



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

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### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I hope you managed to have a restful half term break and were able to enjoy some quality time with your children.

The pupils at John Hampden have had two enrichment weeks recently—Discovery Week just before the half term break and Arts week last week. Further information about the activities that took place during these special weeks can be found later in this newsletter and on the school website.



Last week a travelling book fair visited the school in preparation for World Book Week which has taken place this week—thank you for your support. During Book Week there has been a focus on books, reading and performance. Pupils have accessed online presentations from famous authors, shared poetry recitals with other classes as well as enjoying other story telling activities where teachers swapped classes and read stories to a new class of children. Today our World Book Day celebration event has involved our pupils sharing books with pupils from Wendover Junior School. We have really enjoyed seeing all the children and staff wearing their book character costumes and we will include some photos on the school website.

During the week, I hope you have enjoyed the performances from mystery readers in our 'Masked Reader' competition, accessed via the school website. The reveals will take place during assembly today but you too will be able to see who's behind the mask as the reveal videos will be uploaded to the school website. We hope as many families as possible have entered the competition to win a book token by guessing—winners will be announced shortly. Huge thanks to ex-governor, Toby Short, for helping with the filming and for preparing the videos you will see..... and to the staff who took part.



**Red Nose Day** On Friday 14th March, in return for a £1 donation, we are inviting the children to come into school wearing something red. Please note that their clothing must be suitable and warm enough for them to wear outside at playtime.



Thank you for your continued support.

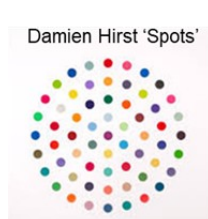
## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

It was Arts Week at the school last week and as the Art Link Governor I spent a little time there taking a look at what the children have been doing and talking with Mrs Barnes about the Art curriculum and Lesson Plans. As someone who returned to art a bit later in life, I was delighted to see what the school is doing to build creativity with young children and enable them to develop skills.

As Mrs Barnes told me while we were walking around several classrooms at the end of the day, and I paraphrase, 'even if someone can't draw well, if they can make marks and use colours then they can create something they will feel pleased with.' That is so true and new ideas do follow each success.

The school enables the children to learn different techniques such as printing using found objects as well as dabbing sponges, brushes and the like; overlaying colours and mixing them; designing, making and using their own print block with string on small panels and a paint roller really enables creativity, discovery and the development of skills. Seeing how these are extended from year group to year group from Early Years Foundation Stage right through to Year 2 and even include items in the outside areas is wonderful. There really is a golden thread of learning running all through the Art curriculum across the whole school.

As in previous years, works by famous artists are introduced as creative stimuli. The children use the techniques and skills they have learned to create their own versions. Some of their pictures were done from scratch while others used outlines of the original. This year they are, 'Spots' by Damien Hirst and 'The Great Wave,' a famous print by Katsushika Hokusai. I had seen the picture before, and you probably have, but I did not know the artist at all. This links beautifully with the Arts Week theme of The Sea and also provides an opportunity to introduce the fact that Hokusai was born in Japan in 1760 and tell a little about his work as a woodblock cutter and artist and that many of his landscapes feature Mount Fuji, as does 'The Great Wave'.



Beyond painting, Arts Week has also featured Perform Drama Workshops; music with a sea theme; and, across other subjects, there were links to looking after the environment which emphasised sea pollution.

It has been great to see so much creativity and see first-hand the results of the hard work and commitment of the John Hampden School Wendover staff. I hope they all continue to enjoy and gain from all the arts.



Martin Whitthread  
Co-opted 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](mailto:Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### **HOMEWORK**

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 are receiving regular homework. Tasks are explained to the children at school but it would be useful if parents could also reinforce the task and support children to produce work of an acceptable quality. At school, the children are used to high expectations in terms of presentation and effort and we would ask that homework is always completed to these same high standards. It is important that our pupils get into good habits now, as homework will be a regular feature of their educational lives.

#### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

We ask all parents who send their children to our school for their support of the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork (including a named P.E. kit). Parents should ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean, **named** and in good repair. We currently have Lost Property boxes that are overflowing with clothing that is not named—children are not able to identify whether it is theirs or not!

The Uniform Policy and an order form is available on our school website and gives clear guidance about appropriate clothing for school. Many items can be purchased from the school office.

We wish to discourage parents from allowing their children to wear 'jean' type trousers and we prefer children to wear school type shoes or boots in black, grey or navy.

If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the head teacher. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example religious objections, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform the school will look sympathetically at such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the head teacher. The school will not treat pupils with disabilities unfavourably.

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be);
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind.

#### **COATS**

Children should wear a coat to school every day at this time of the year.

#### **SCHOOL WEBSITE**

School websites are an important way of finding out about a school. There is a great deal of statutory information that should be included on a school site but we continue to work hard to try and ensure that ours also gives a true flavour of what the school is really like. I would urge you to take a regular look as new information/detail is often added. We would be pleased to hear your feedback or to receive suggestions as to what you would like to see on the website so we can make it as useful as possible. The website address is [www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](http://www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) or you can find us by googling John Hampden School Wendover.

#### **WORLD BOOK DAY TOKENS**

Please check your child's book bag for their World Book Day £1 token.

#### **SCROLL OF HONOUR BADGES**

Please can we have any scroll of honour badges returned to the office as soon as possible please as we are running out.

#### **SUPERVISING CHILDREN**

Please can parents ensure children are supervised at all times when scooting or cycling to school and ensure that children dismount before they arrive on the school premises. Thank you.

#### **BUTTONS**

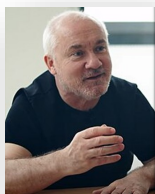
If anyone has any spare buttons, Year 2 would be glad to receive donations before they embark on their next D&T project—designing puppets. Thank you



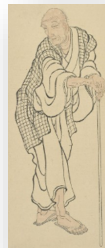


## 4. CURRICULUM—ARTS WEEK

Arts Week is an opportunity for us to highlight and focus on the arts. On Tuesday 25th February, each class took part in a free Perform drama workshop with the theme of 'Deep Sea Adventure'. They were then introduced to the theme for the art work focus— 'Printing with Repeating Shapes and Patterns' - with a sea theme alongside consideration for the environmental issue of sea pollution. This was delivered through an emphasis on a variety of printing techniques and an introduction to two famous artists.



Damien Hirst

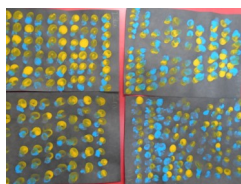


Katsushika Hokusai

Famous artwork by the two artists was studied and printing techniques were applied to the work of our pupils.

We were really impressed to see how engaged the children were in the art activities and to watch their creativity shining through. They were encouraged to explore printing—finger printing, sponge printing, fruit and vegetable printing, string printing and press printing.

Spot printing in the style of Damien Hirst (all year groups)



Printing with items that pollute the seas and oceans and have a negative environmental impact.



String and Press Printing in the style of Katsushika Hokusai (Year 2)



## 5. PUPIL SECTION

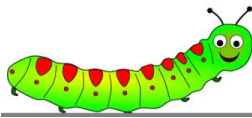
We thought you might like to read some comments from the children about what they enjoyed during Arts Week.



Eliza liked dabbling with her fingers.  
Josh's favourite thing was the printing with cotton buds.



Nilou liked the finger painting because she liked putting her fingers in the paint.  
Teddy liked doing the dob around the paper (with a cotton bud)



Hallie used the sponges to print stars. It was fun.  
Joshua learnt that Damian Hirst uses dots to make art like us. It's called pointillism.



Ruby liked the finger printing because we did two colours on top of each other.  
Millie really liked the sponge printing because they used the edge of a sponge instead of a paintbrush.



Frank learnt about Damien Hirst and his spot work and he liked making his own.  
Jamie enjoyed looking at The Great Wave picture and how big the wave was and seeing Mount Fuji in the background. It was a great painting.



Jack liked it when they were under the sea creatures and they had to move about when he was a dragon.  
Hannah learnt about Damien Hirst the artist and it was fun.



Zehra liked learning about Damien Hirst and practising her dots.  
Rayaan did a drawing of The Great Wave and he liked learning all about Hokusai.



Libby enjoyed the string printing because it was fun to shape the string like The Great Wave.  
Amber really enjoyed acting with the perform coach and using her body to create sea creatures.



Fletcher loved doing the printing because they had to press the roller in the sticky acrylic paint.  
Laura loved it when they did drama because they had to be things under the sea, like starfish.



Nick liked making the string tile and polystyrene tile of Hokusai's wave painting.  
Zuhail enjoyed doing finger printing based on Damien Hirst's artwork.

## Pupil Voice:

During Discovery week Key Stage 1 children enjoyed using their mathematical skills to reason and solve.

In Year 1 they investigated 2D shapes and tessellation.

Hughie: I used triangles to make a diamond shape. It's cool making new shapes.

Neve: I used two squares to make a rectangle. I like learning new things like tessellation.

Nate: I like that I tried to make my shapes like a cats head.

Sophie: I like that I could put my shapes together to make a big rectangle.

In Year 2 they investigated Data Handling.

Theo: I learned that using a tally is a quicker way of recording how many (there are) of something.

Toby: I found out that in a bar chart you need to draw the squares and not just the number. It makes the information easier to read.

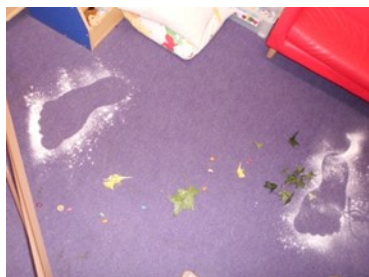
Morrie: I loved turning the tally chart into a block chart so we could see the results clearly.

Joshua: It was fun looking at the block chart and answering questions.

Arlo: I enjoyed making my own tally chart and asking the class what their favourite sport was.

Heidi: I liked answering questions based on the data I had collected.

On Monday, Year 1 children entered their classrooms to find a GIANT had visited! They looked carefully at the clues they found to work out who had been in their classrooms. They found giant footprints, leaves, magic beans, gold coins and golden eggs. Using the clues, we decided it was the giant from Jack and the beanstalk. We met the giant (who was actually quite friendly) and after asking him some questions, realised he was looking for Jack! The children asked the giant questions and then created descriptions about his appearance and personality.





## 6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

NEXT DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES!

EASTER CAKE BAKE SALE

THURSDAY 3RD APRIL AT 3.15PM

PLEASE BRING YOUR EASTER THEMED BAKES TO RECEPTION ON THE  
MORNING OF THURSDAY 3RD APRIL

THERE WILL BE A PRIZE FOR THE BEST BAKES IN EACH CLASS





# 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	GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES
<p>Education at John Hampden is about inspiring and motivating our pupils. Arts week is an enrichment opportunity to allow our pupils to experience live drama, art and music in order to meet one of our curriculum aims 'to open up to possibility'.</p> <p>Arts Week was preceded by Discovery Week where there was a focus on Science, Maths and Thinking skills. World Book Week has been planned to focus on developing a love of reading and a joy of books including non-fiction and poetry. It also aims to give pupils further opportunities to recite poetry, dress up and engage with 'The Masked Reader'.</p> <div data-bbox="150 913 360 1037" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="555 900 745 1043" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="247 1052 616 1209" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>Arts Week and Book Week have given us another opportunity for our classes to share their learning. They enjoyed seeing the art work that was created by the other year groups in our 'Over &amp; Above' assembly.</p> <p>We regularly ask our KS1 pupils to volunteer for monitor roles in the school. Tasks include monitors for the dining hall, monitors to ensure the reading books and the school library books are kept organised and tidy, monitors to check playground equipment etc. There are always lots of monitor jobs in the classrooms too, as we believe in ensuring as many children as possible get the chance to take on roles of responsibility within the school.</p> <div data-bbox="954 929 1318 1189" data-label="Image"> </div>
GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT
<p>Completion of the online audit is well underway for JHSW to gain the Healthy Schools accreditation. Mrs Spencer has taken the lead and has been working with other subject leaders in the school to ensure our self-evaluation is reflective of all the good work that is being done.</p> <p>We have also added several more photographs of children who have received trophies, medals or certificates for their success in activities outside school. These photos are displayed within school on our 'Wall of Fame'.</p> <div data-bbox="300 1821 651 2063" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>Whenever possible we are keen to collaborate with our local liaison group of schools. This involves teaching staff working together. For example, organising events such as pupils at JHSW sharing books with pupils from WJS during our World Book Day celebrations.</p> <div data-bbox="916 1552 1362 1827" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The provisional budget for 2025-206 was set and agreed by governors last week. School finances continue to be very challenging.</p>

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS



### DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FROM SEPTEMBER 2025?



**OPEN MORNING – SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH**  
**FROM 9.30—11.00 AM**

The John Hampden School Wendover is organising places for a new cohort of children in their Early Years Class from September 2024. We can offer your child:

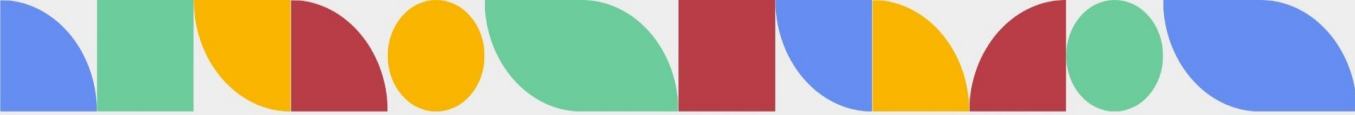
- **Up to three terms of high-quality education in a new, purpose built learning environment**
- **Excellent facilities and resources – an irresistible learning environment inside and out**
- **Outstanding transition arrangements**
- **A gentle introduction to school**
- **Highly qualified, experienced and caring staff committed to developing the potential of every child**
- **A friendly and welcoming environment**
- **Five morning sessions 8.45a.m- 11.45a.m, universally funded**
- **Chargeable lunch club**
- **Optional afternoon sessions 12.15p.m-3.15p.m (up to 30 hours of flexible free entitlement)**
- **Breakfast Club from 7.45a.m, After School Club until 6.00p.m (Childcare vouchers accepted)**

Eligible children will be born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and admission criteria apply.

To book a slot for the Open Morning please contact the school office 01296 622629, email [office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk) or view the school website [www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](http://www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk)

**We look forward to welcoming you!**

**Please note a place in the Early Years Class does not guarantee a place in the Reception Classes at the school.**



# Does your child have difficulties with handwriting or learning new skills like using zips/buttons?

Throughout the Easter holidays, we are running small group sessions for children aged 4-7 to develop essential writing techniques. Our engaging activities aim to improve pencil grip, writing endurance and letter formation in a fun and supportive environment.

Morning sessions will run Wed 9th to Fri 11th April  
Afternoon sessions will run Tues 15th to Thurs 17th April

£75 for three 90 minute sessions







# Christopher Pallet

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Christopher Pallet, Wendover's longest established independent estate agent are proud to be sponsoring Friends of John Hampden School.

As Part of our sponsorship we will be donating £100 to the school, for every parent/guardian or teacher that successfully sells their property through Christopher Pallet Estate Agents in Wendover.

## Residential Sales & Lettings

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or call 01296 625000





Hampden Financial Services are proud to offer Parents, Guardians and Staff of John Hampden School the opportunity to review their mortgage and also raise funds for John Hampden School.

For every mortgage completed via Hampden Financial Services, Hampden Financial Services will make a £50 donation to John Hampden School.

So whether you are looking to remortgage or move home please contact us via below and just mention John Hampden School when you make initial contact.

Phone – 07812 063256

Email - [Jeff.harris@hampdenfs.co.uk](mailto:Jeff.harris@hampdenfs.co.uk)

Feel free to check out our reviews on Facebook and google under Hampden Financial Services

Terms and Conditions are available on request

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS

ON YOUR MORTGAGE

Experienced school music teacher and local piano teacher living in Wendover has a few vacancies for children and adults of all ages and levels from complete beginner to advanced diploma level.

The emphasis is on making learning fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you are interested Please phone or text me, Denise Erlandsen, on 07767 372049 or email me at [derlandsen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:derlandsen@yahoo.co.uk).

