



The John Hampden School Newsletter

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Issue Sixteen Friday May 15th 2026

With just one week until our next short break, this half term seems to have flown by! Yet we have managed to pack so much into this half term at The John Hampden.

Over the past fortnight, I have had the pleasure of visiting every classroom and I have been delighted to see our school values truly coming to life. Our pupils are working together brilliantly, showing real perseverance when faced with challenges, and taking time to reflect thoughtfully on their learning. What has particularly impressed me is the independence children are demonstrating. It is wonderful to see them taking ownership of their learning in this way.

One of my absolute favourite moments each week is our Over and Above Assembly, where we shine a spotlight on children who have really stood out. I feel so proud of every single child who comes to sit on a special chair, and it's wonderful to see how genuinely pleased they are for each other's successes. Choosing Class of the Week is something I look forward to, even though the decision gets tougher every time – each class finds new ways to impress week after week!





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Looking Ahead: Exciting Events This Term

We have many wonderful events planned for the rest of the year. We will send you more details and specific timings closer to each date, but here's what to look forward to:

May

Saturday 16th May, 12 noon–3pm – FJH May Fair

June

Friday 26th June – Sports Day

July

Monday 6th July – Induction meeting for new Foundation Stage parents

Tuesday 7th July – Children meet their new class teachers and visit new schools

Wednesday 15th July 2.30pm – Celebrating Foundation Stage assembly (Ladybirds class)

Thursday 16th July 2.30pm – Celebrating Foundation Stage assembly (Caterpillars class)

Friday 17th July 2.30pm – Celebrating Foundation Stage assembly (Honeybees class)

Wednesday 22nd July – Year 2 Leavers' Assembly

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at these events!



Steph Parkinson – Headteacher



The John Hampden School Newsletter

Curriculum Section –

On Monday, Year 1 had a wonderful surprise in their outdoor area! There had been a visitor, but we weren't sure what that visitor could have been. We looked carefully at these clues (shiny egg shell, a straw nest and burnt wood) and decided a dragon had been!

We enjoyed writing clear instructions to help someone rescue and capture the dragon. We are still waiting for it to be captured.....





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Curriculum Section – Pupil Voice

Teddy: *“The eggs were shiny and the nest was a little bit deep. The eggs cracked. I think there were four eggs. We wrote instructions about how to catch a dragon. I haven’t caught one yet!”*

Lottie: *“We found a dragon nest outside. It had sparkly eggs inside it. At nighttime they hatched into dragons. We don’t know where the dragons are now, they might be in a park. I am going to keep a look out for them!”*

Ava: *“There was a dragon next to the nature shed - there must be a dragon living there!”*

Oscar: *“It had an egg that was cracked and burnt sticks!”*

Mabel: *“Some people even saw the Mummy Dragon up in a tree - it was purple!”*

Marianna: *“I loved the egg, it was very big and glittery-the nest was quite large so it was definitely a dragon.”*

Oliver: *“The egg was so shiny. I think a shiny dragon lays shiny eggs.”*



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Governor Section

Governor Day Insight: Sustainability at John Hampden School

As part of our recent Governor Day, I had the pleasure of spending time with Mrs Laura Henderson, who is leading on sustainability at John Hampden School. As both a parent governor and link governor for sustainability, I was particularly keen to understand how this important area is being developed across the school.

Mrs Henderson spoke very positively about the school environment, particularly the outstanding outdoor play provision, which offers children rich opportunities to engage with and learn from the natural environment. This strong foundation provides an excellent platform for embedding sustainability into everyday school life.

It was encouraging to hear how sustainability is being increasingly prioritised. Mrs Henderson has already secured time within staff meetings to raise awareness and begin shaping a whole-school approach. Recognising the importance of this topic in children's education, she has taken a thoughtful and proactive approach—seeking external guidance and drawing on support from the Department for Education's *Let's Go Zero* campaign.





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Governor Section

Governor Day Insight: Sustainability at John Hampden School

Through this, Mrs Henderson has undertaken training and begun developing a climate sustainability plan for the school. As part of this work, she has worked towards producing an initial carbon footprint using a structured spreadsheet approach, focusing on key areas such as electricity and water usage. Once all the relevant information has been collected, this should provide a strong evidence base to inform future actions to reduce energy and water consumption, importantly saving money on future bills for the school!

Collaboration is clearly a strength in this area. Mrs Henderson has been working closely with colleagues, including Ms Bell, the outdoor learning lead, to ensure sustainability is woven into wider school activities. She has also engaged with the Senior Leadership Team to explore opportunities such as joining the Greener Schools Network.





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Governor Section

One of the most exciting developments is the planned introduction of a new *Eco Warriors* initiative. This will give pupils a hands-on role in promoting sustainability across the school. Activities will include “secret missions” such as identifying lights left on, supporting effective recycling, and even weighing food waste to encourage more sustainable choices. This is a fantastic way to empower pupils and build a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Alongside this, the school is planning to introduce a new sustainability-themed mascot and will be launching these initiatives after the summer holidays, so look out for more information on this in the new school year starting in September 2026!





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Governor Section

Sustainability is already a large part of EYFS and is beginning to feature within the curriculum. For example, Year 1 pupils have explored concepts such as reduce, reuse and recycle through practical experiments, burying different types of waste and observing how they decompose over time. This kind of hands-on learning helps bring these important topics to life and builds understanding from an early age.

Looking ahead, Mrs Henderson's next steps include reviewing the curriculum across Year 1 and Year 2 to ensure sustainability is embedded more consistently—particularly within science, and where appropriate, subjects such as English (for example, through persuasive writing). There are strong links here to the school's core values of belonging and respect, as well as opportunities to introduce children to the broader context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

It was a genuinely fascinating and inspiring discussion. I am very encouraged by the progress being made and the enthusiasm driving this agenda forward. I left the session feeling excited about the opportunities ahead, and about how our children will continue to develop the knowledge and behaviours needed to care for our planet.

Rob Goodall
Parent Governor & Link Governor for
Sustainability





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Friends of John Hampden

May 16th 12pm – 3pm





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Important Information

Watches

Smart watches can pose safeguarding risks, as they allow unrestricted access to the internet and messaging functions that bypass our school's safety systems. This could potentially expose children to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact during the school day.

Children are welcome to wear simple analogue watches without internet, camera, or messaging capabilities.

This policy is part of our commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment for all children. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your support.









The John Hampden School Newsletter

We're Now on Social Media!

We're excited to share that The John Hampden School now has an official social media page! This is a fantastic way for our school community to stay connected and get a glimpse into school life.

Through our page, we'll be sharing:

-  Highlights of learning and special moments
-  Celebrations of pupil achievements
-  Important reminders and updates
-  A window into the wonderful ways we 'Love to Learn'

Our aim is to celebrate our children, strengthen our school community, and keep you informed in a more immediate and engaging way.

 Scan the QR codes or click the links below to follow.

https://www.instagram.com/john_hampden_school_wendover?igsh=MTc1dG0ycDcxcjdyNg%3D%3D&utm_source=qr

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1a33nHyQdR/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



#JHSW #LovingtoLearn #Wendover #Buckinghamshire

Follow us!





The John Hampden School Newsletter

Diary Dates – Summer Term 2026

22nd May - break up for half term 3.15pm

1st June – INSET Day – school closed

2nd June – World Week

8th June – World Week

26th June – Sports Day

3rd July – alternative sports day

9th July – Nursery Sports Day

9th July – Open Evening

22nd July – last day of term. Leavers Assembly Year 2.

School closes at 1.00pm



Walk To School Week

Monday 18th - 22nd May is national "Walk to School Week." This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to enjoy the benefits of walking to school whilst having fun and staying active. We are challenging families to walk to school at least three times during this week. Every journey counts! If you live too far to walk the whole way, you could:

- Park further away and walk the last 10-15 minutes (we call this "Park and Stride")
- Get off the bus one stop early
- Walk part of the way with friends or neighbours

To make walking a bit more of an adventure Buckinghamshire Council have created a "Scavenger Hunt" you could do on the days you walk to school - this was sent to you in a separate email titled Scavenger Hunt with the last newsletter. Simply print off and join in at home! Hand your scavenger hunt into school at the end of the week and your child will receive a bonus WOW badge to take home. If you don't have a printer at home, please come to the office where we will provide you with a copy.





KIDS SQUASH CAMP



26th
& 27th
May



May Half Term

Tuesday 26th May & Wednesday 27th May

09:30 - 13:30

WENDOVER TENNIS
& SQUASH CLUB

- > Open to children of all abilities - no experience necessary
- > Ages 13 and under
- > Prizes to be won!
- > Limited spaces available!

- > £30 per day or £50 for two days
- > Please bring a nut-free packed lunch
- > Healthy snacks and drinks included!

CONTACT

Tricia Malliff : tmalliff@yahoo.co.uk

»»» Wendover Squash and Tennis Club, Dobbins Lane, HP22 6BU «««
<https://wendovertennisandsquash.co.uk>



Rainbows

1st Wendover Rainbows

Could you spare just **one hour a week** to make a difference?

We're looking for volunteers to join **1st Wendover Rainbows**, supporting girls aged **4-7** build confidence, independence, and social skills in a safe, supportive environment.



By volunteering, you'll be:

- Helping young girls build confidence and have fun
- Giving back to your local community
- Meeting new people and being part of a team
- Great for your CV

No special skills or experience are needed - just bring **your enthusiasm and willingness to get involved**. Whether you're a parent, completely new to guiding, or returning after being part of it in the past, you'll be very welcome.

Find out more [HERE](#)



We can't run without volunteers - your help means girls in our community don't miss out.



Child Car Seat Check Event

Tuesday
2 June 2026
10am - 3pm

**Smyths,
Broadfields
Retail Park,
Bicester Road,
Aylesbury HP19 8BU**

*Pop along for FREE advice
and an independent check!*



**Buckinghamshire
Council**



**Travel
SAFE**
Bucks

Child Seat Safety Ltd