



# The John Hampden School Wendover



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## NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**27th September**—Foundation Stage Harvest Festival 9.30am

**29th September**—KS1 Harvest Festival 9.30a.m (Y1 parents invited to watch)

**9th October**—Open Morning for parents of prospective pupils

**Week commencing 9th October—Parents' Evenings**

**BOOKING OPENS AT 12 NOON TODAY**

## 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Well, we have reached the end of week three of the Autumn Term and things are settling down well. Tiredness in many children is certainly apparent each Friday, but that is the result of their hard work and the effort that has gone into learning lots of new routines and getting used to school expectations once more.

I am sure you are interested in what your children are getting up to each day, so a copy of your child's class timetable has been uploaded to the relevant class page of the school website

[www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](http://www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) under the Classes tab. Each week we will be uploading a sheet so you can keep up to date with what your child is learning in school. We have also added the induction Powerpoint presentation from the class teacher that was shared at the recent induction meetings. Hopefully this will provide you with lots more information about the class, so do take a look. I am sure you are keen to find out how your child has settled in. For this reason we are arranging Autumn Term Parents' evenings during the week beginning 9th October. Further on in this newsletter you will find more details about how you will be able to book an appointment with the class teacher. The appointment booking site will open today, Friday 22nd September at 12 noon.



### HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival for Foundation Stage is due to take place on Wednesday 27th September at 9.30am. Year One and Year Two will perform together on Friday 29th September at 9.30am and only parents of Year One pupils are invited to attend. (Year Two parents are invited to watch May Day later in the year in our attempt to make things fair)

There will be no Harvest Festival for the children in our Nursery. On the relevant day up to two adults for each child will be directed via the side entrance to the school hall for the performances. The audience will be able to take photographs or video for their own personal use and we always ask that no images of other people's children or the staff are put on any social networking sites.

As usual we are asking families to provide donations. We welcome any flowers, fruit, vegetables or tinned goods. Children can bring donations to the classroom on the morning of their festival or there will be a table outside the main entrance where any contributions can be left.

The donations will then be collected by representatives from the Women's Refuge in Aylesbury and they are always very gratefully received as they rely on donations to run successfully.

And finally—please could all parents be considerate to our school neighbours in the surrounding roads and not block driveways when parking to bring children into school. Also, please avoid using the doctors surgery car park when bringing children to school. Thank you.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Hello All,

For those parents new to the school I want to introduce myself via the newsletter and will do so in person to the majority of you over the coming months. I work as a Head of Planning and Performance within the NHS and enjoy lots of physical activities swimming, running, tennis, and football along with the occasional bottle (I mean glass!) of red wine. I have had two girls go all the way through the school from Crickets to Firecrests and my youngest is in now in her final year, it goes by too fast.

Book bags have started coming home with reading materials, phonics sheets and some wonderful creative pieces of work that children have worked so hard on and are so excited about. The classes have all held their induction meetings and I hope you feel informed on the upcoming events and activities in the classroom. The first events are only a week away, one of my favourites, the Harvest Festival. The children and teachers work extremely hard on this, it is definitely one not to miss!

I thought I'd summarise the core functions of the Governing Board:

1. Ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
4. Ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

There are 15 posts in our constitution, we only have 1 vacancy at present which is a measure of how good the school is at engaging with parents, the local community and businesses. Many schools struggle to fill governor posts. Each of the Governing Body members has a specific role on the governing board to link with subject leads and the senior leadership team. I specifically have three roles of PE, Performance Management and Eco Schools /Sustainability Governor. In my role as the latter I wanted to highlight we follow the Living Streets 'Walk to School' initiative and I wanted to promote walking, biking and scooting to school as much as possible.

You are our key stakeholders so please get in touch if you have any queries related to the School or Governing Board.



Ben Gattlin

Chair of Governors

The Governing Board is always willing to listen to parental queries and to explain in more detail what the Governing Board 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, Ben Gattlin, on [Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### **IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?**

At the end of this newsletter you can find a helpful document outlining common childhood illnesses and advice as to whether it is necessary to keep your child away from school. It is expected, that children have an attendance rate of at least 95% each academic year. Attendance and punctuality are monitored regularly.

#### **Voluntary Contributions**

Arrangements for Voluntary Contributions— Each parent will soon receive a letter which includes an itemized list of the cost of activities which the teachers are planning for the term. Parents can then sign in to their Parentpay account to make the payment. This is a voluntary contribution and there is no obligation involved but unfortunately we may have to cancel activities if not enough parents opt to pay. We try to arrange as many activities as possible in school to avoid the additional cost of coaches but from time to time we will take the children slightly further afield so future termly payment requests may reflect this.

#### **Water Bottles**

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 may bring their own named water bottle into school each day. These will be positioned close to where they are working so they can access them whenever they need a drink. We would ask that you only provide water because juice and squash can be very sticky and water is the healthiest option. Children in Early Years and Foundation Stage do not need to bring a water bottle now as the weather has cooled and they have regular access to the 'Hydration Station' in their learning environments.

#### **Morning Snack**



Fruit/vegetable deliveries have resumed at school so there is a range of fruit/veg available and we do encourage the children to have some. Often watching others enjoying eating it can be a real incentive to those who are reluctant to try (or say they don't like it!)

Also, it is still possible for parents to register their child for the 'Cool Milk' scheme. You can register online at [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com).

#### **HOT MEALS**

Our meal provider, Chartwells, provides free hot lunches to all Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children in the school. You have been sent the details of how to order lunches so if you do wish to place an order you need to log in and select your choice by midnight on a Tuesday for lunches to start nine working days later. If you do not place an order you need to provide a packed lunch each day, as there are no spare hot meals to offer.

#### **Nuts**

We do have several children in the school with a severe allergy to nuts and sesame seeds. We would be grateful if you would refrain from providing nuts or foods containing nuts/sesame seeds in lunchboxes to reduce the risk of allergic reactions. We also ask that there are no sweets or fizzy drinks in lunchboxes. We would also ask that children DO NOT bring in sweets/treats for their classmates when it is their birthday. Thank you

#### **Naming Belongings**

After the first few P.E lessons, it is clear that many children have clothing that is not named and this is causing real difficulties for staff. Please would you ensure all belongings are named and that children are aware of where the name is on their things. It is obvious that some children would really benefit from having some extra practise when dressing/undressing independently and keeping their clothing in neat piles, socks in shoes etc. We would really appreciate your support with this.



#### **Coats**

We take the children outside in all weathers so please make sure they bring a coat to school every day.

OOSC—Please remember to inform the OOSC provision if your child will not be attending for any reason.

For safety reasons, parents of children who attend our OOSC provision should never use the staff car park when bringing or collecting their child.

**PARENTS' EVENINGS—9th (Honeybees only), 10th, 11th (not Crickets) and 12th (not Honeybees) October 2023 3.30pm –5.30pm**

The Autumn Term parents evenings will be held during the week commencing 9th October. All pupils have brought home a letter with a login and password for you to access the e-schools platform which will enable you to book a slot to speak to your child's class teacher. For pupils who were in the school last year, you already have the login details but if you have forgotten them, the letter you have received will act as a reminder. If you have more than one child at the school, the oldest child's login and password will allow you to access both/all your children's parents evenings appointments. 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 12.00 noon on Friday 22nd September and will close at 3.00 pm on Monday 2nd October. The system will confirm your appointment/s date and time. We will not be issuing paper appointment letters or confirmation of appointment slots.

**LOOKING FOR A NURSERY/ RECEPTION PLACE FOR  
SEPTEMBER 2024?**



**THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER**

**OPEN MORNING - EARLY YEARS (NURSERY) & RECEPTION PLACES**

The John Hampden School Wendover is a large infant school for children aged between four and seven years. We also have a thriving 26 place Early Years Provision for 3-4 year olds and offer the 30 hours flexible free entitlement for pupils in this class. We are justifiably proud of our excellent reputation in the local community and we work hard to provide children with an outstanding start to their school life.

*'Staff at The John Hampden School have created a delightful learning environment in which all pupils can thrive and flourish.'* Ofsted

We are offering four opportunities to come and view the school and find out more about us.

**Monday 9th October at either 9.15am or 10.30am.**

**or**

**Tuesday 14th November at either 9.15am or 10.30am.**

Please contact the school office via phone or email to book

01296 622629

office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

## 4. PUPIL'S SECTION

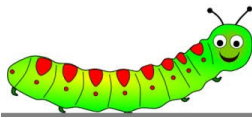
The children have now been at school for a few weeks so we thought you might like to hear from some of our pupils about what they are enjoying in their new classes.



Edith says she is enjoying the frog rhyme and Esme is enjoying building things in the classroom.



Orla is enjoying Ladybirds Class because she gets to make lots of friends. She also enjoys playing with lots of toys and drawing pictures. She likes lunch too! Jamie likes playing with the toys and with his friends. He enjoys looking at books and doing big circles in 'Squiggle While You Wiggle'.



Isabelle likes playing with the dolls house. She loves learning and likes building stuff too.

Edmund Likes playing with the toys in the water tray. He thinks we have nice toys to learn with



Lacey has enjoyed learning about the behaviour expectations and about being kind. Using kind hands and good manners.

Bella has enjoyed being helpful to her friends and making new friends.



Joshua enjoys phonics because it's really good and he gets to use pictures to help him sound out words.

Sienna likes maths and sorting. She enjoys learning inside and outside the classroom.



Joshua C loves it in Squirrels class because everything is so much fun. He likes writing in phonics and P.E.

Evie thinks it's great in Squirrels class because she gets to learn new sounds in phonics and she is sounding out new words too. She liked drawing maps because drawing is her favourite thing to do.



Dylan enjoys the maths in Badgers Class and Iona is enjoying learning phonics and choosing her learning outside.



Evelyn has enjoyed English in Herons Class especially the writing of poems. She also loved learning and reciting the poem of the week.

Lily-May has enjoyed phonics in Herons Class. She thinks it is fun to sound out and spell the words.



Hazel likes the monitor jobs and responsibilities they have in Red Kites Class—it makes her feel happy and proud.

Thomas is enjoying the outdoor learning and the Independent Learning Activities (ILAs) It has also been great to meet Feathers, our class Red Kite too.



Lily is enjoying learning the new class Harvest song and the poems of the week.

George has enjoyed handwriting lessons and Art. He made a lion mask and animal footprints.



## 5. CURRICULUM



We hold assemblies in the hall each week where the whole school community can join together.

Every Monday, Mrs Barnes leads a KS1 assembly which focuses on the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL). Mrs Parkinson leads an assembly on Tuesday with the School Values as her theme. Mrs Spencer leads a Cultural Assembly on Wednesday and Mrs Mannering leads the Thursday assembly which has a singing focus. Every Friday the whole school join together for our 'Over & Above' Assembly where children from each class are awarded special certificates and then given the opportunity to share the assembly from a special starry chair. Certificates are awarded to children who have done something over and above what is expected. The 'Scroll of Honour' is also read out at this assembly and it contains the names of children who have been spotted for doing something special. We also award a 'Class of the Week' cup and certificates and stickers for children nominated by the Midday Supervisors.

We have seven Values and seven behaviour expectations that underpin our Behaviour & Self-Regulation Policy. Following the Over & Above Assembly the children take part in M.O.V.E. Time (**M**astering **O**ur **V**alues & **E**xpectations) where they are given the opportunity to practice the values and the behaviour expectations in a fun and enjoyable way.

All pupils are currently following a carefully designed 'Transition Curriculum' for the first half of the Autumn Term. We hope that a timetable which allows time for staff to ensure children are settled and getting used to the regular routines and expectations, will be beneficial for all. There is a big focus on Personal, Social, Emotional and Health education in these first weeks and regular reinforcement of the school values.

Thinking skills sessions/activities continue to be a regular feature. This may sound rather ambitious but children are naturally curious and educational research suggests that encouraging children to ask questions and to listen to other people's ideas helps them to understand their thoughts and how they affect their lives.

It is fascinating to hear the children's thoughts and we find that from one starting point many more questions are posed. The only thing to remember is that there are no right or wrong answers— just the opportunity to hear, develop and value different viewpoints.

### **REQUEST FROM MRS BOWMAN (Maths Co-ordinator)**

**If you have any unwanted playing cards or UNO cards, we would love to have them for use in school. It doesn't matter if some are missing. Please bring them to the school office or hand them to Mrs Bowman at her classroom door. Many thanks**

## 6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

Preparations are underway for our Halloween Trail  
Come and kick off half term with some spooky fun after  
school on Friday 20th October



### WE NEED YOUR BAKES

Prizes for the best creations

Please bring them to the school reception on the morning of **Friday 20th October**. If your child would like their creation judged please label with his/her name and class.

Alternatively, bring them straight to the shelter outside Foundation Stage at pick-up (these won't be judged but will still be gratefully received!)

**NO NUTS PLEASE**

Please label any containers. Disposable cardboard boxes are ideal.

### Christmas Fayre (Saturday 25 November, 12-3pm)

This is a really fun event but we need parent and carer volunteers to make it happen. Can you give us 45 minutes of your time to help set up, man stalls or pack down?

In the coming weeks we will be finalising stalls and drawing up a rota. Watch out for more information on your class WhatsApp groups.

Do you have any particular skills you think would help or do you have any contacts that might be of use?

### Christmas Wreath Making (Tuesday 28th November)

Our Christmas Wreath Making evening is the perfect opportunity to get in the festive mood. Come and join us for an evening of fun and creativity. Details to be confirmed.

## 7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As the new academic year begins we are embarking on actions linked to our new School Development Plan 2023-2024 which aims to guide improvements to the school over this time. In deciding the areas to focus on we took into consideration many factors e.g. stakeholder views expressed in questionnaires and comments, feedback from other outside agencies, data analysis, Government policy etc.

In the next newsletter I will share a summary of the new priorities for the school plan so you can see what we are aiming to achieve.

However, during the summer holiday this is just some of the work that was completed to improve the school: (big thanks to Mr Richardson for all his hard work!)

- Completely new LED lighting installed throughout the school
- School office and entrance hall walls made good and painted
- Jet washing outside learning areas
- General grounds maintenance
- Upgrade to IT Server
- A skip was filled!

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Is my child too ill for school?

**It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.**

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school on the first day. Let us know that your child won't be in and give us the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

#### **Other illnesses:**

Follow this advice for other illnesses:

#### **Coughs and colds**

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

#### **High temperature**

If your child has a [high temperature](#), keep them off school until it goes away.

#### **Chickenpox**

If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

#### **Cold sores**

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#).

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

#### **Conjunctivitis**

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#).

Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

#### **COVID-19**

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

#### What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.



**Ear infection**

If your child has an [ear infection](#) and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

**Hand, foot and mouth disease**

If your child has [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

**Head lice and nits**

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

You can treat [head lice and nits](#) without seeing a GP.

**Impetigo**

If your child has [impetigo](#), they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics.

Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.

Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

**Ringworm**

If your child has [ringworm](#), see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP.

It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

**Scarlet fever**

If your child has [scarlet fever](#), they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

**Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)**

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [slapped cheek syndrome](#) because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

**Sore throat**

You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.

A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of [tonsillitis](#).

**Threadworms**

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [threadworms](#).

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

**Vomiting and diarrhoea**

Children with [diarrhoea or vomiting](#) should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

## Family Support Service



# Meet-up Mondays

Parent and carer coffee drop-in

◆ Are you a parent locally that would like to meet other parents? Do you want somewhere to go to share hints and tips with other parents?

◆ Come along to our weekly coffee drop-in at **Southcourt Family Centre Plus** and meet other parents. Free tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

◆ A member of the Family Support Service will be available at the centre if you need advice, support or to request a food bank voucher.



9:30 to  
11:00am



Every Monday

### CONTACT US

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Buckinghamshire  
Council



SCAN  
ME



