

# 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
School Improvement	7
Miscellaneous	8

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

9th October—Open Morning for prospective families	20th October—School closes at 3.15pm for half term holiday
10th—13th October: Parents' Evenings	FJH Halloween Trail and cake bake
16th October: Assessment Week	30th October—School re-opens [Safety Week]

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

In an infant school, at the beginning of a new school year, I think it is particularly important for the children to be given time to settle into their new classes, getting to know their new teachers and teaching assistants. We have spent time in the first few weeks focusing on our 'Behaviour Expectations' and reinforcing our core values so that all pupils are fully aware of the things that are important to our school community. I regularly visit the classes during the working day and it is very encouraging to watch the children adjusting to the routines and expectations of school life. We aim to have a positive approach to behaviour management, and our behaviour expectations highlight what children should do, rather than what they should not! In each class, we have a 'Recognition Board' where children's names are written immediately we spot them doing something particularly impressive. We believe it is important to acknowledge when children do well and at John Hampden, this is done in a variety of ways. Feedback from teaching staff is the most immediate method, but stickers and pebbles are also used as reward tokens in many of the classes. Children are sent to me or Mrs Parkinson to share their learning when they have done exceptionally well and we reward this behaviour with special stickers and a gold star to take home. Each Friday we are holding our 'Over & Above' assembly, in which children from each class are chosen to receive a special certificate and sticker. This is awarded by the class teachers and teaching assistants for exceptional behaviour or exceptional learning. Children receiving the 'Over & Above' certificates are invited to sit on special chairs and a star is put onto our display board in the hall to remind us of their achievements.

A silver cup is awarded to the 'Class of the Week'. So far Firecrests, Caterpillars and Hedgehogs have won the cup - I'll leave your children to tell you who won it today!

Finally, 'The Scroll of Honour' is unfurled. The scroll contains the names of any child in the school who has been spotted by any adult for doing something special. The children are asked to stand and the whole school sing a congratulatory song to them. Each child whose name is on the scroll will bring home a special certificate so you know what they have done to impress us. They will also be given a yellow badge to wear on their jumper during the following week.

We also like to celebrate achievement outside school and we have a display board in the corridor to showcase the talents of our pupils. If your child is awarded a certificate or an award for swimming, dancing, sport, music etc. we are happy to take a photocopy or photograph and put it up on the board.

We are looking forward to our upcoming Parents' Evenings where we can provide you with feedback about how your child is settling into their new class. From our perspective it appears the online system for making appointments has worked successfully. **All Crickets Class parents will be invited to enter the classroom via the drop off/exit door. For the rest of the school, parents should enter via the main front door and you will be directed to a seating area outside your child's classroom to wait.** Please remember that your appointment only lasts for 10 minutes—if it appears that you require more time, a new meeting will need to be organized as others are delayed if your appointment overruns. If, following your meeting, you would like to speak to me or Mrs Parkinson about any matter please come to the main entrance where we can arrange a mutually convenient time and place to speak.

Thank you for your continued support.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Following Ben Gattlin's introduction to the governors in the last newsletter, I wanted to introduce myself to new parents as one of the elected parent governors for John Hampden. My son has just started this year in Foundation Stage (Caterpillars) and my daughter, who first joined JHS in Crickets, finished Year 2 (Red Kites) last summer.

I've found being a parent governor a great way to get to know the school better, and get a bit more understanding of how young children learn and how positive values are taught – since, like most 4 year olds I expect, as we walk away from the school gate, it's difficult to understand from my son exactly what he's been doing all day! As parent governors, we aren't there to speak 'on behalf' of all parents, but rather to bring a parent's perspective to the decisions that the governors make for the school.

Like a lot of Foundation Stage, I'm sure, my son has found the busyness and excitement of starting a new school very tiring. But it's been wonderful to see how the fabulous staff team have made them feel settled so quickly – from using robot arms for phonics, to developing good meal-time manners, to getting on with new friends, to learning the school values and behaviour expectations.

It was a particular highlight for me last week to join the wonderful Harvest Festival. It was hard to believe that the Foundation Stage children had only been in 'big school' for three weeks – they sat beautifully, sang joyfully and did their actions so confidently. They were an absolute credit to Mrs Barnes, Mrs Parkinson and all the teachers and TAs, and I hope very proud of themselves as well.

Now to get the "Big Red Combine Harvester" song out of my head...



Rachel Coffey  
Parent 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, Ben Gattlin, [Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) you would like to raise a matter for discussion

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES



#### OPEN EVENTS AT JOHN HAMPDEN—EARLY YEARS (NURSERY) & RECEPTION PLACES

If you, or someone you know, is looking for a school place for **September 2024** they may be interested in booking an appointment to visit and view the school.

We are holding two separate Open Morning events with two slots on each day. Please contact the school office via [office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk) or telephone 01296 622629 to communicate your choice of date and time and book your place.

9.15am –10.15am Monday 9th October

10.30am—11.30am Monday 9th October

9.15am –10.15am Tuesday 14th November

10.30am—11.30am Tuesday 14th November

Please note—**Visits are intended for parents/carers only at this stage and must be pre-booked.**

#### Dogs on Campus

Please note that dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school campus.

#### COATS

Children are involved in learning outside the classroom everyday so it is really important that they bring a named coat to school everyday especially as it is starting to get a little colder and wetter now. Also, could you check that your child has their own name in their belongings. Sometimes children wear pre-owned uniform that has a previous pupils name in it—and obviously that can cause confusion!

#### REMINDER

Please remember that children should not bring in sweets/treats for classmates when it is their birthday. We have a number of children with allergies and it is safer to say no to this altogether in order to avoid upset and disappointment.

#### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

Please do not use mobile phones whilst on the school grounds. In this way, we are safeguarding our pupils by ensuring there is no chance of anyone taking unauthorised photographs/videos within the school environment. Please remind others of this message if you spot anyone on their phone—it is a shared responsibility.

This is also applicable when bringing or collecting from our Out of School Care provision.



#### ARE YOU A POLICE OFFICER?

We would love to know whether any of our parents are police officers—we might just have a job for you!! Please email the school office and let us know.

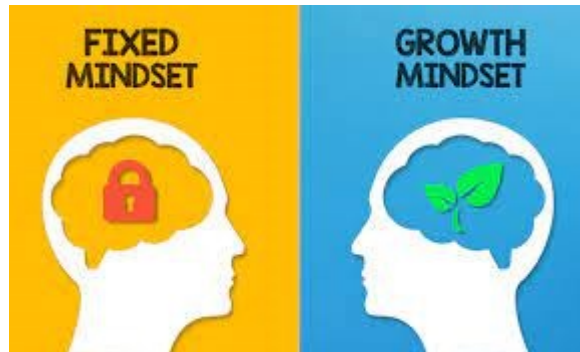
#### Harvest Thanks

Many thanks to all who donated produce for our Harvest Festival. This was collected by representatives from the Women's Refuge in Aylesbury, who were very grateful.

Thanks too if you formed part of the audience—we hope you enjoyed the performances.



## 4. CURRICULUM



### How can you support Growth Mindset at home?

One of the best ways you can model a growth mindset is to speak about mistakes you've made, and what you've learned from them. Speak positively about your mistakes and struggles, and this will show your children that taking risks and making mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. Explain to your children that trying hard things is what helps us grow, and you can't be perfect when you try something hard!

The way we praise our children can have a profound impact on their mindset. Research on praise and mindsets shows that when we praise children for being 'good' or 'clever', it promotes a fixed mindset. It sends a message that their accomplishments are trait-based, and tied to something innate. In contrast, praising children for the effort involved promotes a growth mindset. It sends a message that the child's effort is what led them to success.

You can encourage this at home, rather than praise the outcome, make the praise specific, for example.....

Instead of saying....	Try saying.....
I love your picture	Wow, I can see you've worked hard to keep the colouring inside the lines
Great reading	Well done for using your phonics to help you sound out that difficult word
Good girl/Good boy (This is a very vague statement for children as they often don't know why they are 'good')	I'm really pleased with the effort you put into....  I'm really happy that you did..... it shows me how hard you've tried
That's not right	You've worked hard to spell that word, keep trying as you are nearly there!
I'll do it for you	Let's try together because if we keep trying we'll get better
Great work, you're really clever	Great work, you put a lot of effort into doing that so well
Well done for getting all your spellings right	Well done for working hard to learn all those spellings. I can see how much effort you made and it paid off

## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

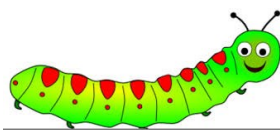
On Wednesday 27th September we held the FS Harvest Festival and on Friday 29th our KS1 children performed. Each class had been practising their own performance in the classroom so it was lovely when they had the opportunity to watch others in their year group perform. If you were able to attend we hope you enjoyed the show!

Many thanks for all the contributions of food and produce. They were collected by representatives from the Women's Refuge in Aylesbury who are always very grateful for our donations.

We thought you might like to read about what the children enjoyed about their Harvest performances



Ladybirds Class enjoyed performing to an audience. Emilia liked performing 'Leaves are Falling', Her mummy and daddy came to watch . Ethan liked 'Big Red Combine Harvester'. He liked seeing his mummy and daddy.



Dougie liked singing the songs and he enjoyed people coming to watch. He thought 'The Owl' song was the best. Delilah enjoyed doing the actions. 'Big Red Combine Harvester' was her favourite.



Mila liked singing 'Big Red Combine Harvester' . My mummy and daddy came and they clapped . Oliver's favourite song was 'The Owl' because he liked singing 'Tw



.Hedgehogs Class performed a song to the audience. Joshua thought it was a bit scary but he enjoyed it. He liked clapping other people and he liked the songs. Imogen liked it because they sang a song and she likes singing. She liked the actions and the words and she really liked the juicy fruit song.



Mia thought the Harvest performance was amazing and she loved her mummy and daddy watching her. She loved singing loud! Joshua C thought Harvest was good because he felt like a real life singer on the satge. He loved having a big smile on his face.



In Badgers Class , Poppy loved singing and performing 'Five Little Pumpkins'

Hamish enjoyed the song 'Autumn Leaves' and he felt very proud!



Red Kites Class performed Harvest Samba.. Mia enjoyed learning and singing the song . She thought the singing in the hall was very good! Joshua liked watching the other classes singing their songs and saying their poems. It was great fun!



Hérons Class sang the Bean Harvest song.. Hamza felt nervous before they started but then really enjoyed himself. Elsie had butterflies in her tummy before the performance but when they finished and everyone clapped, she felt proud.



In Firecrests Class, Nate enjoyed singing the song 'Fruits' and watching the other classes. Arya really enjoyed their Harvest song, she thought it was the best!





## 7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT



### Long Term Strategic Aims

- To consistently provide high quality education within an enabling environment (re-gain an Ofsted 'Outstanding' grading)
- To ensure a safe and secure environment for all
- To develop and maintain effective relationships with all stakeholders
- To recover financially from a deficit position
- To collaborate more effectively through the development of a soft federation with other liaison group schools
- To expand the school to four forms of entry
- To facilitate an effective succession strategy for key roles within the school

The leadership team at the school, which includes the Full Governing Board, has agreed the long term strategic aims for the school. They are as follows:

Each year we review and use these strategic aims to underpin an annual School Development Plan where we identify key targets and success criteria within four 'Goals'. The goals link to the Ofsted Inspection Framework:

**Goal A: Quality of Education—including targets linked to curriculum intent, implementation and impact**

**Goal B: Behaviour and Attitudes—including behaviour; attitudes to learning; attendance and punctuality**

**Goal C: Personal Development—including pupil voice; equalities and diversity; personal, social and health education; extra-curricular activities; support for learning**

**Goal D: Leadership & Management—including collaboration arrangements; deficit recovery; professional development for staff; safeguarding; managing workload**

The annual School Development Plan 2023-2024 will be available on the school website and each fortnight you will receive an update on our progress towards meeting the targets in the plan in this newsletter.

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS



### **We are recruiting Exam invigilators**

We are currently looking for Exam Invigilators to join our team at John Colet School. This is a casual contract with a rate of pay of £11.89 per hour (incl. holiday pay).

#### **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 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 email [\*\*office@johncolet.co.uk\*\*](mailto:office@johncolet.co.uk)



