



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope you had a relaxing Easter holiday and managed to enjoy some time together as a family. It is good to see the children back in school and we are looking forward to all the positive things the summer term will bring. It has become a tradition for the pupils and staff at John Hampden to celebrate May Day each year and yesterday, once again, we marked the occasion. The timeline for producing the newsletter means that you will see the photos and the detail of this years celebration in the next edition, although I hope to put some photos on the website for you to enjoy before then.

As the weather gets warmer we are looking forward to spending more and more time learning outside the classroom. We are fortunate to have suitable outside space to be able to take groups of children outside throughout the school day. Our EYFS and Year 1 outside learning environment has been developed over the years with money being spent on a range of equipment, storage and permanent structures to support learning outside the classroom on a year round basis. Our last major fundraising target was to further develop the Year 2 space so they have comparable provision. In December their outside canopy was installed and now we need to look at other resources that will make this space even better. Our delegated budget is extremely tight so we rely on grants and fundraising to allow us to achieve these types of aim. The Friends of John Hampden are an integral part of our school and their efforts to raise funds to benefit all pupils in the school are truly magnificent. Together we are looking to put together a plan to ensure all stakeholders can contribute financially or with their time to continue the fundraising effort for the benefit of all the pupils in the school.

The next big event from the Friends of John Hampden is the May Fayre. This is traditionally a large fundraiser and we would encourage everyone to come along on Saturday 17th May— the majority of the Fayre will take place outside and there will be plenty for the whole family to do. I know the committee of the FJH will be keen to hear from anyone who is available to help on, or before, the day. If you are able to support them you can contact them via your class representative or email FJHVolunteers@gmail.com—many hands make light work!

During the holiday we received a firm indication of numbers for our Foundation Stage classes in September 2025. As it stands we still have a few remaining places so we sincerely hope future allocation rounds will see more pupils coming our way, as lower numbers are not good news for our future budget - the majority of our delegated budget share is allocated according to the number of pupils we have on roll. Places have been offered for our Nursery class which will open in the Autumn term. If you are still looking for an Early Years provider please contact the school office for more information.

Following a very thorough interview process on Tuesday 29th April, I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Norman and Mrs Burrows (Year 1 teachers) have been appointed as Assistant Head Teachers, on a job share basis. They will join Mrs Parkinson as part of the leadership team from September 2025.

Please note, Year 2 pupils will, once again, be taking the standardised tasks and tests (SATs) during the month of May. It will not be possible for me to authorise any leave of absence requests for Year 2 pupils during this assessment period.

I hope you enjoy the May Bank Holiday on Monday 5th May.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school full of energy after the holidays and with the sunshine finally deciding to stick around, it is set to be a busy and important summer term.

As a parent myself, I am especially aware that this term feels particularly significant. My daughter is approaching the end of her journey at the JHSW and each drop off and pick up feels that little bit more poignant. It is a reminder of just how special the JHSW community is, and how much we owe to those who have shaped it.

With that in mind, it is with a mixture of sadness and enormous pride that we prepare to say goodbye to Mrs Barnes, who will be retiring at the end of this academic year. I am delighted to inform you that, in recognition of her incredible 35 years of service to generations of children in the village, Mrs Barnes was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by Wendover Parish Council on 17th April. I am sure you will join me in congratulating her on this truly deserved honour. You can also read more about Mrs Barnes and her remarkable contribution to the school community in the upcoming May issue of Wendover News.



On the subject of awards, the school has recently been accredited with the Healthy Schools Award. This award recognises the school's ongoing commitment to promoting the health and well-being of all pupils through the curriculum, environment, and wider school activities. A huge thank you to Mrs Spencer, who worked tirelessly to collate the evidence and lead the work that made this fantastic achievement possible.



Finally, we are very excited about the upcoming Summer Fair on Saturday 17th May. It's always a highlight of the school year, and we warmly encourage you to sign up to help if you can — these events rely on the wonderful support of our school community. Don't forget to come and say hello to us governors, who will be running the ever-popular Bottle Tombola stall.



Daisy Berry
Parent 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

PEDESTRIAN ROUTE

A clear pedestrian route is marked out for those who need to reach classrooms by walking round to the back of the school. We have told the children that this has been done for their safety so we would ask that all adults adhere to the marked route in order to avoid walking through the middle of the staff car park. If you need to bring a pushchair and cannot negotiate the new route with this, please ensure your children stay with you as you walk through the car park.



YEAR 2 SATS MEETING & YEAR 1 PHONICS CHECK MEETING

The presentations from these two meetings can be found on the school website under the 'Parents' section, if you were unable to attend.

REQUEST

If you have any spare school uniform that you no longer need, or underwear, socks/tights suitable for our youngest pupils we would be grateful for any donations. These can be brought to the office for use in case of accidents. Thank you in advance.

REMINDER

This is a further reminder that all school uniform must be named. As we reach the Summer Term more children are taking off their coats, cardigans and jumpers and if they are not named there is the real possibility that they may find their way into the lost property box where it is very difficult to match it with the real owner.



WATER BOTTLES & SUN CREAM

In anticipation of some warm, sunny weather to come, it is particularly important that children in Years 1 and 2 bring a **named** water bottle to school. Children are given water at break time but it is good for them to have their own bottle in the classroom so they can stay hydrated. Early Years and Foundation Stage classes have access to water all day long. We advise parents to apply sun cream to their children before they come to school. It is possible to buy cream that only needs to be applied once and this avoids children having to bring their own bottles to school. If you believe your child needs sun cream applied more

often, please let the class teacher know and they can organise times for this to happen. Children should be taught to apply their own cream -thank you.

SIGNING HOME/SCHOOL DIARIES

Please can we remind parents that we encourage you to hear your child read for a short amount of time each day. 'Little and often' is the best way and we would ask that you sign your child's diary when you have heard them and indicate which pages you have listened to. Thank you

COLLECTING FROM SCHOOL

Please remember that if there is a different arrangement for collection of your child after school you must let the staff know. We will not let a child go with someone that we are not expecting to pick them up.

SCOOTERS AND BIKES LEFT ON SITE

Please note that bikes and scooters left on the school grounds are left at the owners risk. The school cannot be held responsible if a bike or scooter goes missing. We do however suggest that a suitable lock is used to keep the scooter or bike safe whilst it is left here during the day.

FOUNDATION STAGE IMPORTANT DATES

Each year our Foundation Stage Classes put on a performance for their parents/carers to mark the end of their time in Foundation Stage. The dates for these performances are as follows:

Wednesday 16th July @2.30pm—Caterpillars

Thursday 17th July @ 2.30pm—Honeybees

Friday 18th July @ 2.30pm—Ladybirds

4. CURRICULUM SECTION

Last Thursday I had the privilege, as Math's lead for John Hampden School, to conduct a launch assembly for Numbots. Numbots is an online maths learning platform that focuses on improving recall and fluency. Numbots equips children with the skills they need to build confidence.

Basic number skills are the essential building blocks for higher level maths concepts. Numbots covers number recognition, number bonds, and addition and subtraction of double-digit numbers; gradually helping your child to build a solid conceptual understanding of number sense.

The assembly was well received by the Key Stage 1 children and Governors. They learned about Rusty who is the central character of Numbots, who needs help in his quest to find new parts to upgrade himself to a shiny diamond bot.

In addition, the KS1 children were given "an introduction to Numbots" lesson. During this time they explored the site and familiarised themselves with logging in.

It has been very encouraging to see how many children have already embraced Numbots! See the pupil section below for what a few children in Year 2 have said:-

Sarah Bowman—Year 2 Teacher and Maths lead

5. PUPIL SECTION

Arlo really likes the fact that when you get calculations correct you earn coins to spend on your character.

Annabelle said she really enjoys playing because she loves maths.

Mia loves earning stars and unlocking new levels.

Jacob loves it!

Ewan gives it ten out of ten

Ruby likes Numbots because she has to think quickly and you get coins and trophies.

Jonah says it is really fun. Most of all he liked the leaderboard and seeing where he is.

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



A colorful poster for a May Fair at John Hampden School. The background is light blue with white clouds, white daisies, and a string of colorful triangular bunting flags at the top. A large orange banner with the words 'MAY FAIR' in white, outlined letters is curved across the middle. Below the banner, a yellow flower sits above a light blue cloud containing the event details. A red banner below the cloud says 'PRIZES GALORE!'. To the left is a Maypole with yellow and pink ribbons. To the right is a carousel with three horses (yellow, black, and blue) and a red flag on top. The bottom of the poster is a green grassy area with white text.

JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL

MAY FAIR

Saturday 17th May
12am to 3pm

JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL
WHARF ROAD, WENDOVER

PRIZES GALORE!

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- children's Maypole dancing •
- raffle prizes • sweetie jars •
- barbecue •
- bottle tombola •
- games and fun •
- children's ride •
- market stalls •
- ales, pimm's and soft drinks •
- and much more!

Save the date and please volunteer if you can!
More info to follow via the class reps.



LAST YEAR YOUR AMAZING DONATIONS
HELPED RAISE £5186 - LET'S DO IT AGAIN!



**PLEASE BRING DONATIONS INTO
THE SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 2ND MAY
TO MAKE YOUR CLASS HAMPER**

HAMPERS ARE COLOUR THEMED - YOUR CLASS REP WILL LET YOU KNOW WHICH COLOUR



Please bring bottles and jars on Friday 9th May

AND THEN COME AND WIN THEM AT THE MAY FAIR ON SATURDAY 17TH!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE A JAR, FILL IT WITH SWEETS OR CHOCOS AND DECORATE OR WRAP IT. THE THEME IS 'HOLIDAY' IF YOU NEED SOME INSPIRATION. ALL BOTTLES FOR THE TOMBOLA ARE WELCOME: FROM BOLLY TO SOY SAUCE, THE MORE THE MERRIER. PLEASE DROP THEM AT THE OFFICE OR YOUR CLASSROOMS.

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:

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Year 2 children are about to be assessed as part of the end of Key Stage non-statutory assessment procedures. The assessments (tests) for 2025 will take place throughout the month of May but our teacher assessments are on-going. Y2 parents and carers were invited to a meeting last Thursday to hear about the format of these tests. If you were unable to attend the presentation it has been included under the 'Parents' section of the school website. We will be informed in May if our school will be externally moderated this year but, regardless of this, our Year 2 staff will have access to moderation sessions which aim to ensure consistent judgements across the local schools. Mrs McNally has, in the past, completed moderator training with the local authority so she is experienced in moderating the judgements of staff in other schools. Before Easter, we also held a meeting for Year 1 parents and carers to provide information about the upcoming Phonics Check which will be completed by Year 1 pupils in June. Again, the presentation will be added to the website under the 'Parents' section.



GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

Each term we analyse the incidents of negative behaviour resulting in children experiencing protective and educational consequences. Last term, not listening and not being gentle were the two most common reasons for children having consequences applied but we were pleased that very few children struggle to work hard or be honest.

To help children rehearse and develop the appropriate social and behavioural skills, they spend time on a Friday afternoon completing 'M.O.V.E. Time'. Mastering Our Values and Expectations. Activities linked to M.O.V.E. Time develop the important skills that we believe are so important for effective learning.

Several years ago we introduced a new way of monitoring how well the children line up at the end of lunchtime play. Our Midday Supervisors award a token (a ball) every time their class lines up beautifully. The balls are visible in class jars in the dining room and we are working hard to ensure every class gets 5 balls in one week—that would be a great start to the Summer Term.



GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mrs Spencer has been very busy evaluating the school as part of the Healthy Schools Initiative. I am delighted to report that we have now been accredited with the Healthy Schools Award and I would also like to commend Jo, who has done an amazing job co-ordinating this whole school approach to health and wellbeing. The healthy schools rating scheme has been designed to recognise and encourage schools' contributions to pupils' health and wellbeing. It celebrates the positive actions that schools are delivering in terms of healthy eating and physical activity, and aims to help schools identify useful next steps in their provision.



GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Last week we had a 'Governor' Day at the school. Organised by Mrs Parkinson, many of our governors spent all or part of the day in the school. They watched lessons, listened to children, went on tours of the school looking at specific areas or met with teachers about specific developments or areas of interest. At regular points in the day they had time to reflect on what they had seen or heard and ask further questions. It was a very beneficial day for all concerned and it is good that our governors get to see 'first hand' what is happening in the school.

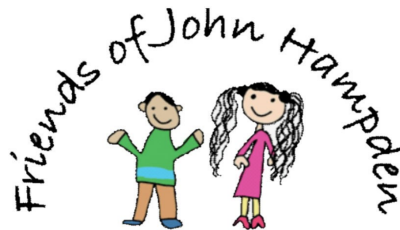




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