



The John Hampden School Wendover



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

NEWSLETTER

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS:

Close for half term: 3.15pm on 25th October

FJH Halloween Trail: 3.30pm on 25th October

Open after half term: Monday 4th November

SAFETY WEEK: Monday 4th November—8th November

HEALTH WEEK: 11th November — 15th November

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

PARENTS' EVENING

I hope you found the meetings with teachers useful this week. We deliberately organise them to be early in the term because, from our perspective, we find it extremely valuable to be able to share our observations about how your children have settled into their new classes.

We have nearly reached the end of the first half term and I think everyone will soon be well and truly ready for a week off, when we can recharge our batteries and prepare for the very busy and exciting next half of the Autumn term. During the last seven weeks there has been staff and pupil absence due to sickness, high temperatures and coughs and colds so we continue to put in place protective measures to keep our school community as safe as possible. These include:



- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
- Regularly promoting good hygiene including hand washing and covering the nose and mouth when coughing/sneezing.
- Regular hand sanitising
- Requesting that those suffering from sickness/diarrhoea do not attend school for 48 hours following the last bout of illness
- Requesting children are collected as quickly as possible if they are unwell whilst at school

On Monday 7th October we held two of our 'Open Morning' sessions for prospective parents. In total about 25 families visited the school and were given a short presentation which included contributions from pupils followed by a guided tour of the school. Feedback from the event was very positive and it was lovely to be able to show off our school in such a positive way.

Another two sessions are planned for Monday 18th November. If you, or anyone you know, is looking for Nursery or Reception school places for September 2025 do phone the school office and book one of the remaining times to view the school.

In addition, we are also offering a chance for prospective reception pupils for September 2025 to come and play in our Octagon on Saturday 30th November. Look out for posters about this event at local pre-schools and around Wendover.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a good half term break and we look forward to seeing you back in school for another action packed half term when we return to school on Monday 4th November.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

We are very fortunate to have Kirsten Snook on our Governing Board. Kirsten is an English Advisor in Hertfordshire and she generously shares her valuable advice and guidance with us. Here are her ten top tips for helping your child to read fluently every day:

Reading fluency is a key skill for young children, and parents/carers play a vital role in helping their children build this essential foundation. Fluency not only means reading accurately but also with the right speed and expression, which helps children better understand and enjoy what they read. For infant children, reading every day in a supportive environment can make a significant difference in their ability to read fluently and confidently.

Here are ten practical suggestions to help your child develop their reading fluency through everyday activities:

- 1. Read together daily:** Set aside at least 10-15 minutes each day to read with your child. It could be during bedtime, after school, or any quiet time at home. Choose books they enjoy and make it a fun, consistent part of their routine.
- 2. Use real-world reading opportunities:** Reading is everywhere! Encourage your child to read street signs, grocery lists, menus, and recipes. These real-world reading experiences help them understand that reading has practical, everyday value.
- 3. Reread favourite books:** Children love repetition, and rereading familiar stories helps them become more fluent as they gain confidence with the words and sentences. Over time, they'll begin to read faster and more smoothly.
- 4. Model fluent reading:** When you read aloud to your child, use expressive voices and vary your pace to show what fluent reading sounds like. This not only makes reading more engaging but also gives them an example to follow.
- 5. Turn reading into a game:** Make reading fun by turning it into a game! Use flashcards to build automaticity, create a treasure hunt with written clues, or play "I Spy" using words from a book. Games help keep your child interested and eager to practice.
- 6. Encourage expression:** Help your child understand that reading isn't just about saying words correctly but also about understanding the meaning behind them. Encourage them to read with expression, especially when reading dialogue or exciting parts of a story.
- 7. Ask open-ended questions:** After reading a page or a short story, ask your child questions about what they've read. This promotes comprehension, which is a key part of fluency. Ask questions like "Why do you think the character did that?" or "What do you think will happen next?"
- 8. Make use of non-fiction:** Explore non-fiction books on topics that interest your child, such as animals, space, or weather. Non-fiction provides a new way to build vocabulary and introduces children to different text structures, helping them become more versatile readers.
- 9. Create a special reading space:** Designate a quiet and cosy area in your home for reading. Whether it's a corner of the living room with pillows and a blanket or a small reading nook in their bedroom, having a dedicated space makes reading feel like a special, relaxing activity.
- 10. Celebrate small successes:** Every time your child completes a book, reads a difficult word, or shows improvement, make sure to celebrate it! This positive reinforcement can be a simple high-five, a sticker chart, or praise like "You're becoming such a great reader!"

By incorporating these activities into your daily routine, you are setting the stage for your child to develop a lifelong love of reading. The more they practice reading in different contexts, the more confident and fluent they will become. Remember, reading with your child is not just about teaching them the mechanics of words—it's about sharing special moments, exploring new worlds, and fostering a sense of curiosity and wonder that will stay with them as they grow. Happy reading!

Kirsten Snook



Parent Governor

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 us 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

Applying for Primary School Places (new EYFS cohort and Year 2 moving to Junior School)

If your child is due to start infant or junior school in September 2025 now is the time to start thinking about your application. If you live in Buckinghamshire visit the council's [website](#) between 05 November 2024 and 15 January 2025 to apply for a place for your child online.

Voluntary Contributions

Many thanks to all parents who have chosen to pay the voluntary contribution this term. We will send out reminders, just in case anyone who intended to pay had forgotten to do so.

Clothing, Coats and Lost Property

As the colder weather approaches please make sure your children bring a named, warm coat to school everyday. Please could you also check that your child's clothing has the correct name in it. For example, sometimes children wear clothing that has belonged to an older sibling and if the sibling's name is still in the clothing there can be confusion if there is another child in the class with that name.

Staff Car Park

Parents must not use the staff car park at any time. Please park on the campus and walk onto the grounds to collect from OOSC.

Lunch Choices

Please note that you need to **order by midnight on a Tuesday for your child to receive the hot meal two weeks later**. This means that **if you did not order meals by the deadline of 15th October you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch for the first week following the half-term break**. You need to order by midnight on 22nd October for your child's meals to start on 4-11-24. We are very pleased with the improved quality of the hot meals we provide following the installation of our new kitchen and the start of cooking on site. However, please do discuss the meal options with your child before ordering so they understand and agree the choices that you make for them.

SCHOOL TRAVEL SUCCESS!



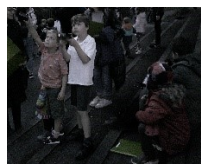
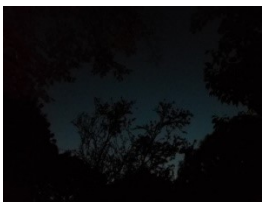
We were delighted to recently be awarded a 'Good Travel Plan' as part of the Modeshift STARS Accreditation. A School Travel Plan (STP) is a document that identifies local issues relating to the school journey, sets out a strategy of agreed aims and identifies a package of measures designed to promote more sustainable travel choices for pupils, parents, staff and visitors to our school. Unauthorised vehicles on the campus and poor parking are hazards for the whole school community and in coming weeks we will be introducing further incentives for our pupils to walk to school.

4. CURRICULUM

Earlier this month, some of the children from Year Two and their families attended one of two workshops about bats. These special events took place in the school grounds and were led by Dr Hooper who is a bat specialist with amazing knowledge about bats.

Last year, Dr Hooper conducted a bat survey and discovered that there are a variety of different types of bats in residence in the school's outdoor spaces. This is largely due to the fact that we are positioned close to the canal and because this space usually remains undisturbed during the evenings. It is likely that the same bat families frequent this area each year which is wonderful news as it means that our grounds and the plants that grow here are a suitable habitat for them to thrive.

The children and their families enjoyed listening to a fascinating talk about the different types of bats from around the world with photos and props to support. They were told the names of the particular varieties that make their home at John Hampden School! Namely, the noctule, the pipistrelle and the soprano pipistrelle. The children then learned how to use the bat detectors that Dr Hooper kindly provided and once set to the correct frequency, used them to go in search of bats. They were thrilled to locate some bats for themselves and once the sun had set, some were lucky to see some flying about!



The evenings were thoroughly enjoyed by all but also provided useful information from the results of the surveys that the children completed. This will help build a picture of the bat life that we have here.

Some families have since reported that they have purchased bat detectors of their own and that the experience has led their children to become even more interested in nature, which is fantastic to hear!

Sincere thanks to Dr Hooper for delivering such a wonderfully informative talk, providing all who attended with such a magical evening! Many thanks to the staff who helped Mrs Spencer to facilitate the evenings.

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Here are the comments from some of the children who attended the bat evenings.



Penny found out that different types of bat make different sounds. Some bats make the sound like tapping on a zip and some make a fast clapping sound.

Harry learned that bats prefer to fly around in big open spaces and has been on the lookout for bats since.



Eden really enjoyed listening to the bat sounds that she could hear through the bat detector and said that it was amazing to see them flying around.

Fred was pleased to see some bats flying over the trees and said that he had learned that different types of bat come out at different times of the night.



Morrie found it interesting to learn that there is a leader bat who comes out first and then goes back to let the other bats know if it's warm enough to go out.

Merida learned that bats come out after sunset. She said that it was a great night.



HALLOWEEN TRAIL & CAKE SALE

Suggested
donation £2

HALLOWEEN STARTS HERE!



Join us on 25th October for some gentle spookiness and family fun.
Grab a trail sheet and come and see ghosts, witches, bats and spiders!
Find the creepy letters to spell a Halloween word and claim your prize.



JEEPERS CREEPERS! WHERE DO WE NEED TO GO?

Children leave classes as usual and then queue up outside the Foundation Stage outdoor play area, at the Crickets gate. Entrance is a suggested donation of £2 per child. This can be paid at the gate or at the same time as purchasing cakes and Halloween treats. Once you have paid, and the trail is open, grab a sheet and pencil and walk on through... if you dare! CASH/ CARD/ QR PAYMENTS ALL ACCEPTED

HALLOWEEN BAKES WANTED!



Fire up your cauldrons, there are prizes for the best creations! Please bring your bakes to the school reception on Friday morning, 25th October. If your child would like their creation judged, please label with name and class.

Alternatively, bring them straight to the shelter outside Foundation Stage at pickup (these won't be judged but will still be gratefully received!)

NO NUTS PLEASE & PLEASE LABEL CONTAINERS



BALLOON ARCH FOR SALE

There will be a fabulous balloon arch on the trail which is available for a donation. Contact abbie.hollick22@gmail.com to make an offer.

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We are embarking on our new school improvement plan and displays around the school help to highlight the areas we have chosen to focus on. We are setting ourselves goals which link with the four key aspects of the Ofsted inspection framework – these have been selected as a result of the feedback we have gained from our stakeholders as well as analysis of data.

Over the next year we hope to have achieved the following:

GOAL TITLE	TARGETS 2024-2025
QUALITY OF EDUCATION	<p>By July 2025, to provide effective support and relevant resources to assist subject leaders in developing their confidence and preparedness to undertake a deep dive</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to ensure curriculum leads have sufficient non-contact time to monitor and evaluate the implementation of their curriculum summary documents, in order to confirm that long-term, medium-term and short-term plans are effectively implemented across the school.</p>
	<p>By July 2025, subject leads have evidence that they have reviewed the plans for teaching, learning and assessment across the curriculum at the beginning and end of each half-term to ensure they are coherent, sequenced, ambitious and meet the needs of all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to consolidate the use of general, and topic specific, vocabulary across the school through opportunities for listening, speaking, reading, and writing.</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to ensure continuity and progression across the school when teaching writing.</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to ensure continuity and progression across the school in the use of a range of identified strategies to improve teaching of spelling for all learners.</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to ensure continuity and progression across the school for teaching and assessing fine motor development and handwriting.</p>
	<p>By July 2025, interventions or curriculum adaptations are in place for individuals who require support to either 'catch up' or 'keep up' in reading, phonics, writing and maths</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to ensure the outside learning environment is used effectively and consistently across all year groups to maximise learning opportunities</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to ensure all staff involved in the management of pupil behaviour have received an update to their 'Step On' training</p>
Goal B BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES	<p>By July 2025, to ensure staff training allows all staff to recognise that pupil behaviour is a form of communication and our management of this should be consistent to ensure 'certainty' and 'predictability' for our staff, pupils and their families</p>
	<p>By July 2025, there is a shared understanding of the appropriate protective and educational consequences to apply in a range of circumstances where pupil behaviour does not meet the JHSW Behaviour Expectations</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to ensure a completely consistent approach across the school in terms of the application of appropriate protective and educational consequences following a behaviour incident.</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to ensure behaviour monitoring analysis leads to targeted teaching and learning, in order to effect positive behaviour changes for groups and individuals.</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to increase the repertoire of tools used to facilitate positive behaviours</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to improve pupil behaviour in communal areas of the school</p>
	<p>By July 2025, through the collective use of Values Learning Summaries, specific and incidental teaching the whole school develops a sound understanding of what constitutes politeness, respect and good manners</p>
	<p>By July 2025, to support the development of self-regulation in <u>3-4 year olds</u> through the use of Emotion Coaching by adults in our setting in their everyday interactions with these children.</p>

<p>Goal C PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>By July 2025, to develop a framework for teaching 'thinking skills' which builds on our successful P4C approach and links with our Relationships and Equalities teaching.</p> <p>By July 2025, to provide all children with the knowledge, experiences, language and social skills they need to have the best chances possible by identifying and filling the gaps that some children have in their cultural capital.</p> <p>By July 2025, to continue to implement the DFE Sustainability and Climate Change initiative in order to positively impact, influence and inspire our school community.</p> <p>By July 2025, there is strong evidence for each of the six benchmarks of the DfE 'Character Education' publication in order to effectively evaluate our work and plan for future developments.</p> <p>By July 2025 to make further progress towards gaining accreditation for the Healthy Schools initiative</p> <p>By July 2025 the school is on track to eliminate the budget deficit, in line with the financial recovery plan submitted to Buckinghamshire Council, and the school is on track to submit a balanced budget in May 2026</p> <p>By July 2025, all necessary statutory training has been updated or completed by new or existing members of staff.</p> <p>By July 2025 to further develop training opportunities for all staff in order to improve/sustain the quality of teaching and learning and ensure the smooth and effective running of the school</p> <p>By July 2025, the senior leadership team, including the Governing Board have regularly explored options in relation to joining a Multi-Academy Trust and better understand the benefits and constraints of such arrangements</p> <p>By July 2025, scores within each category of the annual staff well-being survey remain at least consistent, and lowest scoring areas from 2024 are the focus of targeted actions for the various teams within the school.</p> <p>By July 2025, opportunities for staff team building/well-being activities are included on a termly basis.</p> <p>By July 2025, SLT have planned and implemented a termly monitoring and evaluation schedule with staff well-being and workload in mind.</p> <p>By July 2025, to disseminate our excellent practice as an Early Years' Children Champion in Communication and Language</p> <p><u>Safeguarding/Child Protection</u></p> <p>By July 2025 all staff have updated safeguarding training to meet their statutory obligations and to reflect changes to KCSiE introduced in September 2024.</p> <p>By July 2025 all governors are appropriately trained and have a clear understanding of the policies and procedures at JHSW that ensure safeguarding is robust and effective</p> <p>By July 2025 the school website has been regularly updated to ensure it remains compliant and also accurately reflects any changes to the curriculum.</p> <p>By July 2025 a new ICT strategy has been developed to ensure sustainable value through optimal deployment and procurement of IT assets and capabilities, including telephony.</p>
<p>Goal D LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT</p>	

7. MISCELLANEOUS



THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER

Was your child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021?

If so, you should now be applying for a Reception school place for September 2025

In February 2024, Ofsted visited The John Hampden School Wendover and reported:

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.

We are inviting prospective new **pupils and parents** to come and visit our Reception classrooms and Octagon for a 'Stay & Play' session on

Saturday 30th November

anytime between 9.30am and 11.00am

Come and see our wonderful learning environment and experience our provision.

Ring the school office: 01296 622629

or email office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk to book a place.

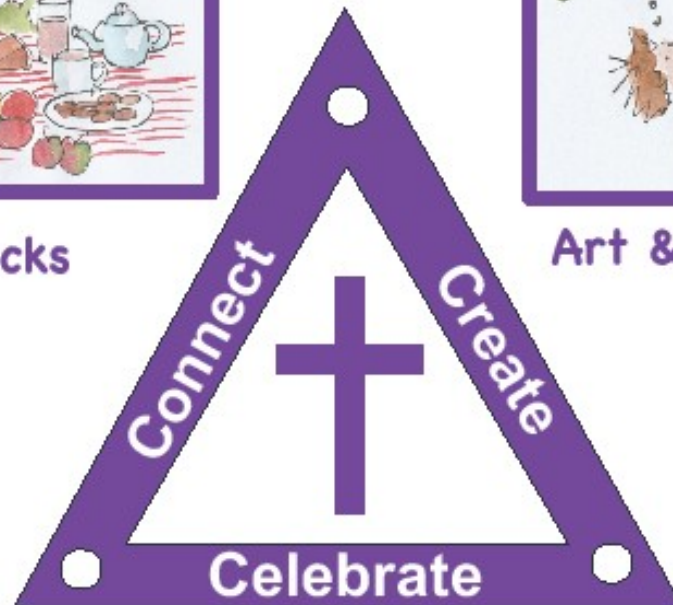
Connect, Create and Celebrate



Snacks



Art & Craft



Bible Stories



Worship

St Mary's Church, Wendover

Every 3rd Sunday at 3pm



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



Christopher Pallet

Professional advice since 1973

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



Follow us on Instagram
[christopher_pallet_homes](https://www.instagram.com/christopher_pallet_homes)



Follow us on Facebook
Christopher Pallet Wendover

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



OCTOBER HALF TERM SWIMMING COURSE

The Wendover Pool, HP22 6HF



DATES AND TIMES

MONDAY 28 TH OCT	09:30 TO 11:00 AM
TUESDAY 29 TH OCT	09:30 TO 11:00 AM
WEDNESDAY 30 TH OCT	09:30 TO 11:00 AM
THURSDAY 31 ST OCT	09:30 TO 11:00 AM



30 minute lessons

£52 for 4 day course

Limited to 6 children per class

Beginner through to advanced lessons

MORE INFO!

aquadragons-swimschool.co.uk

 07971 496230

 hello@aquadragons-swimschool.co.uk