



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:		UPCOMING EVENTS:	
Message from Mrs.	1		18th December Christmas Parties for the classes
Governor Section	2	14th December 9.30am Year 1 Performance 2.00pm Year 2 Performance	19th December School closes at 1.30pm
Important Messages	3		
Curriculum	4		
Pupil's Section	5	15th December 9.30am Year 2 Performance 2.00pm Year 1 Performance	4th January 2024 Start of the Spring Term
FJH	6		
Miscellaneous	7		

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I wanted to start this newsletter by thanking the Friends of John Hampden for their support this term. They have worked tirelessly to put on fantastic events and each one has been carefully planned and thoughtfully executed. The Halloween trail and cake sale proved to be very popular and it was wonderful to watch those who took part having such fun. The recent Christmas Fayre was testament to the amazing organisational skills of the FJH Committee and their ability to provide an event which was brilliantly supported by our school community. We raised well over £5,500 during the afternoon so huge thanks to all who came along to this traditional annual fundraiser and to the governors, staff and volunteers who helped to make it run so smoothly. This total has been added to the other fundraising events this Autumn Term—the hard work has already raised a considerable sum of money this academic year. The money will be spent on improving the outside learning environment for the Year 2 classes as well as purchasing some new equipment and resources for all the children to use.

In the last two weeks, we have enjoyed watching the Christmas performances from the Early Years Class and the Foundation Stage classes—the children did a brilliant job of entertaining their audience of parents/carers and I am grateful for your support in coming along and providing some wonderful costumes. We are looking forward to the Year 1 and Year 2 performances next week. We currently still have a number of children off with the usual coughs and colds and tummy bugs that traditionally go round at this time of the year. We would ask that children do not return to school until their temperature is normal or 48 hours after the last bout of sickness/diarrhea. In this way we are minimizing risk to others.

On Monday 18th December, the children will join in the fun and games with the parties that have been organised, and we hope they will demonstrate their impeccable manners when a very special guest arrives!! Please remember there will be **no hot lunches** on this day and parents are asked to provide a special Christmassy packed lunch. The Friends of John Hampden kindly provide a Christmas cracker for every child at the party so you do not need to include one in the lunch you provide.

Children should come to school in **Christmas party clothes** (suitable to go out to play in) —no uniform on this day.

**Please note**, - we have a few spaces in our Out of School Care Provision from January. Please contact us if you are interested in securing high quality child care before or after school.

As this is the last newsletter of the Autumn Term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS TREE

We are extremely grateful to Chiltern View Nursery for donating a magnificent Christmas Tree for our school hall. I am sure you will be impressed when you see it twinkling during the Christmas Performances. **Reminder that the school reopens after Christmas on Thursday 4th January 2024.**

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

At this time of year there is often discussion about when the run up to Christmas should begin. In the USA, they say that it begins after Thanksgiving. Well for me, over the last few years, it has been The John Hampden School Christmas Fayre that has set us off along that road. This year I think that the Friends of John Hampden, Parents, Teachers and staff surpassed themselves in providing a marvellous event exactly a month before Christmas Day. It was a great opportunity to see the school, participate in fun festive activities and to meet others. Along with many of my fellow Governors, I was able to meet and briefly chat with a few people and saw a lot of fun being had.

Seeing all this has made me think about just how much of what we see and do at this time of year gets woven into learning and behaviour, from finding the numbers in an advent calendar to reading Christmas stories and making decorations and hand-made gifts, right the way through to working with others and performing together as we see at the wonderful Christmas shows at school.

As you read this, some of the Christmas shows will have already taken place. I am very happy to be joining the audience of one of those still to come. Having seen my grandsons' reactions to being shown their own Mum, aged 7, in the John Hampden Christmas show 30 years and when it was a First School (and yes, we recorded them back then), I know what a great experience it can be for the children taking part and how it can build their confidence, collaboration and much else including looking at art, performing and music in new ways. Being a part of the shows also builds lasting memories and I am sure the children taking part and all who see this year's shows will have a wonderful time.

As Governors we each take one or more subject areas to connect with as 'Link Governor'; part of my own focus is to be the Art Link. Seeing so many facets of the schools work with the children brought together at Christmas in the learning experiences, in the classroom and in the show performances really brings home the value of the arts at school and how, even with all the fun of the festive season, there is so much experience being gained and learning being developed.

On behalf of the Governors I am delighted to thank all the staff for their incredible work throughout 2023 and for continuing to make Christmas special. To the staff, children, parents, carers and everyone who supports the school, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and safe 2024.



Martin Whitthread  
Co-opted Governor

On a personal note, and for those who didn't see my piece here in 2020, here's a seasonal thought which I have recommended since I came across it years ago. That is, do try to take a look at *Norad Tracks Santa* ([www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org) "LIVE" on Christmas Eve). It is run by volunteers in the USA and Canada and is a fun way to illustrate time zones and geography as they track Santa, his sleigh and reindeer flying across the world's skies. I hope you find it as much fun as I do. Merry Christmas, Martin



NORAD, as you might know, is the North American Air Defence radar system. Back in 1955 a US department store's newspaper advert gave a free phone number to call Santa. One child accidentally misdialled an unlisted number and reached Norad's Operations Centre Director. He realised what had happened and played along instructing his staff to check the radar for any indications of Santa making his way from the North Pole! From that, the tradition was born where volunteers enable the NORAD *Tracks Santa*® program to evolve with modern day internet access making it fun informative and easy to see.

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 us at the school gate so please feel free to email the Chair of Governors, [Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion or if you just have a query about the school.

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES



#### **MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL OR STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2024**



**Parents/Carers of Year 2 children at John Hampden must apply for a Junior School place for their child.** The Junior School online application service opened at 11am on **1st November 2023** and the deadline for online applications is **midnight on 15th January 2024**

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start school in September 2024, an application for a Primary School place must be made in the next few months. The Primary School online application service opened at 11am on **1st November 2023** and the deadline for online applications is **midnight on 15th January 2024**. Please note that a place in the Early Years Class at John Hampden does not guarantee you a place in the school—an online application must still be made.

#### **P.E. AT SCHOOL**

As P.E. bags come home in the Christmas break to be washed please check that your child's P.E. kit is all clearly named and correctly fitting. Please note that children must have a pair of track-suit bottoms and a sweatshirt to wear for outside P.E. sessions, which continue throughout the winter months. Children with long hair must have it tied back for P.E. lessons and no earrings should be worn for health and safety reasons.

#### **HOT LUNCHES**

You will soon be ordering hot lunches for the new term. Now your children have experienced the lunches for a term they seem to be very aware of what they like and what they don't enjoy. Please could we request that you involve your child when choosing meals as we have a number of children who are reluctant to eat the food being ordered and we rely on you to choose things they will eat! Thank you

#### **Home School Diaries**

Your child will receive a new Home School Diary at the beginning of the Spring Term. Please would you make sure you sign the diaries every time you hear your child read and encourage them to draw the faces each day so we can gauge how they are feeling at school.

#### **Important Reminder**

For the Christmas Performances, please note that you will be entering the hall up steps via a side route so please do not even attempt to bring pushchairs into the school. Our pupils and staff work very hard to put on these performances and we would ask you, on this occasion, to make alternative arrangements for all younger siblings as they can find it difficult to sit still and quietly and can spoil the enjoyment for others. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

#### **Parking in the community**

Please do not park in the doctor's surgery car park to drop off or pick up children from the school.

Poppy Appeal 2023

We raised a fantastic £484.92 for the 2023 Poppy Appeal



## 4. CURRICULUM



### **SMSC- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Aspects of Learning**

At its heart, SMSC is about relationships and attitudes. At The John Hampden School Wendover we begin with the values projected by staff, pupils and governors, the interactions between people and the way they care for one another. This includes the quality of the physical environment, the range of opportunities provided by the school both within the curriculum and beyond it and the relationship developed by the school with the wider community.

Teachers seek to plan learning experiences that have relevance to the children, that will combine the awe and wonder of the world with practical skills to aid them in their daily lives.

Pupils' **SPIRITUAL** development is shown by their:

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Pupils' **MORAL** development is shown by their:

- Ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and their readiness to apply this understanding in their own lives
- Understanding of the consequences of their actions
- Interest in investigating, and offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues

Pupils' **SOCIAL** development is shown by their:

- Use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different backgrounds
- Willingness to participate in a variety of social settings, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- Interest in, and understanding of, the way communities and societies function at a variety of levels.

Pupils' **CULTURAL** development is shown by their:

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage
- Willingness to participate in, and respond to artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological and scientific opportunities
- Interest in exploring and respecting cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept and respect diversity, as shown by their attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

This time of the year provides us with a perfect opportunity to develop and enhance performance skills. The timings for our EYFS and KS1 performances have helped us to ensure that every child in the school, from the youngest to the oldest, is given a moment to shine. It is clear that some children have real strengths in terms of their ability to speak, sing or perform a dance in front of an audience but every child is given the opportunity to collaborate and take part. It has been wonderful to watch the rehearsals going on and to see the progress that is made as well as the enjoyment and commitment that so many children demonstrate as they prepare for the performances.



We thought you might like to read some comments from the children about their rehearsals and their feelings about performing in front of an audience:

In Crickets class Spencer was happy because his Mummy and Daddy came to watch him. Aqsa saw her Mummy and Daddy come to the show as well and she felt so happy that she gave them a hug.

In Honeybees class Bella felt confident and proud doing the show and Jasper felt nervous about performing in front of an audience.

In Ladybirds class Alice was very excited because she gets to wear her angel costume and she gets to do the play. Zac likes the dress he is wearing for the Wiseman and he likes doing all the dances.

In Caterpillars class Millie enjoyed being a sheep and doing the actions to the song. Jack enjoyed the singing and also he enjoyed being a camel and doing the actions to the song.

In Squirrels class Alfie said it's been great being Joseph because he likes acting and Maisie likes the dancing because the shaking hands part is fun.

In Hedgehogs class Aleena has enjoyed practising as she is excited about performing in front of the audience and Laura is happy and excited for her Mummy to see the Nativity.

In Badgers class Rae loved the singing and dancing and Fletcher is excited about being a King.

In Firecrests class Antoni liked watching the acting on the stage and Isla really loved dancing to their class song.

In Herons class Shay is excited because he really wants to show his parents the show as they have been rehearsing hard for the dance. Henry is excited because he is going to be a soldier in the play and he has some lines to say.

In Red Kites class Emily feels joyful to be able to perform their dance. Now that they have learnt it, they won't make any mistakes. Flynn is excited and he is looking forward to wearing his costume.



# John Hampden School Wendover Christmas Fair

## THANK YOU SO MUCH

**Thank you to everyone who supported and donated to our Christmas Fair. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.**

It was wonderful to see so many families partaking in the festive fun. The Grotto was fabulous. A huge thank you to Lorraine and her team who, once again, created a truly magical experience for the children.

Special thanks go to our amazing volunteers without whom running the fair would not have been possible. You were all fantastic. Thank you for working so hard and generously giving up your time to make it such a success.

The raffle drew an array of wonderful prizes donated by local businesses. Thank you to everyone involved. Prizes that weren't collected on the day can be collected from the office.

Various other prizes were won at the fair (also in the office). Congratulations go to:

- Toby (Hedgehogs), Coco (Hedgehogs) and Zachary (4W). There were 176 felt-tips in the jar!
- Chloe (Squirrels)- the reindeer's name was Mistletoe.

The FJH would also like to thank Mrs Barnes and the staff of John Hampden School for the help and time they have given in support of our fundraising.

*Thank you for all your jam jars - there were some wonderful creations this year. Congratulations go to...*

Arlo - Crickets  
Holly - Ladybirds  
Daisy - Caterpillars  
Luna - Honeybees  
Freddy - Hedgehogs



Badgers - Morrie  
Squirrels - Mackenzie  
Red Kites - Joshua  
Firecrests - Nate  
Hérons - Megan



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**