



The John Hampden School Newsletter

Issue Three Friday October 3rd 2025

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At the start of the new school year, it is especially important that our children feel settled in their new classes and begin to build strong relationships with their teachers and teaching assistants. In these first few weeks, we have focused on embedding our school values and behaviour expectations. We take a positive approach to behaviour management, highlighting what children should do and celebrating success in a variety of ways. Each class has a 'Recognition Board' to showcase impressive behaviour and learning and children are often sent to share their achievements with me, receiving a special Head Teacher sticker. Our weekly 'Over & Above' assembly further celebrates exceptional effort, with certificates and stickers, while the silver cup for 'Class of the Week' adds to the excitement. So far Badgers and Red Kites have received the Class Of The Week Cup – I will let your children tell you who was awarded 'The Class of The Week' today!

Both of last week's Harvest Festivals were very special – a time to be thankful for the food we have and to think of those less fortunate. Thank you for your generous donations; the Women's Refuge were truly grateful. The Foundation Stage wowed us with three poems and three songs, including a much-loved reprise of Big Red Combine Harvester! Year 1 and Year 2 performed eight songs beautifully, with each class showcasing their own. It was wonderful to see our school values shining through, including belonging as the children felt a very important part of The John Hampden School, collaboration perseverance to learn the songs in such a short space of time. A big thank you to Mrs Mannering for teaching the songs so expertly. We also unveiled our new school song, 'Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now' composed in honour of Mrs Barnes and the JHSW Values that she introduced. We sang it to Mrs Barnes in her leaving assembly in July and it has now become our 'forever school song.' It was the perfect ending to The Harvest Festival that really raised the roof!

We are looking forward to our upcoming Parent's Evenings where we can provide you with feedback about how your child is settling in to their new class. Please remember that your appointment only lasts for 10 minutes—if it appears that you require more time, a new meeting will need to be arranged as others are delayed if your appointment overruns. If, following your meeting, you would like to speak to me about any matter we can arrange a mutually convenient time to speak. Thank you for your continued support.

Steph Parkinson - Headteacher



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Our School Development Plan is closely aligned with Ofsted's Education Inspection Framework ensuring that priorities directly address Ofsted's key judgement areas. Together, these priorities ensure that the school continues to provide a broad, ambitious and inclusive education that enables all pupils to thrive. The objectives link to the Ofsted Inspection Framework:

Curriculum and Teaching — covering targets linked to curriculum intent, implementation, and impact

Attendance and Behaviour — behaviour, attitudes to learning, attendance, and punctuality

Personal Development and Wellbeing — pupil voice, equalities and diversity, PSHE, extra-curricular activities, and support for learning

Leadership & Governance — collaboration arrangements, deficit recovery, professional development for staff, safeguarding, and managing workload

The annual school development plan 2025-2026 is available on the school website and each fortnight you will receive an update on our progress towards meeting the targets in the plan in this newsletter.





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Curriculum and Teaching

Our Assistant Headteachers, Clare Norman and Steph Burrows, are an invaluable part of the Senior Leadership Team, contributing greatly to the development of the school. They lead key areas including PSHE and Growth Mindset and are currently preparing exciting initiatives such as Growth Mindset Week and Health and Safety Weeks. These weeks help to embed essential values and life skills, fostering the growth, resilience and confidence of every child. Their dedication and proactive approach ensure that these important areas positively impact both pupils and the wider school community.



Clare Norman



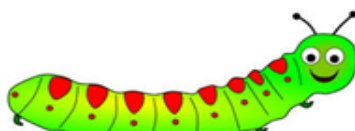
Steph Burrows



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School Improvement Visit

Last week we were visited by our Early Years Advisor who makes regular visits to all schools to provide support and guidance. She was very impressed with how quickly our Nursery and Foundation Stage children have settled into school life. She praised the strength of our transition programme, noting that the increased number of settling visits we offer plays a key role in helping children feel confident, secure and ready to learn from the very start of their school journey. I have the pleasure of teaching Ladybirds, Honeybees and Caterpillars once a week and it has been such a joy to see how beautifully they have settled into school life. Each week, I notice not only the wonderful progress they are making in their learning but also the growing confidence and independence that shine through in the classroom. Their enthusiasm and eagerness always bring a smile to my face and it is a privilege to share in these special moments of their early school journey.



Wendover Music

Last Monday, our school was delighted to welcome Wendover Music for a special visit. The musicians captivated the children with their performances, introducing them to a range of instruments and styles in an engaging and interactive way. The children were enthralled throughout and clapping along. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to experience live music up close, sparking excitement and curiosity. The visit left the children inspired and full of enthusiasm, with many talking about their favourite moments long after the performance had ended.



Thank you to The Lionel Abel Smith Trust for funding this event.



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Pupils Section: Harvest Festivals



Rory from Honeybees class said he loved singing all the songs, Big Red Combine Harvester was his favourite. Grave loved seeing her mummy and she sang all of the songs for her.



In Caterpillars class Harlowe enjoyed singing Twit Twoo. Finn liked waving to the mums and dads and liked the owl song too.



In Ladybirds Evie enjoyed her mummy coming to watch her singing the songs. Her favourite was Under The Harvest Moon. Alfie enjoyed everything about Harvest. His favourite song was Chug Chug Chugging Away. He also liked being near his friends.



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Pupils Section Harvest Festivals



In Badgers class Mille said that she enjoyed singing our new school song. Stirling said that at first he was quite scared seeing the audience but in the end he really enjoyed it!"



In Squirrels class Joseph liked the singing and Max liked that his mummy and brother came to watch.



In Hedgehogs class Esme said that she enjoyed singing our song in front of the adults and the children. Timothy enjoyed singing all of the songs and clapping at the end.



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Pupils Section Harvest Festivals



In Herons Indie like performing Bean Harvest because it made her feel happy and joyful. Isabelle enjoyed singing all of the harvest songs as they made her feel calm and happy.



In Firecrests Idun really enjoyed listening to Herons performing Bean Harvest. George enjoyed all of it because it was so much fun!

In Red Kites Bella loved singing the songs especially the Harvest Hymn and Leo loved listening to all the other songs.





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Governor Section

As the newly elected Chair of Governors at our school, I would like to begin by thanking Mr. James Edley, our outgoing Chair, for his dedication and hard work in carrying out the role. As part of our succession planning, James had indicated that he would step down during this academic year and this change was confirmed at our recent Full Governing Board meeting.

Since taking on the role, I have had my first official meeting with Mrs. Parkinson and it has been wonderful to hear how warmly you have welcomed and supported her as our new Head Teacher.

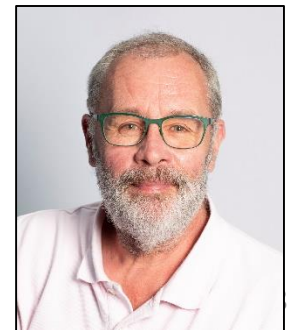
I have been a school governor for over 10 years, and I can say from experience that the role is both rewarding and impactful. I would encourage anyone who has the time and interest to consider volunteering—it is a fantastic way to contribute to the life of the school. Did you know that school governors make up one of the largest groups of volunteers in the UK? There is a wealth of support available to both new and experienced governors, whether at school, county, or national level.

Our Parent Governor nominations close on Monday, 6th October, at 3:15pm, so please do consider putting yourself forward—or nominating a fellow parent/carer—before the deadline.

I am really looking forward to working alongside Mrs. Parkinson, my fellow governors, and you as parents and carers to continue supporting our school in the months ahead.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support.

Martyn Dolbear
Chair of Governors





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The Friends Of The John Hampden

Would you like to be the next Chair Of The Friends Of The John Hampden?

Becoming Chair of the Friends of John Hampden is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference in our school community. As Chair, you would lead a passionate and dedicated team of parents and staff who are committed to supporting the school, organising events and raising funds to enhance our children's learning experiences. With their creativity, energy and enthusiasm, you would never be working alone – the team provides practical support, fresh ideas, and encouragement every step of the way. It is an opportunity to use your skills to shape exciting initiatives, strengthen school-community connections and leave a lasting, positive impact on every child's school life. Please contact: the school office if you are interested office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk





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Thank you

We are incredibly grateful to Batts Building and Decorating and Wendover Grill for their generous support to our school. Batts Building and Decorating have kindly donated £500 to the Foundation Stage and in a wonderful gesture of community spirit, they have asked the children themselves to decide how the money should be spent – watch this space to see what exciting ideas they choose! In addition, Wendover Grill has donated nearly £1,000, a remarkable contribution that will make a real difference to our school community. Their generosity helps us continue to provide the very best additional opportunities and experiences for our children, and we are extremely grateful.





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Health Week Competition Time

After half term, we will be holding our traditional Health and Safety Weeks, where the children will focus on the question: “How do I keep myself healthy and safe?” Throughout the week, they will take part in a range of activities and discussions designed to help them understand the importance of looking after themselves, making safe choices, and developing healthy habits.

This year, as part of Health and Safety Week, we are excited to launch a special project: creating a John Hampden Healthy Recipe Book. We would love families to send in their favourite healthy recipes that others might enjoy trying at home. These could be for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert. All entries will be carefully shortlisted and the final selection will be used to create our very own recipe book, which will be published and ready to buy just in time for Christmas. This is a wonderful opportunity to share ideas, celebrate healthy eating and create something lasting for our school community.





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Diary Dates – Autumn Term

- 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**

Upcoming Events:
Week commencing 14th
October—Parents' Evenings
BOOKING CLOSES AT 5.00
PM TODAY (3rd October)
24th October—School closes
at 3.15pm for half term
holiday.
3rd November—School re-
opens and Safety Week





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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



Looking for a more rewarding role?

Wendover Dementia Support
an award-winning local charity is seeking a
Part-Time Paid Dementia Support Co-ordinator
to help people living with dementia and their families.

This flexible role (15 - 20 hours per week) includes:

- Supporting families at our welcoming **Monday Club Café** in Wendover
- Home visits and independent community-based work
- Working alongside our team of experienced volunteers

If you're compassionate, motivated, and want to make a real difference in your community, we'd love to hear from you.

For a full job description, please contact
info@wendoverds.org.uk

