



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

24.5.24 School closes for half term at 3.15pm	4-6-24 School Opens
3.6.24 INSET DAY—school closed to all pupils	28-6-23 FS, Y1 & Y2 Sports Day

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I wanted to start this newsletter by thanking those of you who were able to attend the recent FJH May Fayre. There were numerous stalls and activities for the whole family to enjoy along with fantastic performances from children, including superb singing and marvellous Maypole dancing. Your support was tremendous and we managed to raise approximately £4,600 which will be put to very good use. Our plans for spending include enhancing the Year 2 outside learning environment and purchasing resources that will benefit all pupils. My thanks to Kate Walker and the FJH Committee for organising this very successful event and to the governors, staff and volunteers who supported the various stalls—it was a wonderful afternoon and your support helped to make it a thoroughly enjoyable event.



At least once a term we try to provide enrichment weeks where the normal timetable is replaced by a week or two of something a little bit different. In the Autumn Term we spent two weeks focussing on Health and Safety. In the Spring Term we had Arts Week and Discovery Week. When the children return after half term, we have planned 'World Weeks'. These weeks have always been very enjoyable and popular with the pupils in the past and we will put out all the work for parents/carers to come and share at the Open Evening in July. Each KS1 class will be studying a different country and will use this stimulus to enhance teaching linked to Geography and R.E.

Weather permitting, on Friday 28th June, FS and KS1 Sports Day is planned. This is our own sporting competition in which we hope the competitors will demonstrate the core sporting values of:

respect - fair play; knowing one's own limits; and taking care of one's health and the environment

excellence - how to give the best of oneself, on the field of play or in life; taking part; and progressing according to one's own objectives

friendship - how, through sport, to understand each other despite any differences

Further details will be sent out via a letter in your child's book bag nearer the time but rough timings are as follows:

Year One: 9.15–10.15 am, Foundation Stage: 10.15–11.15am, Year Two: 11.15–12.15pm.

I hope you enjoy the half term break with your children and we look forward to seeing them back at school on **Tuesday 4th June**.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

A beautiful sky, a wonderful day, whip-crack-away!

Those of us who went along to last Saturday's May Fair were privileged to have been entertained by a brilliant musical performance by a group of talented and enthusiastic children. They clearly loved the occasion and the opportunity to perform fantastically well in front of family and friends. Such performances are always a joy to watch. But that got me thinking. Why do we have music in schools? Why is it taught as a subject? What benefits does it bring when the curriculum is already jam-packed across a broad spectrum? It was one of my favourite subjects at school, but some children dislike it, so why put them through it?!

Schools teach music for a variety of important reasons that contribute to the overall development of students:

1. **Cognitive Development.** Learning music enhances cognitive abilities (the functions your brain uses to think, pay attention, process information, and remember things).
2. **Academic Performance.** There is evidence that students who participate in music education often perform better academically.
3. **Social and Emotional Development.** Music education helps in developing social skills such as teamwork, collaboration, and communication.
4. **Cultural Awareness.** Music education exposes children to a wide range of cultures and histories.
5. **Creativity and Expression.** Music encourages creativity and self-expression.
6. **Personal Discipline and Responsibility.** Learning to play an instrument or participate in a musical group requires regular practice and dedication.
7. **Enhanced Listening Skills.** Music education improves listening skills and the ability to spot different sounds, which can enhance focus and attention to detail.

Our school benefits from subscribing to software known as Sparkyard, which provides teachers with over 1000 songs and other resources for use in all curriculum subjects. All teachers can access this to aid and assist their teaching, regardless of the subject and their musical skills and background. It provides a fun learning method for many children, can help them absorb and retain knowledge, and is another brilliant use of IT in education.

Overall, music education at John Hampden School supports the holistic development of its children, contributing to their intellectual, social, emotional, and cultural growth. This multi-faceted approach to education helps the school prepare its students not just for academic success, but for life. It also results in some cracking musical performances which many of us regularly enjoy!

*** **Bonus Fun Fact!** Did you know that listening to music can release dopamine, the 'feel-good' neurotransmitter, in your brain? This is the same chemical that's released when you eat your favourite food or fall in love, which explains why your favourite songs can make you so happy! (That's Heart of Glass by Blondie for me!) ***

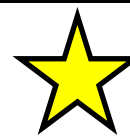


Matt Buttery
(LEA Governor)

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

NURSERY PLACES—SEPTEMBER 2024



In September 2024 we will, once again, open the doors of our Early Years Class (Cricketts) for a whole new class of children. Our 26 place nursery class runs from a purpose built classroom at the front of the school and has its own outside area. Places for the Cricketts Class can be in demand and we only have capacity to take 26 children for the next academic year. Therefore if you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 and you are interested in the Early Years Class at John Hampden for September 2024, we would urge you to complete an application form as soon as possible.

If we fill all 26 places in September with eligible children (admission criteria apply) we are not planning to admit further children after Christmas or after Easter so you may only have one chance to secure a place.

BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB (OOSC)

The John Hampden School Wendover runs a high quality wrap-around-care provision for pupils at the school, as well as for siblings and Year 3 pupils at Wendover Junior School.

If you are looking for reliable, fun and professionally run childcare for your son or daughter, now or for the next academic year, do contact the OOSC Team:

Out of School Care contact number: 07506195699

Out of School Care email address: oosc@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

As an important stakeholder in the school your contribution is welcomed and valued. We recently sent home a questionnaire to gauge your views and opinions. The closing date for returning completed questionnaires is Tuesday 4th June and we will aim to collate your responses during the next few weeks and feedback to you thereafter.

WATER BOTTLES

Reminder that we do encourage Year 1 and Year 2 children to bring a bottle of water to school each day to keep on their desks—this is in addition to the drink you may provide in a lunch box. In warmer weather many children are glad of the chance to keep a drink close by. Children in EYFS have access to water throughout the day in our hydration stations.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check that your child's school uniform is correctly named. There are a huge number of jumpers and cardigans in lost property that are not named so cannot be returned to their owners.

4. CURRICULUM

On Tuesday 14th May, as part of their History learning, Year One enjoyed a Victorian School Day. During the day, the children took part in some typical activities that would have taken place in a Victorian School Day, such as:



We learnt that:

- Children paid a penny to go to school
- Victorian coins look different to the coins we use now
- Children sat in cramped rows to learn
- Children had to write with their right hand or they were punished
- Children had to stand whenever an adult entered the room
- Boys and girls learnt different things
- There was no technology
- Children wrote on chalkboards
- Some children had to wear a 'dunces hat'

5. PUPIL'S SECTION



Sitting at desks in rows.

Laura: "It was different then because teachers were more bossy than now. I learnt that children had to squash onto small desks. They had chalkboards instead of paper."



Doing Victorian style drills.

Looking at real Victorian coins.



Molly: "I liked sitting at our own tables and playing playground games. We learnt about the dunces hat and cane."

Learning traditional Victorian playground games.



Playing traditional Victorian playground games.

Theo: "I liked every single bit. I liked the stories. I learn people only had to write with their right hand or they wore the dunces hat."



Playing traditional Victorian playground games.

Freddy: "I enjoyed the Victorian stories."



Making peppermint creams..

6. THANK YOU

Many thanks to personnel from RAF Halton who gave their time to lay pathways of wood chippings in the school vegetable garden and around the adventure trail last week. It has greatly improved accessibility for the children in these areas.

Last Thursday, Mrs Dowell and Mrs Spencer invited service families to come into school for a coffee afternoon. Many thanks to the parents who were able to attend. We are hoping to run similar events regularly, throughout the year.






A huge thank you to the organisations that donated plants for us to sell at the May Fair last Saturday

Chiltern View Nursery and Lindengate provided a huge array of bedding plants and perennials. Thanks also to Dobbies garden centre for their kind donation of plants too.



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:

<p style="text-align: center;">GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION</p> <p>The month of May sees our Year 2 pupils taking part in the now, non-statutory assessment procedures for the end of Key Stage 1. The tests were administered with great care and sensitivity by our Year 2 teachers and we now need to wait for national standardised scores to be published in order to see whether our pupils have been judged to be working at age related expectations within the National Curriculum.</p> <p>In Year 1 and Foundation Stage the last two weeks have been filled with wonderful enrichment opportunities—A Victorian School Day and trips to Whipsnade Zoo and a walk around Wendover.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES</p> <p>Our young pupils need regular reminders of the JHSW Behaviour Expectations in our attempt to ensure they develop socially as well as academically. After our Over & Above Assembly on a Friday afternoon, the children are given designated time to practise the things that we consider important or valuable to young learners. This is called M.O.V.E time—Mastering Our Values and Expectations. These regular timetabled sessions are planned to meet the needs of the different classes.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT</p>
<p>By 21st May the second round of allocation of school places for 2024-2025 took place. Sadly, this number is currently below our planned admission number of 90, which has significant budget implications for funding in following years. This lower number has been attributed to a low birth rate for this cohort. We have also allocated the majority of the places in the Early Years Class. Letters have gone out to these families as the first step towards transitioning our new pupils into the school. JHSW works hard to ensure the best transition opportunities for all our pupils whether they are new to the school or whether they are moving into a new year group at the school.</p> <p>A transition programme runs in the second half of the summer term and our new pupils will have three opportunities to visit the school to alleviate any worries or concerns that may have occurred over the summer break. The rest of our pupils will also have numerous opportunities to visit their new classes and meet their new teaching staff before the start of the new academic year.</p> 	<p>Our budget for 2024-2025 was submitted by the deadline of 17th May and we have been able to show the Local Authority that our prudence and successful income generation initiatives meant we finished the last financial year with a surplus figure for the first time in many years. However, unfunded pay awards for support staff have impacted our ability to continue on this trajectory so continued effort is required to balance the books. We are also working hard to recruit for September 2024 to ensure we are fully staffed for the new academic year..</p> 

8. MISCELLANEOUS



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

John Hampden Out of School Care vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Playworker at our Out of School Care. Working hours would be 3.00-6.15pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday (9.75 hrs per week) term time only with the possibility of additional hours which will be discussed at interview.

The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children and a relevant Level 2 qualification, however this is not essential.

The salary will be Bucks Pay Range (1A.5) £23,104 Pro rata

If you are interested in this post or would like further information please call Sharon Cottle on: 07506195699 or email: oosc@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or contact the school office for an application form on 01296 622629 or email: office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT: Please note that this post will be subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced DBS check as our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in our care. We will also complete an online search.