



The John Hampden School Newsletter

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Issue Eleven Thursday February 12th 2026

Learning Review Meetings for Early Years & Foundation Stage and KS1 pupils took place last week and we hope you found that the information shared with you was useful. We asked you to complete a short survey following your appointment and the findings from these surveys will be collated and analysed to be shared with you, the Leadership Team and the class teachers, in our continued attempt to monitor and evaluate the quality of information we provide.

Opportunities for parents/carers to talk with the class teacher to discuss pupil progress occur twice during the academic year but we are keen to advertise our 'open door' policy so if parents/carers have a concern about any aspect of the school at any other point we are happy to find a mutually convenient time to talk to you. I am also available if you feel you need to contact me about an issue too. Our school aims to be fair, open and honest when dealing with any concern, issue or complaint and to resolve it through open dialogue and mutual understanding. Please do speak, or write, to someone at the school at your earliest convenience, rather than using any other means to communicate a concern. We believe we are best placed to support you.



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As we reach the end of the first half of the Spring Term we are already looking forward to what the next half will bring. We are starting with Arts Week which has a 'Dragon' theme and will provide our pupils with the chance to engage in related drama, music, and art activities.

Two weeks later we will be focusing on reading, with different activities featured every day. It will culminate with our celebration of World Book Day on Friday 6th March where we hope children will come to school wearing a costume of a character from their favourite book. Please make sure children will be warm enough in their costumes and avoid too many props!

I hope you manage to have a restful half term break and are able to enjoy some quality time with your children. There are a number of bugs going round at the moment, so I hope everyone stays well during the break and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 23rd February.

If anyone from the school community owns a printing business and might be able to help us and offer support with two new premises signs that we need please could you contact the school office. Many thanks.

Steph Parkinson – Headteacher



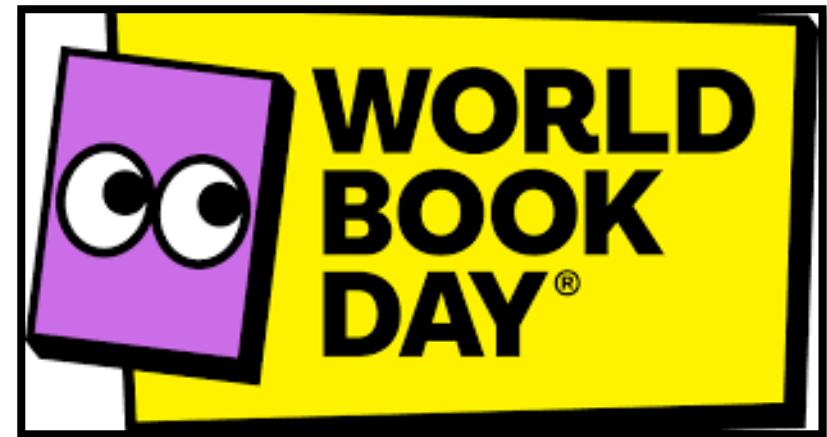
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World Book Day!

We are excited to invite children across all classes to dress up as a character from their favourite book on World Book Day. World Book tokens will be sent home in book bags **today**.

Each year group has planned a range of exciting activities to celebrate stories and reading in the lead-up to World Book Day. We will begin with our Book Fair, which runs from Monday 23rd February. Please come and visit us in the dining hall after school where there will be a range of high quality books to purchase. If you are able to help with the book fair please do let us know.

To round off our celebrations, the Junior School will visit Early Years, Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 to share and read stories together. Throughout the fortnight, there will be many wonderful activities celebrating books and storytelling.





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The Friends of John Hampden have been working tirelessly behind the scenes, organising a wonderful calendar of events that not only raise vital funds for our school but also bring our community together to connect, celebrate and enjoy quality time with one another.

Valentine's Cake Sale – Today!

Don't miss our Valentine's Cake Sale taking place today (Thursday) after school. Come along to treat yourself and your family to some delicious homemade cakes whilst supporting our school. All proceeds will go towards enhancing resources and opportunities for our children.

Looking Ahead – Easter Egg Hamper Raffle

The Friends are already planning ahead for Easter with an exciting Easter Egg Hamper Raffle. We would be incredibly grateful for donations of Easter eggs of any size. Please send your donations into school on Thursday 5th March. Every Easter egg donated will help us create spectacular hampers that families can win, with all funds raised going directly back into supporting our pupils' learning and experiences.





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Governor Section

I am delighted to deliver the Governor section for this edition especially as it provides me an opportunity to offer a prelude to Arts Week. As the Art Link Governor, I was very pleased to meet with Daisy Berry one of our Year 1 teachers who took on the role as Art Co-ordinator and who joined our teaching staff this year having been a very active Parent Governor.

Art can be seen as a 'soft' subject but I have long felt there is the positive contribution that Art brings to mental health and wellbeing. That is no less true for young children and from our discussion I see that Daisy feels that way too and I have seen the school show that over the years.

What is great to see is, what the school calls, 'Golden Threads' running through the topic from year to year from Nursery through Year 2 enabling the children to learn and practice skills from mark-making in pencil to model making to mixing & using colours. Each year building on the previous years of learning, allowing children to grow and explore further.

It will be wonderful to see Arts Week showing off many of these skills and explorations. Art provides links with subjects like geography and history and, for the wider Arts, connections with music, drama and reading which is a splendid link to World Books Week which follows.

Amongst everything going on in Arts week, if like me you and your children have been fascinated by dragons in songs, art, stories and cinema, I think the plans that Daisy has for Art for the week will be a treat. I hope that the children enjoy all that Arts week has to offer and that you can enjoy their creative work and ideas.



**Martin
Whitthread
Co-opted
Governor**



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Nursery Open Morning

Do you or someone you know have a child born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023

If you are interested in trying to secure a place you may like to make an appointment to attend our Early Years Open Morning, planned for **Saturday 21st March from 9.30 to 11.00 am**. The Early Years classroom and outside learning areas will be open for you and the prospective new pupil to view, and teaching staff will also be available.





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Diary Dates – Spring Term 2026

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

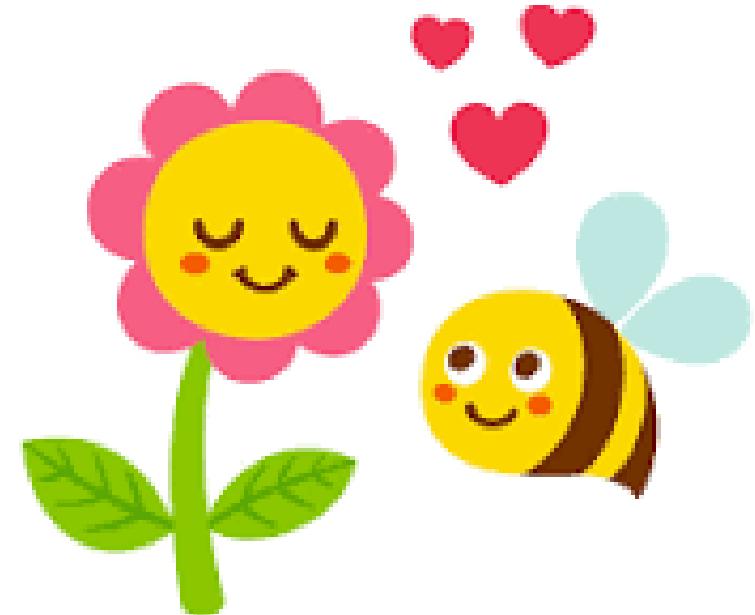
6th March 2026 – World Book Day

19th March 2026 – Phonics Meeting For Year 1 Parents

20th March 2026 - Red Nose Day

26th March – School closes for holidays at 1.00pm

27th March – Inset Day



Register now: transformingautism.org.uk



Learn more
and register

Confident Autism Parenting

A free 11 week online programme to support parents of Autistic children aged 0-12 year.

How does it work?

Join a small group of parents online (max 10) for weekly 75-minute sessions led by expert therapists. Get practical tools and support for challenges like:

- 👉 Behaviour
- 👉 Sleep
- 👉 Social interaction
- 👉 Family relationships
- 👉 Sensory needs
- 👉 Play & eating
- 👉 Understanding early signs of autism

Sessions are tailored to each group. Learn from expert therapists and each other. Try strategies at home and share your experiences week to week.

What you'll gain:

- 👉 Closer connection with your child
- 👉 More confidence as a parent
- 👉 Tools to support your child's needs
- 👉 A calmer, more secure environment at home

Who can join?

Parents/carers of children (diagnosed or showing traits) aged 0–12 across the UK. Free to join — donations welcome if you're able.



Contact us: services@transformingautism.org [f](https://www.facebook.com/transformingautismuk) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/transforming-autism-uk/) [@transformingautismuk](https://twitter.com/transformingautismuk)



St Mary's Church
At the heart of the community

For all primary-age children
and under-5s.

Crafts and games available
and a play area provided.

PANCAKE party

TUESDAY,
17TH OF FEBRUARY
10AM UNTIL MIDDAY

CHURCH LANE,
WENDOVER, HP22 6NL

