



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

As we reach the end of the first term of this academic year, it is a good opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved since September. Whilst watching the children in their Christmas performances, I saw our core values of perseverance and collaboration shining through. The children have all worked hard during the term and I hope they are beginning to recognise that effort really does lead to success. Many of the 'Over & Above' certificates handed out so far are rewarding children for their continued effort and their ability to uphold the behaviour expectations and the values we believe are so important for effective learning. I hope all our pupils will return in the New Year ready to build on the impressive start they have made.

The Autumn Term has given us the opportunity to open our doors to parents on several occasions to allow you to watch your children perform. The usual Christmas activities and excitement have been a feature of the last few weeks and the children have obviously responded with enjoyment.

Now, as we head towards a much needed break, I would like to thank you for your support. Our pupils are extremely fortunate to have parents/carers who are so supportive of their education.

My thanks to the Friends of John Hampden and the Governors for their support this term. We are grateful to all of them who have given their time voluntarily to help the school.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the staff who work at John Hampden—I couldn't ask for a better team and their effort and resilience is amazing. We will be saying goodbye to a member of the team today - Mrs Gough (Teacher) - we wish her well for the future.

Reminder that the school reopens on

Monday 6th January 2025

It just leaves me to wish you a very happy Christmas—I hope you manage to have an enjoyable and peaceful festive season. Let's look forward with positivity to 2025!



2. GOVERNOR SECTION

I mentioned to a fellow governor that I was to attend the Year 1 Nativity Performance, and they said that I was 'in for a treat'. What an understatement! Those of us in the audience were treated to a fantastically entertaining (or should that be #epic?) 40 mins of great fun and polished performances. All the children performed brilliantly and explained the story of the nativity in an amusing, very musical, and animated way.

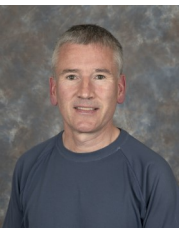
But, as Mrs Barnes covered in her concluding remarks, this was a Whole Team John Hampden effort which had taken months of planning and a lot of work by all but two people in the hall that day. The school staff had planned, meticulously, the performance itself and prompted, gently, when required on the day and helped to keep everything on track.

Parents had helped to provide and make costumes and, I have little doubt, helped patiently with line- and song-learning at home, and gave time to watch the children give their very best on the day. Mrs Mannering, wielding her virtual baton, operating the sound system, helping to direct dance moves and providing sound effects various, had already spent a great deal of time in preparing the music and in rehearsals.

And then the children themselves, who had worked so hard in rehearsals and who seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves, gave their very best. They recited, acted, sang and danced their way through fantastic routines, and were amazingly confident in front of a very large audience of adults. They learned a huge amount through that experience and, it seems, really enjoyed doing so.

The final outcome was an absolute joy and something that provided the children with many learning points and experiences.

And the two people in the hall who hadn't worked on the performance? That was the two governors who thoroughly enjoyed the event and who were extremely proud to think that we play a very small part in the amazing community that John Hampden School creates, and the learning that it provides.



Thank you for all the work and support that you have provided the school and children with this year. We wish you a very merry festive season and a happy New Year. Hope to see you in 2025.

Matthew 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 us 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 or if you just have a query about the school.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL OR STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025

Parents/Carers of Year 2 children at John Hampden must apply for a Junior School place for their child. The Junior School online application service opened on 5th November 2024 and the deadline for online applications is 15th January 2025.

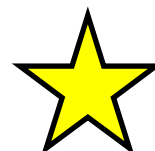
 If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start school in September 2025, an application for a Primary School place must be made in the next few months. The Primary School online application service opened on 5th November 2024 and the deadline for online applications is 15th January 2025. Please note that a place in the Early Years Class at John Hampden does not guarantee you a place in the school—an online application must still be made. Parents should use the following website to make their application:



<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/>

STARTING IN THE NURSERY CLASS AT JHSW IN SEPTEMBER 2025

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 they are eligible for a place in our wonderful Nursery Class from September 2025. To register your interest please download an application form from the school website or email or phone the school office.



P.E. AT SCHOOL

As P.E. bags come home in the Christmas break to be washed please check that your child's P.E. kit is all clearly named and correctly fitting. Please note that children must have a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt to wear for outside P.E. sessions, which continue throughout the winter months. Children with long hair must have it tied back for P.E. lessons and no earrings should be worn for health and safety reasons.



Eco-matters

The school applied for free trees through the Woodland Trust and six saplings (Rowan, Silver Birch & Flowering Cherry) have been planted in the woodland area in the school grounds. The trees planted last year are growing well. We hope to develop this area further in the coming months as a space for children to enjoy as they learn about their natural environment. There are already a variety of species of wildlife frequenting the woodland area and around the school.



4. CURRICULUM SECTION

It has been a very special, albeit busy, time of year here at John Hampden School where the effort and dedication of our children and teachers, along with the ongoing support of the parents and carers, have been second to none!

One of the most exciting aspects of this time of year has been the opportunity to showcase the many hidden talents within our school. The chance to perform in our Christmas plays has allowed so many children to shine whilst helping to lay the foundation for all children to grow in confidence and creativity. I had such fun working with the Reception classes and their 'Wriggly Nativity' was a triumph! I'll be humming those songs for a while! The Year 1 and 2 performances of A King Is Born was nothing short of spectacular, capturing the essence of Christmas with every note and movement. Their singing filled the hall and they performed with such energy and expression.

Another highlight for me this year has been the incredible experience of taking my musical theatre club to perform at St. Mary's Church. These young singers, each of them with their own unique spark, performed eight songs with actions that were absolutely heart-warming. They were a credit to our school and I am very proud of each and every one of them.

As we break for the holidays, I want to wish all our children and their families a very Merry Christmas. I'm filled with anticipation for the New Year and I look forward to hitting the ground running with all our future musical adventures and performances in the months ahead.

Have a very happy and restful Christmas!

Suzy Mannerling

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST TWO WEEKS

Christmas has certainly been a feature of recent activity at JHSW. Our pupils have enjoyed:

A Christmas lunch in school.



Entertaining with singing in St Mary's Church

Learning about Christingle with Reverend Sally Moring



Creating an entry to CribFest 2024

Year 1 and Year 2 performing 'A King is Born' to large audiences



Christmas parties with a very special visitor!



6. MISCELLANEOUS

The John Hampden School Wendover

Midday Meals Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy from January 2025 for a Midday Supervisor Working hours would be 12 noon – 1.30pm Monday to Friday (7.5 hrs per week) term time only. The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children, however this is not essential as full training will be given.

Start date: as soon as possible in January 2025

Closing date: 6th January 2025

The salary will be Bucks Pay Range 1A.5 (£23,104 Pro rata, £11.98 per hour)

If you are interested in this post please call the school office on: 01296 622629 or email: office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk to receive an application form.

Please return completed applications as soon as possible. Suitable candidates may be interviewed before the closing date and John Hampden School Wendover reserves the right to withdraw the position if an early appointment is made.

