The John Hampden School Newsletter

Issue Five Friday November 6th 2026

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Welcome back!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Just before half term the Friends of John Hampden reluctantly had to cancel the Halloween Trail due to Storm Austin! So that the children did not miss out thy sent out an optional Halloween Bingo. Children who participated received have received a small prize today in their bookbags today. Thank you to all who supported this.

This week and next week, the children are focusing on the important topic of keeping ourselves safe. We have been learning about different ways to stay safe, both in and outside of school, and discussing why it is important to make sensible choices and be aware of potential dangers around us.

This week, our focus has included fire safety and bonfire safety. The children have been learning about the dangers of fire, the importance of keeping a safe distance from bonfires and fireworks, and why they should never play with matches or other items that could cause a fire. We have also discussed the importance of listening to adults, following safety advice and knowing what to do if they ever find themselves in an unsafe situation.

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Next week, we will be moving on to online safety and the work of the NSPCC. We will be talking about how to stay safe when using the internet, the importance of keeping personal information private, recognising when something online might not be appropriate and knowing what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable or worried. We will also explore the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if they ever need help or support.

These discussions are a valuable opportunity to help children develop the knowledge, confidence and understanding they need to keep themselves safe. We encourage you to continue these conversations at home, reinforcing the messages and reminding children that they can always talk to a trusted adult if they have any worries or concerns.

The next half term is always such an exciting and magical time in school. The children will be taking part in a range of creative and festive activities as we build up to one of the highlights of the year, our Christmas performances in December. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the children's talents and the joy of the season and I am really looking forward to sharing these special moments with you all.

Steph Parkinson - Headteacher

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Attendance and Punctuality

As we move into this busy and exciting half term, it is also a time of year when we often see more seasonal illnesses. While we understand that children can become unwell, it's really important that they attend school every day they are well enough to do so, as good attendance makes a significant difference to both learning and progress. Part of my role is to monitor attendance and punctuality regularly. Attendance checks take place twice each term, and parents will be contacted if a child's attendance gives cause for concern. We ask that parents and carers continue to be vigilant regarding sickness, diarrhoea, and respiratory illnesses, including raised temperatures. Children should not return to school for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea, and those with a high temperature should only return once their temperature has returned to normal.

Punctuality is equally important. Arriving on time not only helps children develop good habits for the future but also ensures they don't miss out on key learning activities and important learning that takes place first thing in the morning. Please remember that children should not arrive before 8.45 a.m. (unless they attend Breakfast Club), as classrooms are not open before this time. Once the gates and doors are closed, any late arrivals must enter through the main school entrance.



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Christmas Tickets!

We are looking forward to putting on Christmas performances for you to attend this year. There will be separate Year Group performances so please note the following dates:

Early Years Class (Crickets)	Foundation Stage	Year 1	Year 2
One performance on 8-12-25@ 9.30a.m Max. 2 adults per child attending (tickets will be issued but there is no charge for this short performance)	**<u>Performance 1</u>: 02-12-26@ 9.30a.m <u>Performance 2</u>: 03-12-26@ 9.30a.m Max. 2 adults attending per child (Tickets available)**	**<u>Performance 1</u>: 15-12-26@ 2.00p.m <u>Performance 2</u>: 16-12-26 @ 9.30a.m Max. 2 adults attending per child (Tickets available)**	**<u>Performance 1</u>: 15-12-26@ 9.30a.m <u>Performance 2</u>: 16-12-26@ 2.00p.m Max. 2 adults attending per child (Tickets available)**



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The Friends of John Hampden Christmas Fair

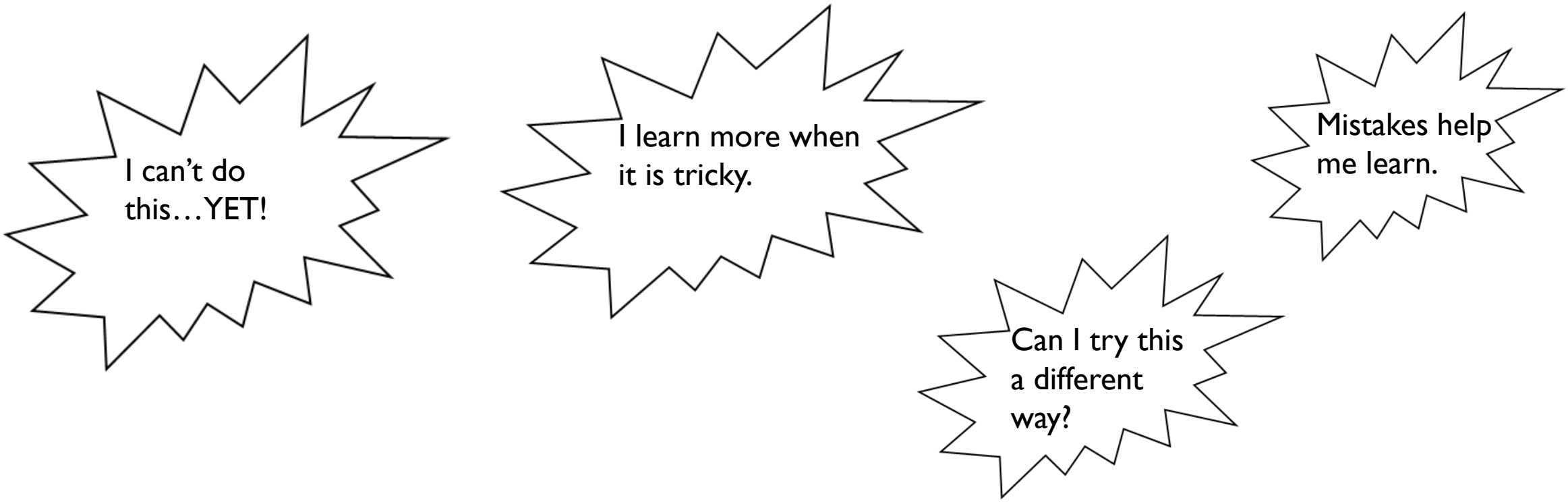




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Curriculum and Teaching- Growth Mindset

Our final week of half term was 'Growth Mindset' week where the children have been learning about and practising how to have a growth mindset attitude to learning. As a school we have been exploring the themes of how mistakes help us to learn, the power of 'YET' and how we can how perseverance and resilience. Here is some of the language we have used and some of the elements the children have enjoyed.



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Curriculum and Teaching

Foundation Stage

- We read the stories 'Giraffes Can't Dance and 'The Dot' and used this language:
- It's ok if I get it wrong.
- I'm getting better.
- I can't do this…yet.
- This is hard but I can do it.



"If we find something hard we don't give up. We persevere until we can do it!"

"I grew my brain and really listened to the feedback from my friend and my second draft is so much better."

When it is tricky I do my best I use my brain.

"Sometimes I find it tricky to swim on my back. I keep trying."

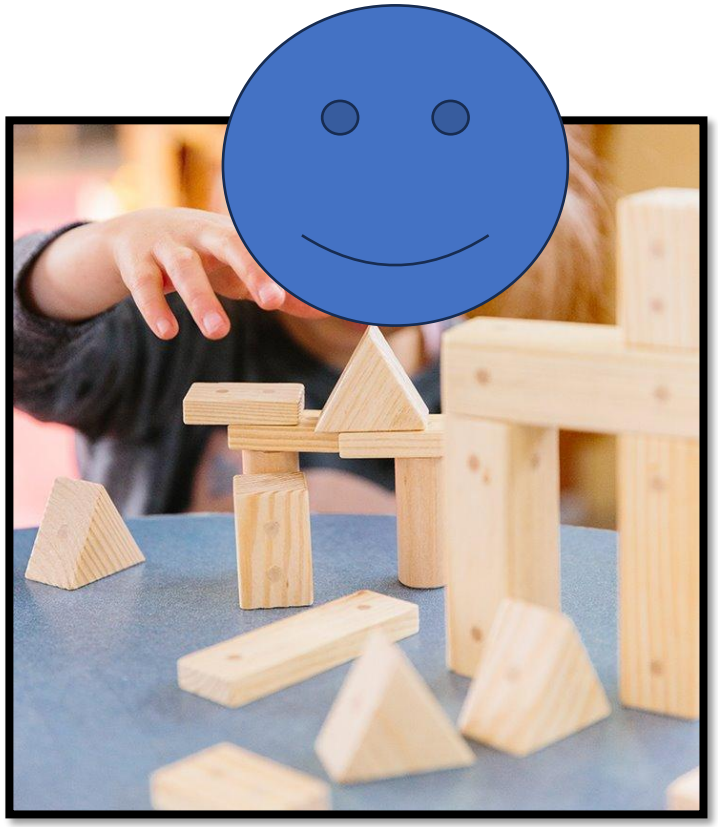
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Curriculum and Teaching
Year 1

We read the stories 'The Most Magnificent Thing' and 'The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes' and used this language:

- I'm not there yet but I'm learning.
- Mistakes help me learn.
- I can do hard things.

If you are sad when you first do something you get happy if you keep on trying.



If something is tricky keep on trying.

You have to persevere of you can't do it YET!

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Curriculum and Teaching
Year 2

We read the stories 'After the Fall' and 'Rosie Revere Engineer and used this language:

- Can I try this a different way?
- I'm proud of my effort.
- I learn more when it's tricky

When you make mistakes it is ok because you learn more when you make mistakes.

We learnt that growing your brain is like growing a plant. Instead of water you use work. We learnt that you don't give up, you said you can't do it yet!

I can do this! Say it when you are stuck!





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Important Information

A Little Help Needed – Donations of Children's Socks

We are currently running very low on our supply of spare children's socks at school. These are really useful to have available in case a child needs a change of clothing during the school day, particularly if their socks become wet, muddy or need changing for any other reason. If you have any children's socks at home that your child has outgrown and are still in good, wearable condition, we would be extremely grateful if you could donate them to school. Any sizes, colours or styles would be very much appreciated. Your kind donations will help us ensure we have spare socks available whenever a child needs them. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity!



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Diary Dates – Autumn Term

23rd October – 9.15 am Open Morning for prospective EYFS (Nursery and FS) parents
2nd November – School opens after half-term
12th November – Open Morning for prospective EYFS (Nursery and FS) parents
25th November – Open Morning for prospective EYFS (Nursery and FS) parents
1st December - FS dress rehearsal
2nd December –9.30 am FS Nativity
3rd December - 9.30 am FS Nativity
4th December – INSET day
8th December – 9.30 am EY Nativity
14th December – Dress Rehearsal Christmas Performances Year 2 9.30am Year 1 11.00am
15th December - Christmas Performances Year 2 9.30am Year 1 2.00pm
16th December - Christmas Performances Year 1 9.30am Year 2 2.00pm
18th December – Christmas Parties and finish school at 1.00pm



