



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I hope you managed to have a restful half term break and were able to enjoy some quality time with your children in some welcome sunshine and slightly warmer weather.

The pupils at John Hampden have had two enrichment weeks recently—Discovery Week just before the half term break and Arts week last week. Further information about the activities that took place during these special weeks can be found later in this newsletter and on the school website.



This week a travelling book fair has been visiting the school in preparation for World Book Week which will take place next week, when there will be a focus on books, reading and performance. Pupils will access online presentations from famous authors, share poetry recitals with other classes as well as enjoying other story telling activities where teachers will swap classes and read stories to a new class of children. There will also be a book swap event where everyone will come home with a new book to read. On Friday our World Book Day celebration event will involve our pupils sharing books with pupils from Wendover Junior School. We are hoping that all children will be able to come to school wearing book character costumes and we will include some photos on the school website. Please do not hesitate to contact us if providing a costume causes you problems.

Additionally, there will be performances from mystery readers in our 'Masked Reader' competition. The reveals will take place during assembly next week but you too will be able to see who's behind the mask as the reveal videos will be uploaded to the school website. We hope as many families as possible will enter the competition to win a book token by guessing—winners will be announced shortly. Huge thanks to governor, Toby Short, for helping with the filming and for preparing the videos you will see..... and to the staff who took part.



Red Nose Day On Friday 15th March, in return for a £1 donation, we are inviting the children to come into school wearing something red. Please note that their clothing must be suitable and warm enough for them to wear outside at playtime.

HUGE THANKS

We are extremely grateful to Hannah Ellams (parent) and Kate Walker (Chair of FJH) for securing £5,000 from Wendover Parish Council to kick start the project to improve the Year 2 outside learning environment—we are hoping that Phase 1 will begin in the Easter holiday.

Thank you for your continued support.



2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Once again **Arts Week** has made a vibrant and colourful start after the half-term break. This year kicked off with Perform Drama Workshops on Monday with sessions for each class throughout the day. Music also played its part in the week but naturally as well as the performing arts there is an enthusiastic and very involved focus by the children in the hands-on creative sessions including painting, printing and craft activities.

The theme connecting each of these branches of the arts has been Repeating Shapes and Patterns. While this was demonstrated and practised in the drama workshops and during PE sessions and music, I am sorry not to have seen those, but I was able to see the children with their Teachers and TAs.

Examples of famous artists work were used to both demonstrate repeating shapes and patterns but also inspire the children's own work using different techniques which became more complex with age group. Approaches used ranged from finger painting in Early Years, through creating repeating patterns with fruit and vegetables to potato printing in Year 1 and in Year 2 the children used printing blocks. Children also shared the new Galaxy tablets to make and change their own creations.

Examples of works from Yayoi Kusama, Damien Hirst, Andy Warhol and William Morris were something of an education for me too as I had not seen many of the examples before and Kusama was completely new to me. Even though I dabble in painting myself, (including some abstracts), I hadn't thought about repeating shapes & patterns in the broad way the children were seeing it. Some examples shown here.



Yayoi Kusama



Damien Hirst



Andy Warhol



William Morris

Seeing the children alongside each other taking varied and differing approaches to similar stimuli, I found it very encouraging to see them cooperating with each other and having fun while deep in concentration creating their own pieces. Some of these were very loose and flowing but others were very precise and delicate. It was clear that each was taking something from their classes and being themselves at the same time.

What I haven't mentioned is that I was able to see all of this during the school's first **Teaching and Learning in Action Day** for Governors. Aply organised and co-ordinated by Mrs Parkinson and participated in by all the Teachers and staff, this provided a wonderful opportunity for the Governors to spend the whole morning and /or afternoon understanding the curriculum across all subjects throughout the school and seeing what the school does best, showing "Loving to Learn" in action. I know that you will be hearing more about this in days and weeks to come. Mrs Barnes and the whole school have a lot to be proud of and I found the experience a great pleasure, informative and interesting.



Martin Whitthread
Co-opted Governor

The Governing Board is always willing to listen to parental queries and to explain in more detail what the Governing Body 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, James Edley, Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

HOMEWORK

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 are now receiving regular homework. Tasks are explained to the children at school but it would be useful if parents could also reinforce the task and support children to produce work of an acceptable quality. At school, the children are used to high expectations in terms of presentation and effort and we would ask that homework is always completed to these same high standards. It is important that our pupils get into good habits now, as homework will be a regular feature of their educational lives.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We ask all parents who send their children to our school for their support of the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork (including a named P.E. kit). Parents should ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean, named and in good repair. We currently have Lost Property boxes that are over flowing with clothing that is not named—children are not able to identify whether it is theirs or not!

The Uniform Policy and an order form is available on our school website and gives clear guidance about appropriate clothing for school. Many items can be purchased from the school office.

We wish to discourage parents from allowing their children to wear 'jean' type trousers and we prefer children to wear school type shoes or boots in black, grey or navy.

If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the head teacher. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example religious objections, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform the school will look sympathetically at such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the head teacher. The school will not treat pupils with disabilities unfavourably.

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be);
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind.

COATS

Children should wear a coat to school every day at this time of the year.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

School websites are an important way of finding out about a school. There is a great deal of statutory information that should be included on a school site but we continue to work hard to try and ensure that ours also gives a true flavour of what the school is really like. I would urge you to take a regular look as new information/detail is often added. We would be pleased to hear your feedback or to receive suggestions as to what you would like to see on the website so we can make it as useful as possible. The website address is www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk or you can find us by googling John Hampden School Wendover.

WORLD BOOK DAY TOKENS

Please check your child's book bag for their World Book Day £1 token.

SCROLL OF HONOUR BADGES

Please can we have any scroll of honour badges returned to the office as soon as possible please as we are running out.

SUPERVISING CHILDREN

Please can parents ensure children are supervised at all times when scooting or cycling to school and ensure that children dismount before they arrive on the school premises. Thank you.

HEADLICE

We currently have an outbreak of head lice amongst some children at the school. Please could you check your child/children's hair regularly and treat it appropriately if found. Thank you.

4. CURRICULUM—ARTS WEEK

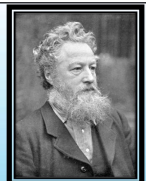
Arts Week is an opportunity for us to highlight and focus on the arts. On Monday 19th February, each class took part in a free Perform drama workshop. They were then introduced to the theme for the art work focus—'Repeating Shapes and Patterns'. This was delivered through an emphasis on a variety of printing techniques and an introduction to four famous artists.



Damien Hirst



Yayoi Kusama



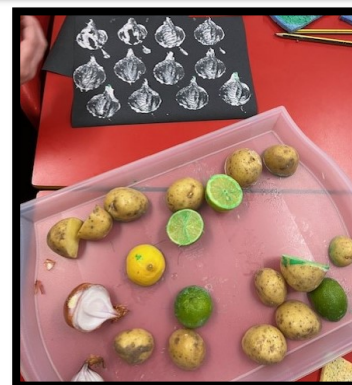
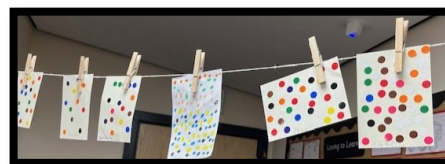
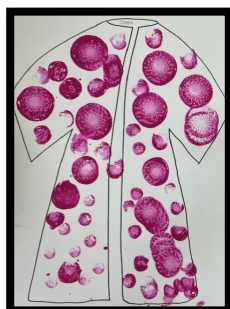
William Morris



Andy Warhol

We were really impressed to see how engaged the children were in the art activities and to watch their creativity shining through. They were encouraged to explore printing—finger printing, sponge printing, fruit and vegetable printing, string printing and press printing.

Printing in the style of Yayoi Kusama (EYFS)



Fruit and vegetable printing in the style of William Morris (Year 1)

Spot printing in the style of Damien Hirst (all year groups)



String and Press Printing in the style of Andy Warhol (Year 2)



Special P.E sessions gave each class the chance to practice repeating shapes and patterns in their movements and during the Friday 'Over and Above' assembly the children performed a very tricky repeating pattern song taught to them during the week by Mrs Mannering. There is a video of them performing under the News section of the website

4. ONLINE SAFETY EVENING FOR PARENTS

Following a parent presentation on Monday 19th February by Alison Watts, the Bucks Council Schools Safeguarding Officer, we have added some links and information that you might find useful to our website with regard to how you can help keep your children "Safe Online". Some of Alison's top tips are also detailed below:

8 Steps to support your child to be safer online

1. **Explore together.** Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen, show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.

2. **Chat little and often about online safety.** If you're introducing them to new websites and apps, talk to them about how to stay safe on these services and in general. Ask if anything ever worries them whilst online. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.

3. **Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried.** This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.

4. **Be non-judgemental.** Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm, loving support.

5. **Supervise their online activity.** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult is able to supervise. Children of this age should not access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in a bedroom or bathroom.

6. **Talk about how their online actions affect others.** If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.

7. **Use 'SafeSearch'.** Most search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, allowing you to limit the content your child can access online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, often shaped like a small cog.

8. **Parental controls.** Use the parental controls available on your home broadband and all internet enabled devices in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website.

4. CURRICULUM –DISCOVERY WEEK



Science at John Hampden School

At John Hampden School we actively encourage our pupils to question the world around them. As a school we are keen to harness our pupil's naturally inquisitive natures and develop these further. We are eager to provide our pupils with opportunities to develop and enrich their understanding of nature, processes and methods of science through different types of scientific enquiry. Our aim is to instil a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. We hope that our passion and enthusiasm for the subject shines through in our provision and that our love of learning will be a catalyst for a generation of budding, future

scientists.

The children are exposed to first hand practical experiences to ensure that their learning is engaging and meaningful. Ultimately, we want to equip our pupils with the scientific knowledge to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the times to come. Who knows what they will be required to solve in the future?

Discovery Week

The children thoroughly enjoyed 'Discovery Week' and were provided with plenty of opportunities to explore science through first hand experiences. During the week, every class planned and carried out an investigation linked to their current topic.

In Foundation Stage the children thought about changing state. They created salt dough fossils and observed how the ingredients changed during the process.



In Year 1 the children investigated the properties of different materials and thought about which material would be best for building a bridge.



In Year 2 the children created bath bombs and investigated irreversible changes and explored dissolving.



Sublime Science

To celebrate our love of science and to create a sense of awe and wonder, Sublime Science came and delivered a range of practical workshops to each class. From exploring how sound is created with a whirly tube to investigating climate chaos - all of the children excelled at being scientists. The children fully immersed themselves in the experience and were completely engaged in all of the activities. Many questions were generated for future exploration!

5. PUPIL SECTION



Hérons - Esme – ‘Sublime Science was great fun. I loved learning about how electricity works’

Hérons - Hamza – ‘I loved the tornado in a bottle. It was interesting to see how the weather works.’

Firecrests – Lily – ‘I liked making the bath bombs and how it fizzed and dissolved.’

Firecrests – Finley – ‘I liked the bath bombs best in ‘Discovery Week’ and it was interesting that the cold water took longer than the hot.’

Red Kites – Hazel – ‘I liked making the bath bomb and then watching how quickly it disappeared. It went really quickly.’

Red Kites – Keyan – ‘I liked the Sublime Science because I liked it when he put his palm on the plasma-ball and the electricity went through him and underground.’

Badgers – James – ‘I loved the air bazooka. It made my hair move from across the room.’

Badgers – Salma – ‘I like making a bridge. I made it strong with a middle bit.’

Squirrels – Heidi – ‘I liked it when he made the tissue disappear with a flame.’

Squirrels – Joshua – ‘I learnt that we can fail again and again until we get it right. That’s what scientists do.’

Hedgehogs – Ethan – ‘The blower blew your hair. It blew everyone’s hair. My hair was like a fast train.’

Hedgehogs – Sylvie – ‘Our bridge didn’t work - the car rolled off. Next I would try cardboard – the car wouldn’t roll off.’

Honeybees – Spencer – ‘I liked it when he made loud and quiet noises with the metal pipe.’

Honeybees – Oakley – ‘I liked the noise the straw made.’

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

Pop in after school, last day today...



*Come along and pick your child's next favourite book. There may even be cakes!
The school benefits from the commission on sales. The more books we sell the more free
books we can choose for the school.*

Coming up.....

Easter Trail & Bake Sale

Friday 22nd March

Please get in touch if you'd like to help out.
We really need you!!

It could be making a few props in the run up, working the
door/exit, guiding children around the trail or baking/selling
cakes.



7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. Since the last newsletter we have made progress linked to the actions outlined below:

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION	GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES
<p>Education at John Hampden is about inspiring and motivating our pupils. Arts week is an enrichment opportunity to allow our pupils to experience live drama, art and music in order to meet one of our curriculum aims 'to open up to possibility'.</p> <p>Arts Week was preceded by Discovery Week where there was a focus on Science, Maths and Thinking skills—albeit some of the activities had to be curtailed when Ofsted visited!</p> <p>World Book Week has been planned to focus on developing a love of reading and a joy of books including non-fiction and poetry. It also aims to give pupils further opportunities to recite poetry, dress up and engage with 'The Masked Reader'.</p> <div data-bbox="150 913 360 1037">  </div> <div data-bbox="557 902 745 1043">  </div> <div data-bbox="248 1052 617 1207">  </div>	<p>Arts Week has given us another opportunity for our classes to share their learning.</p> <p>Last week we asked KS1 pupils to volunteer for monitor roles in the school to ensure the reading books and the school library books are kept organised and tidy. It was clear that lots of children were interested in these roles and we will be recruiting shortly and ensuring as many children as possible get the chance to take on roles of responsibility within the school.</p> <div data-bbox="959 884 1323 1142">  </div>
GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT
<p>Last week a 'Governor Day' took place where many of our Governors visited the school and explored the learning that was taking place. Twelve Year 2 children spoke to a small team of governors about their personal development at JHSW. The children wowed them with their understanding and eloquence in explaining aspects of school life.</p> <p>We have also added several more photographs of children who have received trophies, medals or certificates for their success in activities outside school. These photos are displayed within school on our 'Wall of Fame'.</p> <div data-bbox="301 1823 651 2063">  </div>	<p>'Governor Day' was the perfect opportunity for governors to see, at first hand, many aspects of school life that they hear and read about from the leadership team and from teachers and written reports. Nothing beats seeing the school in action.</p> <p>Whenever possible we are keen to collaborate with our local liaison group of schools. This involves teaching staff working together. For example, organising events such as pupils at JHSW sharing books with pupils from WJS during our World Book Day celebrations.</p> <div data-bbox="943 1767 1390 2040">  </div>

8. MISCELLANEOUS



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FROM SEPTEMBER 2024?



OPEN MORNING – SATURDAY 23rd MARCH
FROM 9.30—11.00 AM

The John Hampden School Wendover is organising places for a new cohort of children in their Early Years Class from September 2024. We can offer your child:

- **Up to three terms of high-quality education in a new, purpose built learning environment**
- **Excellent facilities and resources – an irresistible learning environment inside and out**
- **Outstanding transition arrangements**
- **A gentle introduction to school**
- **Highly qualified, experienced and caring staff committed to developing the potential of every child**
- **A friendly and welcoming environment**
- **Five morning sessions 8.45a.m- 11.45a.m, universally funded**
- **Chargeable lunch club**
- **Optional afternoon sessions 12.15p.m-3.15p.m (up to 30 hours of flexible free entitlement)**
- **Breakfast Club from 7.45a.m, After School Club until 6.00p.m (Childcare vouchers accepted)**

Eligible children will be born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 and admission criteria apply.

To book a slot for the Open Morning please contact the school office 01296 622629, email office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or view the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!

Please note a place in the Early Years Class does not guarantee a place in the Reception Classes at the school.



Hampden Financial Services are proud to be offer Parents, Guardians and Staff of John Hampden School the opportunity to review their mortgage and also raise funds for John Hampden School.

For every mortgage completed via Hampden Financial Services, Hampden Financial Services will make a £50 donation to John Hampden School.

So whether you are looking to remortgage or move home please contact us via below and just mention John Hampden School when you make initial contact.

Phone – 07812 063256

Email - Jeff.harris@hampdenfs.co.uk

Feel free to check out our reviews on Facebook and google under Hampden Financial Services

Terms and Conditions are available on request

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS
ON YOUR MORTGAGE