



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

23rd July—Y2 Leavers Assembly

Red Kites—9.30-9.50am

Firecrests—10.00 -10.20am

Herons—10.30—10.50am

23rd July—School closes for the summer at 1.30pm

23rd July—NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

4th Sept—School reopens 8.45am

## 1. FINAL MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

So, we have nearly reached the end of the school year and I have nearly reached the end of a 35 year teaching career at JHSW. I consider myself to be extremely fortunate to have had a job that has consistently challenged and motivated me, within a community that has been nothing but supportive and generous to me and to the school.

Many teachers, quite rightly, move to different schools and gain experience in a range of contexts but, for me, JHSW has always felt like the best school to be in - it felt like that when I first visited in 1990 and it still feels very special to me now. I have found it extremely rewarding to watch how the school has evolved and developed over the years, whilst consistently maintaining a nurturing and caring ethos with high expectations and clear values.

Lots of you appear to have read the recent Wendover News article which outlines many of the headlines from my time at the school—I reflect with genuine pride on what has been achieved by all who have belonged to JHSW at some point in the last 35 years. I have been privileged to work with people who have inspired me and given me every opportunity to develop and grow and I have truly 'loved to learn' whilst I have been here. The team at John Hampden have always shared a real commitment to our pupils and to the school. They do work very hard to make the provision and experiences we offer to our pupils engaging, motivating and enjoyable. Our wonderful pupils are always at the very heart of what we do and it has been incredible to watch them develop over the first years of their educational journey—I must have taught well over a thousand children in my time and I do think I succeeded in learning all their names!

I have been thoroughly spoilt over recent weeks with lots of events, gifts and good wishes from lots of different people—the school secretary from 1990 even sent me a retirement card!

I would like to thank past and present head teacher colleagues from our Liaison Group who have been a real support to me over the years. Also, our amazing team of governors who are excellent in their roles—with just the right balance of support and challenge to ensure the school continues to grow and develop. I recently enjoyed a really lovely evening with many of them, past and present, to celebrate my retirement.



On 4th July I attended the annual FJH barbecue and was so touched to receive the most magnificent bouquet and a very generous gift from parents. It has been a pleasure working with the FJH over the years—they do amazing work and have raised significant amounts to boost the resources we can provide. Their events have also provided valuable opportunities to build the school community and to encourage collaboration. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and effort for the good of the school—I am very grateful for all the support and kindness from parents over the years. I understand that in light of the most recent fundraising idea, some of you may well be wiping your dishes on my image for years to come!



Tomorrow night, an event with the staff has been planned and I am really looking forward to that.

So I do feel like I have been thoroughly spoilt and thoroughly thanked and I leave with fabulous memories of a really rewarding career—I couldn't have wished for more.

I do wish every success to those who follow me in the leadership of JHSW. I am certain the school is in very capable hands moving forward and I know you will continue to support the on-going success of the school.

Thank you



Mrs Parkinson (Head Teacher from September 2025)



Mrs Norman & Mrs Burrows  
(Assistant Head Teachers from September 2025)

It is with sadness that we have had to say goodbye to a number of staff and governors during the year and we wish them every success in their new ventures. This includes Mrs Spencer who leaves us very soon—she will be missed by the whole school community and we thank her for all she has done for the school. On Wednesday 23rd July we also have to say goodbye to our Year 2 children and their parents—the children have been stars and I am sure they will continue to thrive in their next schools.

I hope you all have a very happy, safe Summer Holiday and I wish all the best to our new Early Years, Foundation Stage, Year One and Year Two children who should be back in school between 8.45am and 8.55am on **Thursday 4th September**.

On the first morning of the new school year, staff and signs will be positioned near the entrances the children should use from the first morning onwards. School finishing time remains the same, at 3.15pm (Early Years and Foundation Stage part time pupils will leave at 11.45am and 12.05 pm respectively). All parents should collect their children from the same door that they use in the morning. Children will not be allowed to leave with anyone we are not expecting to collect them.

Have a wonderful holiday with your children.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another school year draws to a close, it's only natural to reflect on all that's been achieved—and what a fantastic year it has been at John Hampden. From continued academic success to memorable events, community involvement, and inspiring pupil development, there is much to celebrate.

Some of the stand-out highlights of this year, in addition to the excellent academic outcomes, include World Book Day, Christmas nativity shows, the May Day Festival, various themed weeks (Arts, Health & Safety, Discovery etc), Sports Day and of course, the summer BBQ. It is often these enrichment activities which the pupils enjoy and remember the most, which is not to say they don't form an integral part of your child's development!

Many of these special events are organised and run by the Friends of John Hampden PTA, who have yet again worked tirelessly over the course of the year to organise and ensure all these events are so well attended, run smoothly and raise such an amazing amount of money for the school. For this we are extremely grateful to the PTA and also those who attend and support the school.

An honourable special mention must also go to the EYFS Team who received the award for 'Excellence in Early Years' at the Buckinghamshire School Award ceremony - what an *amazing* achievement and so well deserved.

All of these achievements are underpinned by our school's values of *Perseverance, Independence, Belonging, Collaboration, Reflection, Good Manners*, and *Respect*. These aren't just words plastered on the walls and pasted into the development plans—they guide everything we do, and this year, we've seen these values lived out by children and staff alike. It's been a busy period with transition visits for many of our Year Two pupils and those who will be joining us in September. We know that this time of year can bring mixed emotions—excitement, sadness, and even anxiety about the new school year. However, please be reassured that a great deal of thought and planning has gone into preparing all pupils for September. Activities such as move-up days, classroom visits, circle times, and Q&A sessions with older pupils are all designed to ensure a smooth and confident start.

And finally (well almost), we can't ignore the fact that, after 35 years at the school, this has been Mrs Barnes' final term as Head Teacher. Mrs Barnes had made an extraordinary contribution to The John Hampden School Wendover, nurturing a positive learning environment for our pupils and supportive workplace for all staff. We are extremely grateful for her unwavering commitment to our school community, for so long. Whilst we shall all miss Mrs Barnes greatly, we fully support her decision and wish her all the best in her retirement.

This does, of course, offer an opportunity for a new beginning... Mrs Parkinson, who all of you will know well, will become the new Headteacher of John Hampden School Wendover from September 2025. We are very much looking forward to supporting Mrs Parkinson in her new role. Mrs Parkinson is not only perfectly qualified for this role, but the appointment will ensure a continuity in leadership and promote stability at the school. We are very excited to see in which direction she will lead the school.

Have a relaxing, joyful, and well-deserved summer break.

Warmest regards,



James Edley

Chair of Governors

[chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk)

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### YEAR 2 LEAVER'S ASSEMBLY

The individual Year 2 class Leaver's Assemblies take place at the times indicated on the front of this newsletter on **Wednesday 23rd July**. No tickets are required but please follow the indicated route on the morning.

**Finally, just a reminder that for everyone term ends at 1.30pm on Wednesday 23rd July and there is no After School Club on this day.**

#### MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Can I please remind all parents that any medication kept in school must be collected at the end of term. We will endeavour to hand it over on the last day. Any medication left at the end of term will be taken to the pharmacy for disposal as we can't keep medication on site over the long Summer break.

#### LOST PROPERTY

We still have lots of unnamed lost property . Please check the lost property boxes by the end of term if you are still missing something as all items left will be handed over to the FJH to sell as second hand uniform if they are not claimed.

#### SCROLL OF HONOUR

If your child has been included on the Scroll of Honour this year please would you check that you have returned the special yellow badge. These are loaned for one week and should have been returned—they are very precious to us!

#### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The School Council representatives have done a fantastic job again this year sharing their thoughts about different parts of school life including: lunchtimes, our school values and transition to a new class/school. They enjoyed an end of year party to celebrate their achievements. Earlier this term, Year Two representatives met with Year Three School Counsellors from Wendover Junior School to discuss transition arrangements between the schools. Answers to questions were then shared with all Year Two.



## 4. CURRICULUM

### Eco-matters



Earlier this year, the remains of last year's wild flower meadow was cut back with scythes by volunteers from the Chiltern Society led by Amanda Barnicoat. The area was then prepared and the fruits of their labour are stunning – a wide variety of flowers and grasses have attracted many insects like damselflies, beetles and several species of bee. Classes across the school have visited the meadow to complete Science related learning, including lessons about mini-beasts and micro-habitats by Year Two.



SPRING '25



SUMMER '25

Back in Spring, the school gardening club and other children from different classes worked really hard to dig, plant, water and weed in the vegetable garden and should be proud of what they have achieved. There are a variety of fruit and vegetables that are growing really well – we may need a larger display area for the harvest produce later this year!



SPRING '25



SUMMER '25

The children in gardening club were excited to dig up the potatoes last week. They reported that this was like hunting for treasure!



The Tiger worms in the school wormery continue to thrive under the care of the Year Two classes who have been feeding and checking on them.

During this half term, the Year Two children attended a workshop led by Amanda Barnicoat from the Chiltern Society. The children learned about bees and their importance to our planet. They had great fun making some crafty bees of their own!

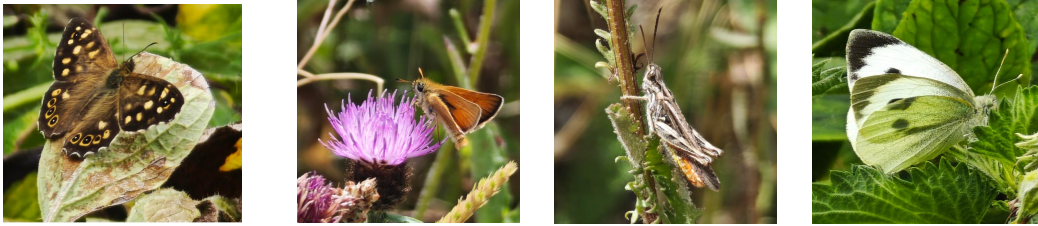


Amanda also led two wildlife evenings and the families who attended were fascinated to hear the facts that she shared about mini-beasts. The children enjoyed going on a mini-beast hunt in the meadow and were excited to complete a sensory herb identification checklist. Also, it was wonderful to learn about the different species of animal that frequent the school grounds at night! These include; foxes, badgers and even muntjac deer.

Many thanks to Amanda for leading the sessions and for the on-going support of the Chiltern Society.



Here are some fabulous photos taken by Mr Richardson in the wildlife garden.



We are excited to announce that the rain garden is now established outside Year Two. This was received from Heritage lottery funding and will be included as part of Science and sustainability lessons moving forward.

Year Two Charity Fundraising Event

On Monday, Year Two will have a morning of quizzes and Bingo with refreshments to keep them going! They are doing this to raise money for two locally based charities.



## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

### School Council Meetings

The School Council representatives have done a fantastic job again this year sharing their thoughts about different parts of school life including; lunchtimes, our school values and transition to a new class/school. They enjoyed an end of year party to celebrate their achievements.

Earlier this term, Year Two representatives met with Year Three School Counsellors from Wendover Junior School to discuss transition arrangements between the schools. Answers to questions were then shared with all Year Two classes.



Recently, Year 2 were fortunate enough to be invited to explore an eco-garden right in the heart of Wendover. Fortunately, the weather was fantastic and we went on an eco-hunt armed with clipboards trying to identify the different eco-friendly methods used in the garden. Among these methods were solar panels, and water butts. On their journey around the garden pupils were able to apply their knowledge of germination and life processes from our Science topic by looking at the magnificent array of plants and beautiful trees. The pond was a source of great amazement because it was filled with life and the children loved seeing the newts amongst other wildlife close up. It was also an opportunity to see many mini beasts nestling amongst the plants such as caterpillars, wood lice and worms. The children also had the chance to apply their knowledge from health week to identify the fruit and vegetables growing in abundance in the allotment area. Mr Duggan gave a powerful and engaging speech about climate change and how we can all do many things to protect the planet starting with recycling. A massive thank you to Mr and Mrs Duggan for allowing us to visit their beautiful garden!

Pupil Voice:

I loved the pond it was a habitat for lots of wildlife including newts! Herons

It was amazing to see how Mr Duggan uses wind and solar power in his allotment. Red Kites

The flowers and trees were beautiful and we were able to tell Mrs Duggan about seed dispersal and germination. Firecrests



# SQUASH CAMPS – AUGUST 2025!

**Location: Wendover Squash Club**  
**3 Days of Fun, Fitness & Squash Skills!**

**Monday 4th, Tuesday 5 & Wednesday 6  
August**

**Ages 5–9**

🕒 9:00am – 12.00 noon

**Ages 10–13**

🕒 12:30pm – 3:30pm



## **Prices:**

- £20 per session
- £55 for all 3 sessions
- Sibling Discount:

- All equipment provided
- Drinks & snacks included
- Just bring clean indoor trainers and lots of energy!

A fantastic opportunity for your child to develop their squash skills in a fun and friendly environment!

**Spaces are limited – book early to avoid disappointment.**

**To book a place:  
tmalliff@yahoo.co.uk**



Please see below for lots of information from Buckinghamshire Council regarding support and activities over the summer holidays.

There are lots of different support and activities available for families over the summer holidays.

Here is a breakdown of some of the support available in Bucks over the summer:

**Southcourt Family Centre Plus** – a drop in for parents and young people to access support (can include food parcels, financial support, parenting advice, signposting to mental/physical health support services, etc). [Southcourt Family Centre Plus \(Aylesbury\) | Family Information Service](#)

**Youth and Family Open Days** – Fun and Free activities for children, young people and families across a number of Family Hub centres. Information will be added to our Facebook pages which parents can sign up to [AylesburyFamilyHubTeam Lnk.Bio](#)

**Qwell** – mental health support for adults aged 18+. The service allows people aged 18+ to utilise free self-help support via discussion boards, articles, podcasts, a journal space and goal setting tools - [Qwell - Explore Kooth](#)

**Family Learning** – A variety of fun free sessions families can attend with their children. Session sign up for Autumn has also just been opened - [Family Learning - Buckinghamshire Adult Learning](#)

**Alternatives to Conflict** - Alternatives to Conflict work with people experiencing a wide range of different conflict challenges, including parent to child, parent to parent, parent and teacher, neighbour conflict, wider family conflict as well as young person to young person (peer conflict) - [Home - Alternatives to Conflict](#)

**Universal stay and play sessions** (for children aged 0 – 5. Siblings aged up to 10 can also attend during the holidays). There are a variety of sessions run from family centres across the county. Facebook is the best place to get all the up to date information, but a list of all the centres can be found at: [Family centres | Family Information Service](#)

**Park Play** - ParkPlay is free community play, every week in a park or public space. Will be held at [Alfred Rose ParkPlay - ParkPlay](#) and [Windsor Road ParkPlay - ParkPlay](#).

More information about any support or activities can be found either on The Family Centre Facebook Pages or on the Bucks Family Information Service Website - [Family Information Service | Buckinghamshire Family Information Service](#)