

# The John Hampden School Wendover

IN THIS ISSUE	
Message from Mrs. Barnes	1
Governor Section	2
Important Messages	3
Pupil's Section	4
Curriculum	5
Friends of John Hamp- den	6
School Improvement	7
Miscellaneous	8

### **NEWSLETTER**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<u>26th September</u>—Phonics workshop at 9.00 am for all Foundation Stage parents followed by Foundation Stage Harvest Festival 9.30am

<u>27th September</u>—KS1 Harvest Festival 9.30a.m (Y1 parents invited to watch)

7th October—Open Morning for parents of prospective pupils

Week commencing 14th October—Parents' Evenings BOOKING OPENS AT 9.30am on 30th September

#### 1. Message from Mrs Barnes

Well, we have reached the end of week three of the Autumn Term and things are settling down well. Tiredness in many children is certainly apparent each Friday, but that is the result of their hard work and the effort that has gone into learning lots of new routines and getting used to school expectations once more. I am sure you are interested in what your children are getting up to each day, so a copy of your child's class timetable has been uploaded to the relevant class page of the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk under the Classes tab. Each week we will be uploading a sheet so you can keep up to date with what your child is learning in school. We will also add the induction Powerpoint presentation from the class teacher/s which was shared at induction meetings. Hopefully this will provide you with lots more information about the class, so do take a look. I am sure you are keen to find out how your child has settled in. For this reason we are arranging Autumn Term Parents' evenings during the week beginning

has settled in. For this reason we are arranging Autumn Term Parents' evenings during the week beginning 14th October. Further on in this newsletter you will find more details about how you will be able to book an appointment with the class teacher. The appointment booking site will open at 9.30am on Monday 30th September.

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival for Foundation Stage is due to take place on Thursday 26th September at 9.30am. Before this at 9.00 am, Mrs Parkinson will give a phonics workshop for Foundation Stage parents. Year One and Year Two will perform together on Friday 27th September at

9.30am and only parents of Year One pupils are invited to attend. (Year Two parents are invited to watch May Day later in the year in our attempt to make things fair) There will be no Harvest Festival for the children in our Nursery. On the relevant day <u>up to two adults</u> for each child will be directed via the side entrance to the school hall for the performances. The audience will be able to take photographs or video for their own personal use and we always ask that no images of other peoples children or the staff are put on any social networking sites.

As usual we are asking families to provide donations. We welcome any flowers, fruit, vegetables or tinned goods. Children can bring donations to the classroom on the morning of their festival or there will be a table outside the main entrance where any contributions can be left.

The donations will then be collected by representatives from the Women's Refuge in Aylesbury and they are always very gratefully received as they rely on donations to run successfully.

And finally—please could all parents be considerate to our school neighbours in the surrounding roads and not block driveways when parking to bring children into school. Also, please avoid using the doctors surgery car park when bringing children to school. Thank you.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

This is polite reminder that the campus roads are for the use of staff and delivery vehicles only. For the safety of everyone, parents/carers should not be attempting to drive onto the campus or park anywhere on the campus roads.

### 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

#### Hello All!

On behalf of the Governing Board I would like to wish a huge welcome to parents and carers, all our wonderful staff and, of course, our pupils! I trust everyone had an enjoyable summer and you were able to recharge batteries in readiness for the new school year. It's going to be an exciting and challenging term, packed full of cake sales, Harvest Festivals, parents' evenings, the Christmas Fayre and the all important Nativity plays. I'm amazed there's time for any lessons!

The Autumn term is also a busy one for Governors. With a new School Development Plan to consider, our own objectives to set, and school visits to schedule. The governing board can often appear remote from everyday school life and for many parents the role we play is often not obvious. One of our aims is therefore to raise awareness of our work to parents, carers and friends of the school. As way of introduction, we are a group of volunteers who help to set the strategic direction, aims and objectives of the school, and evaluate educational performance and the progress of pupils. We also oversee the financial performance of the school and provide support in the performance management of staff.

Two of our Governor colleagues stepped down at the end of the Summer Term, as their elected terms had come to an end and their children had long since departed JHSW. We have therefore been looking for two new Governors to join our merry gang and, as luck would have it, we have already filled one vacancy! I would therefore like to warmly welcome Martyn Dolbear, who comes to us with many years of previous Governor experience at another Buckinghamshire school. No doubt we'll be hearing more from Martyn in the near future.

Not that experience is in any way necessary.... we will be looking to recruit a new Parent Governor in the next few weeks. A Parent Governor is a fully functioning member of the Governing Board who is elected by, and represents, the parent body. The only requirements are that you have a child currently at the school and you are able to offer up the necessary time. The relevant letter has already been sent to you. If you'd like to know more about the role, please get in touch with myself or Mrs Barnes.

Finally, I'd also like to highlight the amazing work that the PTA does for the school. Each and every year the Friends of John Hampden run a series of marvellous events aimed at pupils and parents alike. Whilst they are always a lot of fun, they also generate an amazing amount of supplemental funds, allowing the school to purchase items that enhance your child's day-to-day learning experience that we would otherwise not be able to afford. All this takes an enormous amount of work, so in addition to attending these events, please consider volunteering an hour or two of your time to help out. 'Many hands' and all that...

That's it from me, for now. The Governors will, as always be present at all the school events, so come and say hello if you have any questions about the school or the role of the Governing Board.

Kind regards

James Edley 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 them at the school gate so please feel

free to email the Chair of Governors, James Edley, Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

#### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

At the end of this newsletter you can find a helpful document outlining common childhood illnesses and advice as to whether it is necessary to keep your child away from school. It is expected, that children have an attendance rate of at least 95% each academic year. Attendance and punctuality are monitored regularly.

#### Voluntary Contributions

Arrangements for Voluntary Contributions— Each parent will soon receive a letter which includes an itemized list of the cost of activities which the teachers are planning for the term. Parents can then sign in to their Parentpay account to make the payment. This is a voluntary contribution and there is no obligation involved but unfortunately we may have to cancel activities if not enough parents opt to pay. We try to arrange as many activities as possible in school to avoid the additional cost of coaches but from time to time we will take the children slightly further afield so future termly payment requests may reflect this.

#### Water Bottles

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 may bring their own named water bottle into school each day. These will be positioned close to where they are working so they can access them whenever they need a drink. We would ask that you only provide water because juice and squash can be very sticky and water is the healthiest option. Children in Early Years and Foundation Stage do not need to bring a water bottle now as the weather has cooled and they have regular access to the 'Hydration Station' in their learning environments.

#### Morning Snack



Fruit/vegetable deliveries have resumed at school so there is a range of fruit/veg available and we do encourage the children to have some. Often watching others enjoying eating it can be a real incentive to those who are reluctant to try (or say they don't like it!)

Also, it is still possible for parents to register their child for the 'Cool Milk' scheme. You can register online at www.coolmilk.com.

#### **HOT MEALS**

Our meal provider, Chartwells, provides free hot lunches, cooked on site, to all Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children in the school. You have been sent the details of how to order lunches so if you do wish to place an order you need to log in and select your choice by midnight on a Tuesday for lunches to start nine working days later. If you do not place an order you need to provide a packed lunch each day, as there are no spare hot meals to offer.

#### Nuts

We do have several children in the school with a severe allergy to nuts and sesame seeds. We would be grateful if you would refrain from providing nuts or foods containing nuts/sesame seeds in lunchboxes to reduce the risk of allergic reactions. We also ask that there are no sweets or fizzy drinks in lunchboxes. We would also ask that children DO NOT bring in sweets/treats for their classmates when it is their birthday. Thank you

#### Naming Belongings

After the first few P.E lessons, it is clear that many children have clothing that is not named and this is causing real difficulties for staff. Please would you ensure all belongings are named and that children are aware of where the name is on their things. It is obvious that some children would really benefit from having some extra practise when dressing/undressing independently and keeping their clothing in neat piles, socks in shoes etc. We would really appreciate your support with this.

#### Coats

We take the children outside in all weathers so please make sure they bring a coat to school every day.

#### Ramps

Please note pupils should not be playing on the ramps before or after school.

OOSC—Please remember to inform the OOSC provision if your child will not be attending for any reason.

For safety reasons, parents of children who attend our OOSC provision should never use the staff car park when bringing or collecting their child.

# <u>PARENTS' EVENINGS</u>—15th, 16th (not Crickets) and 17th (not Honeybees) October 2024 from 3.30pm—5.30pm

The Autumn Term parents evenings will be held during the week commencing 14th October. All pupils have brought home a letter with a login and password for you to access the e-schools platform which will enable you to book a slot to speak to your child's class teacher. For pupils who were in the school last year, you already have the login details but if you have forgotten them, the letter you have received will act as a reminder. If you have more than one child at the school, the oldest child's login and password will allow you to access both/all your children's parents evenings appointments. The appointments will be for 10 minutes per child and we ask that only one parent in each household books the appointment. The booking system will open at 9.30am on Monday 30th September and will close at 9.00am on Monday 7th October. The system will confirm your appointment/s date and time. We will not be issuing paper appointment letters or confirmation of appointment slots.

# LOOKING FOR A NURSERY/ RECEPTION PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025?



#### THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER

### OPEN MORNING - EARLY YEARS (NURSERY) & RECEPTION PLACES

The John Hampden School Wendover is a large infant school for children aged between four and seven years. We also have a thriving 26 place Early Years Provision for 3-4 year olds and offer the 30 hours flexible free entitlement for pupils in this class. We are justifiably proud of our excellent reputation in the local community and we work hard to provide children with an outstanding start to their school life.

Pupils 'love to learn' at this school, fully reflecting the school's motto. They are highly motivated and behave very well. High expectations permeate every aspect of school life, and pupils flourish, both academically and socially.

Ofsted 2024

We are offering four opportunities to come and view the school and find out more about us.

Monday 7th October at either 9.15am or 10.30am. or Monday 18th November at either 9.15am or 10.30am.

Please contact the school office via phone or email to book 01296 622629

### 4. Pupil's Section

The children have now been at school for a few weeks so we thought you might like to hear from some of our pupils about what they are enjoying in their new classes.



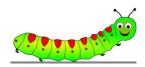
Jenson has liked playing with the playdough.

Edie has liked playing with the mini mes in the dolls house.



Esme likes playing outside with her friends. She like the bars as she likes doing forward rolls on the little bar.

Alex likes the lunch as he likes the food.



Edith likes being in school because she likes learning and she is learning everything she wants to know. She was really really wanting to learn how to read and now she can start.

Joey likes going into the main playground and the Octagon.



Noah has loved learning the Harvest songs. Big Red Combine Harvester is his favourite.

Mabel has enjoyed learning phonics. The actions for the sounds is so much fun.



Zac has enjoyed being outside in the construction area with his friends building models.

Otis has enjoyed everything—playing with his friends and doing phonics.



Nate has enjoyed doing his step by step drawings with Harvey.

Daisy has enjoyed learning new things in maths.



Harriet loves stories and phonics.

Bella loves being kind and helpful.



Libby has enjoyed the teambuilding games like the parachute game because it was fun and helped her meet her new class friends.

Eben loved writing an information text in English about Herons because he enjoys learning new facts as it is fun.

Laura has enjoyed doing maths in the classroom and outside.

Joshua has enjoyed meeting Feathers the class Red Kite and also meeting my new teachers too.

Morrie has loved making the lion masks because they were really colourful. Evie has been really happy because they have done so many fun activities and she has made so many new friends.

### 5. CURRICULUM



We hold assemblies in the hall each week where the whole school community can join together.

Every Monday, Mrs Barnes leads a KS1 assembly which focuses on the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL). Mrs Parkinson leads an assembly on Tuesday with the School Values as her theme. Mrs Spencer leads a Cultural Assembly on Wednesday and Mrs Mannering leads the Thursday assembly which has a singing focus. Every Friday the whole school join together for our 'Over & Above' Assembly where children from each class are awarded special certificates and then given the opportunity to share the assembly from a special starry chair. Certificates are awarded to children who have done something over and above what is expected. The 'Scroll of Honour' is also read out at this assembly and it contains the names of children who have been spotted for doing something special. We also award a 'Class of the Week' cup and certificates and stickers for children nominated by the Midday Supervisors.

We have seven Values and seven behaviour expectations that underpin our Behaviour & Self-Regulation Policy. Following the Over & Above Assembly the children take part in M.O.V.E. Time (Mastering Our Values & Expectations) where they are given the opportunity to practice the values and the behaviour expectations in a fun and enjoyable way.

All pupils are currently following a carefully designed 'Transition Curriculum' for the first half of the Autumn Term. We hope that a timetable which allows time for staff to ensure children are settled and getting used to the regular routines and expectations, will be beneficial for all. There is a big focus on Personal, Social, Emotional and Health education in these first weeks and regular reinforcement of the school values.

Thinking skills sessions/activities continue to be a regular feature. This may sound rather ambitious but children are naturally curious and educational research suggests that encouraging children to ask questions and to listen to other people's ideas helps them to understand their thoughts and how they affect their lives.

It is fascinating to hear the children's thoughts and we find that from one starting point many more questions are posed. The only thing to remember is that there are no right or wrong answers— just the opportunity to hear, develop and value different viewpoints.

#### 6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



Thank you to those who came along to our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday. It was great to see some new faces around the table.

I'm pleased to report that the FJH has a new Chair, Becky Gray, mum to Joey in Caterpillars, a new Secretary, Lucy Davis, mum to Erin in Ladybirds and that Natalie Sullivan has kindly offered to remain as Treasurer.

Many thanks to Robin Barret who has served as Secretary for the last 2 years and also been a constant support at our events.

We have some exciting events planned this term and all help is welcome. I know how hard it is to attend meetings when we have children to put to bed but please don't let this put you off helping at events (we always have little ones in tow) or making suggestions for future fundraisers. There are so many different ways to get involved, even some that can be done from the comfort of your sofa, so look out for our pleas for help!

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

1st October – Sub-committee meeting for the Halloween Trail. 8pm at the Red Lion.

Everyone welcome. We will be brainstorming ideas and coming up with a plan for another spooky trail to kick of the half term holiday.

#### Can you:

- help put up decorations from 1pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October?
- do you fancy dressing up and spooking the children on the trail?
- can you make a few props in the comfort of your kitchen?
- can you make use of the office printer and run off some trail sheets for us?
- could you donate some mini bags of Haribo or lend a gazebo?
- or do you have some awesome Halloween decorations you could lend us?

22nd October - FJH Meeting. 8pm at the Red Lion.

Agenda: Christmas Fair!

25<sup>th</sup> October – The Halloween Trail. 3.15pm in the FS play area.

30<sup>th</sup> November – The Christmas Fair. 12-3pm

Thank you so much for your support.

Kate Walker Outgoing Chair

Email: fjhvolunteers@gmail.com





Join our Facebook page for updates





Join the FJH WhatsApp group to be kept up to date with what's going on and what we have planned

## 7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As the new academic year begins we are embarking on actions linked to our new School Development Plan 2024-2025 which aims to guide improvements to the school over this time. In deciding the areas to focus on we took into consideration many factors e.g. stakeholder views expressed in questionnaires and comments, feedback from other outside agencies, data analysis, Government policy etc.

In the next newsletter I will share a summary of the new priorities for the school plan so you can see what we are aiming to achieve.

However, during the summer holiday this is just some of the work that was completed to improve the school: (big thanks to Mr Richardson for all his hard work!)

- New catering kitchen installed
- New shelving created
- New barrier matting laid outside Y1 classrooms
- Deep cleaning and window cleaning
- Jet washing outside learning areas
- General grounds maintenance
- New cabinet for IT Server was installed (thanks Mrs Shrimpton & Mr Batt)

### USEFUL INFORMATION

# Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about <u>managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK</u>. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school on the first day. Let us know that your child won't be in and give us the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

#### Other illnesses:

Follow this advice for other illnesses:

#### Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor <u>cough</u> or <u>common cold</u>. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

#### High temperature

If your child has a <u>high temperature</u>, keep them off school until it goes away.

#### Chickenpox

If your child has <u>chickenpox</u>, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

#### Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a <u>cold sore</u>.

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels. Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis.

Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

### COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have <u>symptoms of COVID-19</u> and they either:

- · have a high temperature
- . do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

#### What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

#### Ear infection

If your child has an <u>ear infection</u> and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

#### Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has <u>hand</u>, <u>foot and mouth disease</u> but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

#### Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

#### **Impetigo**

If your child has impetigo, they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics.

Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

If your child has <u>ringworm</u>, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP.

It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

#### Scarlet fever

If your child has <u>scarlet fever,</u> they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

#### Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have <u>slapped cheek syndrome</u> because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

#### Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a <u>sore throat</u>. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.

A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.

#### Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have threadworms.

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

#### Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with <u>diarrhoea or vomiting</u> should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

# WORKING TOGETHER WITH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, SCHOOLS AND PARENTS/CARERS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Changes have been implemented by Buckinghamshire Council from September 2024 to improve school attendance in Buckinghamshire.

Leave of absence requests can only be considered/granted where an application has been made in advance by the parent/carer to the school. School cannot grant/authorise a leave of absence request retrospectively. If a leave of absence request has not been made in advance of non-attendance then it will not be granted/it will be unauthorised.

Leave of absence will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances. School will judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request. Generally a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance and would therefore not be authorised.

Leave of absence for illness – if the pupil is unable to attend due to illness, parents must notify the school on the first day the child is unable to attend and thereafter at the start of each subsequent day. We do <u>not</u> require medical evidence to support illness absences.

Leave of absence for medical appointments – Parents should, wherever possible, make appointments out of school hours. Where this is not possible (and we do appreciate that young children can wake up in the morning feeling unwell) the pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment.

We hope that you will appreciate these tighter measures that Buckinghamshire Council and the school are now implementing in order to ensure children are in school during term time.





# ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND AUTUMN CONCERT





An afternoon of live music from stage and screen Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 3:00 - 5:00 pm

The Church on Fairford Leys, Hampden Square,
Fairford Leys, Aylesbury
HP19 7HT

No ticket required - donations at the door to support the Karibuni Children charity and the band

Refreshments and Karibuni merchandise available in the interval



Transforming young Kenyan lives.

Registered UK Charity Number 1044872



Visit our website to book/join/follow us ellesboroughsilverband.co.uk Follow us: @EllesboroughSB @EllesbSB



# We are recruiting Exam Invigilators

We are currently looking for Exam Invigilators to join our excellent team at John Colet School. This is a casual contract with a rate of pay of £13.65 per hour (incl. holiday allowance).

#### Responsibilities

- Ensuring that school policy and procedure is followed closely throughout the examination process
- Distributing and collecting exam papers
- Checking student attendance, guiding them to seats, supervising their entry and exit from exam hall

#### **Essential Skills**

- Previous experience working with a high attention to detail in an office and/or education setting
- Strong communication skills with ability to liaise with Staff and Students
- Extremely patient and able to stay vigilant throughout an exam
- Excellent time management and organisation skills

If you think you might be the right person to join our team and would like more information, please visit our website johncolet.co.uk/vacancies or email office@johncolet.co.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



# Proudly sponsoring



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.

# Residential Sales & Lettings

Mortgages | Surveys | Conveyancing | Land & New Homes | Professional Advice





For all your property requirements contact wendover@christopherpallet.com or call 01296 625000



# Drama & Musical Theatre



Our Drama and Musical Theatre classes are run by qualified teachers and theatre professionals Tessa Churchard and Suzy Mannering.

- Drama Classes Saturday mornings Wendover Youth Centre: INFANT £6.50 JUNIOR £8 \*
- Musical Theatre Classes Tuesday after school Wendover Christian Centre: INFANT and JUNIOR £6.50 \*
- Class lengths vary between age groups which is reflected in the weekly fee -20% sibling discount offered -£1 reduction if 2 classes are taken

Tess is such a kind, nurturing teacher, I couldn't recommend her highly enough."





