



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:		UPCOMING EVENTS:	
Message from Mrs. Barnes	1	<b>28.03.24</b> School closes for Easter holidays at 1.30 pm	<b>01-05-24</b> May Day Performance for Y2 parents to watch at 9.30 am
Governor Section	2	<b>15.04.24</b> School opens for the summer term	<b>06-05-23</b> Bank Holiday
Important Messages	3		
Curriculum	4	<b>18.04.24</b> SATs meeting in the school hall at 2.30 pm for Y2 parents	
Pupil's Section	5		
School Improvement	6		
Miscellaneous	7		

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

It is hard to believe that the Spring Term has ended already, but Christmas does seem a long time ago and there are very clear signs that Spring is definitely here. The term has been quite a busy one and we have enjoyed numerous memorable learning opportunities.

The term also included a visit from Ofsted and I hope you all received a copy of our report, via email, last week. We were obviously very pleased with the findings from the inspection and we await another visit within 1-2 years where we hope the grading can be officially changed to 'outstanding'.

Last Saturday we held an Open Morning in our Nursery Class and invited prospective new children and their parents to come and look around. It was lovely to see those who were able to join us and we will continue advertising the provision in order to fill all twenty six places in the class for September 2024. We do have a few remaining spaces so if you do know of anyone who is looking for high quality, Early Years education in a well resourced, nurturing environment do remind them that they need to contact us as soon as possible. Eligible children will be born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021.

Do contact us if you require places in either breakfast club or after school club after Easter. We do have some places available currently. Breakfast club is £5.50 a session and After School Club is £13 a session.

The lighter evenings and the gradual improvement in the weather reminds us that summer is just around the corner and we will be continuing with our tradition of welcoming the season by celebrating May Day. On Wednesday 1st May at 9.30am we are holding our annual **May Day celebration**. As space in the hall is limited we only invite parents of children in Year 2 to watch each year, as this is their last year in the school.

As usual we would ask that Year 2 parents try to make alternative arrangements for younger siblings as they often find it difficult to sit quietly through a performance lasting about one hour. If you do have to bring a younger child please would you ensure they sit on your lap and if they do start to make a distracting noise take them out of the hall until they become quieter.

On the day, as we are celebrating the fact that summer is approaching, we are inviting all children to come to school wearing clothes suitable for a summer celebration, which are appropriate to dance in. They will not need to bring their school uniform on this day.

Our Year 1 children are responsible for choosing a May King and a May Queen and their attendants and we will also have a child dressed as the Lucky Sweep. We will put lots of the photos we take on the school website so you can share the event even if you are not able to attend in person.

As this is the last newsletter of the term, may I take this opportunity to wish you a very peaceful and relaxing Easter break and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday 15th April.



## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Hi, I'm Matt Glanville and I've recently (re)joined the Governing Board at the John Hampden School as a Co-Opted Governor. For this edition of the newsletter I wanted to introduce myself and tell you what the role is all about.

I was previously a Co-Opted Governor at the John Hampden School from March 2016 to February 2020. James Edley and I joined at the same time! Back then I was serving in the RAF, and my 2 girls were both loving attending the school. I joined the Governing Board to give something back. I finished my first 4-year term in February 2020 as I was leaving the RAF and I was worried about managing a new job and also being an effective Governor. What I didn't know was that COVID was about to change our World, and for me like many other people this would mean more home-based working and less commuting to the office. I missed being a Governor during the COVID period and often wondered how the John Hampden School was getting on and coping with such a difficult time.

In Autumn 2023 I contacted Mrs Barnes as my eldest daughter, now a teenager, was hoping to complete her work-experience at the school. I cheekily mentioned in my email that a move to hybrid working meant I had enough spare capacity to be a Governor again, if needed. Luckily for me there was a position becoming available which I quickly agreed to fill. 4 years after leaving I am back and excited to be involved again.

The role of the Governing Board is to set the school's visions and strategic aims - agreeing plans and policies and making creative use of resources. We monitor and evaluate the progress that the school is making towards achievement of its aims, objectives and targets, and we are a 'critical friend' to Mrs Barnes. It's a hugely rewarding role. The Governing Board is always interested in hearing from anyone that might like to become a Governor in the future, and so if you have an interest please don't hesitate to contact one of us. You won't regret it.

Matt Glanville  
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](mailto:Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### **HOT MEALS**

Recently you may have seen a BBC news article about the quality of hot meals in a secondary school who have a contract with Chartwells, the same company that JHSW use. We understand that this article may lead you to worry about the quality of food at our school but we wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you that the Senior Leadership Team do monitor the quality of the food and liaise with Chartwells on a regular basis. We find them to be responsive to the comments we make but we are always actively exploring ways of making further improvements. Chartwells, in line with all school providers, are required to comply with strict regulations regarding the standard of food they offer so children have healthy, balanced diets. These standards severely restrict foods high in fat, salt and sugar, as well as low quality reformed or reconstituted foods.

We review our contract with Chartwells on a regular basis so if you do have any comments you wish us to pass on, we can add these to our discussions. Please email them to the school office.

#### **COMIC RELIEF**

Many thanks for allowing your children to participate in this fund raising event and for your donations to this worthy cause and it was great to see the children looking so 'red' in assembly.

#### **P.E KITS & SCHOOL UNIFORM**

During the Easter Holiday we would be grateful if you would check that your child has a complete P.E. kit including tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt for use outside when necessary. Your child also needs to have a correctly fitting pair of P.E. shoes (preferably not laces unless they can tie them themselves!) **All kit must be named.** Children with long hair should have it tied back and anyone with earrings should have them removed at home or be provided with tape to cover them during P.E. sessions.

Please avoid allowing your children to come to school wearing hair accessories that could be distracting or jewellery (necklaces, bracelets etc.) We are seeing more of these things in school and such items are not included in our uniform policy. We do allow children to wear low cost watches to school (not Smart watches) but only if parents/carers understand that pupils are responsible for them and they cannot be worn for P.E. lessons.

#### **WATER BOTTLES**

We encourage our KS1 pupils to bring a water bottle into school which can be stored on their table and accessed when necessary. Bottles must only contain water—no juice or squash as this can become very sticky and is attractive to ants! Children in EYFS have access to water at all times so do not need to bring a water bottle.

#### **DRINKS IN PACKED LUNCHES**

If you are providing your child with a packed lunch please will you ensure you provide a drink too. We are noticing a number of children whose lunch does not include a drink and it is important that children remain hydrated throughout the day.

#### **BIKES & SCOOTERS**

Children must dismount from their bicycles and scooters as soon as they enter the school grounds. Thank you

#### **PARKING ON THE CAMPUS AND IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

This is a further reminder that parents should not park in the school car park unless they have made a specific arrangement with the school. Also, please refrain from walking your children up or down the school drive when the gates are open. This is a vehicle only route. The pedestrian pathway is clearly marked. Please also be mindful when parking off campus to not block local residents driveways.

#### **MEETINGS WITH MRS SPENCER**

Just a reminder that Mrs Spencer is available to speak to parents about any non-urgent school related issues. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's academic or social development or any issues relating to homework etc. please phone the school office to make an appointment.

#### **MESSAGE TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN YEAR TWO**

Please note we are unable to authorise any holidays during May for pupils in Year Two as this is a statutory assessment period for this cohort of pupils. Please do not book holidays during this time as your children will miss the tasks and tests that form part of this statutory assessment.

## 4. CURRICULUM

### Foundation Stage visits to Wendover Community Library.

This month each of the foundation stage classes have visited Wendover Community Library to find out more about what the local library has to offer children, parents and the wider community.

The children, accompanied by several parent helpers, walked wonderfully from the school campus through Wendover to the library. Once there they worked in pairs to complete a book hunt around the library, looking for certain famous children's books and pictures. Afterwards they were treated to a reading of *The very Hungry Caterpillar* from one of the library volunteers and then introduced to Connie the Library caterpillar, a computerised segmented caterpillar that children could collaborate with to piece the sections together and programme it to move in different directions to move under, through and around the bridges. The children had an amazing time and hopefully will be back at the library very soon.

A huge thank you to Carol, the staff and volunteers at the Library for making all 3 class visits so fun and educational and all the parent volunteers who helped make the visits possible.



### Wild Science – Animal Workshop

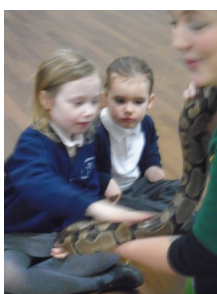
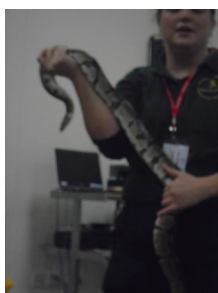
To finish off our Amazing Animals topic this term, the children in Foundation Stage were treated to a visit from 'Wild Science' last week.

Mary from 'Wild Science' brought in a wide selection of animals for the children to meet including a python, a frog, a guinea pig and an African Land Snail.

All the children were able to hold or stroke the animals and ask questions about where they live, what they eat. Everyone behaved brilliantly and had a fantastic time.

'Wild Science' provides high quality animal experiences and workshops.

At the core of Wild Science is the welfare of the animals, both when they are at home and at work. Every animal is cared for by the Expert to ensure a stable and healthy life at home and stress-free and comfortable work life. All animals used are ethically sourced and cared for as pets once retired.



### Voluntary Contributions – Your support makes activities like these happen!

The Wild Science workshop, and many other similar activities that have been held throughout the year have been made possible through the support of the many parents who helped with voluntary contributions. These experiences provide the children with hands on opportunities to consolidate the learning they are doing in school and help bring learning to life.

Unfortunately, activities and events such as these are under threat of not being able to take place in the future if we are unable to secure enough voluntary contributions.

Please look out for future termly voluntary contribution letters from all year groups, which will detail the extracurricular activities we need your help and support to provide.

Many thanks

## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

### **Honeybees**

Rayaan: I liked the snake because it was scaly.

Hugo: I liked the snake because I just like them.

### **Ladybirds**

Hudson: I liked the snake around my neck. I wasn't scared at all.

Emilia: I really liked the guinea pig. He made a noise like squeak, squeak.

### **Caterpillars**

Fayaz liked the guinea pig

Millie: I liked holding the snail, it felt slimy.

Max: I liked the feel of the snake around my neck.

## 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:

## GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Tracking pupil progress is a necessary part of monitoring in the school. Each term, following Assessment Weeks, staff give a summative assessment level for each pupil in reading, writing and mathematics. This information is used to track progress from one term to the next. It is then possible for us to identify those children who are making below, expected or above expected progress. For any child that has not made expected progress, teachers are required to identify actions they will take to address any concerns. This

Careful tracking of pupil progress helps us to maintain the high standards of achievement we have come to expect at John Hampden.



We have informed Year 2 parents of a meeting in April that covers the Year 2 Statutory Assessment (SATs) process.

## GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES

As we reach the end of the Spring Term we are, once more, in the process of monitoring attendance and punctuality. This is done at the end of each half term and families are contacted if their child's attendance is giving cause for concern. Obviously the usual childhood illnesses impact attendance and we are understanding of absence associated with such illness. For our young pupils punctuality is really a family issue so if you are experiencing challenges in getting your child to school on time it is important that you share the issues with us—we may be able to help!



## GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

PSHE and Relationships teaching is carefully planned and thoughtfully delivered at John Hampden.

Throughout the Spring Term the classes have continued to follow our bespoke teaching programme but there is a great deal of incidental teaching that goes on, on a daily basis too. We recognise that encouraging positive social development is something that we must do well if our pupils are to become effective learners and good, kind friends to others.

Mrs Spencer takes the lead for PSHE and Relationships teaching and she regularly monitors the impact of the work we are doing.



## GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

The recent Ofsted report has highlighted the things that we do well at John Hampden and we were delighted that there were no areas identified where we needed to do better. However, this does not stop our desire for continual improvement so we continue with the targets in our school plan and we have already identified other areas for the next academic year to guide the direction of further school improvement.



# St George's Day

Medieval Historical Fayre

— Sunday 21 April 2024 —



**AYLESBURY**  
TOWN COUNCIL





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)

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



**Saturday 4th May 2024**  
**12 - 4pm**

**Chiltern Way Academy,  
Wendover Campus**



Cakes



Bouncy castles



Raffles



Dancing



Games



Ice Cream



**Florence  
Nightingale**  
HOSPICE CHARITY  
1989-2024

Free  
entry!

Spring fun  
for ALL  
the family!

Profits will go to Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity to provide the **best hospice care** for patients and their families living in Buckinghamshire and its borders.

**[fnhospice.org.uk/florencefete](https://fnhospice.org.uk/florencefete)**



Registered with  
FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR

Registered Charity No 1119499



# Aylesbury Hindu Temple

**NO ADMISSION CHARGE  
(DONATIONS WELCOME)**

**EVENT HIGHLIGHT**  
Dry Colours  
Street Food of India  
Music and Dance  
Crafts activities  
Various stalls  
Raffle draw

# HOLI

Spring Festival of  
**Colours**  
**2024**

**@ Discover Bucks Museum  
Aylesbury, HP20 2QP**

**SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2024  
11:30am-4:00pm**

**B Discover Bucks  
Museum**

 **ROTHSCHILD  
FOUNDATION**



[www.aylesburyhindutemple.org](http://www.aylesburyhindutemple.org) | [contact@aylesburyhindutemple.org](mailto:contact@aylesburyhindutemple.org)

