



The John Hampden School Newsletter

Issue Nineteen Friday July 17th 2026

As I look back on my first year in headship, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride, gratitude, and excitement. It has been a truly unforgettable journey, filled with wonderful moments, new experiences and countless memories that I will treasure.

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From my very first day in my new role, I have been greeted with such kindness and encouragement by our incredible school community. The warmth of our children, the dedication of our staff and the amazing support from our families have made this first year so special. What makes our school unique is not just what we do, but the people who make it such a happy, caring, and inspiring place to be.

Our school motto, **‘Loving to Learn’** has been at the heart of everything we do. Throughout this year, I have loved seeing our children approach each day with curiosity, enthusiasm, and a desire to discover something new. Whether they have been exploring new ideas, supporting one another, or celebrating their achievements, our children continue to show us what it truly means to love learning.

Every day has brought something new to celebrate, from the achievements and progress of our pupils, to the creativity and passion shown in classrooms, to the many moments of laughter and togetherness that remind us what a special community we are. Watching children grow in confidence and feel proud of themselves has been one of the greatest joys of my first year.

I am incredibly grateful to our wonderful staff, whose hard work, dedication, and commitment shine through in everything they do. Their passion for helping every child succeed is truly inspiring, and I feel so fortunate to work alongside such a talented and caring team.



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I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful governors for their continued support and commitment to our school. Their dedication, encouragement, and belief in our vision have been invaluable throughout my first year in headship. I am incredibly grateful for the time, care, and expertise Martyn Dolbear, Chair of Governors has given so generously to help our school continue to grow and flourish.

A huge thank you must also go to our families for the trust, encouragement, and support you have shown me. Building strong relationships with our whole school community has been one of the highlights of my first year, and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

As we look ahead, I would like to send a very special message to our wonderful Year 2 children as they begin their next chapter. It has been a privilege to watch them grow, learn and flourish during their time with us. We are so proud of everything they have achieved and the kind, confident and curious young people they have become. We wish them every happiness and success as they move on to their next adventure and we know they will continue to shine wherever their journey takes them.

I would like to wish all of our children, families and staff a wonderful summer holiday filled with happiness, laughter and precious time spent making memories together. I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved rest and returns refreshed, ready for another exciting year of 'loving to learn.'



Steph Parkinson
– Headteacher



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Governor Section

This year marked my first Sports Day as both a mum of a child at John Hampden School, Wendover, and a parent governor, and what a wonderful introduction it was. It was a real pleasure to see our school community come together in such a positive, energetic and supportive atmosphere.

The enthusiasm, resilience and determination shown by all the pupils was truly inspiring, and I would like to congratulate every child on their fantastic efforts. Whether competing in events or cheering on their classmates, every pupil embodied the school's values brilliantly. It was clear that the day was about much more than winning; it was about trying your best, supporting others, demonstrating good sportsmanship, and enjoying being active together.

A huge thank you goes to the staff, Premier and the volunteers whose hard work ensured the day ran so smoothly. It really did run like a military operation! Events like this require an enormous amount of planning, organisation and teamwork, and their dedication made it a memorable experience for everyone involved.

It was also fantastic to see so many parents, carers and family members in attendance, creating such an encouraging atmosphere. Your support helped make the occasion a true celebration of our school community and showed our pupils how valued and supported they are.

And, of course, congratulations to all the parents who took part in the parents' races, with some very impressive performances - and a few muscles undoubtedly feeling the effects the next morning!

Sports Day was a wonderful reminder that our school is a special place and I am already very much looking forward to next year's event.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer holiday!

Emma Ramell Parent Governor





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Governor Section

As we approach the end of another school year, I am always surprised by how quickly the time seems to pass. It feels like only a few months ago that I took on the role of Chair of Governors.

This has been Mrs Parkinson's first year as our Headteacher, and I can honestly say that it has been a privilege to work closely with her. Her unwavering commitment to driving our school forward and providing the very best learning opportunities for all our children has been truly impressive. On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to thank Mrs Parkinson for her hard work, dedication, and leadership throughout the year. We look forward to continuing to support her in the next academic year.

As governors, we are not always close to the day-to-day operations of the school. Our role is primarily strategic, helping to shape the school's direction and ensuring that it continues to provide the highest standards of education and care. However, through our visits to school, we gain a valuable insight into the tremendous amount of time, energy, and commitment that our staff invest in bringing our 'Loving to Learn' vision to life.

From our class teachers and teaching assistants to our office staff, midday supervisors, OOSC team, and caretaker, every member of staff plays an important part in making our school such a special place. Thank you for all that you do for our children and families. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continued support and contribution to the learning journey of our children.

That just leaves me to wish our whole school community - children, parents, carers, staff and my colleagues on the governing board - a happy, restful, and enjoyable summer break.



Martyn Dolbear
Chair of Governors

*If you know anyone that might be interested in knowing more about the role of a school governor, then please don't hesitate to contact us on chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk. *)



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Diary Dates – Summer Term 2026

July

Wednesday 22nd July – Year 2 Leavers' Assembly 9.30am (all classes)

School closes at 1.00pm

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2026

September

Thursday 3rd September – school opens for Autumn Term 2026





Castle Park Rd, Wendover, Aylesbury HP22 6AE

Come celebrate Wendover's **only**
COFFEE & GELATO STORE'S
2nd Birthday

BBQ, Beer and Bubbles

GUSTO'S
BIRTHDAY BBQ

18th - 19th July 2026 from 11:am - 3.00pm

Come & join us for a BBQ to celebrate our 2nd birthday! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Vegan options available

Save The Date!
DISCOUNT
GELATO DAY

25th July 2026 from 12.00pm - 4.00pm

Sample a selection of heavenly, locally made Italian gelato and get a discount price on your first order of gelato.

*Maximum of 10 free samples per customer. Discount is valid against gelato orders only. Discount applies to your first order of the day only. Cannot be used on subsequent orders the same day.

