



The John Hampden School Newsletter

Issue Eight Friday December 19th 2025

As we reach the end of the first term of this academic year, and my first term as Headteacher of The John Hampden School, I am incredibly proud to reflect on what we have achieved since September. Watching the children in their Christmas performances has been a particular highlight for me.

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Throughout these wonderful productions, I witnessed our core values shining brilliantly through every moment.

Belonging - Every child, regardless of their role, felt valued and included as part of our school community, working together to create something special.

Perseverance - The children showed remarkable determination in learning their lines, songs and dance routines and didn't give up and relished the challenge!

Independence - I was delighted to see children taking responsibility for their singing, dancing, acting, demonstrating growing confidence.

Reflection - After rehearsing, the children thoughtfully considered how they could improve their performances.

Respect - The children demonstrated wonderful respect for one another, listening attentively when others were performing and supporting their friends throughout.

Good Manners - The children exemplified impeccable manners throughout.

Collaboration - Perhaps most impressively, the children worked together beautifully to perform, supporting one another as one cohesive year group.



OUR VALUES



Perseverance



Collaboration



Respect



Good Manners



Independence



Belonging



Reflection



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As we approach this much-needed break, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who makes The John Hampden School the exceptional place it is.

My sincere thanks to the Friends of John Hampden for your tireless efforts in enriching our school community and to our Governing Body. The time you give so generously does not go unnoticed.

I must pay particular tribute to our incredible central team - Emma Van Der Lowen, Sue Mohammed, Julie Hazel and Craig Richardson. They are the backbone of our daily operations. We simply couldn't run the school without them and I am deeply grateful for everything they do.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary dedication of the teachers and teaching assistants, the Midday Meal Supervisors and OOSC at The John Hampden School. I genuinely could not ask for a better team. Their passion for education, care for every child and resilience is nothing short of amazing. They have worked tirelessly this term, consistently going the extra mile to ensure our children thrive.



Thank you



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Thank you to all our parents and carers for your outstanding support throughout this term. Our children are extraordinarily fortunate to have families so deeply committed to their education and wellbeing. Your partnership with us makes an immeasurable difference to them everyday.

As we draw to a close this wonderful first term, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you all for the holiday season ahead. I hope that the coming weeks bring you precious moments of joy, relaxation and togetherness with your loved ones. May you find time to pause, reflect on the year's achievements and recharge ready for the exciting opportunities that await us in the New Year. This is a special time for celebration, gratitude and hope.

As we turn our thoughts to 2026, let us do so with optimism, enthusiasm and renewed energy. The New Year promises fresh possibilities for our children to learn, grow and flourish. Together, we will continue to nurture their talents, celebrate their achievements and support them in becoming confident, compassionate and capable individuals.

Here's to a bright and successful 2026!

With very best wishes.

Steph Parkinson – Headteacher

Please remember that the school reopens on:

Monday 5th January 2026





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Important Information

HOT LUNCHES

You will soon be ordering hot lunches for the new term. Now your children have experienced the lunches for a term they seem to be very aware of what they like and what they don't enjoy. Please could we request that you involve your child when choosing meals as we have a number of children who are reluctant to eat the food being ordered and we rely on you to choose things they will eat! Thank you.

DEADLINE TO PLACE ORDER	FOR WEEK COMMENCING
SUNDAY 28 th December 2025	MONDAY 5 th January 2026
SUNDAY 4 th January 2026	MONDAY 12 th January 2026
SUNDAY 11 th January 2026	MONDAY 19 th January 2026
SUNDAY 18 th January 2026	MONDAY 26 th January 2026
SUNDAY 25 th January 2026	MONDAY 2 nd February 2026
SUNDAY 1 st February 2026	MONDAY 9 th February 2026
SUNDAY 8 th February 2026	MONDAY 16 th February 2026
SUNDAY 15 th February 2026	MONDAY 23 rd February 2026
SUNDAY 22 nd February 2026	MONDAY 2 nd March 2026
SUNDAY 1 st March 2026	MONDAY 9 th March 2026
SUNDAY 8 th March 2026	MONDAY 16 th March 2026
SUNDAY 15 th March 2026	MONDAY 23 rd March 2026

All orders will need to be completed by midnight Sunday one week prior to the actual consumption week.



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WEEK 3

W/C: 12/01/2026, 02/02/2026, 23/02/2026, 16/03/2026

THREE WEEK MENU

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

Our new menu chosen by parents and children – Your favourites available every day

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Pork Meatball Marinara Pasta Bake	Roast Gammon, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Tikka and Rice	Fish Fingers with Chips
	OPTION 2	Sweet & Sour Quorn with Rice	Macaroni Cheese	Roast Vegetarian Sausages, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Tomato & Mascarpone Pasta Bake	Vegetable Balls in a Tomato Sauce with Chips
	OPTION 3	Jacket Potato with Cheese & Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese & Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise & Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese & Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese & Baked Beans
HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD						
DELI DISHES	OPTION 4	-	-	-	-	-
	OPTION 5	-	-	-	-	-
DELI DISHES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED SALAD						
DESSERT		Smooth Fruit Yoghurt with Watermelon	Oatie Cookie	Chocolate Mousse	Chocolate Brownie with Custard	Fruity Friday with Vanilla Ice Cream

BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY
With a choice of toppings

AVAILABLE DAILY
Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water

Vegetarian
Vegan
Oily Fish
Whole grain
Fruity!
Nutritionist's Choice

Our menu is subject to change. Please be assured that all notified medical diets and allergy requirements will be safely catered for.



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Important Information

PE.AT SCHOOL

As P.E. bags come home in the Christmas break to be washed please check that your child's P.E. kit is all clearly named and correctly fitting. Please note that children must have a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt to wear for outside P.E. sessions, which continue throughout the winter months. Children with long hair must have it tied back for P.E. lessons and no earrings should be worn for health and safety reasons.

HOME SCHOOL DIARIES

Your child will receive a new Home School Diary at the beginning of the Spring Term. Please would you make sure you sign the diaries every time you hear your child read and encourage them to draw the faces each day so we can gauge how they are feeling at school.





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Pupils Section: Singing At Cherry Trees and St Mary's Church





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Pupils Section: Party Day With A Special Visitor





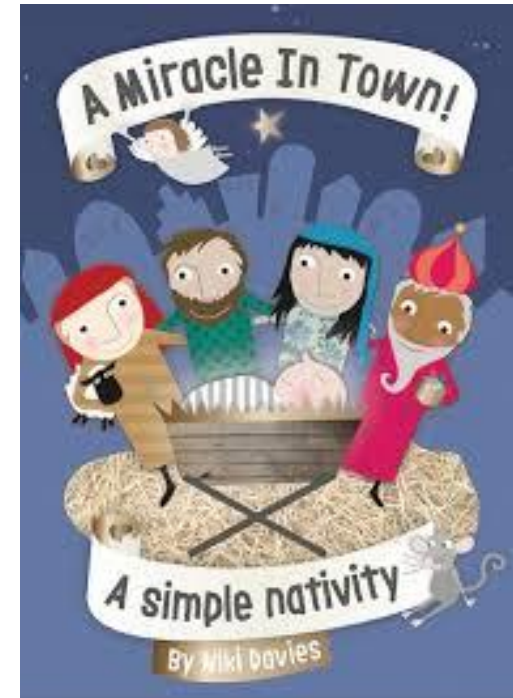
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Governor Section

The Wonderful Nativity Performance – A Miracle in Town

It was a real privilege to attend The John Hampden School's recent Nativity performance, A Miracle in Town, and I feel compelled, as a governor, to share just how special it was. The children were simply fabulous. Each and every one of them shone on the stage and delighted the audience with their confident narration, expressive acting and superb singing. Their joy, enthusiasm and pride were evident throughout and it was wonderful to see them perform with such confidence and happiness. What truly stood out was the school's commitment to ensuring that every child had their own time to shine. This does not happen by chance. It is a reflection of the dedication, care and high expectations of the staff, who work tirelessly to nurture each child's confidence and celebrate their individual strengths. The inclusive nature of the performance meant that every child felt valued and successful. A special mention must go to Mrs Mannering, whose talent for teaching singing is exceptional. The quality of the children's singing was outstanding, and it is clear that they benefit enormously from her expertise, enthusiasm and passion for music. The school is incredibly lucky to have her, and the performance was a testament to her skill and commitment. As a governor, I left the performance feeling immensely proud of the whole school community. A Miracle in Town truly lived up to its name and was a wonderful celebration of teamwork, talent and the joy of learning at The John Hampden School.

Angie Daly – Co-opted Governor





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Diary Dates – Spring Term 2026

5th January 2026 – School opens

3rd February 2026 – Parents evening

4th February 2026 – Parents evening

5th February 2026 – Parents evening

9th February 2026 – Assessment week

12th February 2026 – School closes for half-term at 3.15pm

13th February 2026 – Inset Day

16th to 20th February 2026 – Half Term

23rd February 2026 – School opens

23rd February 2026 – Arts week

2nd March 2026 – Communication Week EYFS

2nd March 2026 – World Book Week

6th March 2026 – World Book Day

