



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I wanted to start this newsletter by thanking the Friends of John Hampden for their support this term. They have worked tirelessly to put on fantastic events and each one has been carefully planned and thoughtfully executed. The Halloween trail and cake sale proved to be very popular and it was wonderful to watch those who took part having such fun. The recent Christmas Fayre was testament to the amazing organisational skills of the FJH Committee and their ability to provide an event which was brilliantly supported by our school community. We are sure we raised a lot of money during the afternoon so huge thanks to all who came along to this traditional annual fundraiser and to the governors, staff and volunteers who helped to make it run so smoothly. This total has been added to the other fundraising events this Autumn Term—the hard work has already raised a considerable sum of money this academic year. The money will be spent on buying storage units to go underneath the new Year 2 canopy as well as purchasing some new equipment and resources for all the children to use.

In the last week, we have enjoyed watching the Christmas performances from the Early Years Class and the Foundation Stage classes—the children did a brilliant job of entertaining their audience of parents/carers and I am grateful for your support in coming along and providing some wonderful costumes. We are looking forward to the Year 1 and Year 2 performances which are coming up very soon. We currently still have a number of children (and staff) off with the usual coughs and colds and tummy bugs that traditionally go round at this time of the year. We would ask that children do not return to school until their temperature is normal or 48 hours after the last bout of sickness/diarrhea. In this way we are minimizing risk to others.

On Thursday 19th December, the children will join in the fun and games with the parties that have been organised, and we hope they will demonstrate their impeccable manners when a very special guest arrives!! Please remember there will be **no hot lunches** on this day and parents are asked to provide a special Christmassy packed lunch. The Friends of John Hampden kindly provide a Christmas cracker for every child at the party so you do not need to include one in the lunch you provide.

Children should come to school in **Christmas party clothes** (suitable to go out to play in) —no uniform on this day.

Please note, - we have a few spaces in our Out of School Care Provision from January. Please contact us if you are interested in securing high quality child care before or after school.

CHRISTMAS TREE

We are extremely grateful to Chiltern View Nursery for donating a magnificent Christmas Tree for our school hall. I am sure you will be impressed when you see it twinkling during the Christmas Performances. **Reminder that the school reopens after Christmas on Monday 6th January 2025.**

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

There's nothing like a Christmas fair and a nativity performance to get you in the mood for the Festive season and I have been lucky enough to attend both this past week.

It all started with the John Hampden School Wendover Christmas fair on Saturday where I was able to satisfy my inner child by wearing my Christmas jumper, indulge in a hot dog and peruse the various and fantastic stalls. There was so much choice; from local crafts, activities for the children, face painting (a step too far for me!), the ever popular decorated jam jars and of course the secret room where children could buy and wrap a present for someone special. It would, of course, be remiss of me not to mention the Governors' Tom-bola stall which is always fun to be on and provides a great opportunity for us to meet and catch up with parents and carers in a more informal environment. I know we all enjoyed being there and on behalf of all the Governors, I'd like to express heartfelt thanks to the Friends of John Hampden, staff, parents & carers and everyone who helped to make the day such a success.

For me, the lead up to Christmas would simply not be the same without a nativity performance. This year I was fortunate enough to attend the Foundation Stage's fabulous 'Wriggly Nativity' and what a treat it was! It's an absolute favourite of mine and a real privilege to see the children delight in their performances; they sang and acted beautifully and delivered their lines expressively and clearly. It was obvious that they had all put in a lot of effort learning the songs, actions and lines and demonstrates the enrichment that music and the arts provide. As a parent, I remember proudly watching this performance a few years ago, and, it's lovely to see that, although the faces are different, the sentiments are still the same; delighted, proud parents and equally delighted and proud children.

Of course, such a great performance is only possible with the hard work and dedication of the staff at the school and for this, and everything else you do, we thank you. There are many perks to being a Governor but this is one of my absolute favourites!

Certainly, from my perspective, it's definitely 'beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!' and I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Governors, to wish you all a wonderful festive season and much happiness for the year to come.

Melanie Bradley
ParentGovernor



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 us 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.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES



MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL OR STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2024



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 at 11am 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 at 11am 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.

P.E. 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.

HOT LUNCHESES

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

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.

Important Reminder

For the Christmas Performances, please note that you will be entering the hall up steps via a side route so please do not even 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.

We have been asked to remind all parents that the Memorial Hall car park should not be used by our parents for picking up or dropping off children.

Poppy Appeal 2024

We raised a fantastic £431.18 for the 2024 Poppy Appeal



Headlice

Please be aware that we have had an outbreak of headlice recently so please check your children's hair and treat if found. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Well done to Ivy in Crickets class who won the competition for creating the best decoration for the Christmas Tree on Manor Waste—her prize was to turn on the lights!

Thank you to everyone who created Christmas art work for display in the local Budgen's store—do go and take a look!

Finally, please go and view our amazing collaborative art work on display at Wendover Free Church from 13th December - the JHSW contribution to Crib Fest 2024.

4. CURRICULUM

It's hard to believe how quickly time has flown, and we find ourselves nearing the end of the Autumn term. It feels like just yesterday we were welcoming the children through the doors for the start of a new school year, some for the very first time. Over the past few months, the children have achieved so much, embraced new challenges, and created lasting memories.

As we reflect on the term, we are filled with pride at how much they have grown, both in their learning and in their confidence. They've embraced the routines, made new friends, and have already begun their exciting learning journeys with enthusiasm and curiosity. It's been a joy to see their smiles light up our classrooms.

Last week was particularly special as we welcomed 'Make Believe Arts' to our school. The team came to film the children engaging in Helicopter Stories and performing poems from the Poetry Basket. It was an incredible experience for the children to showcase their creativity and storytelling skills. Watching them act out their ideas and bring poems to life was truly inspiring!

We were especially proud when Chris, the cameraman, commented on how polite and well-mannered the children were during the filming. He was impressed by their behaviour, and we couldn't agree more—they were absolute stars and a credit to our school.



5. PUPIL'S SECTION

This time of the year provides us with a perfect opportunity to develop and enhance performance skills. The timings for our EYFS and KS1 performances have helped us to ensure that every child in the school, from the youngest to the oldest, is given a moment to shine. It is clear that some children have real strengths in terms of their ability to speak, sing or perform a dance in front of an audience but every child is given the opportunity to collaborate and take part. It has been wonderful to watch the rehearsals going on and to see the progress that is made as well as the enjoyment and commitment that so many children demonstrate as they prepare for the performances.



We thought you might like to read some comments from the children about their rehearsals and their feelings about performing in front of an audience:

In Crickets class Edie was happy when her mummy and daddy watched her do the show. Finn loved having his mummy and daddy come and he loved singing the song Jingle Bells.

In Honeybees class Millie loved being an Innkeeper because she likes singing and dancing. Ruby is a Narrator and spoke in a big voice. She wasn't nervous.

In Ladybirds class Eimile is a Narrator. She liked the words and liked the performance. She liked standing on the stage and singing the songs. Charlie is a wise man. He liked riding the camel. He liked singing, his favourite is Angels. He liked sitting at the side of the stage looking at every Mummy and Daddy.

In Caterpillars class Joey is the donkey. He says "Eee-orr in a loud voice and he likes being on the stage. Edith says it feels really exciting being the Narrator and she likes wearing her Christmas clothes.

In Squirrels class Ella is excited to dance and Millie is excited to go on stage and say her line. She has been practising every day.

In Hedgehogs class Jamie is a sheep in the play and is wearing a black top and black trousers. He is happy because he likes doing things in front of an audience. Alice is a shepherd and is feeling excited to say her lines in the play.

In Badgers class Bella loved learning her lines—she used her reading to help. Rayaan is proud that he chose to have a speaking part.

In Firecrests class Merida is going to be a Narrator and she is excited about dancing the dance and reading her lines but also a bit shy. Freddie is going to be a Roman Soldier and will be wearing a soldier costume. He is very nervous.

In Herons class Coco is a Narrator and is going to wear a gold sparkly dress because she is a star in the dance as well. She is excited to perform in front of an audience. Harry is a King in the play. He is going to be wearing a colourful king costume. He is a bit nervous and a bit excited too.

In Red Kites class Matilda will be wearing a shepherd outfit and will be holding a sheep. She is looking forward to saying her lines. Aisha will be wearing a white angel costume and is excited to do the angel dance.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

The John Hampden School Wendover

Midday Meals Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy from January 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: Monday 6th January 2025

Closing date: Wednesday 18th December

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 candidate 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.

Windmill Education Presents



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For more information please contact:
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