in May if our school will be externally moderated this year but, regardless of this, our Year 2 staff will have access to moderation sessions which aim to ensure consistent judgements across the local schools. Mrs McNally has, in the past, completed moderator training with the local authority so she is experienced in moderating the judgements of staff in other schools. Before Easter, we also held a meeting for Year 1 parents and carers to provide information about the upcoming Phonics Check which will be completed by Year 1 pupils in June. Again, the presentation will be added to the website under the 'Parents' section.



### GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

Each term we analyse the incidents of negative behaviour resulting in children experiencing protective and educational consequences. Last term, not listening and not being polite were the two most common reasons for children having consequences applied but we were pleased that very few children struggle to work hard or be honest.

To help children rehearse and develop the appropriate social and behavioural skills, they spend time on a Friday afternoon completing 'M.O.V.E. Time'. Mastering Our Values and Expectations. Activities linked to M.O.V.E. Time develop the important skills that we believe are so important for effective learning.

Several years ago we introduced a new way of monitoring how well the children line up at the end of lunchtime play. Our Midday Supervisors award a token (a ball) every time their class lines up beautifully. The balls are visible in class jars in the dining room and last week we are delighted to report that every class got 5 balls in one week—a great start to the Summer Term.



### GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mrs Spencer continues to work with local colleagues and advisory services to gain an understanding of potential actions to improve the sustainability of the environment in and around our school. During the Easter break she worked with volunteers from the Chiltern Society to restore our vegetable garden in readiness for planting this term. We also had a visit from Julie Lloyd-Evans, an outdoor specialist, who delivered workshops to the year 2 children about the importance of worms in the natural world.



### GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Throughout the Spring Term, many staff were given dedicated non-contact time to support their role as middle leaders. It is an expectation that every experienced teacher also takes on the responsibility of leading a specific curriculum area to impact the quality of teaching and learning in that particular subject. There is also a linked governor to work with the subject leader in the role of 'critical friend'. The senior leadership team aim to support the middle leaders to facilitate their planned actions and regular communication with the linked governor helps to ensure the whole team are aware of the work that is going on to improve the quality of teaching and learning at the school.





## 8. MISCELLANEOUS



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

Terms and Conditions are available on request

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

ON YOUR MORTGAGE