



The John Hampden School Newsletter

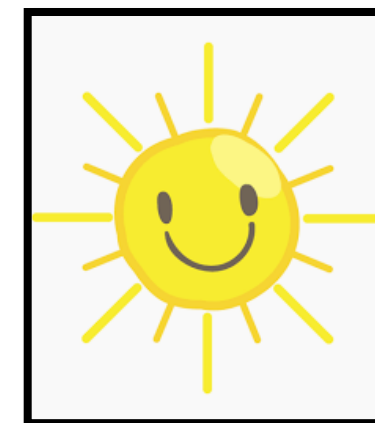
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Issue Eighteen Friday July 3rd 2026

We hope you have all been managing well during the recent heatwave. The past few weeks have seen some exceptionally high temperatures, which have presented challenges for everyone in our school community. We know how difficult it can be to keep children comfortable when the weather is so hot, and we are grateful for your support in helping us navigate these conditions.

This week, whilst still warm, has brought much more manageable temperatures and has been a welcomed relief for children and staff alike. As we continue to experience warm weather, please remember to send your child to school with sun cream already applied, a sun hat, and a water bottle (Early Years and Foundation Stage have access to water throughout the day.) We will be ensuring children have regular opportunities to drink water throughout the day and will be monitoring outdoor activities to keep everyone safe and comfortable.





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With just a few weeks remaining in the academic year, we are now turning our attention to September 2026 and ensuring smooth transitions for all of our children.

Preparing pupils for the next stage in their school journey has become a key priority, and we have begun a carefully planned transition programme. Year 2 pupils have already met their new teachers ahead of their visit to the junior school next week, and transition activities will begin for all children from next week onwards.

On Monday, you will receive a letter with full details about class arrangements for next year and our transition programme. We believe that these arrangements will help to prepare children for their new classes in the Autumn Term.

For those children moving onto different schools, we are confident they will enjoy their transition day at their new settings. If with us for the remaining transition mornings, they will take part in exciting activities we have organised especially for them.

In the meantime, we are all looking forward to making the most of the remaining weeks together and ensuring the children enjoy all of the exciting activities and learning opportunities we have planned until the end of term.

Steph Parkinson – Headteacher





The John Hampden School Newsletter

Curriculum Section

We look forward to seeing you and your children at the Open Evening on 9th July at 6pm – 7 pm. This is a chance for the whole family to tour the school, meet staff and visit old and new classrooms.

On Friday 10th July you will receive your child's annual report.





The John Hampden School Newsletter

Governor Section

Governor Day Insight: Adaptive at John Hampden School

One of the highlights of our recent Governor Day was seeing first-hand how the staff at John Hampden work to ensure that every child can access learning in a way that helps them succeed.

A key approach used throughout the school is adaptive teaching. In simple terms, this means that while the whole class learns together, teachers carefully adapt their teaching to meet the needs of individual children. Every pupil learns differently, and our staff work hard to recognise and respond to those differences.

This approach may sound new, but it builds on what was previously known as differentiation and has long been part of teaching at John Hampden. It reflects the school's commitment to helping every child develop confidence and a love of learning.





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Governor Section

Adaptive teaching can take many forms. It might involve working with a small group of children who need extra support, providing additional challenge for those who are ready to move ahead, or presenting learning in different ways so that every pupil can engage with the lesson. The aim is not to give everyone the same experience, but to give every child the opportunity to achieve their best.

What impressed us most was the teachers' detailed knowledge of their pupils. They understand each child's strengths, interests and areas where they may need extra help, and they use this understanding to adapt their teaching accordingly. This enables all pupils to participate confidently, make progress and enjoy learning.

As governors, it was wonderful to see the thought and care that goes into ensuring every child at John Hampden is supported to thrive.



James Edley



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Important Information

WATER BOTTLES



Reminder that we do encourage Year 1 and Year 2 children to bring a bottle of water to school each day to keep on their desks—this is in addition to the drink you may provide in a lunch box. In warmer weather many children are glad of the chance to keep a drink close by. Children in EYFS have access to water throughout the day in our hydration stations.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check that your child's school uniform is correctly named. There are a huge number of jumpers and cardigans in lost property that are not named so cannot be returned to their owners.





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Diary Dates – Summer Term 2026

July

Wednesday 1st July – Year 2 Sports Festival

Friday 3rd July – Sports day

Monday 6th July – Induction meeting for new Foundation Stage parents 7pm

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

Thursday 9th July – Crickets Sports Day

Thursday 9th July – Open Evening 6pm

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 9.30am (all classes)

School closes at 1.00pm





**BUCKS SCHOOL
SWIMMING PARTNERSHIP**

DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

**We're
supporting**



STAY WATER-SAFE THIS SUMMER

As the weather warms up and we look forward to the summer holidays, our children naturally head outdoors to enjoy the water. To ensure they stay safe while having fun, we are proud to support RLSS UK's Drowning Prevention Week.

This annual nationwide campaign is specifically designed to equip children and young adults (aged 5-17) with the essential water safety and lifesaving skills they need. By providing this crucial advice every June, we aim to prepare them for the summer months when they are most likely to be near open water.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

While our educators and coaches do incredible work in the classroom and at the pool, the most impactful lessons often happen at home. We are calling on all parents and carers to help extend this learning. By discussing water safety together, you can help ensure that every child has the knowledge to enjoy the water safely and confidently.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE FAMILY

- Awareness:** Knowing the hidden dangers of open water (like cold water shock or hidden currents).
- Preparedness:** Understanding what to do if they, or someone else, get into trouble.
- Confidence:** Ensuring the "Water Safety Code" is second nature before the school gates close for July.

 swimming@chsbucks.sch.uk

 www.bsap.org.uk

 Aylesbury High School, Bucks

47% of UK accidental drownings occur between May and August. We also see a heightened risk of drowning when air temperatures are higher.

When UK average maximum air temperatures reach or exceed 25°C...

- There is a fivefold increase in accidental drowning risk, when compared to days with an average temperature of 18°C
- Over half (57%) of those who drowned were swimming, reflecting more people actively entering the water
- Teenagers (aged 13-17 years) and young adults are proportionately more likely to lose their lives

UNDERSTANDING COLD WATER SHOCK

As we approach the summer months, we want to ensure our students and their families stay safe near the water. While the sun might be warm, the water in our seas, rivers, and lakes remains dangerously cold.

WHAT IS COLD WATER SHOCK?

"Cold water shock" is the body's natural, involuntary reaction to being submerged in water typically 15°C or lower—which is significantly colder than a heated swimming pool. Even on a hot day, British waters can trigger this physical crisis.

THE 3 STAGES OF RISK

When someone enters cold water unexpectedly, the body goes through a series of reactions that can quickly become life-threatening:

- The Initial Gasps:** Your body's first reaction is an uncontrollable gasp for breath, followed by rapid breathing (hyperventilation). At the same time, your blood pressure spikes as your body rushes blood to your core to protect your organs.
- The Window of Opportunity:** Once your breathing settles, you have a very short "window" to get out of the water. This is the most critical moment to reach safety.
- Swim Failure:** As your limbs cool, you lose strength, coordination, and endurance. Eventually, your muscles will stop responding, making it impossible to swim or rescue yourself. This is known as swim failure, and without a flotation aid, it is the primary cause of drowning.

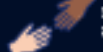
Summer

**WATER
SAFETY**

To enjoy the water safely and make the right call...



ENTER SLOWLY
AND CAREFULLY



STAY WITHIN
REACH



ALWAYS BE
SUPERVISED

In an emergency -



CALL 999



IF YOU'RE IN
TROUBLE FLOAT AND
CALL FOR HELP

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 www.bsap.org.uk

 Aylesbury High School, Bucks



**Summer
WATER SAFETY**

BEACH FLAGS

The beach flags are displayed by the Beach Lifeguards in patrolled areas to provide guidance on the water and the wind conditions. The flags also inform beach users where the swimming and water sports zones are located.

RED AND YELLOW
LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY

Between the flags is the safest place to swim.

RED
DANGEROUS AREA

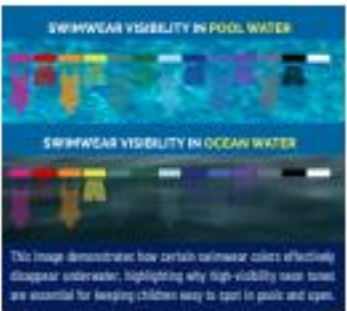
Lifeguards are not watching this area. Do not swim here.

BLACK AND WHITE
WATERSPORTS AREA

Do not swim here.

ORANGE WINDSOCK
SHOWS THE DIRECTION AND STRENGTH OF THE WIND

Be aware of winds blowing out to sea.



SWIMWEAR VISIBILITY IN POOL WATER

SWIMWEAR VISIBILITY IN OCEAN WATER

This image demonstrates how certain swimwear colors effectively disappear underwater, highlighting why high-visibility neon tones are essential for keeping children easy to spot in pools and seas.

WATER SAFETY STARTS AT HOME

Whilst schools are working hard to equip students with the skills they need to stay safe, the most effective way to prevent accidents is for these messages to be reinforced at home. Water safety isn't just a lesson for the pool—it's a life skill that requires regular conversation and practice.

As children spend more time outdoors during the summer, they need to know that open water—like rivers, lakes, and beaches—behaves very differently than a swimming pool. By discussing the Water Safety Code with your children, you can ensure they have the confidence to make the right decisions when it matters most.

How You Can Get Involved

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) provides a fantastic range of free resources specifically for parents and carers. These are designed to make learning about water safety fun and engaging for the whole family.

- Educational Cartoons:** Perfect for younger children to help them understand the risks.
- Activity Sheets:** Interactive ways to learn the Water Safety Code together.
- Splash Safety at Home:** Tips for keeping safe around garden ponds, paddling pools, and even bath time.

We encourage all families to visit the RLSS UK Water Safety Resources for Families page to download these free materials.

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 Aylesbury High School, Bucks

Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council

17 June 2026

Council takes action against driver who failed to stop at school crossing

Buckinghamshire Council is sending a strong message to motorists who break the law when driving outside schools after enabling the successful prosecution of two separate drivers for different offences.

The first case related to a dangerous driver who failed to stop for a School Crossing Patroller at a school crossing outside a primary school in High Wycombe. On 16 September 2025 the driver failed to stop at the school crossing on Kingsmead Road in High Wycombe, outside Loudwater Combined School. The vehicle only came to a stop when it was parallel with the School Crossing Patroller who was carrying out their normal duty. The incident was witnessed and recorded by parents and the incident was reported to Thames Valley Police.

As a result of the incident, which is an offence under the Road Traffic Act, the driver was summoned to appear at Reading Magistrates' Court on 8 June 2026. The driver did not appear in court but submitted a guilty plea by post. They were subsequently served with a £60 fine and ordered to pay costs of £130 and a surcharge of £24. They were also issued with three points on their driving licence.

In the second incident, a driver who has been seen repeatedly pulling up on zig zag lines outside Disraeli School in High Wycombe, was served with a Penalty Charge Notice this week, following the matter being brought to the attention of Thames Valley Police by council staff.

Stopping on School Keep Clear road markings is illegal and enforceable if there is a road sign specifying the operating times. Stopping even briefly to drop off or pick up children is not allowed and any breach of this law can result in a Penalty Charge Notice.

Thomas Broom, Buckinghamshire Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport said: "To some people it may seem overly harsh to take someone to court for a singular offence of this nature, but the fact of the matter is, failing to stop for a School Crossing Patroller is a serious offence that puts lives in danger. Our action serves as a reminder to anyone who disregards the important role our School Crossing Patrollers play, if we can, we will take action against you."

Thomas added: "Similarly, road markings outside school are there for a reason, to allow clear sight for both pedestrians and drivers. Choosing to ignore the law in this way puts everyone at risk. Please keep our school children safe and abide by the rules of the road."

Buckinghamshire Council runs a regular Stop! It's The Law awareness campaign to remind drivers of their legal duty to stop for School Crossing Patrollers, protecting children and pedestrians crossing the road near schools. The campaign also promotes respect for School Crossing Patrollers who sometimes face unsafe or abusive driver behaviour.