



The John Hampden School Newsletter

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Issue Ten Friday January 30th 2026

While we follow the EYFS Framework with Prime and Specific areas of learning, and the National Curriculum which sets out what children should be taught at this stage, we have the freedom to decide how best to deliver this content. We have discovered that certain topics consistently engage our infant pupils, whilst at other times we respond to the children's particular interests to create fresh learning experiences. Our teachers work tirelessly to ensure learning opportunities remain relevant and engaging, keeping children motivated and actively involved in their education.

At The John Hampden School, we strive to present learning as a connected curriculum wherever possible. We select topics that allow different subjects to be taught in meaningful, integrated ways. Rather than teaching history as a separate weekly lesson, for example, we may focus this subject within a specific topic block. We also plan enrichment days or weeks to spotlight particular subjects or themes. This academic year, we've already enjoyed a fortnight focused on Health and Safety and a Growth Mindset week.





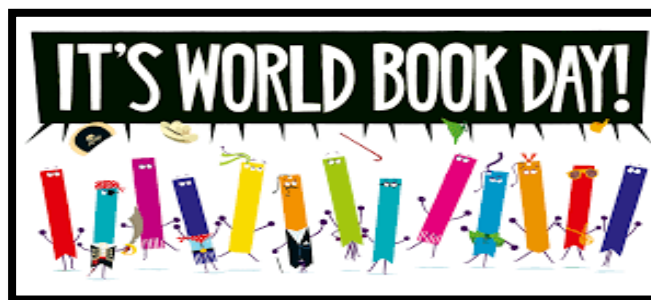
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Following the half-term break, Mrs Berry has planned an exciting Arts Week where children will create artwork linked to a specific theme, enhanced through music and drama. Later in the year, we also have World Weeks to look forward to.

We enhance our curriculum wherever possible by inviting visitors into school or organising educational trips. We sometimes ask children to come dressed in costume to make their learning more memorable and engaging. With this in mind, I'd like to draw your attention to World Book Day, which we will be celebrating on Friday 6th March 2026. As in previous years, we are inviting all children to dress up as their favourite character from a book. We will be celebrating with a full week of book-related activities, and we'll share more details about these closer to the time. We are confident it will be great fun for everyone!

Steph Parkinson – Headteacher





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WOW Challenge!

We are excited to share that our school is continuing to participate in the Living Streets "WOW" Challenge! Our goal is to make the journey to school safer, healthier, and more enjoyable for every student.

Using the Living Streets Travel Tracker; children log their journey to school in the classroom. To promote an active commute, every child will receive two badges per term, and we encourage active journeys whenever possible.

By choosing to leave the car behind (when you can), together we are helping to reduce congestion at school and improve the air quality in our local community. It is a fantastic way for children to get some fresh air and clear their minds before the school day begins.

Your child will have brought home two of the Autumn Term badges. Spring Badges will be sent home before the Easter break. Thank you for your support with this.





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The Friends of John Hampden

We are incredibly grateful to The Friends of John Hampden, our wonderful PTA, for organising last week's school disco which was a fantastic success! The children had an amazing time dancing, playing games and enjoying time with their friends, and the event raised valuable funds for our school. The success was down to the hard work and dedication of our Friends volunteers, along with the enthusiastic support from our school community. We are delighted to announce that plans are already underway for the next event – a Valentine's Day Bake Sale on Thursday 12th February at 3.15pm. We would love to see a wonderful selection of homemade treats, so please drop your bakes at the school office on the morning of 12th February. There will be prizes for each class. If you're able to help sell on the day, please contact your class representative. Thank you once again to The Friends of John Hampden for everything you do to support our school.





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Governor Section

As our Chair, Martyn, mentioned in the last newsletter, each of our school governors are paired up with subject leads on the teaching staff to offer support and challenge as 'link' governors. As governors are welcome from all backgrounds and experiences, we often don't have any experience of teaching – so the role of a link governor is to ask the 'bigger' questions about how that subject is going at school. How are children progressing in the subject? How are teachers ensuring that all pupils can benefit from the learning? How are subject leads supporting their own professional development in that subject?

I have the privilege of being the link governor for History, Geography and RE, led by the fabulous Year 1 teachers and Assistant Heads Mrs Norman and Mrs Burrows. Each year, I'm invited into the school to see the children learning the subject curriculum in action – such as Year 2's Great Fire of London Day and school-wide World Weeks. Last week, I spent an hour with Mrs Norman and Mrs Burrows understanding how as a governing board we could support them to deliver the teaching and learning in these three subject areas.

As well as subjects, I'm also link governor for our Out of School Club. This is a fantastic facility that our school offers parents and carers, allowing many of us to manage working hours or commutes. My own children have spent many an early morning and late afternoon at OOSC and, I know from their feedback, that there is a rich mix of activities for all interests and ages. Last week, I enjoyed a tour around after school club with the manager, Mrs Cottle. It is split across two 'sites' – Little Owls for Crickets and Foundation Stage, and Big Owls for Years 1 and 2 and siblings from Wendover Junior School. The activities vary day to day, but include role play, a book corner, drawing and crafts, a construction area, and little world sets. Outside, different areas of the playgrounds are made available for children to burn off some energy, such as water play, scooters and trikes, ball games and lots of space to run around.

It's always a pleasure to come into the school and observe the children's learning and learning-through-play – so, a big thank you to all the fabulous teachers and support staff who make it all happen.



Rachel Coffey
Parent
Governor



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Parents' Evenings – Next Week

In the last newsletter we gave details of the Parents' Evenings that are due to take place. Please enter the school building via the main entrance where signage will direct you to sit outside the classroom to look at your child's work before you are called in to talk to the teacher. At the end of the 10 minute appointment you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire about your experience and also to complete some feedback for your child to see.

We look forward to seeing you then.

A yellow sticky note with handwritten text in black ink.

Don't forget
parents'
evening!



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Diary Dates – Spring Term 2026

3rd February 2026 – Parents evening

4th February 2026 – Parents evening

5th February 2026 – Parents evening

9th February 2026 – Assessment week

12th February 2026 – School closes for half-term at 3.15pm

13th February 2026 – Inset Day

16th to 20th February 2026 – Half Term

23rd February 2026 – School opens

23rd February 2026 – Arts week

2nd March 2026 – Communication Week EYFS

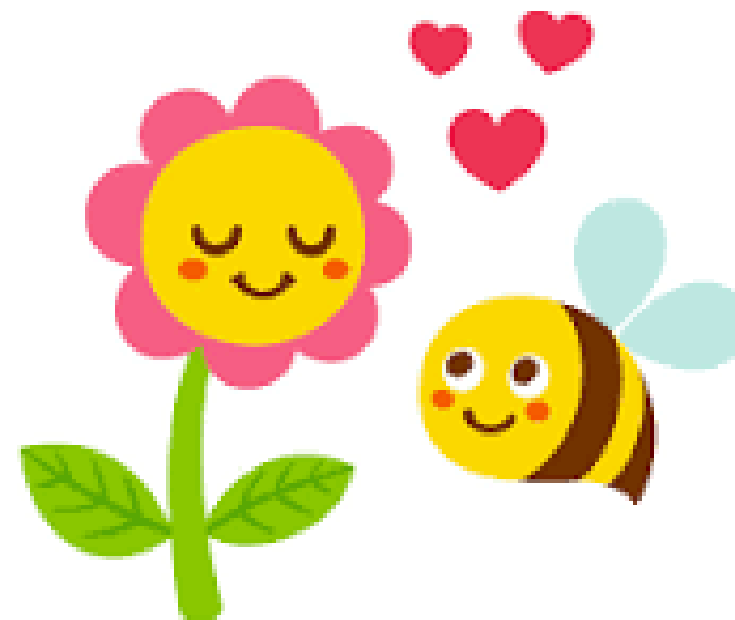
2nd March 2026 – World Book Week

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





Free Parenting Programmes

Our parenting programmes will help you develop new and existing parenting skills, offer advice and build your confidence as a parent.

Proud to be part of

**Family Hub
Network**
Buckinghamshire



Scan me

LITTLE TALKERS

18 months to 3 years old

- Focuses on children's speech, language and communication skills and how parents can promote them
- Designed by Buckinghamshire Speech and Language Therapy



PARENT PUZZLE

0 to 5 years old

- Understand challenges and how to address them
- How to support your child's growth for calmer parenting



TALKING TEENS

11 to 18 years old

- Focuses on relationships within the family, communication, negotiating, decision-making and strategies to reduce conflict
- Learn more about teenagers and their needs



THE NURTURING PROGRAMME

3 to 11 years old

- Help deal with the challenges that come with parenting
- Think about what we do, why we do it and how it makes us feel



BALANCEABILITY

2.5 to 5 years old

- Accredited learn to cycle programme
- Develops confidence, spatial awareness, dynamic balance, and how to ride without stabilisers



KEEPING YOUR CHILD IN MIND

All ages

- Work together in ways that support growing children and a calmer family life
- Explore the conflict between parents/carers both in a current or previous relationship



01296 383293



familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Galentines Floral Workshop



Thursday 12th February

6:30 - 8:00

Lucca Restaurant, 20 High St, Wendover, HP22 6EA

£50 per person

or

£45 when booking for 2 or more

£10 deposit required to secure your spot!

Create your own beautiful floral arrangement
with plenty of guidance, laughs, and fizz along
the way!

🌸 Welcome bubbles included on arrival

🌸 All flowers and materials provided

🌸 Take home something beautiful you made yourself

Fleur.floralevents@gmail.com | 07805663951 (Georgia)