



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

9-6-25 **World Week 2**

30-6-25

**Induction meeting for children new to EYFS in September 2025 6.30pm for 7pm start**

27-6-25

**FS, Y1 & Y2 Sports Day**

1-7-25

**County Induction Day—all children visit their new classes for Sept '25**

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I wanted to start this newsletter by thanking those of you who were able to attend the recent FJH May Fayre. There were numerous stalls and activities for the whole family to enjoy along with fantastic performances from children, including superb singing and marvellous Maypole dancing. Your support was tremendous and we managed to raise approximately £4,754 which will be put to very good use. Our plans for spending include enhancing the Year 2 outside learning environment and purchasing new computing equipment that will benefit all pupils. My thanks to Kate Walker and the FJH Committee for organising this very successful event and to the governors, staff and volunteers who supported the various stalls—it was a wonderful afternoon and your support helped to make it a thoroughly enjoyable event.



At least once a term we try to provide enrichment weeks where the normal timetable is replaced by a week or two of something a little bit different. In the Autumn Term we spent two weeks focussing on Health and Safety. In the Spring Term we had Arts Week and Discovery Week. This week our pupils have started 'World Weeks'. These weeks have been very enjoyable and popular with the pupils in the past and we will put out all the work for parents/carers to come and share at the Open Evening in July. Each KS1 class will be studying a different country and will use this stimulus to enhance teaching linked to Geography and R.E.

Weather permitting, on Friday 27th June, FS and KS1 Sports Day is planned. This is our own sporting competition in which we hope the competitors will demonstrate the core sporting values of:

**respect** - fair play; knowing one's own limits; and taking care of one's health and the environment

**excellence** - how to give the best of oneself, on the field of play or in life; taking part; and progressing according to one's own objectives

**friendship** - how, through sport, to understand each other despite any differences

Further details will be sent out via a letter in your child's book bag nearer the time but rough timings are as follows:

Year One: 9.15—10.15 am, Foundation Stage: 10.15—11.15am, Year Two: 11.15—12.15pm.

I hope you enjoyed the half term break with your children—it is good to see them back for the final half term of this academic year. Behind the scenes we are already making plans for the new academic year. This has involved recruiting for teaching vacancies. It is with sadness that I am informing you of Mrs Spencer's resignation from her role as Year 2 class teacher and member of the senior leadership team. Mrs Spencer will leave us at the end of this academic year to take on an exciting new career opportunity—we wish her all the very best and will ensure she gets a proper send off in due course. In the next few weeks we will provide you with details of the staffing arrangements for 2025-2026 and the organisation of transition activities as pupils move into, out of and within JHSW.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

As Governors, we each have responsibility for different subjects or specialisms within the Governing Board – my areas are History and Geography. In my role as History link Governor, I had the privilege in the week before half-term of visiting Year 1's Victorian Day.

From arriving at the classrooms, handing in their penny (as school wasn't free at that time), and having their hands checked one by one for cleanliness, the children were immersed in one of their first experiences of 'living history'.

In the classroom, the children got to experience a "Victorian schoolroom". The electronic whiteboards were put away and children used individual writing boards and practised using abacuses. The desks and chairs were put in straight rows. Teachers in long dresses and high collars looked sternly at any child making a noise, and everyone stood up whenever an adult entered the room. Children chose replica Victorian toys to sketch, and readily explained to me why and how toys were different at that time. Break-time was a selection of Victorian games – hoops, skipping ropes and balls in the playground.

The children loved joining in a "cookery lesson", making peppermint creams to take home which, they learned, would have been a real treat as sugar was so expensive.

It was fascinating to see the children explore these first experiences of immersive history, asking brilliant questions about how things were in the past and reflecting on how and why we do things differently now. It is one of the most rewarding things as a Governor to see how the teachers (led by the fabulous History lead, Mrs Norman) develop an engaging curriculum that builds on what children have learned year by year, expanding and nurturing their mastery of subjects like History.

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](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)

#### **ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

As an important stakeholder in the school your contribution is welcomed and valued. We recently sent home a questionnaire to gauge your views and opinions. The closing date for returning completed questionnaires is Friday 13th June and we will aim to collate your responses during the next few weeks and feedback to you thereafter.

#### **WATER BOTTLES**

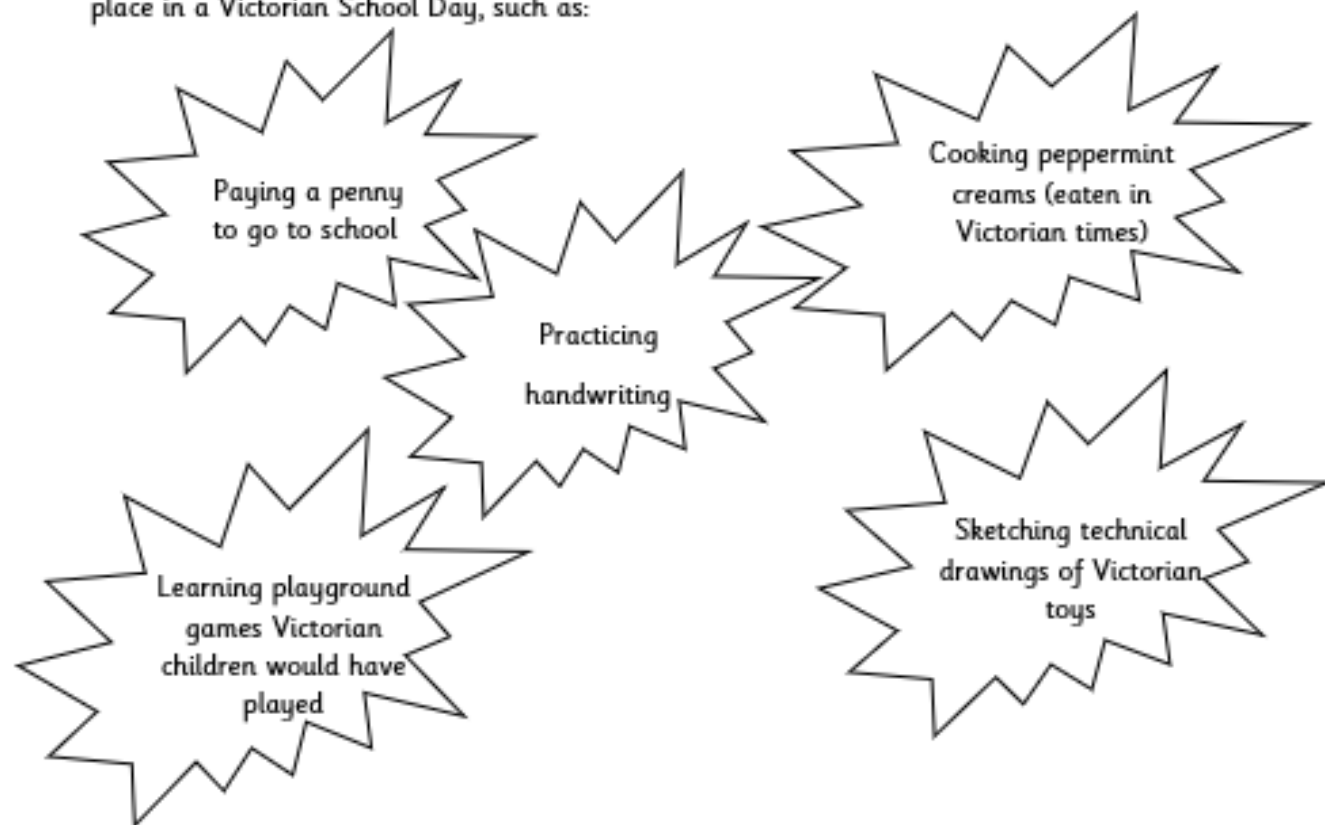
Reminder that we do encourage Year 1 and Year 2 children to bring a bottle of water to school each day to keep on their desks—this is in addition to the drink you may provide in a lunch box. In warmer weather many children are glad of the chance to keep a drink close by. Children in EYFS have access to water throughout the day in our hydration stations.

#### **LOST PROPERTY**

Please check that your child's school uniform is correctly named. There are a huge number of jumpers and cardigans in lost property that are not named so cannot be returned to their owners.

## 4. CURRICULUM

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, as part of their History learning, Year One enjoyed a Victorian School Day. During the day, the children took part in some typical activities that would have taken place in a Victorian School Day, such as:



We learnt that:

- Children paid a penny to go to school
- Victorian coins look different to the coins we use now
- Children sat in cramped rows to learn
- Children had to write with their right hand or they were punished
- Children had to stand whenever an adult entered the room
- Boys and girls learnt different things
- There was no technology
- Children wrote on chalkboards
- Some children had to wear a 'dunces hat'

## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Sitting at desks in rows.



Olivia "I enjoyed making the peppermint creams and the games. I learnt that in Victorian times, you needed to have a penny to come to school – otherwise you were not allowed in school."

Learning Victorian playground games.



Learning playground games played in Victorian times.



Jasper: "I liked making the mint chocolates. I learnt that Victorian school children didn't have many different games to play, like we do today."

Anila "I enjoyed playing games outside. I learnt that they used to write on a chalkboard, but we write on whiteboards."

Making peppermint creams.








Henry "I really enjoyed the games outside – 'In and Out the Dusty Bluebells'. I learnt that in Victorian times, if you were doing something wrong, you would get the cane."



## 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:

<p><b>GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION</b></p> <p>The month of May sees our Year 2 pupils taking part in the now, non-statutory assessment procedures for the end of Key Stage 1. The tests were administered with great care and sensitivity by our Year 2 teachers and we now need to wait for national standardised scores to be published in order to see whether our pupils have been judged to be working at age related expectations within the National Curriculum.</p> <p>In Year 1 and Foundation Stage the last few weeks have been filled with wonderful enrichment opportunities—A Victorian School Day and trips to Whipsnade Zoo and a walk around Wendover.</p> 	<p><b>GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES</b></p> <p>Our young pupils need regular reminders of the JHSW Behaviour Expectations in our attempt to ensure they develop socially as well as academically. After our Over &amp; Above Assembly on a Friday afternoon, the children are given designated time to practise the things that we consider important or valuable to young learners. This is called M.O.V.E time—Mastering Our Values and Expectations. These regular timetabled sessions are planned to meet the needs of the different classes.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>
<p><b>GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>By 23rd May the second round of allocation of school places for 2025-2026 took place. This number is currently below our planned admission number of 90, which has significant budget implications for funding in following years. We have also allocated all the places in the Early Years Class. Letters have gone out to these families as the first step towards transitioning our new pupils into the school. JHSW works hard to ensure the best transition opportunities for all our pupils whether they are new to the school or whether they are moving into a new year group at the school.</p> <p>A transition programme runs in the second half of the summer term and our new pupils will have three opportunities to visit the school to alleviate any worries or concerns that may have occurred over the summer break. The rest of our pupils will also have numerous opportunities to visit their new classes and meet their new teaching staff before the start of the new academic year.</p> 	<p><b>GOAL D: LEADERSHIP &amp; MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Our budget for 2025-2026 was submitted by the deadline of 16th May. Unfortunately we finished the last financial year with a deficit figure due to delays in obtaining SEN funding and additional costs incurred as a result of admitting pupils for whom no funding is given in this academic year. So, continued effort and prudence is required to balance the books once more. We are also working hard to recruit for September 2025 to ensure we are fully staffed for the new academic year.</p> 

## 7. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

# *It's not too late to leave* **YOUR MARK**



A beautiful wooden tree has been carved by Wendover local, Bob Duggan and the Wendover Shedders. We're offering parents, guardians and family members as well as former pupils, staff, governors and the wider community an opportunity to purchase a wooden leaf or acorn, which will be added to the tree and displayed permanently in the school.

The leaves and acorns will be engraved with a name or a short message and will remain there to be seen for many years by generations of John Hampden children and parents.

This is your opportunity to support the school and the children in a creative and lasting way. The tree will become a permanent part of the building, displayed as a grateful acknowledgement of your support and generosity.

*To donate a leaf or acorn  
please email*

**FJHVOLUNTEERS@GMAIL.COM**





# Christopher Pallet

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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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or call 01296 625000



# PLEASE SAVE THE DATE - 26th JUNE - WILDBELT WALKABOUT & WILDING SCREENING

In celebration of all that has been achieved over the last five years, Climate Action Wendover invites you to a free guided tour on 26th June of the Wendover WildBelt on London Road. Come along and see the site in all its summer glory! The walkabout will be followed by a free screening of the documentary film Wilding at St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Wendover HP22 6NL. Meet at the church for guided tours starting at 6.50pm followed by the film screening at 8pm. The film will be followed by a discussion. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tour-of-wendover-wildbelt-screening-of-wilding-tickets->





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)

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