



The John Hampden School Wendover



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NEWSLETTER

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS:

Close for half term: 3.15pm on 20th October

Open after half term: Monday 30th October

SAFETY WEEK: Monday 30th October—3rd November

HEALTH WEEK: 6th November — 10th November

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

PARENTS' EVENING

I hope you found the meetings with teachers useful last week. We deliberately organise them to be early in the term because, from our perspective, we find it extremely valuable to be able to share our observations about how your children have settled into their new classes. For children in Caterpillars Class we will rearrange your meetings A.S.A.P.

We have now reached the final day of the first half term and I think everyone is well and truly ready for a week off, when we can recharge our batteries and prepare for the very busy and exciting next half of the Autumn term. During the last seven weeks there has been staff and pupil absence due to sickness, high temperatures and coughs and colds. Additionally, Covid has not completely gone away so we continue to put in place protective measures to keep our school community as safe as possible. These include:



- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
- Regularly promoting good hygiene including hand washing and covering the nose and mouth when coughing/sneezing.
- Regular hand sanitising
- Requesting that those suffering from sickness/diarrhoea do not attend school for 48 hours following the last bout of illness
- Requesting children are collected as quickly as possible if they are unwell whilst at school

On Monday 9th October we held two of our 'Open Morning' sessions for prospective parents. In total about 45 families visited the school and were given a short presentation which included contributions from pupils followed by a guided tour of the school. Feedback from the event was very positive and it was lovely to be able to show off our school in such a positive way.

Another two sessions are planned for Tuesday 14th November. If you, or anyone you know, is looking for Nursery or Reception school places for September 2024 do phone the school office and book one of the remaining times to view the school.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a good half term break and we look forward to seeing you back in school for another action packed half term when we return to school on Monday 30th October.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Dear Parents and Carers

As part of my role as link Governor for Science, I recently had a catch-up meeting with Miss Tiffin, the school's co-ordinator for Science. In addition to her role as class teacher, it is Miss Tiffin's responsibility to ensure policies, visions, actions plans etc. for Science are in sync with the National Curriculum and are implemented effectively and consistently throughout the school.



If your child attended the school last year, you may remember my newsletter piece from last February, in which I mentioned that the school had embarked on gaining the Primary Science Quality Mark. This is a National scheme that is designed to provide structure to the development of a quality science provision within schools, supported by a wide variety of exciting resources, as well as training and mentoring for teachers and science leaders. I am extremely pleased to be able to announce that John Hampden has been awarded the Primary Science Bronze Mark. This is an amazing achievement and one that is only possible in schools that understand the importance of providing pupils with an impassioned understanding of the world around them. During my recent visit, Miss Tiffin talked me through her submission for the PSQM. Based on the volume, detail, quality and above all, passion, that had obviously gone into preparing this documentation, I can confidently say the Bronze Mark was well deserved. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to say a huge ‘Well done’ and ‘thank you’ to Miss Tiffin for this amazing accomplishment.

I am very much looking forward to visiting the school again next term during Science Week. Last years activities included a visit from ‘Sublime Science’, an organisation who specialise in bring science to life for school aged children. This included exciting demonstrations and activities involving smoke, bubbles, springs and everyone’s favourite.... slime. Sublime Science will hopefully be back in the Spring for more science based (educational) fun and I’ve booked my visit!

Talking of visiting the school.... Miss Tiffin has a request to any parents who work in a scientific role. We are looking for a small number of parents who could come into school and give a short presentation to pupils, to show how science is relevant to the wider world. This could be someone from the medical field, such as a nurse who gives vaccinations, an ecologist who carries out bat surveys, someone working for quality control in a cake factory (as long as they bring and share), or even just an astronaut....

Both teacher led lessons and externally provided sessions are essential to enable our children to become independent thinkers, who can use their scientific knowledge to make informed conclusions about the ever changing world around them. So, if you could spare 15 minutes to enthuse some of our budding John Hampden scientists, please get in touch with the school office.

So, all in all, an amazing amount of progress has been made since by last visit. I can confidently say that there continues to be a clear intent within the school to inspire the children, nurturing their enthusiasm for science, so that they will continue with their scientific learning and hopefully encourage them to become scientists of the future.



I hope everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break and thanks for listening.

James Edley

Vice Chair of Governors

The Governing Board is always willing to listen to parental queries and to explain in more detail what the Governing Board 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, Ben Gattlin, Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Applying for Primary School Places (new EYFS cohort and Year 2 moving to Junior School)

If your child is due to start infant or junior school in September 2024 now is the time to start thinking about your application. If you live in Buckinghamshire visit the council's [website](#) between 01 November 2023 and 15 January 2024 to apply for a place for your child online.

Voluntary Contributions

Many thanks to all parents who have chosen to pay the voluntary contribution this term. We have sent out reminders, just in case anyone who intended to pay had forgotten to do so.

Clothing, Coats and Lost Property

As the colder weather approaches please make sure your children bring a named, warm coat to school everyday. Please could you also check that your child's clothing has the correct name in it. For example, sometimes children wear clothing that has belonged to an older sibling and if the sibling's name is still in the clothing there can be confusion if there is another child in the class with that name.

Staff Car Park

Parents must not use the staff car park at any time. Please park on the campus and walk onto the grounds to collect from OOSC.

Lunch Choices

Please note that you need to **order by midnight on a Tuesday for your child to receive the hot meal two weeks later**. This means that **if you did not order meals by the deadline of 17th October you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch for the first week following the half-term break**. You need to order by midnight on 24th October for your child's meals to start on 6-11-23. We are noticing that a number of children are unhappy with the food choices that have been made for them. Please could we ask that you discuss the meal options with them before ordering so they understand and agree the choices that you make for them.

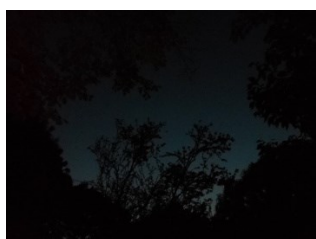
4. CURRICULUM



Earlier this month, some of the children from Year Two and their families attended one of two workshops about bats. These special events took place in the school grounds and were led by Dr Hooper who is a bat specialist, with the amazing support of her son, Sam.

During the summer, Dr Hooper conducted a bat survey and discovered that there are a variety of different types of bats in residence in the school's outdoor spaces. This is largely due to the fact that we are positioned close to the canal and because this space usually remains undisturbed during the evenings. It is likely that the same bat families frequent this area each year which is wonderful news as it means that our grounds and the plants that grow here are a suitable habitat for them to thrive.

The children and their families enjoyed listening to a fascinating talk about the different types of bats from around the world with photos and props to support. They were told the names of the particular varieties that make their home at John Hampden School! Namely, the noctule, the pipistrelle and the soprano pipistrelle. The children then learned how to use the bat detectors that Dr Hooper kindly provided and once set to the correct frequency, used them to go in search of bats. They were thrilled to locate some bats for themselves and once the sun had set, they were absolutely delighted to see some flying about!



The evenings were thoroughly enjoyed by all but also provided useful information from the results of the surveys that the children completed. This will help build a picture of the bat life that we have here.

Some families have since reported that they have purchased bat detectors of their own and that the experience has led their children to become even more interested in nature, which is fantastic to hear!

Sincere thanks to Dr Hooper and Sam for delivering such a wonderfully informative talk, providing all who attended with such a magical evening! Many thanks to the staff who helped Mrs Spencer to facilitate the evenings.

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Here are the comments from some of the children who attended the bat evenings.



George thought it was a really fun evening and he got the chance to see lots of

bats. He liked using the bat detectors to hear where the bats were.

During the bat evening, Leo learnt that some types of bat like open space, some

like trees and others prefer water. They send signals so they don't bump into things in the dark.



Nilou enjoyed being at school at night! It was really fun because we got the chance to

see the bats as it started to get dark. We had hot chocolate and bat (shaped) biscuits.

We saw some pipistrelle bats down by the canal. They are only the size of a thumb!

The bats made a clicking sound according to Jago who heard them while using the bat detector. He used the detector to spot some (soprano) pipistrelle bats by the hall and found some near the playground.



Frankie liked using the bat detectors and found out that in our country there's a bat the size of an adult thumb.

Some bats flew closer to the fence and George said that one went really near him. He liked the hot chocolate and bat biscuits too.

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We are embarking on our new school improvement plan and displays around the school help to highlight the areas we have chosen to focus on. We are setting ourselves goals which link with the four key aspects of the Ofsted inspection framework –these have been selected as a result of the feedback we have gained from our stakeholders as well as analysis of data.

Over the next year we hope to have achieved the following:



SUMMARY OF SCHOOL PLAN 2023-2024



GOAL TITLE	TARGETS 2023-2024
Goal A QUALITY OF EDUCATION	By July 2024, to ensure continuity and progression across the school in the use of strategies to improve teaching and learning of spelling.
	By July 2024, to ensure curriculum leads have sufficient non-contact time to monitor and evaluate teaching and learning within their subject area, in order to confirm that long-term and medium-term plans are effectively implemented across the school.
	By July 2024, to focus on the development of general, and topic specific, vocabulary across the school through opportunities for listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
	By July 2024, to ensure continuity and progression across the school for teaching and assessing handwriting.
	By July 2024, to review the JHSW KS1 KPIs in Reading, Writing and Mathematics to ensure accurate assessment in line with national frameworks, JHSW bespoke planning for teaching and the Supersonic Phonic Friends scheme.
	At the beginning and end of each half-term, to review the plans for teaching, learning and assessment across the curriculum to ensure they are coherent, sequenced, ambitious and meet the needs of all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND
	By July 2024, interventions or curriculum adaptations are in place for individuals who require support to either 'catch up' or 'keep up' in reading, phonics, writing and maths
	By July 2024, to ensure the outside learning environment is used effectively and consistently across all year groups to maximise learning opportunities
Goal B BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES	By July 2024, to ensure a completely consistent approach across the school in terms of the application of appropriate protective and educational consequences following a behaviour incident.
	By July 2024, to identify and agree the types of behaviour incident that require protective and educational consequences to be applied and recorded, in order to improve consistency across the school.
	By July 2024, to ensure behaviour monitoring analysis leads to targeted teaching and learning, in order to effect positive behaviour changes for groups and individuals.
	By July 2024, to increase the repertoire of tools used to facilitate positive behaviours
	By July 2024, to improve pupil behaviour in communal areas of the school
	By July 2024, to ensure a whole school understanding of what constitutes politeness, respect and good manners
Goal C PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	By July 2024, to develop a framework for teaching 'thinking skills' which builds on our successful P4C approach and links with our Relationships and Equalities teaching.
	By July 2024, to explore and begin to implement the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change initiative in order to positively impact, influence and inspire our school community.
	By July 2024, to gather together all relevant documentation to evidence the six benchmarks of the DfE 'Character Education' publication in order to evaluate our work and plan for development.
	By July 2024 to make progress towards gaining accreditation for the Healthy Schools initiative

	By July 2024 to further develop training opportunities for all staff in order to improve/sustain the quality of teaching and learning and ensure the smooth and effective running of the school
	By July 2024, the senior leadership team, including the Governing Board have regularly explored options in relation to joining a Multi-Academy Trust and better understand the benefits and constraints of such arrangements
	By July 2024, scores within each category of the annual staff well-being survey remain at least consistent, and lowest scoring areas from 2023 are the focus of targeted actions for the various teams within the school. By July 2024, opportunities for staff team building/well-being activities are included on a termly basis.
	By July 2024, staff attendance levels for all teams each term have shown improvement when compared to the previous academic year
	By July 2024 a new ICT strategy has been developed to ensure sustainable value through optimal deployment and procurement of IT assets and capabilities, including telephony
	<u>Safeguarding/Child Protection</u> By July 2024 all staff have updated safeguarding training to meet their statutory obligations and to reflect changes to <u>KCSiE</u> introduced in September 2023. By July 2024 all governors are appropriately trained and have a clear understanding of the policies and procedures at JHSW that ensure safeguarding is robust and effective
	By July 2024 a new ICT strategy has been developed to ensure sustainable value through optimal deployment and procurement of IT assets and capabilities, including telephony.

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



We've decided to postpone this Friday's
Halloween Trail & Bake Sale due to the
DISMAL weather forecast.

Thank you to everyone who has put so much effort
into this event so far.

We're looking forward to spooking you all on
Friday 3rd November.

From the FJH team



Starting school for the first time

Was your child born between
1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020?

If yes, Buckinghamshire parents can apply online for a school place from 1 November 2023. Visit [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions) to apply.

You must apply even if your child is at the nursery attached to the school you would like them to go to.

Information about starting school for the first time will be available on our website from the end of October [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions).

The application deadline is 15 January 2024, please do not miss it

Please contact the school nursing service using the link below to find out what health checks and vaccinations are available for your child.

buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/cyp/school-years-development/school-nursing

Application
deadline is
**midnight on
15 January
2024**



Willow Lantern WORKSHOP

Monday 23 October, 10am-12.30pm & 1.30-4pm



Join us for a very special family art workshop on Monday 23 October to make sustainable Willow Lanterns to be used at the Aylesbury 2023 Festival of Lights Celebrations.

The designers of the lanterns and their families are invited back to the Aylesbury Festival of Light Parade on Sunday 19 November 4.30-5pm, which takes place after the Festival of Light event, 12-4.15pm. The lanterns will be displayed at the Festival of Light event and families can pick up at 4pm.

If families are unable to make the parade the lanterns can be picked up after the Festival (please email bucksheroes@discoverbucksmuseum.org).

The lantern making is for age 7 upwards and it is recommended that each child has one or two adults accompanying them per lantern as the activity requires adult support.



Workshop Times: Monday 23 October: 1st session 10am-12.30pm and 2nd session 1.30-4pm. Both sessions are exactly the same.

Booking Details: The workshop is £5.00 to cover materials.

**B Discover Bucks
Museum**
& Roald Dahl Children's Gallery



Discover Bucks Museum
Church Street
Aylesbury HP20 2QP
discoverbucksmuseum.org
01296 331441



**Take a trip back to the 1980s in
this nostalgia-filled exhibition
and get ready to exclaim,
'I remember that!'**

80s fun for all ages

21 October 2023 - 16 March 2024



Pull up your leg warmers and scramble your Rubik's Cubes and take a nostalgic trip back to 80s childhood in our new family-friendly exhibition I Grew Up 80s.

A fascinating time capsule of over 200 objects from this much-loved decade including toys, technology, fashion, films, music and even food. There's plenty for all ages to see, enjoy, share and remember the last decade before the internet. From BMX to Betamax, Rubik's Cube to the ZX Spectrum, Thompson Twins to Transformers. If you were a child, teenager or adult and experienced the 80s get ready to exclaim "I remember that!"

80s Telling the Tales of Time - book signing and talk with Steve Nallon

► **Saturday 25 November, 1pm - 3pm**

Join actor and writer Steve Nallon as he celebrates the release of his latest book *Destination Time Travel* and discover the enduring appeal of time travel in books, TV shows and movies.

► **80s Quiz and Disco Night**

Saturday 25 November, 7pm - 10pm

Get ready to party with award-winning entertainer DJ Dan Blaze in our special afterhours event including a quiz, games, fancy dress and disco.

► **80s Board Games**

Every Saturday

What's your favourite board game? Bring your family and come and rediscover some of the hits of the 80s.

► **Share your photographs**

Did you have a Polaroid Camera, Kodak Ektralite, Canon AE-1? We want to see your iconic 80s photos: the fashion, the hair, the places, the moments! Tag us on social media or email your photos to hello@discoverbucksmuseum.org. We will display our favourites in the galleries and in an online exhibition.

For opening times, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Discover Bucks Museum
Aylesbury HP20 2QP
01296 331441
discoverbucksmuseum.org

Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust is a company registered in England and Wales with charity no. 1153345 and VAT registered no. 190261031.



October Half-Term

23 - 30 October 2023

Monday - Friday 10am - 2pm

Saturday 10am - 4pm

Join us this October half-term for a fun-filled family-friendly week of arts and crafts topped off with a spooky family Halloween day on Saturday.





23 – 30 October (closed Sunday) – Spooky Halloween Trail
Families will love our spooky Halloween inspired trail for £1, available all week, 10am – 5pm. No need to book, just ask at reception when you arrive.

Monday 23 October – Rangoli Sun Catcher Craft
– Willow Lanterns (7years+)

Tuesday 24 October – Autumn Collage (2years+)

Wednesday 25 October – Autumn Clay Leaves

Thursday 26 October – Flying Bat Scene

Friday 27 October – Spooky Spider Webs

Saturday 28 October – Family Halloween Event
Show off your best Halloween costumes at our spookily fun family Halloween event.

All activities suitable for 3 years+ unless otherwise stated. Prices range from £3 - £5.50 per participant.

Booking Details

Places limited so please pre-book your tickets to avoid disappointment. For more information, session times and booking, scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

I Grew Up 80s (21 October 2023 - 16 March 2024)



Get ready to pull up your leg warmers and scramble your Rubik's Cubes, as our exciting new exhibition, I Grew Up 80s will open just in time for the October Half Term. Don't forget to visit while you're here!

Discover Bucks Museum
Aylesbury HP20 2QP
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discoverbucksmuseum.org



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**ARTS COUNCIL
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