



The John Hampden School Newsletter

Issue Two Friday September 19th 2025

We have now reached the end of the second full week of the Autumn Term and it is wonderful to see how well the children are settling back into school routines. By Friday, many of them are understandably tired, which is a sign of the hard work and effort they are putting into learning new routines and readjusting to school expectations.

We know you are interested in what your child is learning, therefore each week we upload a learning overview – ‘What We are Learning’ so that you can keep up to date with what your child is learning in school to the relevant class page on our school website: www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk, under the **Classes** tab. In addition, the induction PowerPoint presentation shared at the class induction meetings will be added to the website. We hope this provides you with plenty of useful information about your child's class.

We also know you will be keen to hear how your child has settled in. To support this, Autumn Term Parents' Evenings will take place during the week beginning **13th October**. Further details about how to book an appointment with your child's class teacher can be found later in this newsletter. The online booking system will open at **6.00 pm** on **Monday 29th September**.

Finally, as always, we value the strong partnership between home and school. If you ever have a question, or concern, please know that I am always happy to hear from you.

Steph Parkinson - Headteacher





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PARENTS' EVENINGS— 14th, 15th and 16th October 2025 from 3.30pm—5.30pm
(14th & 15th for Crickets class and Caterpillars class, 13th & 14th October for Honeybees Class)

The Autumn Term parents evenings will be held during the week commencing **13th 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 **6.00pm on Monday 29th September** and will close at **5.00 pm on Friday 3rd October**. The system will confirm your appointment/s date and time. We will not be issuing paper appointment letters or confirmation of appointment slots. If your child's class is taught by two teachers only one of the teacher's names will appear on the booking however either of the class teachers.





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Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival for Foundation Stage is due to take place on **Wednesday 24th September at 9.30am**. Before this at **9.00 am**, there will be a Phonics Workshop for Foundation Stage parents. Year One and Year Two will perform together on **Friday 26th 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 peoples 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.





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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.

Parking

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 in anticipation of your support.

Coats

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

Uniform

Please remember that children should not wear jewellery to school for health and safety reasons. If earrings are worn, they must be small studs and securely taped during PE lessons.



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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.

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 practice when dressing/undressing independently and keeping their clothing in neat piles, socks in shoes etc. We would really appreciate your support with this.

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.

Charity

We would like to extend our best wishes to Miss Burns who will be participating in a charity boxing match this weekend. We commend their commitment to supporting such a worthwhile cause and wish her every success in the event.



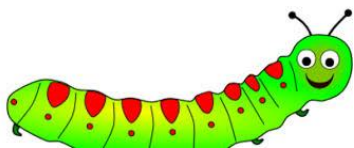
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Pupils Section

What is exciting about my new class and why?



Millie from Honeybees class said she loves learning all the poems and Chop Chop is her favourite. Annabelle loves their outside garden. The monkey bars are really fun and she can see the ducks from the Look Out.



In Caterpillars class Morgan and Harlowe are enjoying playing with their friends. Sullivan is enjoying PE and Amelie loves learning in the Octagon.



In Ladybirds Eliza likes playing with the dolls in the Octagon and her friends. Ivy likes playing with her friends in the Foundation Stage Garden because she likes the pole – it is fun.



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Pupils Section

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In Badgers class the children have said that Science sounds like it is going to be fun. In the Creative Area you can make things, in writing you get to learn and in the Outside Area they like the big construction, physical cupboard, water tray and sand pit.



In Squirrels class Edith said Year 1 is good because it has got lots of areas to learn in. Oscar likes Year 1 because he likes making things in the Creation Station.



In Hedgehogs class Esme is growing her brain and doing lovely learning. She loves seeing her work on the 'Loving to Learn' board and she loves her classroom. Lucas loves writing tricky words and learning outside.



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Pupils Section

What is exciting about my new class and why?



In Herons class Mia is loving Art because they made a lion with paper strips based on the book The Lion Inside. Leo is finding his class exciting because he has made new friends and he can collaborate with them in class and on the playground.



Isabella in Firecrests says her teachers in her new class are kind, lovely and helpful. Harry really loves learning and he liked reading The Lion Inside.



In Red Kites Bethany is loving phonics. Harvey has enjoyed making new friends and collaborating. Alice likes Geography and learning about England and Scotland as she has learnt something new – she learnt about the Scottish thistle.



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Governor Section

Welcome to the New Autumn Term!

I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. As we welcome the arrival of the autumn term, we are excited to open our doors once again and begin a new chapter at John Hampden School, Wendover.

All of our wonderful staff have been working hard to prepare classrooms, plan engaging lessons, and ensure that every pupil feels welcome and ready to thrive. We will continue to build strong partnerships with families and the wider community, as we believe that working together is key to every child's success.

This term is particularly special as we welcome our new Head Teacher, Mrs Parkinson, to the role. While the majority of you will know Mrs Parkinson well, having been Deputy Head at the school for a number of years, she will no doubt apply her wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and deep commitment to the school to ensure we provide the very best education for your children. While there will inevitably be some changes in the months ahead, I am confident that we are building on strong foundations which will only lead to further improvements in pupil progress.



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Governor Section

Starting a new school or a new class is a big change and can be challenging for pupils of any age. The school dedicates a huge amount of time and resources to the transition process (i.e., moving to a new school or moving up to a new school year), both at the end of the Summer Term and in September. As a result, we hope that by now everyone is starting to settle into their new classes, getting used to their new routines, and making lots of new friends. Promoting happiness and well-being is one of our key priorities at John Hampden, as this has continually been shown to maximise progress and encourage a genuine love of learning. However, if your child is experiencing ongoing worries, it is important to let your class teacher know so these can be resolved promptly.

Two of our Governor colleagues stepped down at the end of the Summer Term. We therefore have room for a couple of Parent Governors who would be prepared to support (and, if necessary, 'challenge') the school in its continued progress and development. A Parent Governor is a fully functioning member of the Governing Board who is elected by, and represents, the parent body. The only requirements are that you have a child currently at the school and are able to offer the necessary time to attend meetings (and do a little homework now and then...). If you'd like to know more about the role of a Governor, please get in touch with me or with Mrs Parkinson.

On behalf of all the staff, I'd like to wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and successful start to the school year.

We look forward to sharing many memorable moments ahead.

James Edley

Chair of Governors





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Diary Dates – Autumn Term

24th September – FS 9.00 am phonics meeting and 9.30 am Harvest Festival

26th September – KSI 9.30 am Harvest festival

7th October – 9.15 am Open Morning for prospective EYFS (Nursery and FS) parents

14th October – Parents evening

15th October – Parents evening

16th October – Parents evening

20th October – Growth mindset week

23rd October – 9.15 am Open Morning for prospective EYFS (Nursery and FS) parents

24th October – School finishes for half-term at 3.15 pm

3rd November – School opens after half-term

3rd November – Safety Week

10th November – Health Week

19th November – 9.15 am Open Morning for prospective EYFS (Nursery and FS) parents

2nd December – 9.30 am EY Nativity

2nd December – 10.30 am FS dress rehearsal

3rd December - 9.30 am FS Nativity

4th December – 9.30 am FS Nativity

5th December – INSET day

8th December – SEN reviews

9th December – SEN reviews



! PARENT PAY FRAUDULENT ALERT !



We have been alerted to a fraudulent app in the Apple App Store that mimics ParentPay branding.



Security and safeguarding are top priorities at ParentPay Group, and we took swift action to report the app and are working closely with Apple to have it removed.

To date, we have recorded only 2 cases of affected parents.

Please be aware:

- ParentPay **does not have an app available for download from any app stores**
- To use ParentPay, parents should visit <https://www.parentpay.com/> from a mobile phone or computer
- After logging in, parents can save a shortcut onto their phone's home screen

This message is for awareness only, so you can confidently and quickly respond to any parent queries.

Yours sincerely,

ParentPay Group Customer Service Team

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THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER OPEN MORNINGS

7TH OCTOBER 2025
23RD OCTOBER 2025
19TH NOVEMBER 2025
9.15 AM

COME AND SEE OUR SCHOOL IN
ACTION!

YOU WILL MEET:

- OUR CHILDREN, OUR
TEACHERS AND OUR STAFF



Call our office to book a place:
01296 622629
or email
office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk