



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

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**Issue Fourteen Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2026**

I hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Easter break. It is wonderful to welcome the children back into school.

It is hard to believe that the Summer Term is already underway. Although Christmas now feels like a distant memory, the signs of spring are all around us. The previous term was a particularly busy and productive one, filled with many enjoyable and memorable learning experiences for the children.

Last term, we also hosted an Open Morning in our Nursery, welcoming prospective pupils and their parents to explore our setting. It was a pleasure to meet those who attended, and we look forward to building on this interest. We will continue to promote our Nursery provision as we work towards filling all twenty-six places for September 2026. A small number of places are still available, so if you know of any families seeking high-quality Early Years education within a well-resourced and nurturing environment, please encourage them to get in touch as soon as possible. Children eligible for a place will have been born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023.



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

The lighter evenings and the gradual improvement in the weather reminds us that summer is just around the corner and we will be continuing with our tradition of welcoming the season by celebrating May Day. On **Friday 1st May at 9.30am** we are holding our annual **May Day celebration**. As space in the hall is limited we only invite parents of children in Year 2 to watch each year, as this is their last year in the school. As usual we would ask that Year 2 parents try to make alternative arrangements for younger siblings as they often find it difficult to sit quietly through a performance lasting about one hour. If you do have to bring a younger child please would you ensure they sit on your lap and if they do start to make a distracting noise take them out of the hall until they become quieter.

On the day, as we are celebrating the fact that summer is approaching, we are inviting all children to come to school wearing clothes suitable for a summer celebration, which are appropriate to dance in. They will not need to bring their school uniform on this day.

Our Year 1 children are responsible for choosing a May King and a May Queen and their attendants and we will also have a child dressed as the Lucky Sweep. We will put lots of the photos we take on the school website so you can share the event even if you are not able to attend in person.

**Steph Parkinson – Headteacher**



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Curriculum Section – Maths

In the last newsletter I mentioned that Year 2 had a very special guest who gave an engaging and entertaining talk on the world of publishing. They were introduced to all the amazing novelty style books 'Make Believe Ideas' make. With the money raised from The Masked Reader, year 2 have had the responsibility of calculating how many books we can buy and share across the school. We discussed the value of money and how far this would stretch. We then looked at the books and decided which would be most suitable for each year group. Year 2 made some lovely suggestions. The books were ordered and have now arrived. Year 2 have had a fabulous time reviewing them and organising them to go into different year groups.





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Curriculum Section – Music

On the final day of term, we were delighted to host a special Spring Concert for the residents of Cherry Trees. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to share their creativity with members of the local community. The children embraced the occasion by dressing in bright, colourful spring-themed outfits, with some adding festive Easter accessories to enhance the celebratory atmosphere.

Each class performed their own spring-inspired song, showcasing their confidence, enthusiasm and singing skills. The concert concluded with an uplifting performance from the Musical Theatre group, who brought the show to a close with a lively rendition of *High Hopes*. Their performance was a fitting finale, leaving the audience feeling joyful and inspired.

We received the following message:

We had a great time, and the residents were beaming and so grateful to have such a lovely morning in the community. They were singing all the way back to Cherry Tree House and continued the chat over lunch. It's safe to say the children really touched all our hearts. Thank you so much for taking the time to put on something so special for us.

Thank you to Mrs Mannering for organising such a wonderful event.



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Governor Section

### Governor Day – Wednesday 25th March

On 25th March, we were delighted to welcome our Governors into school for a dedicated Governor Day. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for Governors to gain a deeper insight into school life, with a full programme of activities including a health and safety walk, classroom visits, and discussions around key areas such as PSHE, English, Maths, Early Years provision, adaptive teaching, and sustainability. Governors also enjoyed seeing learning in action, speaking with pupils, and attending a rehearsal for our intergenerational concert. We were extremely proud of the children, who represented the school so well through their enthusiasm, confidence, and engagement throughout. The day concluded with a chance to reflect on the impact of our work and our ongoing priorities. It was a truly wonderful day, and we are extremely grateful to our Governors for giving up their time to support and engage so positively with the school.





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Governor Section

### Governor Day – Wednesday 25th March

During my Governor Day visit in March, I had the pleasure of learning about the new English writing scheme that has been introduced in Year 2. Mrs Nelson explained how the scheme, HfL Essential English, is designed to develop our children's creative writing skills in Herons, Firecrests and Red Kites. Through this approach, pupils are learning how to plan, structure and edit their work, supported by a range of engaging resources and guidance. The children have already taken part in a variety of exciting writing projects.

Many of these projects begin with the class sharing a book, which then serves as inspiration for their own creative writing. Mrs Nelson showed us examples of the children's work and explained the thinking behind the activities. One highlight was a collection of storybooks created by the children, inspired by Rapunzel. After exploring both traditional and more contemporary versions of the story, the children created their own books, complete with illustrations, showcasing the writing skills they have developed.





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## Governor Section

### Governor Day – Wednesday 25th March

In addition to storytelling, the children have also been writing postcards and letters. I felt very privileged to read letters written by all the Year 2 pupils to me in my role as Chair of Governors, requesting funding for additional playground equipment. The letters included thoughtful suggestions for fundraising, explanations of why existing equipment needs replacing, and some very persuasive arguments reminding me of my responsibility for their safety and engagement!

Mrs Nelson also shared how beneficial the new scheme has been, with encouraging improvements already visible across the year group.

I look forward to hearing about the summer term projects, when the children will be learning to write instructions — I'm just hoping they won't be instructions for me to spend more money!



**Martyn Dolbear – Chair of Governors**



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Friends of John Hampden

**Save The Date**  
May 16<sup>th</sup> 12pm – 3pm





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Important Information

As warmer weather approaches, just a reminder about sun protection. We ask that children have long-lasting sun cream applied before they come to school. If your child has particularly fair skin, please talk to the class teacher if sun cream needs to be applied more regularly. In these circumstances we ask that children are taught how to apply their own sun cream.

Children should be provided with a named sunhat or cap in the summer. At school we prefer children to wear a hat or cap rather than sunglasses if possible.

On a separate note, we currently have cases of head lice in the school. Please could you check your child's head and treat if necessary. Thank you.





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Social Media at The John Hampden School

 **Something exciting is coming...** 

We are delighted to share that our John Hampden School Wendover social media page will soon be up and running.

Our social media presence will be a place to celebrate learning, share special moments from school life and keep our community connected. From classroom highlights to events and achievements, we look forward to sharing all the wonderful things make our school a place of 'Loving to Learn'.

We would love for parents and families to support our page and help us grow our online community, so please

 LIKE,  FOLLOW and  SHARE by clicking the icons or links below:

[https://www.facebook.com/share/1a33nHyQdR/?mibextid=wwXlfr@john\\_hampden\\_school\\_Wendover](https://www.facebook.com/share/1a33nHyQdR/?mibextid=wwXlfr@john_hampden_school_Wendover)

#JHSW #LovingtoLearn #Wendover #Buckinghamshire

**Daisy Berry – Social Media**





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Diary Dates – Summer Term 2026

- 1<sup>st</sup> May – May Day 9.30am Year 2 parents invited**
- 4<sup>th</sup> May – Bank holiday Monday – school closed**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May - break up for half term 3.15pm**
- 1<sup>st</sup> June – INSET Day – school closed**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June – World Week**
- 8<sup>th</sup> June – World Week**
- 26<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July – alternative sports day**
- 9<sup>th</sup> July – Open Evening**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July – last day of term. Leavers Assembly Year 2.**
- School closes at 1.00pm**



# St George's Day

WOMEN IN HISTORY FAYRE

**Sunday 26 April**

**UNIFORMED PARADE**

Market Square  
4-5pm

**FAMILY FUN**

Friars Square  
12-4pm

**QUIZ, TALKS**

**& DEMOS**  
King's Head  
12-4pm



**AYLESBURY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

