



The John Hampden School Newsletter

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Issue Thirteen Friday March 20th 2026

Your continued support is greatly appreciated—our pupils are extremely lucky to have such interested and supportive parents and carers. For our part we try to make the learning opportunities we offer interesting and engaging. From time to time we enrich the curriculum with visits, visitors and special days or weeks. World Book Week was a huge success this year and we are so pleased with the continued success of ‘The Masked Reader’. Thank you if you engaged with this. We had lots of fun doing it. It was also wonderful to be able to continue the tradition of sharing books with pupils from Wendover Junior School. It was a privilege to watch the younger children responding so positively to the support and kindness from the older pupils.

Our teachers are busy planning activities and trips for the Summer Term. Throughout the year, some of the activities we offer are free of charge and for others we need to request a voluntary contribution. Unfortunately schools are not in a financial position to fund every type of enrichment activity directly from the school budget share so activities can only go ahead if enough people opt to pay. The activities we book are carefully planned to spread the cost over the school year. The contribution is entirely voluntary and no child will be disadvantaged if their parents are unable to pay or opt not to pay for some or any of the items. A survey, completed within the last three years told us that parents/carers appreciated a reminder about making payments as some people said that they did forget to do it even though they intended to, so we will continue to do this. The next voluntary contribution will be requested at the start of the summer term.



The John Hampden School Newsletter

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and hardworking Friends Of John Hampden. They play a vital role in raising money for the school, contributing to resources for our children. Beyond fundraising, they help to build a strong school community and foster wonderful relations with our local area. At this time, The Friends are made up of a small but mighty team of volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year to organise events and support our school. Their commitment, creativity and passion for our children is truly inspiring, and we cannot thank them enough for everything they do.

One of the highlights of our Friends calendar is fast approaching – our May Fayre on 16th May! This is always a fantastic community event that brings together families, staff and members of our local community for a wonderful afternoon of fun, games, stalls and entertainment. It is a brilliant opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate what makes our school so special. We will be sharing more details soon about the different ways you can get involved, whether that is helping to run a stall, donating items for the tombola, baking cakes, or simply coming along on the day to support. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a real difference. Please look out for information about how you can help make this year's May Fayre the best one yet!

Steph Parkinson – Headteacher

SAVE THE DATE:

Our annual Sports Day is on **Friday 27th June** (alternative date is **4th July** if it is wet on 27th)

May Day - **Friday 1st May 9.30 am Year 2** parents are invited to celebrate May Day.



The John Hampden School Newsletter

Curriculum Section – JHSW School Council Joint Meeting with Wendover Junior School Council

Our School Council Representatives had an exciting meeting with Year 3 School Council Representatives from Wendover Junior School to begin designing a shared garden.

The children were enthusiastic and full of creative ideas, including:

- Seating areas and pathways for relaxation and access
- A wildflower area to support biodiversity
- A herb garden for sensory learning
- A bug house to encourage wildlife





The John Hampden School Newsletter

Curriculum Section – JHSW School Council Joint Meeting with Wendover Junior School Council

Next Steps

All ideas will be collated and shared with the Class Council Representatives from both schools. It was wonderful to see such positive collaboration between the children across our two schools and we are very excited to see this project develop.

Volunteers from RAF Halton helped to clear the area and will return to help us complete the project. We need raw materials to help us to complete the project :

- Railway sleepers and log edging for seating and pathways
- Bark chipping for seating areas and pathways
- Pallets and tyres for the minibeast and vegetable area

Thank you to all of our school Council – we were very proud of you!

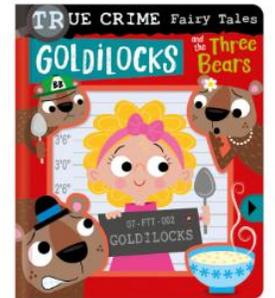
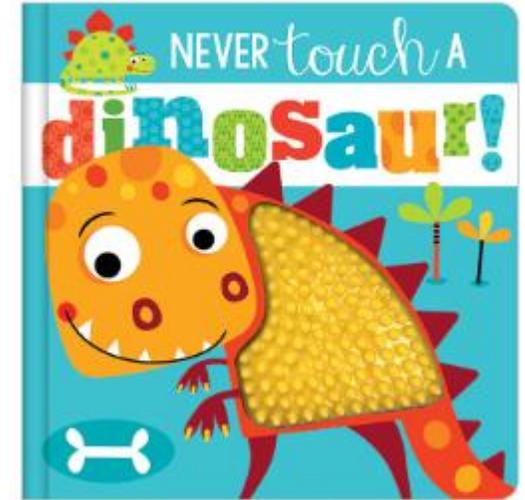
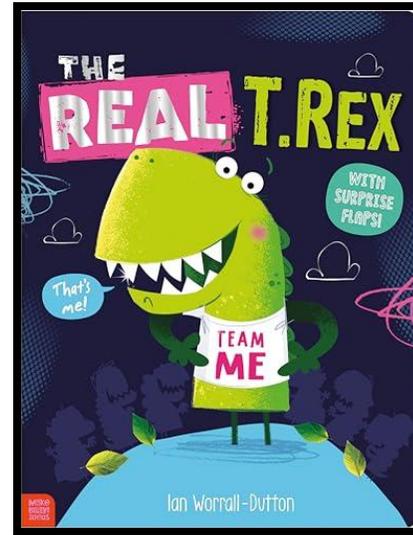




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Curriculum Section – Maths

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 have been ordered and we can't wait for their delivery! Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to the competition, your kindness really helps develop and nurture the children's experiences.





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Curriculum Section – Year One Wendover Walk

Year One have been developing their geographical skills through hands-on exploration of the local area. Geography helps children understand the world around them, beginning with their immediate environment. By learning to read maps, use directional language and identify local landmarks, they have built essential foundational knowledge that will support their understanding of places and spaces throughout their environment. This is what they had to say:

Last week Year One used a simple map with a key to direct us on a route around Wendover to visit landmarks in Wendover. We visited: the clocktower, the high street, shops, the war memorial, the doctor's surgery and the windmill. While we were on the high street, we looked down the hill and up towards Coombe Hill. When we arrived at each landmark, we used the map to identify where in Wendover we were. While we were walking, we used directional words like: near to, next to, straight on, left, right, forwards, beside and behind to explain how to get to each landmark. At each landmark, we named the landmark and looked at what it is near to. Next week, we will be plotting landmarks on a map and creating our own maps of Wendover.

This practical geography work supports our curriculum aims by helping children develop their knowledge sequentially and cumulatively. Through exploring Wendover, pupils are building their understanding of their local community whilst developing important vocabulary and spatial awareness skills. The children have shown excellent engagement and enthusiasm, and we're excited to see them apply what they've learned when they create their own maps next week. This learning will provide a strong foundation for more complex geographical concepts as they progress through the school.





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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 that 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

#JHSW #LovingtoLearn #Wendover #Buckinghamshire

Daisy Berry – Social Media





The John Hampden School Newsletter

Governor Section

Governor Day – Wednesday 25th March

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable governing body at The John Hampden School. Our governors play a vital role in holding school leaders to account and shaping the future of our school. They provide both challenge and support in equal measure, ensuring that we continue to improve and provide the very best education for our children. Their commitment to understanding our school deeply and supporting our vision is invaluable, and we are grateful for the time and expertise they bring to their roles.

Once a year, we invite our governors into school for Governor Day – an opportunity for them to see school life in action and witness first-hand how we are working towards the priorities in our School Development Plan. These visits help governors find out more about our school, including how our policies and School Development plan are working in practice, the strengths and areas for development, and the views of pupils, staff and parents. This year's Governor Day is taking place next week on Wednesday 25th March, and our governors will be spending time in classrooms, talking to staff and children, and observing school life. They will be sharing their feedback and observations in the next newsletter, so please look out for their reflections on what they see and the continued progress our school is making.





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Friends of John Hampden Easter Egg Hamper Raffle

Don't forget to purchase tickets for Easter Egg Hampers. At the time of writing the total raised so far is £545. There is still time to purchase tickets. They are available now until Tues 24th March at 9pm. The raffle will be drawn online at 9am on Weds 25th March.

Here is the link:

<https://go.rallyup.com/6bf123>

Thank you to those who have supported so far.





The John Hampden School Newsletter

www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk

THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER NURSERY OPEN MORNING
Saturday March 21st
9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT:
office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

Nursery Open Morning – Tomorrow

If you are interested in trying to secure a place you may like to make an appointment to attend our Early Years Open Morning, planned for **Saturday 21st March from 9.30 to 11.00 am**. The Early Years classroom and outside learning areas will be open for you and the prospective new pupil to view, and teaching staff will also be available.



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Diary Dates – Spring and Summer Term 2026

2nd March 2026 – Communication Week EYFS

2nd March 2026 – World Book Week

6th March 2026 – World Book Day

19th March 2026 – Phonics Meeting For Year 1 Parents

20th March 2026 - Red Nose Day

26th March – School closes for holidays at 1.00pm

13th April – Back to school

1st May – May Day 9.30am Year 2 parents invited

4th May – Bank holiday Monday – school closed

22nd May - break up for half term 3.15pm

1st June – INSET Day – school closed

2nd June – World Week

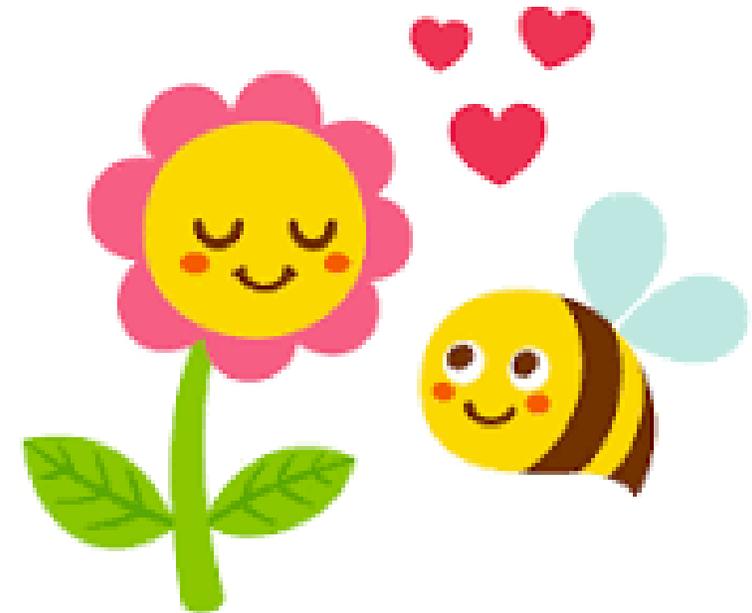
8th June – World Week

26th June – Sports Day

3rd July – alternative sports day

9th July – Open Evening

22nd July – last day of term. School closes at 1.00pm



IDLING ...
switch OFF for CLEANER air

Please turn off your engine while waiting for your child.



Leaving your engine running when parked creates

20x MORE POLLUTION

than when driving at 30mph

Stationary idling is an **offence** under the Road Traffic Act and carries a **fine of £20**.