



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## In this issue:

Message from Mrs Parkinson	1,2,
Curriculum Section World Book Week	3
Pupil Section	5
Curriculum Section Arts Week	6
Pupil Section	7
Governor Section	8
Friends of John Hampden	9
Nursery Open Morning	10
Diary Dates and important message	11, 12

*Issue Twelve Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2026*

I hope you had a restful half-term break and were able to spend some quality time with your families. We have come straight back into school with two wonderful weeks of celebration - Arts Week followed by World Book Week.

Last week, our children have been immersed in Arts Week. You will find more details about the exciting activities that took place during this special week later in this newsletter.

We were also delighted to welcome a travelling book fair to school last week ahead of World Book Week, which we have been celebrating this week - thank you for your support with this. Throughout the week, we have placed a strong focus on books, reading and performance. The children have enjoyed a variety of activities including book sharing, story-telling activities and in Year Two a visit from a publisher.

Our World Book Day celebration today has been particularly special, with our pupils sharing books with children from Wendover Junior School. It's been wonderful to see so many children and staff dressed as their favourite book characters, and we will be sharing photos on our new Facebook and Instagram pages soon.



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

During the week, I hope you have enjoyed the performances from mystery readers in our 'Masked Reader' competition. The reveals will take place during assembly today. We hope as many families as possible have entered the competition to win a prize by guessing—winners will be announced shortly. Huge thanks to the staff who took part.



Red Nose Day On Friday 20th March, in return for a 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.

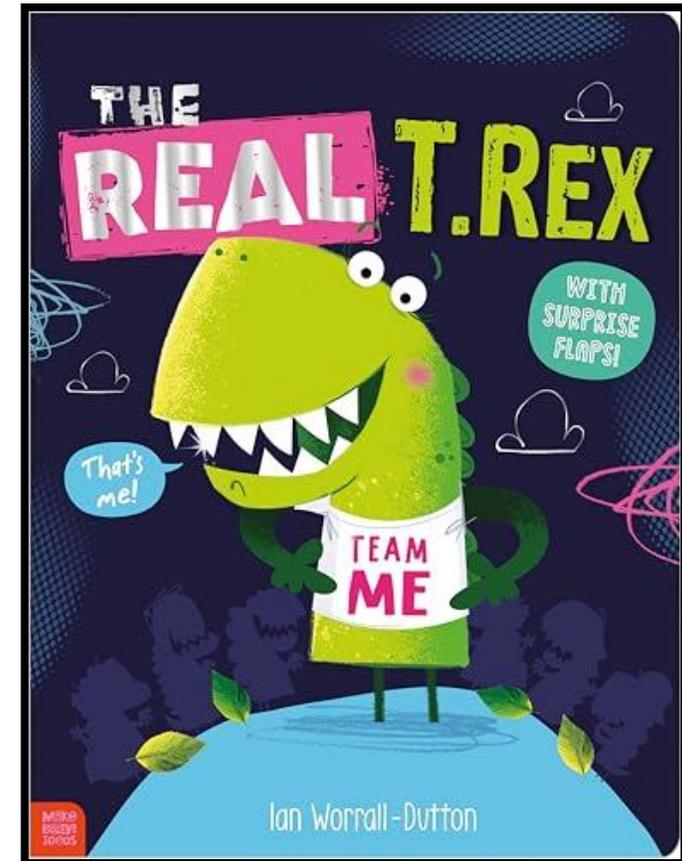
**Steph Parkinson – Headteacher**



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Curriculum Section – World Book Week

On Thursday during World Book Week, Year 2 had a very special guest who gave an engaging and entertaining talk on the world of publishing. They were introduced to all the amazing novelty style books 'Make Believe Ideas' make. From scratch and sniff to furry books, from large story books to flap books. Year 2 discovered and discussed the different people who are involved in making books, what their roles are, how they collaborate, and finally got treated to the reading of Sarah's book 'The Real T Rex'. We are so grateful to author Sarah Creese for her time, knowledge and the three books she brought in for us to keep as a memento of a truly wonderful talk.





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Curriculum Section The Great Fire Of London

On Thursday 12th February, the children truly immersed themselves into a range of different enrichment activities based on their knowledge and understanding of the Great Fire of London.

The children painted using a mixture of paint, glue and shredded paper (impasto technique) and cut out silhouettes of the skyline of London using black sugar paper. They then stuck them on to create an effective fiery scene. The children chose realistic colours to depict the fire. They used a range of techniques and strokes to apply the paint and produced some very creative pieces of art that included different textures and patterns.

Also, the children got into character in Drama and Role Play and acted out scenes from the Great Fire of London. They used freeze frames for their actions. We then guessed what they were doing!

Finally, they also performed some music, singing London's Burning as a class and in rounds.

It was a truly superb experience for all the children and staff. Plus, we had a visit from our History Governor, Rachel Coffey, who was very impressed by the children's knowledge and understanding of the Great Fire of London.





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Pupil Section The Great Fire Of London

Here are some comments from the children about what they thought of the day:

### Hérons:

I loved the Art part because it was colourful and using the new technique impasto. I liked the singing and art because the art was messy, we got to use our hands and the singing was split into parts.

### Firecrests:

I really liked the singing because it was lots of fun and we did some fun actions. I enjoyed the painting because we mixed the paints to make the fire. I liked the singing because the rhythm was really good and I really liked the action for the line 'In 1666 London burnt like rotten sticks. I like the art because it was really fun and creative.

### Red Kites:

I enjoyed the impasto art! We had to spread it all over the paper to make the Great Fire. It felt soft and gooey but was fun.

I also liked singing 'London's Burning' because it makes me feel happy.

I enjoyed acting out passing the buckets of water along the line and throwing them on the fire.

I also liked singing 'London's Burning'. We started singing at different times. It was tricky but we got better at the end.





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

This year, our Arts Week has been inspired by the beautiful book *Tell Me A Dragon* by Jackie Morris. The story invites children to imagine their own unique dragon, encouraging them to think about its colour, texture, size, habitat and personality. It provided a fantastic stimulus for creativity, storytelling and discussion from our youngest children in Crickets, all the way through to our oldest children in Year 2.

Using clay, the children in EYFS developed their fine motor skills by creating a dragon's egg. In Year 1 and Year 2, the children shaped and sculpted their own dragon eye. They applied a range of mark-making techniques to add texture and detail to the clay, pressing, carving and imprinting patterns to bring their creations to life.

Throughout the week, children also explored a range of other creative arts and took part in a drama workshop in the hall. In class, they listened to dragon-themed music and responded by moving their bodies to different tempos and dynamics. This allowed the children to express themselves through movement and performance.

We were also delighted to welcome one of our Governors, Martin Whitthred, to come into school and see us in our 'Loving to Learn' glory! He was blown away by the exceptional quality of the children's artwork. We have been so impressed with their independence, perseverance and imaginative ideas. Ask your child to describe their favourite dragon- Where does it live? What makes it special? What patterns did they choose and why?

You might even be asked to imagine one of your own...

**Daisy Berry – Art Co-ordinator**





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Pupil Voice – Arts Week

### Badgers:

Isla: I enjoyed when Mrs Henderson had a basket of dragon objects and we each got to pick something out. There were dragon eyes, wings and magical things.

Ella: I liked the drama workshop when we acted out being a toy. I was a ballerina.

Alba: I really loved listening and acting out dragon scenes with Mrs Mannering.

Stirling: I liked making the clay dragon eye.

### Firecrests:

Dougie: My dragon is emerald green because it will fly around the mountains and on the grass.

Lacey: My dragon is a sky dragon. It will fly high above the sky and be a light blue colour to show the sky.

Amari: I want to add marks like shells. I could use this glass shape to make it like a shell.

Ella M: I loved making dragon eyes! I can't wait to paint them.

### Hérons:

Walter: I enjoyed making the clay dragon eye, it felt cold!

Millie: I liked sketching a dragon using Lego to print its scales.

Neve: I enjoyed drawing my dragon, printing it, fine lining and colouring using a silver crayon.

Leo: I liked that on Thursday we did some dragon acting on the book we read. I was an electric dragon and liked creating a pose!





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Governor Section

Following my piece in the last Newsletter I was able to tour the school together with Daisy Berry last week to see the children's work.

Sadly, I couldn't get to see most of the exciting creative activities during Arts Week but, I saw the Crickets work; the dragon eggs in EYFS and the individual dragon eyes that the children had created in clay through all the year 1 and year 2 classes. What struck me was the wonderful range of creativity, dexterity, skill and expression from all these young children. Their creations were impressive and heart warming to see. Indeed, I was wowed and now..... I'm off to imagine a dragon of my own and perhaps spark ideas with my own grandchildren.



**Martin  
Whitthread  
Co-opted  
Governor**



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Easter Egg Hamper Raffle

The Friends are already planning ahead for Easter with an exciting Easter Egg Hamper Raffle. We would be incredibly grateful for donations of Easter eggs of any size. Please continue to send your donations into school. Every Easter egg donated will help us create spectacular hampers that families can win, with all funds raised going directly back into supporting our pupils' learning and experiences.





# The John Hampden School Newsletter

www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk

**THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER NURSERY OPEN MORNING**  
Saturday March 21st  
9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT:**  
[office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk)

## Nursery Open Morning

If you are interested in trying to secure a place you may like to make an appointment to attend our Early Years Open Morning, planned for **Saturday 21st March from 9.30 to 11.00 am**. The Early Years classroom and outside learning areas will be open for you and the prospective new pupil to view, and teaching staff will also be available.



# The John Hampden School Newsletter

## Diary Dates – Spring and Summer Term 2026

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 – Communication Week EYFS**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 – World Book Week**

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – World Book Day**

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Phonics Meeting For Year 1 Parents**

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Red Nose Day**

**26<sup>th</sup> March – School closes for holidays at 1.00pm**

**13<sup>th</sup> April – Back to school**

**1<sup>st</sup> May – May Day 9.30am Year 2 parents invited**

**4<sup>th</sup> May – Bank holiday Monday – school closed**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May - break up for half term 3.15pm**

**1<sup>st</sup> June – INSET Day – school closed**

**2<sup>nd</sup> June – World Week**

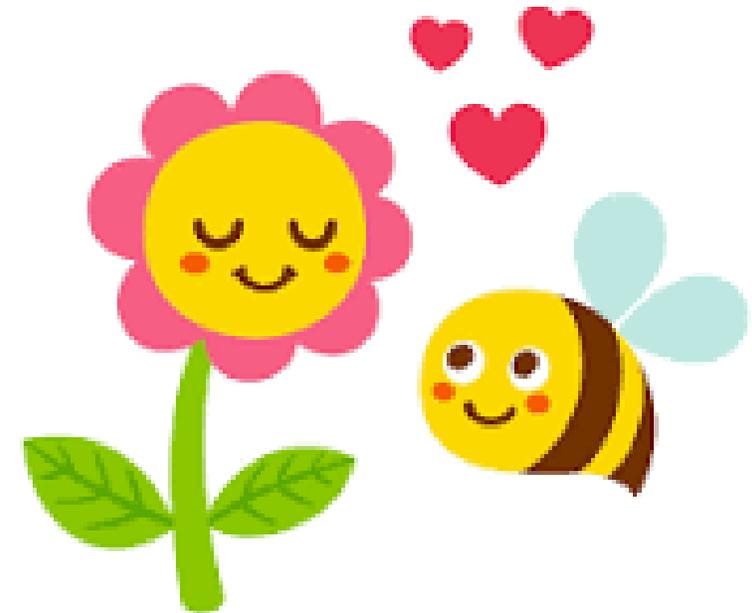
**8<sup>th</sup> June – World Week**

**26<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July – alternative sports day**

**9<sup>th</sup> July – Open Evening**

**22<sup>nd</sup> July – last day of term. School closes at 1.00pm**



### **Council urges drivers to show respect for school crossing patrollers**

Buckinghamshire Council is reminding motorists to respect the essential work carried out by the county's school crossing patrollers as they help children and families reach school safely each day.

Often known as lollipop men and women, Buckinghamshire's 60 patrollers are out in all weathers, morning and afternoon during term time, using their STOP signs to ensure safe passage across busy roads. While most drivers stop as required, a minority continue to display abusive or dangerous behaviour, putting both patrollers and pedestrians at risk.

Between the start of the 2021 school year and November 2024, there were 39 reported incidents involving drivers failing to stop or behaving inappropriately. These included four injury incidents, 29 near misses and several verbal abuse reports. Actual numbers are likely to be higher as many incidents go unreported. Since 1 December 2024 to 31 Jan 2026, there have been a further 8 reported incidents, all of which were near misses.

When patrollers do report issues to the police, witness evidence is often needed, so the council is urging parents and carers to come forward should they see unsafe behaviour.

School crossing patrollers have a legal right to stop traffic for anyone needing help to cross the road. They hold the same authority as police officers when displaying their STOP sign. Failing to stop is an offence that could lead to a £1,000 fine, three penalty points or even disqualification. Patrollers are encouraged to report any driver who refuses to stop.

Examples of problematic behaviour include drivers using abusive language, failing to stop even when the patroller is already in the road, swerving around patrollers, blocking pavements and parking irresponsibly - particularly on 'School Keep Clear' markings and bus stops.

Thomas Broom, Buckinghamshire Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport, said:

"Our school crossing patrollers carry out an incredibly important role that keeps children and families safe every single day. They are highly valued by the communities they serve.

"While most drivers behave responsibly, a small number choose to ignore the law and put others at risk. This behaviour is completely unacceptable. We will always take a zero-tolerance approach to any actions that threaten the safety or wellbeing of our patrollers.

"I'm asking all drivers to slow down, pay attention and show respect. Taking a few extra seconds could make all the difference in keeping everyone safe."

Drivers are reminded to:

- Slow down when you see a patrol warning sign or flashing lights and be prepared to stop.
- Stop when the patroller displays the STOP sign.
- Be patient and do not move forward until instructed.
- Avoid parking on zig-zag lines, bus stops or anywhere that obstructs the patroller's view or movements.

Reporting incidents

To report any incidents involving School Crossing Patrollers, residents can contact:

Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe (West): Corinne Randall – 01296 383 432

Chiltern & South Bucks and Wycombe (East): Nigel Rosier - 01296 382608