

The John Hampden School Newsletter

Issue Seven Thursday 4th December 2025

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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 approximately **£6000** 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 and the hard work has already raised a considerable sum of money this academic year. I look forward to sharing with you some of the things that we have bought and hoping to buy with some of the money.





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Nativities

This week, we have had the absolute pleasure of watching the Christmas performances from both our Early Years and Foundation Stage classes. The children were truly fantastic - they sang, acted and entertained their audiences with such confidence and joy. I was incredibly proud of each and every one of them. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers attending and we are very grateful for your support and for providing such fabulous costumes. We are now very much looking forward to the upcoming performances from our Year 1 and Year 2 children, which promise to be equally special.



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.





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On Thursday 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.**

We currently still have a number of children (and staff) off with 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/diarrhoea. In this way we are minimizing risk to others.

Steph Parkinson - Headteacher





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Important Information

PE.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 tracksuit 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.





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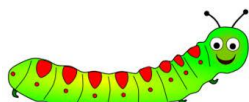
Pupils Section: This time of the year provides us with a perfect opportunity to develop and enhance performance skills. The timings for our EYFS and KSI performances have helped us to ensure that every child in the school, from the youngest to the oldest, is given a moment to shine. It is clear that 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 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. Here are some comments from the children about what they enjoyed about their Nativity and what they enjoyed about watching the Foundation stage Nativity.



In Crickets Clemmie liked coming onto the stage and Rose liked dressing up.



Iwan in Honeybees really liked being the donkey and going on stage. "I said ee-or really loudly." Antonio said, "I loved that I went on stage and my mum and dad saw me."



In Caterpillars Lilly enjoyed singing Donkey Plodding and Sully enjoyed doing the wriggly nativity actions.



In Ladybirds Eleanor enjoyed being on the stage performing in front of all the people. Zohan liked that his Daddy took pictures of him. Roman enjoyed singing to everyone and Ivy R liked going on the stage.



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Pupils Section:



In Badgers Aqsa said that she loved the dancing. Margot really liked the costumes.



In Squirrels, Vivi liked how they were acting and Edith said that all the acting, singing and actions were good. The Narrators had loud voices.



In Hedgehogs Esme said it was really good because they are only little and they can do it all by themselves and the narrators were really clear talking. Alex said the singing was really good – they sang Wriggly Nativity really well.



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Pupils Section:



In Herons Oliver said it reminded him of when he was doing the Nativity in Foundation stage, it looked like lots of fun. Neve enjoyed watching The Wiggly Nativity, it was one of her favourite songs.



In Firecrests Ayda enjoyed it when the children were singing. They sang clearly. Dougie liked the dance moves and the stars sang well and danced well.



In Red Kites Luna liked the singing and dancing. She liked the costumes and she got to watch her little sister. Harris enjoyed watching the dancing and their costumes.



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Governor Section

Just as *Big Red Combine Harvester* finally began to fade from our minds, along came a new earworm this week courtesy of Foundation Stage's wonderful production of *A Wiggly Nativity*!

As both a new parent and a governor at John Hampden School Wendover, I was absolutely blown away by the quality of the children's performance. They sang beautifully, delivered their lines clearly, and most importantly, seemed to be enjoying every moment.

It was truly heart-warming to see the pride on their faces, and I was amazed at how much they have grown in confidence since the Harvest Festival just a few months ago. All their hard work truly shone through, and the audience couldn't help but leave with huge smiles — and, in my case, a few proud tears!

On behalf of all the governors, I'd like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to the incredible staff for their hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication. These shows, which create such magical memories for the children and their families, simply wouldn't be possible without them. Thank you.





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Governor Section

Continuing the theme of festive firsts, I was also delighted to attend my inaugural John Hampden Christmas Fair. The sheer number of stalls and activities on offer was fantastic and far exceeded my expectations. A personal favourite was seeing all of the jam jars that the children (with the help of their loved ones!) had decorated so beautifully and imaginatively.

I know a number of my fellow governors enjoyed the opportunity to volunteer on the Governors' Tombola stall which was not only great fun but also provided a useful opportunity to meet and talk to parents and carers.

A big thank you must go to the Friends of John Hampden, who expertly organised and seamlessly ran the fair. It's hard to overstate the time, commitment and creativity they devote not only to raising vital funds for the school, but also to creating fun and memorable experiences for the children and this year's fair was no exception.

The Governing Board would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the staff, parents, carers and volunteers whose support and hard work helped make the day such a success.

Finally, all that remains is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Emma Ramell –
Parent Governor





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Thank You!

Poppy Appeal 2025

We raised a fantastic £411.26 for
the 2025 Poppy Appeal.



Children In Need. We raised:
£227.63. Thank you.



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Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2025

3rd December - 9.30 am FS Nativity

4th December – 9.30 am FS Nativity

5th December – INSET day

8th December – SEN reviews

9th December – SEN reviews

16th December 9.30am -Year 2 Christmas Performance

16th December 2.00pm -Year 1 Christmas Performance

17th December 9.30am -Year 1 Christmas Performance

17th December 2.00pm -Year 2 Christmas Performance

18th December Christmas Party Day

19th December – school closes for holidays at 1.00pm

5th January 2026 – School opens



Carolfest

Join us for community carol singing

Sunday 14 December

6pm (arrive from 5:45pm) in St Mary's Church



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