



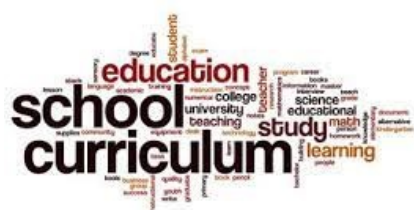
The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:		UPCOMING EVENTS:	
MMessage from Mrs.	1		24th February—INSET Day No pupils in school
Governor Section	2	Week commencing 3rd February	25th February—School opens & Arts week
Important Messages	3	Parents' Evenings	
Curriculum	4	10th February—Assessment week and Discovery week	7th March— Celebrating WORLD BOOK DAY
Pupil's Section	5	14th February—School closes for half term at 3.15 pm	
School Improvement	6		
Vacancies	7		
Miscellaneous			

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES



Despite having an EYFS Framework with prime and specific areas to cover, and a National Curriculum that directs the content of what should be taught to children at this stage of their education, we are given the freedom to choose how we feel it is best to deliver the content. We have found that some topics are universally popular with infant aged pupils whilst at other times we take account of particular interests of the children to plan something new. Our teachers work very hard to keep the learning opportunities relevant and interesting for the children so they are motivated and engaged in their learning.

At The John Hampden School Wendover we try hard to present the content as a linked curriculum whenever possible. This means we choose topics which enable aspects of different subjects to be taught in a meaningful way to the children. So, rather than having a history lesson each week we may choose to block the teaching of this subject into a specific topic. At other times we may choose to have specific enrichment days or weeks to focus attention on a particular subject or a particular theme. So far this academic year we have enjoyed a fortnight of Health and Safety. 'Discovery Week' is coming up soon where the children will be investigating mathematically and scientifically. There will also be a focus on thinking skills and links to Growth Mindsets.

When we come back after the half term break, we have planned an exciting Arts Week that will involve the children creating art work linked to a specific theme. This will be enhanced with music and drama. Later on in the year there will also be World Weeks to look forward to.

Whenever possible we invite visitors into school or we plan trips to enhance the learning experiences. Sometimes we ask the children to come to school wearing costumes to make their learning more memorable. With this in mind I would like to draw your attention to World Book Day which we will be celebrating on **Friday 7th March**. Every year we ask the children to dress up and this year we are asking everyone to come dressed as their favourite character from a book. We will be celebrating with a whole week of book related activities and we will let you know more about this in due course but we think it will be great fun!

In the last newsletter we gave details of the Parents' Evenings that are due to take place next week. Please enter the school building via the main entrance where signage will direct you to sit outside the classroom to look at your child's work before you are called in to talk to the teacher. At the end of the 10 minute appointment you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire about your experience and also to complete some feedback for your child to see.

We look forward to seeing you then.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Being a John Hampden School Governor is a hugely rewarding role which gives an insight into the significant amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to run our successful infant school. Without doubt the best way to understand more about our school is through school visits. Our visits are definitely not a form of inspection, and are not designed to cause any stress or undue work for the staff! Instead, they are an enjoyable way for us to get to know the school better and for us to understand if what we provide can be improved through any governing board support.

Since September I am fortunate to have been the linked governor to our amazing Out of School Club (OOSC) which is run by the fantastic Sharon Cottle. Far from being a separate facility to the rest of the John Hampden provision, this club is an extended part of the John Hampden experience for all the lucky children who attend the before and after school sessions, and who get to benefit from the provision that the team provide. I visited Sharon last week to see what has changed since my two daughters attended the club (almost 10 years ago now!), and to see for myself what activities and opportunities she provides.

Sharon and the team provide an excellent timetable of play activities for the children to choose from, and these include craft, construction, small world play and role play. I was really impressed to hear that the children are also actively encouraged to use the outdoor play space in all but the very worst weather conditions, and in the Winter months are provided with high-visibility vests and head-torches so they can enjoy their play safely. The fantastic outside space offers no end of opportunities for the children to work off their energy! The staff provide the children with a snack from our recently refurbished kitchen and during my visit it was lovely to see how well behaved the children all were while they enjoyed their beans on toast! However, what I was most impressed with was the fact that there were no children who had chosen to sit in the tv room to either watch tv or play on a computer game. That was incredible to see and a huge reflection on the quality and variety of the play activities that the team put on.

I was therefore not surprised to report back to the governing board this week that our OOSC is being superbly run, is staffed by an amazing team, offers a wide range of activities for our children, and that there is nothing further that Sharon or the team need from the governors. Only from a visit can you really see how much the children enjoy being there, and these visits are one of the highlights of our role as school governors.



Matt Glanville

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 if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

CHILD ILLNESS



At this time of the year we recognise that there are lots of coughs and colds and other illnesses doing the rounds. The last couple of weeks have been quite challenging for the school as we have had a large number of staff off work with ill health. We would ask that if your child has a high temperature, for any reason, that they do not return to school until it is normal again. This way we will all be doing our best to ensure spread of germs and viruses is minimised.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

ONLINE SAFETY



All games released in the UK will have one of the following PEGI age ratings on the packaging: 3, 7, 12, 16 or 18. The rating means that the game shouldn't be played by a young person under that age because there may be content within the game which could potentially be harmful, frightening or worrying to children. As well as an age rating, PEGI also uses icons showing content descriptors, letting you know if a game contains: violence, drugs, bad language, discrimination, fear, gambling, sex, or in-app purchases.

We would urge parents to monitor the games their children are playing, or watching others play, in order to avoid access to unsuitable or upsetting content. Parents/carers should also be aware that within some games children are able to gain access to online content that also may be unsuitable.

Scroll of Honour Badges

Our behaviour initiative, which allows any pupil in the school to be nominated by an adult for demonstrating excellent behaviour, appears to be working well. Every child who is nominated has their name included on the Scroll of Honour and is asked to stand up during 'Over & Above' Assembly on Friday. They are given a yellow 'Spotted for Something Special' badge which they can wear for one week. We are asking for your support in ensuring the badges are returned to school on the following Thursday. This way we can make sure they can be passed to the next set of children who are nominated. We only have a limited supply of the badges and others will be really disappointed if they don't get a badge when it is their special moment. Thank you for your support.

Jewellery



Please remember that children should not be wearing any jewellery to school. Children with pierced ears should definitely have their earrings removed on P.E. days or be provided with tape to cover the studs if they cannot be removed yet. This is for health and safety reasons as earrings can easily get caught up as children get changed for P.E.

DOGS ON THE CAMPUS



This is a polite reminder that no dogs should be brought onto the campus at any time. This is a Health & Safety request.

PARKING ON CAMPUS



This is a polite reminder that parents should not be driving onto the school campus to drop off or pick up children. The campus is for staff only. Please also be courteous to all drivers when driving around the campus roads.

We have received notification of a series of complaints from coach drivers dropping students at John Colet. They are being blocked from leaving due to parked cars jamming up the exit route. This includes cars parking in the chequered exit area, having driven in the wrong way. Please be reminded that you should not be attempting to park in areas which are very clearly no parking and/or exit routes.

4. CURRICULUM SECTION



Year 2 Wow Day

On Wednesday 29th January, it was so lovely to see so many children come in dressed in costume for our Great Fire of London Day. The children truly immersed themselves into a range of different enrichment activities.

The children tried out some art activities. First they created a silhouette outline of the skyline of London. Then they created an Impasto painting. The children created their own fiery, smoky sky using textured paint (impasto). Finally, they stuck their silhouettes onto their impasto artwork. The children chose realistic colours to depict the fire.

Also, the children got into role and character in Drama and Role Play and acted out scenes from the Great Fire and freeze framed their actions. We then guessed what they were doing! They also performed some music, singing London's Burning as a class and in rounds.

Also, the children were very lucky to make and bake some bread using a recipe from the 17th century. They kneaded the bread and let it prove before baking.

It was a truly superb experience for all the children and staff. Plus, we had a visit from our History Governor, Rachel Coffey, who was very impressed by the children's knowledge and understanding of the Great Fire of London.

In the afternoon, the Great Fire of London activities continued. The children sang London's Burning and The Great Fire of London Rap in Music. They continued researching about the fire in Computing and in Art, the children worked on their sketches of Samuel Pepys. What a super day had by all!

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Here are some comments and photos from the children about what they thought of the day:

Hérons:

Savannah: I liked the Art because it wasn't the usual paint and we used spatulas and forks.

Emma: I enjoyed the bread making because I liked using the dough and the flour to knead the bread.

James: I liked the whole morning but I also enjoyed collaborating during the acting.

Firecrests:

Maggie: I've loved everything this morning that we've done. It was lots of fun!

Alexander: I loved the drama because I liked acting out and liked working with my group too!

Alfie: I really liked the art because it was fun and the impasto was something new to do!

Red Kites:

Cami: We learnt the skill of using impasto paint where we added paper and glue with paint to make it textured.

Fred: We acted out the scene where we tried to put the fire out using fire hooks and water squirts.

Nathan: I really liked making the bread rolls. In 1666 they used a real oven but now our ovens are electric or gas.



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:

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION



Two years ago we made the decision to purchase a new Phonics Scheme to replace Letters & Sounds at JHSW. We opted for the 'Supersonic Phonic Friends' scheme which utilises a fully systematic synthetic phonic approach. The scheme includes the Firm Foundations in Phonics, The Basics, The Higher Levels ~ Choose to Use Spellings and Switch it Spell Sounds, as well as Key Stage 1 spelling rules. It also ensures children develop passion for reading and the confidence to independently apply each skill when reading and writing.

With new members of staff joining the team this year and more training being delivered, we have recently observed phonics lessons and monitored to ensure there continues to be complete fidelity to the scheme.

GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES



We are delighted that two members of staff at JHSW have undertaken training for this science based approach to helping young children to develop resilience and emotional stability.

Details of how the training was organised and detail of what was covered was disseminated to teachers and governors last week. The impact of implementing this approach has already been noted and we look forward to moving forward with this initiative in due course across the school.

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Schools have a statutory duty, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. At JHSW we have audited our provision for this using the six 'Character Education' benchmarks. As part of the audit we are considering how we actively promote good behaviour and positive character traits, including for example courtesy, respect, truthfulness, courage and generosity. We are very aware that schools with clear expectations on behaviour and with well-planned provision for character and personal development can help promote good mental wellbeing.

GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

As we approach the end of the financial year we are waiting for indicative budget figures for 2025-2026. Due to a falling birth rate, pupil numbers were not as strong as usual on census day in October 2024—as most of our funding is derived from this factor we are clear that the financial future of the school continues to be challenging.



The advert for the head teacher vacancy has been published and a number of prospective candidates have toured the school, accompanied by one of our governors.

7. VACANCIES

The John Hampden School Wendover

Midday Meals Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy from February 2025 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: as soon as possible after interview

Closing date: Friday 14th February

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 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 candidates 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.

John Hampden Out of School Care vacancies

John Hampden Out of School Care vacancy—Playworker

We have a vacancy for a Playworker at our Out of School Care. Working hours would be 7.30-8.45am and 3.00-6.15pm Monday to Friday (22.5 hrs per week) term time only with the possibility of additional hours which will be discussed at interview. The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children and a relevant Level 2 qualification, however this is not essential.

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

If you are interested in this post or would like further information please call Sharon Cottle on: 07506195699 or email: oosc@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or contact the school office for an application form on 01296 622629 or email: office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

Closing date: 14th February 2025

John Hampden Out of School Care vacancy—Playworker

We have a vacancy for an After School Club Playworker. Working hours would be Monday to Thursday afternoon, (13 hours per week) from 3.00 pm—6.15 pm, term time only. The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children and a relevant Level 2 qualification, however this is not essential.

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

If you are interested in this post or would like further information please call Sharon Cottle on: 07506195699 or email: oosc@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or contact the school office for an application form on 01296 622629 or email: office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

Closing date: 14th February 2025

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Join Child Bereavement UK's family-friendly Snowdrop Walk at West Wycombe Park on Sunday 2 February.

Enjoy a walk in beautiful surroundings before planting a snowdrop in memory of someone important, if you wish.

Children can enjoy a treasure hunt with a small prize for each child at the end, and you can complete your walk with hot food, cakes and refreshments at West Wycombe Village Hall, where further children's activities will take place.

For more information, to purchase tickets or to sign up to volunteer at the event, please visit: [Snowdrop Walk in Buckinghamshire | Child Bereavement UK](#)

Early bird discounted prices available.



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 2 February 2025 10:30am - 4pm

Last entry at 3:30pm

Only guide and hearing 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

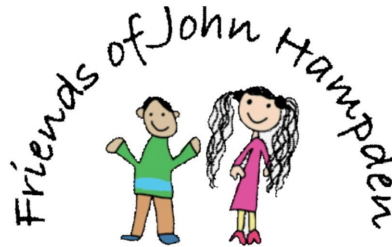
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Bereavement UK**
REBUILDING LIVES TOGETHER



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Christopher Pallet, Wendover's longest established independent estate agent are proud to be sponsoring Friends of John Hampden School.

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 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.

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Email - Jeff.harris@hampdenfs.co.uk

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ON YOUR MORTGAGE



FEBRUARY HALF TERM SWIMMING COURSE

The Wendover Pool, HP22 6HF



DATES AND TIMES

MONDAY 17 TH FEB	09:30 to 11:00 AM
TUESDAY 18 TH FEB	09:30 to 11:00 AM
WEDNESDAY 19 TH FEB	09:30 to 11:00 AM
THURSDAY 20 TH FEB	09:30 to 11:00 AM



30 minute lessons

£52 for 4 day course

Limited to 6 children per class

Beginner through to advanced lessons

MORE INFO!

aquadragons-swimschool.co.uk

 07971 496230

 hello@aquadragons-swimschool.co.uk

