



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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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 next weekend- Saturday 30th 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 further 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 **Thursday 19th 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 playtimes 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 6th DECEMBER IS AN INSET DAY

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

I had the pleasure of visiting the school during Safety Week as part of my role as PSHE and Relationships Link Governor. It was wonderful to see the children actively engaged in a range of important safety topics, including road safety, fire safety, water safety, dog safety, and medicine safety. They learned how to stay safe in different environments and situations, and were even lucky enough to have visitors from the local community to provide real life insights in to staying safe.

These activities are not only fundamental in supporting the children's learning, but also empower them with life skills that are crucial for their everyday lives. I am confident that the knowledge gained during Safety Week will stay with them for years to come.

A special thank you to Mrs Spencer, whose hard work and enthusiasm made both Safety Week and Health Week a real 'wow' experience!

A quick reminder that the Christmas Fair is fast approaching, taking place on **Saturday 30th November (12pm-3pm)**. As per tradition, governors will be running the Bottle Tombola stall, so please pop by and say hello! If you can, we would also appreciate your support by volunteering for a slot on your child's class stall. It's a great way to get involved and contribute to a fun and successful event.



Daisy Berry
Parent Governor - PSHE, SMSC and Eco Schools / Sustainability Link 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 or if you just have a query about the school.

Adverse Weather Conditions

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

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.buckscc.gov.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.

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 2nd 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 WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER** and final deliveries will be made on Thursday 19th December.

The following information may help you with envelope writing!

Foundation Stage	Year 1	Year 2
Caterpillars - Miss Tiffin	Squirrels—Mrs Bloxham & Miss Bell	Firecrests - Mrs McNally/Mrs Manner-ing
Ladybirds- Miss Fox	Hedgehogs - Mrs Norman/Mrs Burrows	Hérons - Mrs Bowman
Honeybees—Mrs Parkinson	Badgers—Miss Burns	Red Kites - Mrs Spencer

CHILDREN IN NEED

Just to let you all know that we raised a fabulous £222.90 for this good cause. Thank you for your support.

P.E BAGS

We have noted a number of children who have not brought their P.E bags back to school following the half term break. Please could you make sure your child has an appropriate P.E. kit in school.

READING FOLDERS

This is also a reminder that children must bring their Book Bags/Reading Folders into school everyday -thank you

MEAL CHOICES

We are very pleased with the improved quality of the hot meals we provide following the installation of our new kitchen and the start of cooking on site. However, please do discuss the meal options with your child before ordering so they understand and agree the choices that you make for them.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES (continued)



MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL OR STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025

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 5th November 2024 and the deadline for online applications is midnight on 15th January 2025.

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start school in September 2025, an application for a Primary School place must be made in the next few months. The Primary School online application service opened on 5th November 2024 and the deadline for online applications is midnight on 15th January 2025. 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 2025

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 they are eligible for a place in our wonderful Nursery Class from September 2025. To register your interest please download an application form from the school website or email or phone the school office.



SAFETY ON THE CAMPUS

Thank you to everyone who supported the campus road safety check this week; the ongoing checks are necessary to reduce traffic and improve safety for our children. Nearly all parents were polite and respectful when reminded that unauthorised vehicles should not be driven onto campus and that no vehicles should be parked on double yellow lines / zig-zag or inconsiderately.

Sadly, a small number of parents were verbally abusive to staff. We would like to remind everyone that neither verbal nor physical abuse will be tolerated and the police may be informed. If deemed serious enough, a bar from campus may be imposed.

We hope to be able to organise regular , unannounced monitoring, to ensure the campus remains safe for all users.

4. CURRICULUM

At John Hampden, we understand that our children are growing up in a digital world. We are passionate about teaching them not only how to use devices safely but also how to develop a healthy approach to digital wellbeing. This includes encouraging them to find a balance between screen time and offline activities. These issues were addressed as part of work during Safety Week and below you'll find additional information from a group of parents in Wendover who actively support these initiatives.



#CHANGETHENORM

Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement of parents who believe childhood's too short to be spent on a smartphone

We're on a mission to

01.

Bring parents together to start new and positive conversations about the problems of smartphones and social media in childhood

02.

Empower parents to wait to get their kids a smartphone until at least the end of Year 9, through signing up to the Parent Pact in their region

03.

Demonstrate that parents are demanding change at scale, and therefore force the government and tech companies to act

Why we're doing this now

We've been put in an impossible position by the tech companies. It's a lose lose - either allow our children access to something all the evidence tells us is damaging, or say no and risk alienating them among their peers at a crucial stage of their social development. **We believe something needs to change, and it starts with all of us.**



Scan to sign the Parent Pact
#smartphonefreechildhood

How you can get involved

Sign the Parent Pact - Join the growing movement of parents choosing to delay - it takes 30 seconds
parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Join your WhatsApp community - Find solidarity, support and inspiration - we have one in every county in Britain
whatsapp.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Help build the movement - Volunteer to be a Regional Leader and start making change in your community
regionalleadersignup.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Sign up to our newsletter - Get the latest news and campaign updates from SFC HQ
smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/newsletter

Follow us on Instagram/LinkedIn
[@smartphonefreechildhood](https://www.instagram.com/smartphonefreechildhood)
[smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk](https://www.linkedin.com/company/smartphonefreechildhood)

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

On Monday 18th November we held another Open Morning at the school in preparation for a new intake of pupils in September 2025. Twelve of our Year 2 pupils acted as ambassadors for the school on this day and we thought you might like to hear what they said to their audience and how they felt when speaking.

Louis said, 'I like After School Football because you can learn lots of new skills.' I was happy when I spoke aloud.

Joshua C said, 'I've liked meeting all the different teachers as I've been going through the school.' My heart was pounding a little bit before I spoke but it was ok in the end.

Alfie said, 'I really liked the learning in World Weeks because I enjoyed learning about Mexico.' I felt really excited when it was my turn.

Iona said, 'I like PE because we get to exercise.' I felt happy when I spoke to the audience.

Dolly said, 'I like English because you get to write lots of different sentences.' I felt happy and I wasn't nervous.

Holly said, 'I like going to gardening club because you get to grow lots of different fruits and vegetables.' I felt nervous when I spoke.

Coco said, 'I like Phonics because you get to learn new sounds and letters.' I felt happy.

Joshua C-M said, 'I like maths because we get to learn how to do adding and taking away.' I felt excited to talk in front of an audience.

Sienna said, 'I like maths because we get to learn lots of new and bigger numbers.' I felt really good doing this job.

Molly said, 'I like science because you get to learn new things and do investigations.' I felt excited and nervous at the same time.

James said, 'I like art because we get to use lots of different pencils like HB, 6B and 4H.' I felt excited and nervous at the same time.

Fletcher said, 'I like doing arts and crafts because we learn how to join things together.' I felt nervous at first but I felt quite happy after I'd done it.

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN (FJH)

John Hampden School Wendover

Christmas Fair

SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER
12-3pm

Join us for an afternoon full of festive fun for all the family to enjoy!

SANTA'S GROTTO	CHRISTMAS JUMPERS
WENDOVER BEERS	FACE PAINTING
BBQ - BLOCK & BUTCHER	CHILDREN'S CRAFT
CAKE STALL	BOTTLE TOMBOLA
TOY TOMBOLA	MULLED WINE
WRAP A PRESENT	TATTOOS/NAIL BAR
FESTIVE GAMES	DRAMA WORKSHOPS
JAM JARS	RAFFLE

Come hungry!

Entry : donation on the door

Registered charity no. 1070370

John Hampden School Wendover

Christmas Fair

DONATIONS

It's that time again.....we're fast approaching our Christmas Fair for which we rely on your generous donations.

We will gratefully receive the following:

- An item for your child's class hamper (check your class colour)
- Jam Jars WRAPPED SWEETS ONLY & NO NUTS PLEASE
- Gift for the Wrap a Present stall
- Christmassy jumpers (all sizes welcome, adults included)
- Items for the toy tombola
- Bottles for the tombola
- Cakes, biscuits, traybakes for the bake sale

We're aware that we ask for lots of donations for this fair so we're trying to spread out our requests. More information and key dates on next pages.



Two grotto sessions will be reserved exclusively for volunteers' children. The grotto is always oversubscribed so it's a good perk for those able to volunteer.

11:30-12:00
15:00-15:30

John Hampden School Wendover

Christmas Fair

DONATION INFO

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.
WRAPPED SWEETS ONLY & NO NUTS PLEASE.

Feel free to enter more than one jar! Winners will be announced in assembly on Friday 29th November. Remember to label your jar.

WRAP A PRESENT - the children love this teacher-run stall. They choose a present for a relative and wrap it, in secret, with the help of a teacher. To make it happen we ask you to donate a brand-new gift please (we are often short of men's presents, so don't forget something for Dad, Grandfathers, etc!)

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS - this was really popular last year!

In line with both the school's and the FJH's continuing pledge to be more environmentally friendly there will be a jumper swap stall.

Please donate any Christmassy jumpers your family have outgrown (or simply don't like anymore). A 'new to you' jumper will cost £2 at the fair. Enjoy wearing it all season and maybe swap it again next year.

TOY TOMBOLA - new or excellent condition toys, books, games, stationary, 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. If it's in a bottle and within its sell by date it can be donated to the bottle tombola!

CAKE STALL - calling all bakers! Please bring your lovely bakes to the office on Friday 29th.



John Hampden School Wendover

Christmas Fair

KEY DATES

NOW!

Look out for a message from your class rep detailing the stall your class has been assigned. PLEASE HELP IN ANY WAY YOU CAN.
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.



8 Nov

Santa's Grotto tickets available. 200 tickets up for grabs on ParentPay. £4 per child.



15 Nov

Rainbow Hamper Day. Children to arrive at school with at least one item for their class rainbow hamper in exchange for a **colourful tights/socks day.**

18 Nov

Raffle tickets available. A RallyUp link will be sent out soon where you will be able to view prizes and buy tickets.

25 Nov

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

29 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
- Christmas jumpers
- Toys
- Bottles
- Cakes



Payments accepted:







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 &
<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> <p>A new clubs list for the first half of the Spring Term will be issued shortly.</p> 	<p>The first Finance, Premises, Health & Safety Committee meeting of the school year took place recently. Austerity measures over several years have been impacting positively on the school finances but there are always challenges when trying to mitigate unexpected demands and additional costs.</p> <p>It is encouraging to note that our self-generation income streams are running effectively, and we are anticipating a tiny surplus at the end of the financial year – fingers crossed!</p> 

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

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



Christopher Pallet

Professional advice since 1973

Proudly sponsoring



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.

Residential Sales & Lettings

Mortgages | Surveys | Conveyancing | Land & New Homes | Professional Advice



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Christopher Pallet Wendover

For all your property requirements contact
wendover@christopherpallet.com
or call 01296 625000

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!

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!

Haydon Abbey

School and Pre-School

We plant the seeds and help them grow



Can you...

Understand
financial
budgets

Judge if
money
being spent
well

Review key
indicators

Think about
long-term
goals

Hold
people to
account

Support
adults

Able to be
a critical
friend?

Haydon Abbey needs

Governors!

You don't need to be a parent...
You don't need to be in education...

We just need your outside expertise in any or many of the skills above.

For more details please see contact the
office@haydonabbey.bucks.sch.uk

