



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

18-3-24 Assessment Week	22-3-24 3.30pm FJH Easter Trail
23-3-24 Open Morning for prospective parents and children for the Nursery Class in September 2024 9.30-11.00am	28-3-24 School closes for all pupils at 1.30pm

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

There was virtually 100% attendance at the Learning Review Meetings that took place just before the half-term break and staff have worked hard to catch up with anyone who missed the opportunity to come in and hear about their child's progress. Thank you for your feedback following the meetings, this information has been analysed and fed back to class teachers. At the end of this newsletter you can see the overall feedback percentages from all those who completed a questionnaire. We are obviously very pleased with these findings but have also taken on board the verbal and written feedback that was provided. Keeping to time is clearly the biggest challenge for staff because if everyone has just one minute longer than their allotted time there will inevitably be a consequence for people with later appointments. We apologise if you had to wait beyond your appointment time.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated—our pupils are extremely lucky to have such interested and supportive parents and carers. For our part we try to make the learning opportunities we offer interesting and engaging. From time to time we enrich the curriculum with visits, visitors and special days or weeks. Book Week, devised by Mrs Parkinson, was a huge success this year and we are so pleased with the continued success of 'The Masked Reader'. Thank you if you engaged with this—we had lots of fun doing it. **There is now an additional video 'The Making of the Masked Reader' available on the website.** It was also wonderful to be able to continue the tradition of sharing books with pupils from Wendover Junior School. It was a privilege to watch the younger children responding so positively to the support and kindness from the older pupils.



Some of the activities we offer are free of charge and for others we need to request a voluntary contribution. Unfortunately the school is not in a financial position to fund every type of enrichment activity directly from the school budget share so activities can only go ahead if enough people opt to pay. The activities we book are carefully planned to spread the cost over the school year. The **contribution is entirely voluntary** and no child will be disadvantaged if their parents are unable to pay or opt not to pay for some or any of the items. A survey, completed within the last three years told us that parents/carers appreciated a reminder about making payments as some people said that they did forget to do it even though they intended to, so we will continue to do this. The next voluntary contribution will be requested at the start of the summer term.

SAVE THE DATE: due to a clash with Wendover Junior School we have had to change the date of our Sports Day to Friday 28th June (Friday 5th July if it is wet on 28th June!)



Thank you for helping us to support Comic Relief again this year by allowing your children to come to school wearing something red in return for a financial contribution to this good cause. Everyone looks very bright today!

If friends and family have eligible children, don't forget to tell them about our Early Years Open morning on Saturday 23rd March. (see Important News Section)

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Being a school governor can involve looking at a lot of reports, plans and policies. So, it was a great pleasure when, in February, we had the opportunity to spend an entire day in the school. It was an impeccably planned day (thank you, Mrs Parkinson), where governors were able to meet with teachers, see lessons being taught, look at pupils' work and talk directly with children.

Each of the governors had their own itinerary, but my day began with Year 1 and seeing how they use their different learning environments. I spent most of my time outside where children took part in semi-structured activities, such as maths games, Snakes and Ladders, spelling games, construction, and dress up (among others). I was very impressed by how independent the children were and how well behaved. They were all confident speaking with me and explaining what they were doing.

Later that morning we also had the opportunity to speak with a group of pupils who had met with the school's 'special visitor' (aka the Ofsted inspector) the previous week. As well as telling us about the meeting, they were also able to talk with ease and confidence about the school and its values. They were a very impressive bunch – they must have wowed the inspector.

During lunch I got to witness an entire school being fed and the logistics are incredible but it's a well-oiled machine – very smooth and efficient. The children were – as ever – very well behaved too, and I got to see one of the Year 2 lunchtime helpers in action, supporting younger pupils. It was wonderful to see how pupils take on responsibility and act as such good role models for the others.

Our visit to the school coincided with Arts Week, so in the afternoon governors also had the opportunity to experience Art in practice from Early Years through to Year 2. The theme of Repeating Shapes and Patterns was clearly in evidence and examples of famous artists work (Yayoi Kusama, Damien Hirst, Andy Warhol and William Morris) were used to both demonstrate repeating shapes and patterns but also inspire the children's own work using different techniques which became more complex with age group.

I also met with Clare Dowell, the Nurture Support Co-ordinator in the Nurture Room. This is a very serene space where pupils can come and spend 10 minutes or so, for some time out or a little extra TLC. By taking part in activities, such as painting when I was there, they are very comfortable and relaxed with Clare. I'm afraid I was so absorbed in my conversations with her and the children coming in I completely missed my next appointment...

While I was in the Nurture Room, other governors examined 'Floor Books' (created for each class and illustrated with teacher's annotations and class work). These allow us to be able to see in practice the way the curriculum is followed in several key subjects, across classes and year groups to see how the various elements build upon each other and progress year on year.

At the end of the day each of the governors went to different classrooms for their end of day activities. I was with Ladybirds for a helicopter story where pupils make up a story which the teacher then writes down and pupils act it out as she reads it back to the class. The children showed great imagination and enthusiasm.

While the other governors went home, I paid one last visit to the Out of School Care where I got to spend some time speaking with the staff and seeing how they manage their flourishing after school provision. Another example of a very well organised set up and happy and occupied children

It was a very busy but incredibly rewarding and insightful day. If the teachers will have us back, we'll be doing it again next year.



Peter Hooper
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 you would like to raise a matter for discussion

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES



PROSPECTIVE PARENTS & PUPILS—NURSERY CLASS SEPTEMBER 2024



In September 2024 we will, once again, open the doors of our Early Years Class (Cricketts) for a whole new class of children. Our 26 place nursery class runs from a purpose built classroom at the front of the school and has its own outside area. Places for the Cricketts Class can be in demand and we only have capacity to take 26 children for the next academic year. Therefore if you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 and you are interested in the Early Years Class at John Hampden for September 2024, we would urge you to complete an application form as soon as possible.

We are holding an open morning to view our provision on Saturday 23rd March between 9.30am and 11.00am so do contact the school office if you, or someone you know, is interested in attending. office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or 01296 622629

If we fill all 26 places in September with eligible children (admission criteria apply) we are not planning to admit further children after Christmas or after Easter so you may only have one chance to secure a place.

STAFF CAR PARK

Please note, parents are not permitted to park in the staff car park at any time unless there is an agreed arrangement in place. This includes parents/carers whose children make use of our Out of School Care facilities.

A PLEA FROM SCHOOL STAFF!

A reminder that children should not be bringing football stickers, elaborate hair accessories, jewellery or any other toys into school. Such items turn into huge distractions and there is no time in the school day where children are able to 'play' with these things.

Additionally, our cloakrooms are relatively small so we ask that children do not bring bags/backpacks into school as they take up too much space. Your child only needs to bring a book bag.

THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR SUPPORT

BIKES & SCOOTERS

Please note that bikes and scooters left on the school grounds are left at the owners risk. The school cannot be held responsible if a bike or scooter goes missing.

KEY RINGS

A keyring on a book bag can help children to recognise their own bag. However, some children have so many keyrings on their bags that they become a distraction or the bag does not fit into their drawer easily. Please could we ask that children do not have more than one keyring attached to their book bag. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

DAMAGE TO STAFF CARS IN THE CAR PARK

We have recently had three cars damaged in our car park by stones that have been thrown over the hedges from the main campus road. Please could parents ensure that their children are not playing and throwing stones please. Thank you.

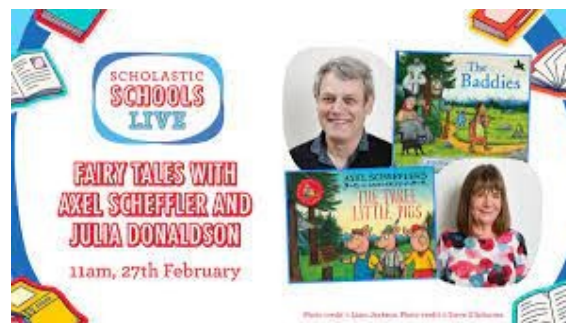
4. CURRICULUM

World Book Week - 4th March to 11th March 2024

Children and staff had a wonderful couple of weeks celebrating and developing their love of reading. As a warm up for Book Week, The Travelling Book Fair came in and £1178.98 worth of books were bought which means that we earned £589.49 of rewards. Thank you to the Friends of John Hampden for manning the Book Fair everyday.



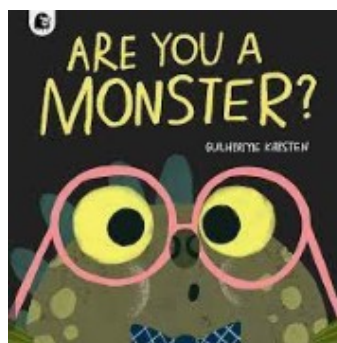
Throughout the week, Early Years, Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 were treated to a virtual reading event starring a variety of authors and illustrators which was the focus this year, inspiring children across the school to write and illustrate their own stories.



We had an assembly of Poetry Performances, where every class took it in turns to recite poems that they have learnt so far this year. The day ended with teachers swapping classes to read their favourite stories.

A 'Book Swap' took place in some classes, and the children were delighted to take home some new reading material. Thank you for your kind donations.

On Thursday, Wendover Pre-School joined Foundation Stage to watch an online presentation from the author, Guilherme Karsten, who wrote 'Are you a Monster?'



On Friday we all dressed up as our favourite book character. Years 3 to 5 from Wendover Junior School came to our school to read stories with us. Year 2 took a stroll up to the junior school to share a book with Year 6 children.



We were absolutely delighted to repeat the 'The Masked Reader' again this year. It provided us with a week of suspense as we tried to figure out who was reading behind the mask!

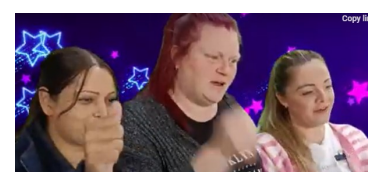
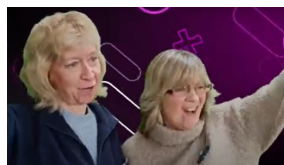
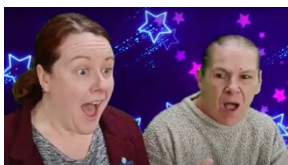
The staff thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and recording reading a story – some with very strange and disguised voices! Four children who cleverly guessed correctly won a £5 Book Token from the Magic Book Shop in Wendover. Well done to Edith, Hugo, Theo and Esme



The 'Big Reveal' took place in the afternoon and it was the loudest assembly ever!



However, it wasn't just the masked readers who took part – staff members were filmed as 'the audience' of The Masked Reader and even they were shocked when some of the readers were revealed.



Thank you to Toby Short, one of our amazing governors, for his time and expertise putting the videos together and making them so fabulous. You can now watch a further video 'The Making of the Masked Reader' too.



Thank you to all who made World Book Week such a fabulous week.

DUE TO A LACK OF VOLUNTEERS



Easter Trail and bake sale



Friday 22nd March (after school)

Hop along to the Foundation Stage play area to find gold eggs hidden around the site. The Easter Bunny will be there too!

Perfect for a trail and an Easter-themed tea.

We need your help on the day!

Please bring your cake to the sale on Friday morning (23rd). Prizes for the best eggcellence in confectionery! (We'll be judging the cakes!) Please bring your own plates and cutlery.

Alternatively, bring the trail sheets to the sale.

ICONSUEA

tailor-made life



For this to happen we need your help on the day.

Please email fjhvolunteers@gmail.com if you can help. We need people to set up the trail from 1.30pm, hand out trail sheets on the door, man a section or sell cakes. Do it with a friend. Pushchairs and younger siblings add to the fun!

THE FJH FIRMLY BELIEVE A WREATH IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!! SO GRAB A
FRIEND AND COME JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUN-FILLED EVENING OF WREATH
MAKING



EASTER WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

TUESDAY 26TH MARCH | 7.30PM - 10.30PM
THE MEMORIAL HALL, WENDOVER

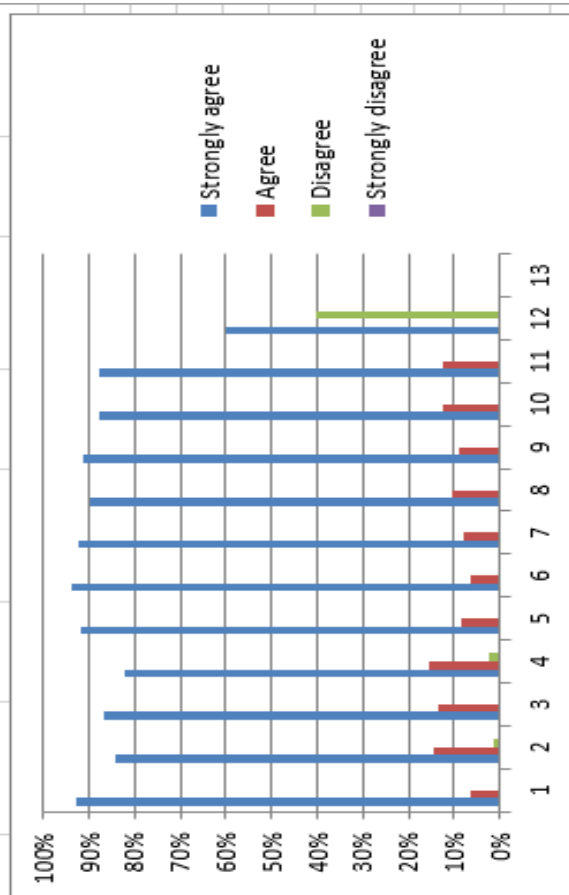
£25

A RELAXED AND FUN WORKSHOP WHERE YOU WILL BE SHOWN HOW TO WEAVE YOUR OWN
WILLOW WREATH, WHICH CAN THEN BE DECORATED WITH DRIED FLOWERS AND SEASONAL ACCESSORIES
A COMPLIMENTARY PROSECCO ON ARRIVAL AND A PAID BAR - TO KEEP YOUR CREATIVITY FUELLED!
SOME MATERIALS PROVIDED BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO BRING ANY EMBELLISHMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO
INCLUDE

PLACES ARE LIMITED. PLEASE EMAIL fjhvolunteers@gmail.com TO BOOK

6. LEARNING REVIEW FEEDBACK

WHOLE SCHOOL		Strongly Agree				Agree				Disagree				Strongly Disagree			
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	I was sufficiently aware of the dates for the Learning Review Meetings	180	93%	13	7%					1	1%	0	0%				
2	The Learning Review Meetings are held at a convenient time for me	163	84%	28	14%					3	2%	0	0%				
3	I was able to make an appointment which matched my requirements	167	87%	26	13%					0	0%	0	0%				
4	There was a satisfactory match between my appointment time and the time I actually saw the teacher	159	82%	30	15%					5	3%	0	0%				
5	I received a useful amount of information in 10 minutes	178	92%	16	8%					0	0%	0	0%				
6	I found out about my child's strengths and areas for development	181	94%	12	6%					0	0%	0	0%				
7	I found out about my child's behaviour and attitude to learning	179	92%	15	8%					0	0%	0	0%				
8	I am satisfied with the progress that my child is making academically	173	90%	20	10%					0	0%	0	0%				
9	I was provided with helpful handouts about how to support my child at home	176	91%	17	9%					0	0%	0	0%				
10	The school has set my child realistic targets	170	88%	24	12%					0	0%	0	0%				
11	The school is challenging my child appropriately	169	88%	24	12%					0	0%	0	0%				
12	I regularly look at the class weekly 'What we are Learning' sheet on the class page of the school website	110	60%							74	40%	0	0%				



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



It has been really encouraging to see how well our pupils are responding to the different themes and topics that have been introduced during the year. We have worked hard to try to cover numerous curriculum areas within a topic and the quality of learning appears to have improved considerably as a result. We are very aware that the teaching and learning environment contributes enormously to effective learning and we are working hard to ensure our outside learning areas reflect a similar high quality to that provided indoors. The EYFS Framework and the National Curriculum guide the content of the taught curriculum but the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of learning also feature strongly in the curriculum to reinforce the ethos of our school.

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Feedback from the recent Learning Review Meetings has been positive in terms of the satisfaction levels linked to information provided by the school. Developing confidence and self esteem is crucial in the early years and children need to be recognised for their strengths as well as being supported in developing resilience and positive attitudes when faced with new challenges.

The continued focus on developing positive attitudes to learning and encouraging a growth mindset is reflected in the day to day observations of pupils and staff at John Hampden.



GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES



The Behaviour Expectations and the School Values underpin the behaviour policy at John Hampden—they are displayed in every area in the school and regularly referred to, so our pupils are very clear about our expectations. However, our children are only young and their education at our school involves them being taught social skills as well as academic skills. Just as our pupils are at different stages with their academic development, they are at different stages with their social development too. To accommodate this there are a huge range of interventions and support offered to those that need more help to make the right behaviour choices. This type of support is on-going and regularly monitored and evaluated by all staff to try to ensure that everyone can learn well. At the recent learning review meetings teachers covered any issues linked to behaviour as part of their discussions.

GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Each teacher in the school takes responsibility for a specific curriculum area. During the term governors may come into school to observe a specific event linked to their subject area or they meet with the teacher to discuss how the subject is being taught, assessed or developed. At the end of each term subject leaders are required to review the actions they have taken during the term and the impact these actions have had. The governor section of the newsletter often provides an example of this in practice and it is clear that this type of liaison is mutually beneficial and also helps to maintain standards in the school.



8. MISCELLANEOUS



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FROM SEPTEMBER 2024?



OPEN MORNING – SATURDAY 23rd MARCH
FROM 9.30—11.00 AM

The John Hampden School Wendover is organising places for a new cohort of children in their Early Years Class from September 2024. We can offer your child:

- Up to three terms of high-quality education in a new, purpose built learning environment
- Excellent facilities and resources – an irresistible learning environment inside and out
- Outstanding transition arrangements
- A gentle introduction to school
- Highly qualified, experienced and caring staff committed to developing the potential of every child
- A friendly and welcoming environment
- Five morning sessions 8.45a.m- 11.45a.m, universally funded
- Chargeable lunch club
- Optional afternoon sessions 12.15p.m-3.15p.m (up to 30 hours of flexible free entitlement)
- Breakfast Club from 7.45a.m, After School Club until 6.00p.m (Childcare vouchers accepted)

Eligible children will be born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 and admission criteria apply.

To book a slot for the Open Morning please contact the school office 01296 622629, email office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or view the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!

Please note a place in the Early Years Class does not guarantee a place in the Reception Classes at the school.

Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council
'Respect Me' says Buckinghamshire's School Crossing Patrollers

Buckinghamshire Council is calling on all drivers to be respectful of the work carried out by the county's dedicated group of school crossing patrollers. More commonly known as lollipop men and women, Buckinghamshire's 60 school crossing patrollers are out, come rain or shine, morning and afternoon during school term time with their trusty STOP signs, helping children and families to reach school safely. Most drivers are respectful and stop when requested, however, a small minority can be abusive and put lives at risk with dangerous manoeuvres because they don't want to stop to let people cross safely. Examples include drivers using abusive language, not stopping when the patroller is already standing in the road and swerving around patrollers to get past. Patrollers' jobs are also made more difficult by drivers blocking pavements and stopping or parking in inconsiderate places to drop off children, particularly at School Keep Clear markings and bus stops.

One of the school crossing patrollers working in Aylesbury commented: "It is noticeable how some people speed up as they're coming towards you, trying to get past. We're not here to stop people for the fun of it, we're here to protect the children." Buckinghamshire Council has relaunched its 'Respect Me' campaign to remind drivers to be more considerate and respectful of the valuable job school crossing patrollers do. Steven Broadbent, Cabinet Member for Transport at Buckinghamshire Council, said: "Our lollipop men and women are valuable members of our local school communities and are well-loved and appreciated by the pupils and parents they help. "We know that the majority of drivers are considerate, but it seems that a minority are choosing to ignore the Highway Code and could be putting lives in danger. We will always have a zero-tolerance approach to behaviour which threatens the physical or mental wellbeing of our crossing patroller staff or which compromises the safety of those crossing the road. "We hope that communities will continue to support their local patrollers to do their job safely. We need drivers to be patient and considerate – after all it's only asking for a few seconds to ensure everyone crosses safely." Drivers must stop when they are shown the STOP 'lollipop' sign; failing to do so when requested can lead to a £1,000 fine, three penalty points and disqualification. Vehicles must also remain stationary until the pole has been lowered and the patroller is back on the pavement. To report any incidents involving School Crossing Patrollers, residents are asked to contact: • Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe (West) - Corinne Randall on 01296 383 432 • Chiltern & South Bucks and Wycombe (East) - Georgina Longley on 01494 586 639



Contact us at communications@buckinghamshire.gov.uk during office hours. For urgent out of hours enquiries, please call 07825 430 978.

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk



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

Holi

Festival of Colours 2024

with Aylesbury Hindu Temple Trust

We invite you to join us for a

HOLI WORKSHOP

Sunday, 17th March 2024

12:30pm to 3:30pm

Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury

Bring the whole family and participate
in Holi-themed skits, dances, and
various fun activities.

Additionally, don't miss the museum's special displays
in March showcasing the rich heritage and traditions
of Holi for an entire month.

*Holi is more than just a festival –
it's a celebration of love, unity,
and new beginnings*





**B Discover Bucks
Museum**

hOME. Who am I now?

Ukrainian Rhythms: A Journey from Roots to Contemporary Art, exploring lost identities through art and cultural exchange.

**Sunday 24th March 2024
12pm-4pm**

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury



12pm - Aleksandra Dikaia and Mariia Yaremak.
Art exhibition and storytelling with live musical accompaniment by Mariia Yaremak.

1pm - A creative workshop for children, following the story-telling helping them to create their own characters inspired by Aleksandra's book.

This will be a opportunity for children to reflect on loss and how they can symbolically 'transfer' these elements into their characters.

1:15pm - Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter egg decorating) workshop, showcasing ancient Ukrainian traditions of egg painting.



FREE event • Everyone welcome • Family event

BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR ALL ACTIVITIES.



**B Discover Bucks
Museum**



Made possible with
**Heritage
Fund**



Community Impact Bucks
supporting charities, communities, volunteering

hOME. Who am I now?

Ukrainian Rhythms: A Journey from Roots to Contemporary Art,
exploring lost identities through art and cultural exchange.

Sunday 24th March 2024

2:30pm - 4pm in the Georgian Room

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury

Tania Orlova and Yulia Kharchenko invite you to join them
In Conversation 'a panel discussion' around using collective
creativity to share the process of identity recovery.

The theme of lost identity will be examined through personal stories
and the opportunities presented by our new cultural environment.





EASTER HOLIDAY SWIMMING COURSE

The Wendover Pool, HP22 6HF



DATES AND TIMES

TUESDAY 2 ND APR	09:30 to 11:00 AM
WEDNESDAY 3 RD APR	09:30 to 11:00 AM
THURSDAY 4 TH APR	09:30 to 11:00 AM
FRIDAY 5 TH APR	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

