



The John Hampden School Newsletter

Issue Two Friday September 18th 2026

We have now reached the end of the second full week of the Autumn Term and it is wonderful to see how well the children are settling back into school routines. By Friday, many of them are understandably tired, which is a sign of the hard work and effort they are putting into learning new routines and readjusting to school expectations.

We know you are interested in what your child is learning, therefore each week we upload a learning overview – ‘What We are Learning’ so that you can keep up to date with what your child is learning in school to the relevant class page on our school website: www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk, under the Classes tab. In addition, the induction PowerPoint presentation shared at the class induction meetings have been added to the website. We hope this provides you with plenty of useful information about your child's class.

We also know you will be keen to hear how your child has settled in. To support this, Autumn Term Parents' Evenings will take place during the week beginning 12th October. Further details about how to book an appointment with your child's class teacher can be found later in this newsletter. The online booking system will open at 6.00 pm on Monday 28th September.

Finally, as always, we value the strong partnership between home and school. If you ever have a question, or concern, please know that I am always happy to hear from you.

Steph Parkinson - Headteacher





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PARENTS' EVENINGS

The Autumn Term parents evenings will be held during the week commencing 12th October. All pupils have brought home a letter with a login and password for you to access the e-schools platform which will enable you to book a slot to speak to your child's class teacher. For pupils who were in the school last year, you already have the login details but if you have forgotten them, please contact the school office. If you have more than one child at the school, the oldest child's login and password will allow you to access both/all your children's parents evenings appointments. The appointments will be for 10 minutes per child and we ask that only one parent in each household books the appointment. The booking system will open at 6.00pm on Monday 28th September and will close at 5.00 pm on Friday 2nd October. The system will confirm your appointment/s date and time. We will not be issuing paper appointment letters or confirmation of appointment slots. If your child's class is taught by two teachers only one of the teacher's names will appear on the booking however you may be seeing either of the class teachers.





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Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival for Foundation Stage is due to take place on Wednesday 23rd September at 9.30am. Before this at 9.00 am, there will be a Phonics Workshop for Foundation Stage parents. Year One and Year Two will perform together on Thursday 24th September at 9.30am and only parents of Year One pupils are invited to attend. (Year Two parents are invited to watch May Day later in the year in our attempt to make things fair.) There will be no Harvest Festival for the children in our Nursery. On the relevant day up to two adults for each child will be directed via the side entrance to the school hall for the performances. The audience will be able to take photographs or video for their own personal use and we always ask that no images of other peoples children or the staff are put on any social networking sites.

As usual we are asking families to provide donations. We welcome any flowers, fruit, vegetables or tinned goods. Children can bring donations to the classroom on the morning of their festival or there will be a table outside the main entrance where any contributions can be left.

The donations will then be collected by representatives from the Women's Refuge in Aylesbury and they are always very gratefully received as they rely on donations to run successfully.





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Voluntary Contributions

Each parent will soon receive a letter which includes an itemized list of the cost of activities which the teachers are planning for the term. Parents can then sign in to their ParentPay account to make the payment. This is a voluntary contribution and there is no obligation involved but unfortunately we may have to cancel activities if not enough parents opt to pay. We try to arrange as many activities as possible in school to avoid the additional cost of coaches but from time to time we will take the children slightly further afield so future termly payment requests may reflect this.

Water Bottles

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 may bring their own named water bottle into school each day. These will be positioned close to where they are working so they can access them whenever they need a drink. We would ask that you only provide water because juice and squash can be very sticky and water is the healthiest option. Children in Early Years and Foundation Stage do not need to bring a water bottle now as the weather has cooled and they have regular access to the 'Hydration Station' in their learning environments.

Parking

Please could all parents be considerate to our school neighbours in the surrounding roads and not block driveways when parking to bring children into school. Also, please avoid using the doctors surgery car park when bringing children to school. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Coats

We take the children outside in all weathers so please make sure they bring a coat to school every day.

Uniform

Please remember that children should not wear jewellery to school for health and safety reasons. If earrings are worn, they must be small studs and securely taped during PE lessons.



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Morning Snack

Fruit or vegetable deliveries have resumed at school so there is a range of fruit or vegetables available and we do encourage the children to have some. Often watching others enjoying eating it can be a real incentive to those who are reluctant to try (or say they don't like it!) Also, it is still possible for parents to register their child for the 'Cool Milk' scheme. You can register online at www.coolmilk.com.

Nuts

We do have several children in the school with a severe allergy to nuts and sesame seeds. We would be grateful if you would refrain from providing nuts or foods containing nuts/sesame seeds in lunchboxes to reduce the risk of allergic reactions. We also ask that there are no sweets or fizzy drinks in lunchboxes. We would also ask that children DO NOT bring in sweets/treats for their classmates when it is their birthday. Thank you

Naming Belongings

After the first few P.E lessons, it is clear that many children have clothing that is not named and this is causing real difficulties for staff. Please would you ensure all belongings are named and that children are aware of where their name is on their things. It is obvious that some children would really benefit from having some extra practice when dressing/undressing independently and keeping their clothing in neat piles, socks in shoes etc. We would really appreciate your support with this.

OOSC

Please remember to inform the OOSC provision if your child will not be attending for any reason. For safety reasons, parents of children who attend our OOSC provision should never use the staff car park when bringing or collecting their child.



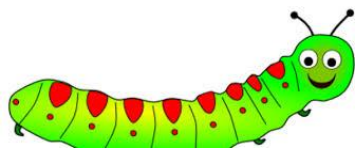
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Pupils Section

What is exciting about my new class and why?



Heidi from Honeybees class said she loves being in Ladybirds with her friends and that she has made new friends. Angus likes exploring the Foundation Stage Garden.



In Caterpillars class Harper likes writing and Theo likes joining and sticking in the workshop.



In Ladybirds Flo loves playing with Ella , Hollie likes making new friends and Aarav enjoys playing with the trains.



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In Badgers class Evie enjoys choosing her learning outside and PE. Oli likes digging and finding bugs. He said “We used pots to look but not forever.”



In Squirrels class Edith said Year 1 is good because it has got lots of areas to learn in. Oscar likes Year 1 because he likes making things in the Creation Station.



In Hedgehogs class Annabelle enjoys doing all of the learning, especially Maths and Annabelle likes writing about frogs.



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Pupils Section

What is exciting about my new class and why?



In Herons class Alex is enjoying Herons because we get to learn more things and Niloo is enjoying learning phonics.



In Firecrests Tilly is really enjoying Art because she loves mark making and Blake enjoys Maths because it is his favourite subject.



In Red Kites Edith likes all of her friends and teachers and she is enjoying learning about life cycles. She has learnt about the human life cycle. Oliver enjoys playing fun games at circle time as they get to take turns.



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Governor Section

A warm welcome to all our parents and carers. I was in school on the second day of term and it was delightful to see the children so happy and engaged.

Autumn term is a busy time throughout the school and no less for the governing board. Our first full meeting was earlier this week, and this is where we begin to layout our aims for the year ahead. We agree our governor roles, some linked to subjects such as Maths or English, and others linked to statutory roles such as Safeguarding. Autumn term is also the time that we agree our School Development Plan (SDP).

The SDP is a complete record of the school's strategic goals and covers all aspects of school life from curriculum and teaching to wellbeing, behaviour and attendance to leadership and governance. As a governing board, we refer to the SDP for all our meetings and school visits throughout the academic year.

My role as Chair of Governors gives me a little more responsibility in ensuring we evidence our achievements and developments through the year. I have regular meetings with Mrs Parkinson to discuss life in school, and I attend meetings with Bucks Council as required, acting as the representative for the governing board. I have always considered the role of Chair of Governors a privilege and here at The John Hampden School Wendover I am extremely lucky to work with very committed and capable governors.



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We will have a couple of vacancies coming up on the governing board this term as some terms of office come to an end. As well as parent governors we welcome co-opted governors from the local community. You don't need to be an education expert. School governors bring a wide range of skills, experience, and perspectives, helping to shape the strategic direction of the school and support its continued success.

If you know of anyone aged 18 or over that you think could bring new skills or experience as a co-opted governor, then please do pass on my contact details below.

Martyn Dolbear
Chair of Governors
chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk





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Diary Dates – Autumn Term

23rd September – FS 9.00 am phonics meeting and 9.30 am Harvest Festival

24th September – KS1 9.30 am Harvest festival

13th October – Parents evening

14th October – Parents evening

15th October – Parents evening

19th October – Growth mindset week

20th October – 9.15 am Open Morning for prospective EYFS (Nursery and FS) parents

2nd November – School opens after half-term

12th November – 9.15 am Open Morning for prospective EYFS (Nursery and FS) parents

25th November – 9.15 am Open Morning for prospective EYFS (Nursery and FS) parents

1st December - FS dress rehearsal

2nd December – 9.30 am FS Nativity

3rd December - 9.30 am FS Nativity

4th December – INSET day

8th December – 9.30 am EY Nativity

14th December – Dress Rehearsal Christmas Performances Year 1 and Year 2

15th December - Christmas Performances Year 2 9.30am Year 1 2.00 pm

16th December - Christmas Performances Year 1 9.30am Year 2 2.00 pm

18th December – Christmas Parties and finish school at 1.00pm



Eco- Corner: September is Second-hand Month

What and Why?

The fashion industry can be very damaging for the environment; it is responsible for 10% of global greenhouse emissions and every year globally 92 million tonnes of textile waste is produced. To add to this, on average, we only wear 20% of the clothes in our wardrobes 80% of the time. Many of us just have too much stuff!

Second Hand September is a global campaign encouraging people to buy second-hand or pre-loved items, donate, and volunteer to reduce fast fashion, cut waste, and support a fairer, more sustainable economy.



Family Eco- Challenge

Before buying something new, see if you can borrow, reuse, repair or find it second-hand instead.

- ✓ Donate one unwanted item
- ✓ Buy one second-hand item
- ✓ Tell one person about the benefits of buying second-hand items

A wealth of pre-loved treasures can be found at these local High street shops in Wendover:

- **Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Shop** (19 High Street) - clothes, homewares, books and more.
- **Rennie Grove Peace Charity Shop** (5 High Street) - sustainable fashion and household items.
- **Antiques at Wendover** (25 High Street) - antiques, vintage items, books, toys and furniture.



We'd love to hear about your family's eco-friendly choices, so encourage your child to share their success with their teacher next week!

Together, even small actions can make a big difference!