



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

So, the week began with the Ofsted phone call informing us that our school would be inspected on 6th & 7th February. This has duly taken place and I would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide positive feedback about the school. Our inspection was a Section 8 ungraded inspection and we will await our published report in due course. We were so proud to be able to show off our learning environment and the amazing pupils and team of staff we have within our school.

Learning Review Meetings for Early Years & Foundation Stage (not Ladybirds) and KS1 pupils took place last week and we hope you found that the information shared with you was useful. We asked you to complete a short survey following your appointment and the findings from these surveys will be collated and analysed to be shared with you, the Leadership Team and the class teachers, in our continued attempt to monitor and evaluate the quality of information we provide.

Parents of children in Ladybirds Class will have their Parents' Evening appointments rearranged as soon as possible.

Opportunities for parents/carers to talk with the class teacher to discuss pupil progress occur twice during the academic year but we are keen to advertise our 'open door' policy so if parents/carers have a concern about any aspect of the school at any other point we are happy to find a mutually convenient time to talk to you. Mrs Parkinson and I are also available if you feel you need to contact us about an issue too. Our school aims to be fair, open and honest when dealing with any concern, issue or complaint and to resolve it through open dialogue and mutual understanding. Please do speak, or write, to someone at the school at your earliest convenience, rather than using any other means to communicate a concern. We believe we are best placed to support you.

This week we have enjoyed all that 'Discovery Week' has brought. The children have had designated time to explore science, maths and Growth Mindset activities. Do ask them about what they have been learning.

As we reach the end of the first half of the Spring Term we are already looking forward to what the next half will bring. We are starting with Arts Week which has a 'Repeating Patterns and Shapes' theme and will provide our pupils with the chance to engage in related drama, music, art and sport activities.

Two weeks later we will be focusing on reading, with different activities featured every day. It will culminate with our celebration of World Book Day on Friday 8th March where we hope children will come to school wearing a costume of a character from their favourite book. Please make sure children will be warm enough in their costumes and avoid too many props! Our Year 1 pupils have P.E. on a Friday so they will also need to be able to get changed out of and back into their costume—thank you.

A reminder that tomorrow—Friday 9th February—is an INSET day so there are no children in school. Teachers will be spending the day completing curriculum related tasks in school.

I hope you manage to have a restful half term break and are able to enjoy some quality time with your children. There are a number of bugs going round at the moment, including some cases of Covid, so I hope everyone stays well during the break and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 19th February.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Following a recent request for nominations for a new Parent Governor, we are pleased to inform you that we received one nomination by the deadline of 5th February, so we look forward to the vacancy being filled by the start of the Summer Term.

My name is Ann Whyte-wood-Sitzberger and I am a parent governor at John Hampden School. I've held this role for a number of years whilst my son, George attended the school and am looking forward to my daughter, Emma joining JHS in the near future. Recently, I have been delighted to take over the role of Early Years Governor, an area that I feel very passionate about!

I've had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs Parkinson to discuss the progress in curriculum development at John Hampden. Mrs Parkinson and the subject leaders have been busy working on developing an ambitious curriculum starting in Foundation Stage and having a 'golden thread' that leads to pupils continuing their success with the National Curriculum beginning in Year 1.

These curricular goals have been documented for every area of learning and subject, which has been a huge undertaking! These documents will soon be available on the school website and the knowledge organisers will be shared to enable pupils and parents to understand what the children are learning, what they have learnt historically and where they will be going next in their learning journey.

The journey through this ambitious curriculum will embed knowledge and develop skills but at the heart of everything is the whole school focus on 'Loving to Learn'-a mindset setting the standard for all stages in life.

The governors will soon be taking part in the first 'Governor Day' where we can immerse ourselves in the school community. We will see the curriculum in action, have a chance to take part in lessons, see the curriculum unfold, and talk to pupils about how their learning is going.

This day is scheduled soon and is sure to be a very useful and informative day.

We look forward to sharing our experience with you in an upcoming newsletter.

In the meantime, have a safe and happy half term!



Ann Whyte-wood
Parent 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

Reminder

World Book Day is coming soon (Friday 8th March). Children in all classes are invited to come to school dressed up as a character from their favourite book.

P.E. Kit

Your child will be bringing home their P.E. kit to be washed during the half term holiday. Please could we remind parents that kits must be returned to school on the first day back because P.E. lessons start immediately and your child cannot participate if they do not have the proper kit. Long hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons and earrings removed or covered with tape.

Achievements Outside School

We are always keen to hear of your child's achievements outside school. In fact we have dedicated a special board in the corridor to display photocopies of certificates or photographs of children receiving special awards. If your child would like to bring in any such items we would be happy to put them on the board to help celebrate their success. Equally if you feel your child has a particular strength or talent that they demonstrate outside school we would be glad to hear about it—it helps us to build a picture of the 'whole child'.

Requests

- Please note that parents should not use mobile phones whilst they are in the school building and should avoid being on the phone within the school grounds wherever possible.
- Children need a coat in school everyday
- Please name your child's clothes—we have so much unnamed lost property.
- Parents of children attending our After School Club or any other after school club should not use the staff car park .

THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR CO-OPERATION.

Do you or someone you know have a child born between

1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021?

We will soon be starting to offer places in our Early Years Class for September 2024, so if you are interested in trying to secure a place you may like to make an appointment to attend our Early Years Open Morning, planned for **Saturday 23rd March from 9.30 to 11.00 am**. The Early Years classroom and outside learning areas will be open for you and the prospective new pupil to view, and teaching staff will also be available.

Please see the flyer in the Miscellaneous Section of this newsletter and contact us if you would like to come along.

Safer Internet Evening

Just a reminder that if you are interested in attending our Safer Internet Evening on 19th February at 6.30 pm—please can you send back the response sheet. Thank you.

Fluorescent light bulbs and clay bags

We have a number of fluorescent light bulbs in various sizes which we need to get rid of in return for a donation to our school fund. Please contact the school office if you are interested in these.

We also have approximately 20 bags of clay suitable for a kiln. Again please contact us if you are interested in these for a donation to our school fund.

4. NURSERY NEWS

Communication and Language in the Nursery

For this section of the newsletter we wanted to celebrate the fabulous learning that is continually taking place in our school nursery.

As children develop speaking and listening skills, they are building the foundations for literacy and learning. In addition to this, they are learning key skills such as how to express themselves and make friends. Communication and language is one of the three prime areas within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Each prime area is divided into early learning goals, for communication and language these are:

- Listening, attention and understanding - these skills support language learning and include the ability to discriminate sounds and maintain and monitor attention in a shared context. Young children gradually develop the ability to understand words in context, beginning with single words and building on this with phrases and more and more complex sentences.
- Speaking - this allows children to express their feelings, needs and wants, their thoughts and ideas and be able to talk about what has happened and about creative or imaginative events.

Our highly skilled teachers and teaching assistants are the best resource in our nursery, supporting a child's language and communication development. Young children need many opportunities to have conversations and to hear adults modelling language and introducing new words. They learn language further when they're engaged with things that fascinate, challenge and excite them. They need to hear and say new words often to strengthen the connections in their brains and to keep building their vocabulary.

As a school nursery, we make use of a language programme which boosts communication and language skills and we incorporate this into our daily nursery planning. It has been delightful to hear the children using such a wide range of vocabulary.

We also introduce Helicopter Stories to the Nursery pupils. Helicopter Stories is based on the Story Telling and Story Acting curriculum of renowned Early Years Practitioner Vivian Gussin Paley. During a Helicopter session, children dictate their stories to an adult to scribe. Later the whole class gather around a stage and the stories are acted out. We are truly amazed at the language that the children are using. Children have their very own special Helicopter Story folder that they take with them to Foundation Stage where they continue their journey.



5. CURRICULUM SECTION

Year 2 Wow Day

On Wednesday 31st January, it was so lovely to see so many children come in dressed in costume for our Great Fire of London Day. The children truly immersed themselves into a range of different enrichment activities.

The children tried out some art activities. They painted a backwash for a fire and cut out silhouettes of the skyline of London using black sugar paper and stuck them on. The children chose realistic colours to depict the fire. The children also used chalk pastels to create their own Great Fire of London pictures, using famous paintings as a prompt. They used a range of techniques and strokes to create some very creative pieces of art, with different colours, textures and patterns, as well as their mark making skills from previous art lessons.

Also, the children got into role and character in Drama and Role Play and acted out scenes from the Great Fire and freeze framed their actions. We then guessed what they were doing! They also performed some music, singing London's Burning as a class and in rounds.

Finally, the children were very lucky to make and bake some bread using a recipe from the 17th century. They kneaded the bread and let it prove before baking.

It was a truly superb experience for all the children and staff. Plus, we had a visit from our History Governor, Rachel Coffey, who was very impressed by the children's knowledge and understanding of the Great Fire of London.

Here are some comments and photos from the children about what they thought of the day:

Hérons:

Erin: I liked the Drama Workshop, it was fun! I enjoyed working with my group and guessing the other group scenario.

Hamza: I enjoyed creating a picture showing the Great Fire of London!

Firecrests:

Scarlett: I enjoyed the art best, especially the chalk pastels because you could use different colours, patterns and textures.

George: I liked the bread making using my gross motor skills to knead the bread. It was an old recipe from the time of the Great Fire of London.

Red Kites:

Betsy-Rose: We thought about Thomas Farrynor's bakery and made bread just like he did using similar ingredients.

Matthew: I enjoyed painting pictures of the fire and cutting out the building to stick in front of them.



6. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

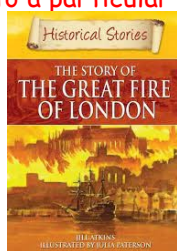
We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. Since the last newsletter we have made progress linked to the actions outlined below and we've also had validation from Ofsted!

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Most of our Learning Review meetings took place during the week beginning 29th January when teachers shared their observations and assessments of children. They also provided information outlining some targets which could be worked on at home as well as in school.

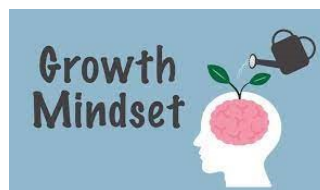
Year 2 pupils shared in a Great Fire of London day last week. Pupils and staff came to school wearing costumes of the era and the children participated in a range of activities to bring their learning to life.

Pupils continue to read at school on a very regular basis. This may be individual reading to a member of staff, group guided reading or other curriculum reading linked to a particular theme or topic.



GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES

This week has seen a particular focus on the importance of a growth mindset. This week, teachers have planned activities and resources to support this learning.



Over the last term and a half we have been working hard to instil a sense of responsibility in our pupils for moving sensibly and safely around the school at all times. 'Wonderful Walking' is always encouraged within the school building but children are obviously free to run around freely at playtimes and lunchtimes. It is a pleasure to watch the classes entering and leaving the hall beautifully at assembly times.

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

We continue to be pleased with the excellent response from pupils to the 'Scroll of Honour' initiative. We are consistently noticing more children taking the initiative to offer help to others or to tidy up or to demonstrate the school values in action without any prompting. We are delighted that a whole range of adults in the school spot this type of behaviour and we hope that this will further enhance the ethos of kindness and respect for people and property whilst also celebrating the success of those who demonstrate our core values and follow our behaviour expectations.



GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

We are working with other local schools to explore the options in relation to joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), to better understand the constraints and benefits of such arrangements.

A meeting is currently being arranged with the lead of a local MAT so information regarding the process of academisation and the way a MAT operates can be shared.

MULTI
ACADEMY
TRUST

7. MISCELLANEOUS



JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER
Loving to Learn

OPEN MORNING – SATURDAY 23rd MARCH FROM 9.30—11.00

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



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 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.

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

PANCAKE PARTY



St Mary's Church
At the heart of the community

TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY
10AM - 11:30AM



JOIN US AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, WENDOVER
FOR CRAFTS, GAMES, FUN AND PANCAKES!

School Support Careers

**FULLY FUNDED
Online Course**



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

**Available in
Levels 1, 2 & 3**

Are you looking for a job that fits in around your family? Gain the necessary qualifications to support you, fully funded by the ESFA (Education Skills Funding Agency).

Levels 1, 2 & 3 for School Support Course with a Guaranteed Job Interview.

- **Our classes are based online - Run only in term time - During school hours to fit in with the school run -**

Course Times

- Total of 5 days per week (Mon-Fri) for 6 weeks
- There are 2 lessons per day (9.30am – 11am) & (1pm – 2pm)
- Must have internet access and a laptop or tablet.

- **No prior experience necessary -**

Eligibility Criteria

- Must Be Aged 19+
- Must Claim Benefits (Universal Credit, JSA, ESA, PIP, Income Support, Housing Benefits or any type of Tax Credit including Child Tax Credit). If you live in Merseyside, you do not need to claim any benefits.
- You Can't be a student or an International Student
- You Must have lived in the UK for a Minimum of 3 Years (Except if you are from the Ukraine).

www.studysmartuk.online

