



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

24th Jan—FJH New Year Disco	
Parents' Evenings—further info on page 3 4th, 5th & 6th Feb for all classes apart from Crickets (4th Feb and 6th Feb) and Honeybees (4th & 5th Feb)	14th February—School closes for half term at 3.15 pm 24th February—INSET Day - no pupils in school
10th February—Assessment week and Discovery week	25th February— School re-opens Arts Week

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

In the first newsletter of 2025, 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.

Following an email last week I hope you are all aware of my decision to leave the school at the end of this academic year. It was a really hard decision to make because I absolutely love JHSW, and it has been a part of my life for such a long time, but I am looking forward to the future. I know our fabulous team of governors have already, and will continue to, put a huge amount of effort into ensuring that my successor will be just the right person to lead this wonderful school in future years.

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 many years we have employed a member of staff to provide nurture support for children from Service families and others in need in the school. Mrs Dowell is an experienced, qualified teacher who has also completed 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, the tinsel is packed away for another year and January is here. It's lovely to have the children back at school with lots of news about their Christmas break.

Spring term is a great time at school with a full agenda of activities for the children (and adults...) to enjoy. Coming up are Discovery Week, Arts Week, World Book Day and of course Red Nose Day. As a Governor it is a lovely excuse to come into school and see all the wonderful things that the children have been up to.

With my Pupil Premium Governor hat on I was lucky enough to meet with Mrs Barnes in December to discuss the progress for our children. A school is measured on how well those children with the greatest needs are helped to obtain a confidence that supports them in their life-long learning journey. At John Hampden this is an area that the whole team is very strong in and the support percolates through the school improving the chances for all the children. This was evident during the school's OFSTED visit last year. But this environment doesn't come out of thin air, it comes from careful planning, attention to detail and focus on the needs of a child.

A new year also means new beginnings and we started this year with the sad news that Mrs Barnes will be retiring at the end of this academic year. But due to her commitment and leadership she leaves the school with a well-trained and dedicated team who have the same drive to allow our children to succeed to their potential. As we all know, change is difficult to deal with, but the measure of a successful leader is not just what they do while in office but the legacy that endures once they move on.

So, as we start the new term the Governorship team are here to support the staff, children and parents through this transition with the view of maintaining that commitment of instilling "Loving to Learn" in our children.

Wishing you all a hopeful start to the new year.



Ruth Falkus
Co-opted 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.buckscs.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!

P.E. Kits

Please make sure your child has their full P.E. kit in school following the Christmas break.

Long Hair

For health and safety reasons it is expected that children with long hair will have it tied back whilst they are at school. Thank you

Parents' Evenings

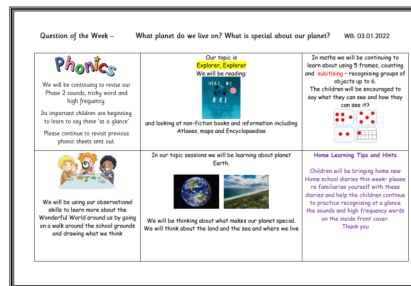
The Spring Term Parents Evenings will be held between Tuesday 4th February and Thursday 6th February for all classes except for Crickets which will be on Tuesday 4th February and Thursday 6th February and Honeybees which will be on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th February. You will need your 'eschools' 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 Monday 20th January and will close at 5.00 pm on Monday 27th 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 Mrs Barnes 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, Hallie's goal is to get better at writing so she can write books. Oscar wants to be good at cooking so he can help his Mummy cook in the kitchen.

In Honeybees class, the whole class have made a joint goal which is they all are going to keep persevering with their learning.

In Ladybirds class, Sofia wants to get better at riding her bike without stabilisers. Frank wants to get better at gymnastics and balancing.

In Badgers class, Mila wants to get braver at holding her hamster and Oliver wants to travel to new countries.

In Hedgehogs class, Frank wants to get stronger and be better at doing skills in gymnastics. He wants to get better at this so he can go on the monkey bars. Ethan wants to try harder to get better at football and dribbling because he wants to win more matches.

In Squirrels class, Harvey will share and make sure he says please and thank you. Orla will listen in phonics and do super sitting.

In Firecrests class, Joshua wants to get better at learning more facts about History and the past. Patrick wants to get better at his art and drawing and colouring.

In Herons class, Harry is going to play sport everyday to stay fit and healthy and Annabelle is going to learn to ride her 2 wheel scooter that she got for Christmas.

In Red Kites class, Fletcher wants to get better at riding his pedal bike and Oscar wants to not have as much screen time.

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.

Using assessment data we have reviewed the curriculum provision 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 Hockey. Other clubs e.g. gymnastics, tennis, Rock Steady etc. have resumed this week.

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

In the final week of the Autumn Term each class completed a Class Council Circle Time where they discussed the types of clubs and activities they engage in outside school.



GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Head Teacher recruitment is very much on the agenda at the moment. There is a very thorough and robust process in place for recruiting a new head teacher and the recruitment panel are hoping that we will have recruited by the end of this half term.

Two new parent governors were welcomed at the first Full Governing Board meeting of the Spring Term 2025. Rob Goodall and Samiya Mohamed have started in their roles and Mrs Shrimpton was elected by the staff team to become the staff governor on the board.



7. VACANCIES

The John Hampden School Wendover

Midday Meals Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy from February 2025 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: 3rd February 2025

Closing date: Monday 27th January

The salary will be Bucks Pay Range 1A.5 (£23,104 Pro rata, £11.98 per hour)

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

Please return completed applications as soon as possible. Suitable candidates may be interviewed before the closing date and John Hampden School Wendover reserves the right to withdraw the position if an early appointment is made.

Safeguarding Statement

The successful candidates 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.

7. VACANCIES

John Hampden Out of School Care vacancies

John Hampden Out of School Care vacancy—Playworker

We have a vacancy for a Playworker at our Out of School Care. Working hours would be 7.30-8.45am and 3.00-6.15pm Monday to Friday (22.5 hrs per week) term time only with the possibility of additional hours which will be discussed at interview. 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) £23,104 Pro rata (£11.98 per hour)

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

Closing date: 7th February 2025

John Hampden Out of School Care vacancy—Cook

We have a vacancy for an After School Club Cook. Working hours would be Monday to Thursday afternoon, for 3 ¼ hrs per day (13 hours per week) from 2.30 pm—5.45 pm, term time only. The applicant needs to have a level 2 food hygiene and experience of working in a food and hospitality setting. The role will involve preparing, cooking and serving snack to the After School Club children.

The salary will be Bucks Pay Range (1A.5) £23,104 Pro rata (£11.98 per hour)

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

Closing date: 31st January 2025

TEACH IN BUCKS RECRUITMENT FAIR

*Interested in becoming a teacher?
We want to meet you!*

Saturday 8 February 2025, 10am - 3pm

 [Buckinghamshire New University | Wycombe Campus](#)

Event Programme

Featuring presentations from a number of organisations including the Department for Education and several of the county's school and university based Initial Teacher Training providers:

- 10.00am** **Doors open - opportunity to review local providers**
- 10.30am** **Get into Teaching Introductory Presentation - Why, How and What**
- Presentation by a representative from the Department for Education
- 11.30am** **How to Apply - Applications, Qualifications, and Compliance**
- Presentations by Chepping View SCITT* and National Mathematics & Physics SCITT
- 12.30pm** **Training Programmes:**
- 1. Early Years and Primary Teacher Training**
 - Presentations by Buckinghamshire New University and Chepping View SCITT
 - 2. Secondary Teacher Training Programme**
 - Presentations by Astra SCITT and Insignis SCITT
 - 3. Teaching in Further Education**
 - Presentation by the Buckinghamshire College Group
- 1.30pm** **Break - opportunity to review local providers**
- 2.00pm** **Routes into Teaching:**
- 1. The Apprenticeship Route into Teaching**
 - Presentation by Astra SCITT and Insignis SCITT
 - 2. The Assessment Only Route into Qualified Teaching**
 - Presentation by The Buckingham Partnership SCITT
 - 3. University Routes into Teaching**
 - Presentation by Buckinghamshire New University
- 3.00pm** **Close**

Register for a
FREE ticket:
[Eventbrite](#)



If you have any queries about the event, please email teachinbucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Programme is subject to change
**SCITT: School Centred Initial Teacher Training*



**Buckinghamshire
Council**

A collaborative event between partner organisations



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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.

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For all your property requirements contact
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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

St Mary's Church, Wendover



Don't forget to join us on **Sunday, 19th January,**
at 3 pm for our **Connect, Create & Celebrate**
Service. This month, we will be exploring the
theme "**We're Going on a Star Hunt.**" It's a
wonderful time for all ages to gather, connect
with God and each other, create some amazing
crafts, and celebrate God's love.

