



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from Mrs. Barnes	1
Governor Section	2
Important Messages	3
Curriculum	4
Pupil's Section	5
Friends of John Hampden	6
Learning Review Feedback	7
School Improvement	8
Miscellaneous	9

UPCOMING EVENTS:

24-3-25 Assessment Week	3-4-25 3.15pm FJH Easter Cake Bake
22-3-25 Open Morning for prospective parents and children for the Nursery Class in September 2025 9.30-11.00am	4-4-25 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, organized by Mrs McNally, 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. 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: our annual Sports Day is on Friday 27th June (alternative date is 4th July if it is wet on 27th)



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 22nd March. (see Important News Section)

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Celebrating Our Communication Week Success

As a school governor, it fills me with immense pride to celebrate the tremendous success of our recent Communication Week. Following our prestigious Children's Champion accreditation, we were thrilled that staff hosted over 30 schools, pre-schools, and nurseries, who visited JHS to observe and learn from our best practices in Communication and Language.

During this exciting week, visitors had the opportunity to explore a wide range of strategies and approaches that we use to support children's language development. Notable highlights included the NELI N (Nuffield Early Language Intervention) programme, the engaging Tales Toolkit, and the inspiring Helicopter Stories approach. Visitors were especially interested in how we plan for stories and reading from the very beginning of a child's school journey, embedding a love for language and literature at the heart of our curriculum.

It is worth noting that our very own Mrs Parkinson, Mrs Shrimpton and Miss Burns and pupils now feature in the promotional materials for Helicopter Stories. Have a look here:

<https://helicopterstories.co.uk/from-preschool-to-year-2-a-magical-storytelling-journey/>

Another area of great interest was our thoughtfully designed continuous provision, with several settings eager to learn how we implement this in Year 1. Through this approach, children continue to develop their communication skills through meaningful, play-based learning, which fosters their independence and creativity.

We are incredibly proud to be able to share our expertise and inspire other settings to enhance their own Communication and Language practices. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff and wonderful children, who truly showcased our school's commitment to nurturing confident communicators and future leaders.



Ann Whyte
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 2025



In September 2025 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 2021 and 31st August 2022 and you are interested in the Early Years Class at John Hampden for September 2025, 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 22nd 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.

4. CURRICULUM

World Book Week - 3rd March to 7th March 2025



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 £1227.36 worth of books were bought which means that we earned £675.05 of rewards. Thank you to the Friends of John Hampden (especially Kate Walker & Natalie) for manning the Book Fair every day.

In Nursery, the children enjoyed a range of exciting activities including: a Class Competition where children were invited to send in photos of themselves reading in an unusual place; Poetry Basket; Children's Champion Visitors; Early Years Communication Week; Live Author Reading of 'The Bear and the Piano' and 'Are You a Hungry Monster?'; Story time - Goldilocks and the Three Bears; Helicopter Stories and a certificate presented to the winner of the Photo Competition.

In Foundation Stage, the classes enjoyed watching two live authors. This was arranged by the Bucks Early Years Team. There was a non-fiction reading focus and opportunities to share poems from the Poetry Basket including sharing with the other Foundation Stage classes in the Hall. Visits from other schools as part of the Children's Champion initiative also took place.

In Year 1, the children also participated in lots of fun reading activities. They took part in Helicopter Stories where the children created their own stories which they performed with others to the class. They learnt and performed a poem about dinosaurs from the Poetry Basket. They looked at non-fiction texts about plants (to link with their Science learning) and before reading they thought of questions they could find the answers to in the book. Each Year One teacher bought in their favourite book to share with their class and the other classes in the year group. The classes also wrote a story together, using their Tales Toolkit vocabulary. The classes are reading traditional tales this half term and using them as a stimulus for their own writing. The stories they constructed were alternative traditional tales that included traditional characters but followed a different storyline!

In Year 2, Firecrests shared a Poetry Recital linked to Traditional Tales, Herons created their own Helicopter stories which they performed with others to the class, Red Kites wrote a Tales Toolkit Story together, using their Tales Toolkit vocabulary. Year 2 teachers sent out an 'Engaging Parents at Home Reading sheet' with lots of exciting ideas about how to explore reading in different ways at home. Each of the Year 2 teachers brought in their favourite story and swapped with the others classes to read them. We continued to share lots of fiction in the form of Traditional Tales, including Twisted Tales, and we continued to share our Spine Books, Traditional Tale Core Texts and used Talk For Writing Story Maps for reading Fairy Tales. The children in each class had an 'I wonder...' session about 'The Power Books', a Non Fiction Focus (linked to our History Topic on Florence Nightingale) and a Scholastic Live Author Event on Magical Myths!



On Friday we all dressed up as our favourite book characters. 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 themselves reading a story – some with very strange and disguised voices! Four children who cleverly guessed correctly won a £5 Book Token from the Real Magic Book Shop in Wendover. Well done to Ivy (Nursery), Tilly (Foundation Stage), Zac (Year 1), Molly (Year 2)



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, a previous John Hampden School governor, for his time and expertise putting the videos together and making them so fabulous.

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

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Crickets

I liked listening to the masked reader—Elora

I read a book on the roof for a photo competition in Crickets—Ivy F

Caterpillars

I loved the Masked Reader. I wonder who it is! Libby M

I like 'Chop chop'. We have spoons with pictures on. Finley T

Honeybees

I liked shouting "Take it off" when we saw who the masked reader was—River

I liked drawing my character and writing about who I was dressed up as—Stirling

Ladybirds

I liked reading with the juniors and listening to the stories—Timothy

I liked dressing up as a troll—Lucas

Squirrels

I've enjoyed seeing the masked reader and someone dressed up as Paddington—Lo

In World Book week I've enjoyed acting out helicopter stories—Idun

Hedgehogs

I liked dressing up as my favourite character and seeing everyone else dress up—Zac

I really enjoyed reading with the children from the junior school—Frank

Badgers

I liked reading with my brother in my Wallace and Gromit outfit—Adam

I am so excited for the big reveal in masked reader—Bella

Hérons

I really liked watching the live illustrator/author as he was drawing mythical creatures and I love drawing mythical creatures too. Arlo

I enjoyed going to the Junior School because I got to read my book to an older child and then they read to me. It was fun!

Red Kites

I have enjoyed listening to the Masked Reader stories. Some have been tricky and some have been easier to work out who it is! Toby

I am looking forward to doing the Reading Treasure Hunt. Poppy

Firecrests

I enjoyed dressing up as Where's Wally because it's one of my favourite books. Alfie

I enjoyed going up to the Juniors and sharing stories with Year 5. Irmak

4. CURRICULUM (CONTINUED)

Year 1 Wendover Walk

This week Year 1 pupils used a simple map with a key to direct us on a route around Wendover to visit local landmarks.



When we arrived at each landmark, we used the map to identify where in Wendover we were. While we were walking, we used directional words like: near to, next to, straight on, left, right, forwards, beside and behind to explain how to get to each landmark.

We visited: the Clocktower, the High Street, shops, the war memorial, the doctors' surgery and the windmill. While we were on the High Street, we looked down the hill and up towards Coombe Hill.



At each landmark, we named the landmark and looked at what was near to it. Next week, we will be plotting landmarks on a map and creating our own maps of Wendover.

Join us after school for the
**EASTER
BAKE SALE
THURS 3RD APRIL**

**Kids (and parents) can win prizes for
the best bakes!**

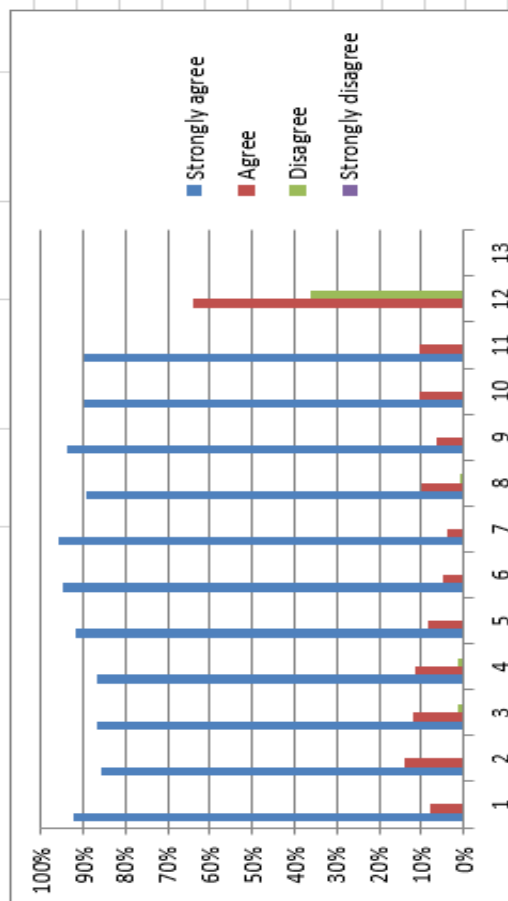
Drop your cakes off at the office
in the morning.

Volunteers needed to help sell - only takes
30 mins after school. Contact your class
rep if you can help.



7. LEARNING REVIEW FEEDBACK

WHOLE SCHOOL											
LEARNING REVIEW FEEDBACK SPRING TERM 2025											
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree			
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		
1	I was sufficiently aware of the dates for the Learning Review Meetings	177	92%	15	8%	0	0%	0	0%		
2	The Learning Review Meetings are held at a convenient time for me	165	85%	27	14%	1	1%	0	0%		
3	I was able to make an appointment which matched my requirements	166	86%	23	12%	3	2%	0	0%		
4	There was a satisfactory match between my appointment time and the time I actually saw the teacher	166	86%	22	11%	3	2%	1	1%		
5	I received a useful amount of information in 10 minutes	177	92%	16	8%	0	0%	0	0%		
6	I found out about my child's strengths and areas for development	183	95%	10	5%	0	0%	0	0%		
7	I found out about my child's behaviour and attitude to learning	185	96%	8	4%	0	0%	0	0%		
8	I am satisfied with the progress that my child is making academically	171	89%	19	10%	2	1%	0	0%		
9	I was provided with helpful handouts about how to support my child at home	179	94%	12	6%	0	0%	0	0%		
10	The school has set my child realistic targets	173	90%	20	10%	0	0%	0	0%		
11	The school is challenging my child appropriately	172	90%	20	10%	0	0%	0	0%		
	I regularly look at the class weekly 'What we are Learning' sheet on the class page of			119	64%	67	36%				
12	the school website										



8. 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.



9. MISCELLANEOUS



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FROM SEPTEMBER 2025?



OPEN MORNING – SATURDAY 22nd 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 2021 and 31st August 2022 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.



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Christopher Pallet, Wendover's longest established independent estate agent are proud to be sponsoring Friends of John Hampden School.

As Part of our sponsorship we will be donating £100 to the school, for every parent/guardian or teacher that successfully sells their property through Christopher Pallet Estate Agents in Wendover.

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For all your property requirements contact
wendover@christopherpallet.com
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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

Experienced school music teacher and local piano teacher living in Wendover has a few vacancies for children and adults of all ages and levels from complete beginner to advanced diploma level.

The emphasis is on making learning fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you are interested Please phone or text me,
Denise Erlandsen, on 07767 372049
or email me at derlandsen@yahoo.co.uk.

