



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
School improvement	6
Friends of John Hampden	7
Vacancies	8
Miscellaneous	9

UPCOMING EVENTS:

19th Jan—FJH New Year Disco

Parents' Evenings—further info on page 3
30th, 31st Jan, and 1st Feb for all classes apart from Honeybees (29th, 30th, 31st Jan) and Crickets (30th Jan and 1st Feb)

5th February—Assessment week and Discovery week

15th January

Deadline for applying for a Reception or Year 3 place for September 2024

8th February—School closes for half term at 3.15 pm

9th February—INSET Day - no pupils in school

19th February— School re-opens Arts Week

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

In this first newsletter of 2024, I would like to start by wishing you a belated Happy New Year. Having walked around myself and observed all the children in the school in the first days of the new term, it is clear that they are eager and ready for the challenges that the new year will bring. The Curriculum Section of this newsletter gives further details of some of the activities that will be covered this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Ben Gattlin, for personal reasons, has chosen to step down from his role as Chair of Governors at the school. We would all like to thank Ben for everything he has done for the school whilst a Governor here—he will be missed. I am grateful to James Edley who has agreed to take on the role, once again, for the remainder of this academic year.

May I remind parents that if you wish to take your child out of school during term time you must request a leave of absence form from the school office or download one from the school website. Wherever possible you must give at least one month's notice of the proposed absence. We follow a locally agreed policy regarding leave of absence and it is important that parents think carefully before taking their children out of school. I am sure you will appreciate that it is difficult for me to authorise absence if your child's attendance percentage is below the expected level of 95%.



Voluntary Contributions—the time has come to request another voluntary termly contribution for each pupil. In a similar approach to last term each year group will be sending home an itemised list of activities with a cost against each one. Parents are asked to pay for the activities using the Parentpay website. No child will be disadvantaged if their parents/carers choose not to pay but it may be necessary to cancel

activities if not enough contributions are received. We will be sending regular reminders about these voluntary payments to ensure everyone who wishes to pay is reminded to do so.

Thank you

Nurture Support

For several years we have employed a member of staff to provide nurture support for children from Service families and others in need in the school. Unfortunately, Mrs Haden relocated so we had to advertise for the role. In November 2023, we were fortunate to appoint Mrs Clare Dowell to the role and she has made an excellent start with us. Mrs Dowell is an experienced, qualified teacher who is also completing other relevant training for the role. Please note, if you ever feel your child would benefit from a little extra nurture support for one reason or another please speak to the class teacher and we will organise for them to be seen in the near future.



SMART DEVICES



This is a reminder that children should not bring any SMART devices into school—this includes SMART watches. I hope you appreciate that these can be very distracting for the child and those around them—they are also expensive items that we would not wish to be lost or damaged at school. Thank you

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Well, here we are then! 2024! We sincerely hope you all had a happy and peaceful time with your families and made many lovely memories.

As Martin mentioned in the last newsletter, around recent weeks there have been so many opportunities to use learnt skills without even realising it – recognising numbered windows on Advent calendars, reading Diwali cards, listening carefully and developing memory whilst rehearsing performance lines...the holiday season is rich with ways of ‘lulling children into learning’. We loved the ‘NORAD’ Santa-tracking app Martin – thank you!

I had the great privilege shortly before the end of autumn term to go and visit some phonics lessons and was able to see the amazing teaching and learning going on. The staff and leaders have worked extraordinarily hard to move over to a new phonics scheme (Supersonic Phonic Friends – more info on the school website under ‘school life’ > ‘curriculum’) in recent years and it’s wonderful to see the enjoyment and new understanding on the children’s faces as they become better and better readers and spellers. Do ask them about some of the forest characters used in the scheme!

Let’s try and continue some of that creative Christmassy ‘lulling into learning’ mentality into the new year. Life is so busy, with everyone doing the very best they can for their children. When life is already packed full it’s so hard to squeeze in time for reading at home (I know!), and yet all the research points to that one academic area being the most important one for children’s life chances. You will already have lots of ideas for how to support your children with developing reading, but here are some that may spark some fresh enthusiasm or re-kindle old ideas.

These have been shown to help develop fluent reading, that is to say the automatic, smooth, efficient, non-robotic, non-laboured reading, which helps children develop understanding and enjoyment of books:

- Repeated readings of books, posters, labels, signs etc
- Take turns reading page/sentence etc so they hear your fluent model
- ‘My turn, Your turn’ – get them to repeat a sentence the exact way you read it, and if it’s not the same, re-model and ask again. Get them to reflect: “Did you sound good to listen to?” “Did it sound like talking?”
- Reading play scripts, or performing dialogue in a book like it’s a play script or on TV
- Poetry reading, practising where to put the expression – how dramatic can you get?
- After working on sounding out a word: “Now put that all together so it sounds good to listen to.”
- Encouraging sounding out a word into chunks before going down to individual sounds, e.g. use of syllables, prefix / suffix
- Finger-frame a line of text (one index finger pointing inwards at each of beginning and end), saying “Read to here, like talking” or “Make it sound good to listen to”.
- Have them block up one ear while they read so they can hear themselves amplified (also handy for those struggling to sound out when spelling)
- Try recording them and playing back for fun – can they make it even more interesting to listen to next time?

Have some fun with these activities – it’s amazing how motivated young children can be if we make learning exciting and fun, isn’t it?

All the best for 2024, and I look forward to seeing you all at the next school function. Have a great start back to the new school term.



Kirsten Snook
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, James Edley Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Adverse Weather Conditions

Another reminder that if we need to close the school this winter due to adverse weather conditions the following procedures will be used to inform parents.

1. A decision will be made about the school closure by 7.30am. This decision will be based on health and safety grounds, which may include not having enough staff at school to supervise our pupils.
2. By 7.45a.m the school website home page will be updated with closure details. Greatest Hits radio will have been contacted and should announce our school closure at regular intervals throughout the morning. The Council's website will also list our school closure: www.buckscc.gov.uk
3. If the notices listed above have not been implemented then you are to assume the school will remain open.
4. With these three methods of communication in place, there should be no need for you to telephone the school asking whether we will be open or closed.
5. Should the school open but need to close earlier than 3.15p.m, we will contact you via text or telephone.

Please be assured that school closure will always be a last resort.

It is entirely the responsibility of the parent/carer to decide whether it is safe to travel to and from school in inclement weather and we respect the choices you make. As usual please inform the school by telephone or in writing if your child will be absent from school.

Coats, Hats, Gloves and Boots

At this time of year, please would you ensure your child comes to school wearing appropriate clothes and footwear. We will be going outside as long as the playground remains ice free. All hats, coats, gloves and boots must be named and it would be really helpful if you could show your child where their name is written on each item of clothing, so they know where to look!

Medicines

Please note:

Medicines should only be brought into school for administration when essential; that is where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day. Should a prescribed medicine be required to be taken three times a day or less, the school will not administer the medicine during the school day as we have been advised that medicines that need to be taken three times a day can be taken in the morning, after school hours and at bedtime.

Home School Diaries

Please remember to tell your child to inform us if you have written a specific message in their Home School Diary. Staff do not routinely check diaries every day and we would not wish to miss anything of importance. We do ask you to support regular reading at home and we request that you sign the diary when you have heard your child read—signatures are not apparent in every diary at the moment!

Scooting/Cycling to School

We do encourage children to walk, scoot or cycle to school but we would ask that parents are vigilant when supervising their children on scooters and bikes— Thank you for your support in ensuring scooters/bikes are used safely.

Keyrings on book bags

Please could parents ensure that their children only have one small keyring on their book bags please as children still need to be able to put their bags in their classroom drawers. Thank you.

Parents' Evenings

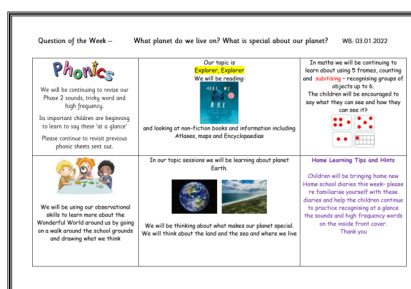
The Spring Term Parents Evenings will be held between Tuesday 30th January and Thursday 1st February for all classes except for Crickets which will be on Tuesday 30th January and Thursday 1st February and Honeybees class which will be held from Monday 29th January to Wednesday 31st January. You will need your 'eschools' account login and password to access the platform which will enable you to book a slot to speak to your child/children's class teacher (the same login details you used in the Autumn Term.) 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 9.30 am on Tuesday 16th January and will close at 5.00 pm on Monday 22nd January. It will confirm your appointment/s date and time—we will not be issuing paper appointments letters or confirmation of appointment slots.

If following your appointment, you would like to speak to either Mrs Barnes or Mrs Parkinson about any matters please come to the main entrance where we can arrange a mutually convenient time and place to speak further. Thank you.

4. CURRICULUM



As the new year and the new term begins each year group has embarked on a new topic. Each week you can find out what your child is learning by visiting the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk. Clicking on the 'Classes' tab will allow you to select your child's class where a weekly 'What we are learning' sheet is available. We hope this will help to give you an outline of what the children will be learning and ideas of how you can support this learning at home, if you would like to.



This term:-

Early Years have a topic linked to 'Winter'

Foundation Stage have a topic called 'Explorer, Explorer'

Year One have a topic title of 'Time Travellers'

And Year Two have a topic title of 'London's Burning'

Each term we try to enrich the taught curriculum with other special days and weeks which allow us to introduce further interesting and thought-provoking activities. During the Spring Term there will be a 'Discovery Week' which will include Maths and Science tasks. There will also be an 'Arts Week' with a focus on art and music. These weeks will take place either side of the half term break.



5. PUPIL'S SECTION

The Monday assembly theme this half term is 'Going for Goals' and we thought you might be interested to read some of the resolutions our pupils have set for themselves this year:

In Caterpillars class, Nate wants to try harder with his phonics and writing and Elsie wants to be more independent and do things for herself.

In Honeybees class, Bennie wants to eat healthy food—he had porridge today and that is healthy, Isabelle wants to drink more water, Emily wants to stop squabbling with her brother and Spencer wants to do more reading.

In Ladybirds class, Isabelle wants to practise getting dressed by herself and doing up buttons. Edith wants to get better at playing basketball.

In Badgers class, James wants to keep his bedroom tidy and Eden wants to help her Mummy and Daddy.

In Hedgehogs class, Sienna wants to get better at reading and try some different books and Leo wants to challenge himself to do some more art using other materials to make his art better.

In Squirrels class, Heidi wants to help her Mummy at home because she wants her to say she is a super-star. Ava wants to keep her bed tidy so she doesn't get squished and squashed with all her toys.

In Firecrests class, Poppy got a keyboard for Christmas and she really wants to learn how to play it just like Elton John! Ronnie wants to get better at swimming lessons so he can swim further.

In Herons class, Shay wants to go running with his Dad to keep fit and Evelyn wants to learn how to play the guitar because she got one for Christmas.

In Red Kites class, Olivia wants to improve her maths by practising and Rosie wants to get even better at doing diagonal joins in her handwriting.

6. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. Since the last newsletter we have made progress linked to the actions outlined below:

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Tracking pupil progress is an important aspect of our work and, at the end of the Autumn Term, assessment activities were completed which allowed KS1 staff to give a summative assessment level for each pupil in reading, writing and mathematics. In Early Years Foundation Stage interim assessments were made against all seventeen areas of learning. This information is used to track progress from one term to the next. It is then possible for us to identify those children who are making below, expected or above expected progress. For any child that has not made expected progress, teachers are required to identify actions they will take to address any concerns. This careful tracking of pupil progress helps us to maintain the high standards of achievement we have come to expect at John Hampden.



GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

Behaviour monitoring for pupils continues and we are working hard to spot the triggers for particular behaviours and to plan strategies and interventions that meet the needs of all.

At the first staff meeting of the term we reviewed the curriculum again to ensure the activities offered are as engaging and meaningful as possible so children are keen, interested and motivated by all that is planned for them.



Attendance and Punctuality monitoring has also been completed for the Autumn Term and parents will be contacted individually if there are significant concerns

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Spring Term will see the start of some more extra-curricular clubs including Computing and 'Rock Steady'. Other clubs e.g. gymnastics, tennis, French etc. have resumed this week.

The 'Wall of Fame' continues to feature prominently in the corridor so that talents and interests developed outside school and valued and celebrated.

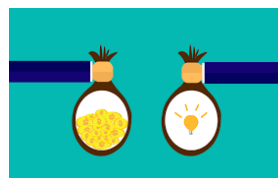
In the final week of the Autumn Term each class completed a Class Council Circle Time where topics such as outside learning and pupil self-assessment were covered.



GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

We continue to work very hard to try and reduce our deficit position. During the Autumn Term continued austerity measures, successful fundraising and our thriving OOSC provision helped our situation and also allowed us to continue to maintain high standards. With healthy pupil numbers we hope for an even more prosperous new year!

We were delighted to be able to purchase new tablets to replace the 'Learnpads' we had been using. 19 new tablets have been purchased and have already been used by classes within the school in 2024.



7. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



The FJH invite the children of John Hampden to a disco to be held at the school on Friday 19th January from 6.30-8pm



- £6 per ticket (includes a bag of sweets)
- Entertainment from DJ Dan Blaze - expect UV and flashing lights!
- Tickets available on ParentPay NOW
- UV facepainting
- Water/squash station in the dining room
- Chill-out areas - to give the children the opportunity to escape from the excitement!
- Pocket money stall
- Enter via the main entrance
- Please note all children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the disco (tea, coffee and cakes will be available!)

The FJH team hopes to see you there.

8. VACANCIES

The John Hampden School Wendover

Midday Meals Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy from January 2024 for a Midday Supervisor. Working hours would be 12 noon – 1.30pm Monday to Friday (7.5 hrs per week) term time only. The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children, however this is not essential as full training will be given.

Start date: as soon as possible in January 2024

Closing date: Friday 19th January 2024

The salary will be Bucks Pay Range 1A.5 (£20,104 Pro rata, £10.42 per hour)

If you are interested in this post please call the school office on: 01296 622629
or email: office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

Safeguarding Statement

The successful candidate will have due regard for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as stipulated by the Child Protection Policy. Safer recruitment procedures are in place and any appointment will be subject to satisfactory references and statutory checks including an enhanced DBS check and an online search.

John Hampden Out of School Care vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Playworker at our Out of School Care. Working hours would be 3.00-6.15pm Monday to Thursday (13 hrs per week) term time only with the possibility of additional hours. The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children and a relevant Level 2 qualification, however this is not essential.

The salary will be Bucks Pay Range (1A.5) £20,104 Pro rata

If you are interested in this post or would like further information please call Sharon Cottle on: 07506195699 or email: oosc@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or contact the school office for an application form on 01296 622629 or email: office@jhampden.bucks.sch.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.

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Phone – 07812 063256

Email - Jeff.harris@hampdenfs.co.uk

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