



The John Hampden School Wendover

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UPCOMING DATES:

13-12-17

Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance @ 9.30am

14-12-17

Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance @ 1.45pm

15-12-17

Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance @ 1.45pm

18-12-17

Christmas Parties for the classes

19-12-17

Blunderbus Theatre production

19-12-17

School closes at 1.30pm

3-1-18

INSET Day—no children in school

4-1-18

Start of the Spring Term

NEWSLETTER

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

As we move towards the end of the first term of this academic year, it is a good opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved since September. Whilst watching the children rehearsing for their Christmas performances, I saw our core values of perseverance and collaboration shining through. The children have all worked hard during the term and I hope they are beginning to recognise that effort really does lead to success. Many of the Merit Awards handed out so far are rewarding children for their continued effort and their ability to uphold the Golden Rules and the values we believe are so important for effective learning. I hope all our pupils will return in the New Year ready to build on the impressive start they have made.

My thanks to the Friends of John Hampden for their support this term. Their hard work has already raised a considerable sum of money this academic year and the recent Christmas Fayre was testament to their amazing organisational skills and their ability to provide an event which was brilliantly supported by our school community.

We are also grateful to all who have given their time voluntarily to help the school. We have a dedicated team of people who fulfil a range of roles e.g. hearing readers, supporting on school trips, helping out at FJH events. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and thank you for your work with us.

The Early Years classroom opens its doors to a class of new children in January. Mrs Parkinson and Miss Francis will teach the class and they will be supported by the newly appointed Teaching Assistants. The class will run from the room in between Foundation Stage and Squirrels classroom and the space is looking wonderful now that it has been prepared and is ready for the next class of Crickets!

On Monday 18th, the children will join in the fun and games with the parties that have been organized, and we hope they will demonstrate their impeccable manners when a very special guest arrives!!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and to thank you for all your support this year.

WYEVALE CHRISTMAS TREE

We are extremely grateful to the Wyevale Garden Centre in Wendover for donating a magnificent Christmas Tree for our school hall. I am sure you will be impressed when you see it twinkling during the Christmas Performances.

Reminder that the school reopens on

Thursday 4th January 2018

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

We aim to make our school the best. A place of discovery and success. Caring, sharing, taking turns, we learn to love, we love to learn.

Last week, the UK celebrated the Royal engagement between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. At the same time as the official announcement, Meghan's future sister-in-law, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge, was visiting Stoke-on-Trent to celebrate the work of the National Literacy Trust, where she visited schools to meet with children and authors. The aim of the visit, and the purpose of the trust, is to promote improved levels of literacy amongst young people. You might wonder why they would want to do this? The answer is simple – children who enjoy reading do better at school in all subjects.

Research conducted last year showed that when parents read to their children they then demonstrate improved behaviour and academic performance at school. This adds weight to previous research that concluded that children who were exposed to books at a young age have better vocabulary, higher literacy, pay attention and concentrate better. This is something we all want for our children. And not only does reading together increase literacy skills, it helps to build a strong and loving relationship between you. Of course you will already know from reading my 'Governor Fact File' on the School website that my favourite children's author is David Walliams, and this is because I find his books both well written and very funny. So do both my daughters, and whether last thing at night or before we head off for school in the morning (or even on the train on the way to school, much to the amusement of the regular commuters!) I endeavour to find 15 minutes to sit down and read with them each day. I have just bought his latest book, 'Bad Dad', for us to read together. I'm hoping my daughters will see a difference between the main character and me...

You might be wondering why a school Governor is writing about this subject? Well, we now know that reading has a positive impact on all aspects of social and emotional well-being. Reading for pleasure not only improves the academic performance of children – they also enjoy it! At the John Hampden School we believe that children who are happy and who feel valued are in the best position to learn effectively. And effective learning from our children will in turn lead to improved outcomes. Our school aims to be a secure and welcoming environment that fosters progress, achievement, aspiration and the social skills to use in a diverse community. So, we strive for rigorous academic standards and the provision of high quality care, guidance and support. The role of the governing board is critical to the effectiveness of the school. One of our key functions is to monitor and evaluate the progress that the school is making towards the achievement of its aims, objectives and targets. By reading with our children regularly, we are all going some way towards setting our children up well for the future, and in turn helping the school achieve its strategic objectives and targets.

Matt Glanville

Co-opted Governor

The Governing Body are 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 us at the school gate so please feel free to email the Chair of Governors, James Edley on jedley@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Admission to Junior School

All Year 2 parents applying for a junior school place for September 2018 must note that Bucks County Council (BCC) will not be issuing paper copies of the 'Guide for Parents - Admission to Buckinghamshire Primary Schools'. Instead electronic booklets and information regarding junior transfer are available to download from the BCC website: www.buckscsc.gov.uk

Please note that the closing date for online applications for junior school places is 3pm on 15th January 2018

Admission to Foundation Stage at John Hampden

This is a reminder that parents of children due to start school for the first time in September 2018 need to apply for a school place for their child. Parents must make an application by 3pm on 15th January 2018. You can apply online at www.buckscsc.gov.uk

Applying online is quick, easy to use, safe and secure. All parents need is an email address and access to a computer, tablet or smart phone.

Once parents have completed their online application and submitted it they will receive an email to let them know it has been received.

On 16th April 2018 (National Allocation Day) parents will receive an email to let them know which school their child has been offered.

Parents will then be able to log back into their application and accept the place offered. Parents who are not able to apply online can have a paper application sent to them.

If parents are late making an application for their child it can seriously impact on their chances of getting a place at any of their preferred schools.

P.E. AT SCHOOL

As P.E. bags come home in the Christmas break to be washed please check that your child's P.E. kit is all clearly named and correctly fitting. Please note that children must have a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt to wear for outside P.E. sessions, which continue throughout the winter months. Children with long hair must have it tied back for P.E. lessons and no earrings should be worn for health and safety reasons.

Home School Diaries

Your child will receive a new Home School Diary at the beginning of the Spring Term. Please would you make sure you sign the diaries every time you hear your child read and encourage them to draw the faces each day so we can gauge how they are feeling at school.

Each year group's diaries are different and an asterix indicates which days the children can change their reading books.

Important Reminder

For the KS1 Christmas Performances, please note that you will be entering the hall up steps via a side route so please do not even attempt to bring pushchairs into the school. Our pupils and staff work very hard to put on these performances and we would ask you, on this occasion, to make alternative arrangements for all younger siblings as they can find it difficult to sit still and quietly and can spoil the enjoyment for others. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Parties

These are planned for **Monday 19th December**. We invite the children to come to school wearing party clothes and suitable footwear on that day (the children will be going outside at playtimes so clothing needs to be appropriate for colder weather). We have already asked if you would like to provide your child with their own Christmas party lunch and, as this is a special occasion, we are happy for them to have any food which you consider to be appropriate e.g. sweets, chocolate etc.

Each year we are amazed by the wonderful lunches that are provided. Lunchboxes are often specially decorated, or other Christmassy items. **The FJH will be providing each child with a Christmas cracker at the party.**

Dogs on the Campus

As you are aware, there should be no dogs brought onto the school campus. We were concerned to hear that a responsible owner, who had left their dog securely at the end of the campus road, returned to find that the dog's harness had been released, leaving the dog free to wander.

Spare Clothes

We are running short of spare clothes to use in case of accidents. In particular we require girls knickers so if you have any spare/unwanted ones, we would be happy to accept them. Please remember to return any spare clothes that are lent out.

Congratulations

Huge congratulations to Miss Webb who has given birth to a beautiful baby girl—Abigail Grace. We are all looking forward to seeing them both in school as soon as possible!

We are also celebrating the publication of a new book 'Field of Dust' which was written by one of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Angela Young. This is her second published work—we feel honoured to work with such a successful author!

4. CURRICULUM

In the last newsletter we highlighted the safeguards we have in place to allow children to have controlled access to the internet whilst at school. We have effective web filtering in place and we closely monitor how children are using the ICT in school to keep them as safe as possible whilst they work.

However, we recognise that even our very youngest pupils are increasingly using a range of different, internet-connected technology at home. As the Christmas shopping season begins, many parents will be considering buying this type of gift for their children.

To support you, we thought it may be helpful to highlight some potential risks attached to items on the list for Santa. Some of the toys/devices you are thinking of buying will have cameras and microphones recording the environment and the child's play. The Information Commissioner recently published an article looking at the risks of using smart toys and it is well-worth taking note of the 12 steps they advocate:

1. **Research the security of a product before buying**

Doing your homework before buying a connected device should allow you to recognise those with poor security. Research online reviews and manufacturers' websites for information on privacy notices and policies. You should also look to see how a product will be updated in the future if a security issue is identified.

2. **Take care when shopping online**

At this time of year, when online shopping is nearing its peak, scammers may be more likely to try to access your personal information such as bank account or credit card details. Only use secure sites when shopping online – secure sites usually carry the padlock symbol. [Get Safe Online](#) has advice on how to protect yourself.

3. **Take your time**

Don't wait until Christmas Day, when excited children will want to just turn on a new toy or device and skip as much of the set-up process as they can. Take the time beforehand to read the manual and familiarise yourself with the security and privacy options available to you.

4. **Change passwords and usernames from default**

Default passwords and usernames for many devices are freely available on the web. You should always change the defaults immediately and choose a [suitably strong password](#). Use a different password for each account and device. If a device doesn't allow you to change the default password, you should strongly consider whether it is worth keeping it.

5. **Is your router secure?**

Your router is the first line of defence on the perimeter of your home network. If you have devices connected to your network, the default settings of your router might be exposing them to the internet and therefore everyone else. Create a strong password and look out for and install security updates.

6. **If there's a two-step identification option – use it**

Two-factor authentication offers you an additional layer of security when logging in to an online service. While few devices will offer this capability, the website you use to view its data might.

7. **Be camera aware – you never know who's watching**

Some toys and devices are fitted with web cameras. The ability to view footage remotely is both their biggest selling point and, if not set up correctly, potentially their biggest weakness, as the baby monitor hacking issue of a few years ago demonstrated. If you have no intention of viewing footage over the internet, then turn the remote viewing option off in the device's settings, or else use strong, non-default passwords.

8. **Location, location, location**

One of the main selling points of children's smart watches is the ability for parents to know where their children are at all times. However, if this isn't done securely, then others might have access to this data as well. Immediately get rid of default location tracking and GPS settings and set strong, unique passwords.

9. **Bluetooth ache**

It is not just potentially insecure web connections that can put children's online safety at risk. Some toys and devices have been found to have unencrypted WiFi connections or unsecured Bluetooth connections which can be easily accessed by strangers. If there is no option to secure these in the device's settings, consider whether using the device is worth the risk. If there is an option to protect them with either a password or a PIN ensure you choose a strong one.

10. **Children have information rights too**

Have age-appropriate conversations with children about their online safety, and model the correct way to do this. Children's information and privacy rights are a key area of concern and new legislation coming next year will also strengthen children's legal rights.

11. **If in doubt, don't splash out**

If you aren't convinced a smart toy or connected device will keep your children's personal information safe, then don't buy it. If consumers reject products that don't protect them, then developers and retailers should soon get the message. If you've purchased a device that you've since discovered is insecure, complain to the manufacturer or retailer and see if you can return it.

12. **Have a secure Christmas**

By taking some time and care beforehand and following our advice, you can still see a child's face light up when they open their new, web-connected Christmas present, safe in the knowledge that you are keeping them secure as well as happy.

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

This time of the year provides us with a perfect opportunity to develop and enhance performance skills. Tweaks to the timing for the FS and KS1 performances have helped us to ensure that every child in the school, from the youngest to the oldest, is given a moment to shine on the stage. It is clear that some children have real strengths in terms of their ability to speak, sing or perform a dance in front of an audience but every child is given the opportunity to collaborate and take part. It has been wonderful to watch the rehearsals going on and to see the progress that is made as well as the enjoyment and commitment that so many children demonstrate as they prepare for the performances.



6. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN (FJH)

Christmas Cards

Many thanks to Stacey and her team Anne-Marie, Rebecca, Chrissie, Kate and Sophie for taking on the mammoth task of sorting all the Christmas card orders out.

Christmas Fayre

We hope you enjoyed the fayre as much as we did. Thank you to everyone who donated, bought, played, visited, ate, drank, helped, wrapped, organised, hoovered, guessed, negotiated, made and had fun. A special thanks to Becky Brocklehurst and her team – Chrissie, Sally, Lucy, Emma C, Emma D and Rachael for co-ordinating the event and a huge thanks to Michelle who organised the raf-
fle (which raised over £1200).

The total profit is yet to be confirmed but will be in the region of £4,200 – we shall inform you shortly of how it will be spent!



£4,200

Children's Christmas Parties - Monday 18th December

This is a lovely event for the children which is held during school time – it's not a fundraiser. Details will be sent out in book bags shortly.

New PTA Chair

We are delighted to announce that Caroline Benson has agreed to take on the role of Chair following in the footsteps of Sophie Palmer. Caroline will take over the role in the New Year and we look forward to working with her and supporting her during events in 2018. We thank Sophie for all her hard work over the past year and wish her well as she takes on new challenges!! Thank you both!

Easyfundraising

Thank you – for all your support with Easyfundraising this Christmas – we really do appreciate you using that extra 'click' with all your online shopping! If you haven't signed up to it yet please check out <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> before you start your Christmas shopping – if you activate the donation reminder 'cookie' it will remind you with each website you visit– it's simple and **costs you nothing**.

A huge thank you to Andrew Roberts Surveying for sponsoring the beer keg at the Christmas Fayre - we will be approaching sponsors again at future events - please do let us know if you would like to help in this way. Drop me an email Christina_edley@yahoo.co.uk

Pre-loved Uniform

This has proved to be really popular - we have raised over £80 since September - if you have anything you would like to donate -especially logo garments or need extra supplies yourself -please contact Laura Croker via the JHS FB page.

You're raising for

Friends of John Hampden School Wendover

In the last 30 days your cause has raised **£342.93** and recruited **38 new supporters**.



Your cause has raised...

£1,683.68

No. supporters

173

Save the Dates

Bag to School

Next PTA Meeting

Children's New Year Disco

Ice Cream day

Spring Cake Sale

May Fayre

Fun Run

Summer BBQ

TBC in January

Tuesday 9th January

Friday 19th January

Friday 9 February

Friday 16 March

Saturday 19 May

Sunday 10 June

Friday 6 July



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**Squash and Christmas
craft morning
extravaganza.**



Wednesday 20th December
9:00 – 12:00



Paint a stocking,
decorate a free standing
willow tree, make a
father Christmas puppet
and create a bauble for
the tree and
Play squash!



Age range:
Location:

4 – 12years
Wendover Tennis & Squash Club

Sessions cost
£20.00



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STARTING SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME

**WAS YOUR CHILD BORN BETWEEN
1 SEPTEMBER 2013 AND 31 AUGUST 2014?**

Application
deadline is
3pm
15 January
2018

If yes, Buckinghamshire parents can apply online for a school place from
6 November 2017. Visit our website www.buckscc.gov.uk to apply for a school place.

You must apply even if your child is at the nursery attached to the school you would like them to go to.

Helpful information about starting school for the first time is in the 'Starting School and Moving to Junior School' guide for parents which will be available on the web from the end of October.

If you cannot apply online you can fill out a paper application form.

Open days for primary school are available now on our website at
www.buckscc.gov.uk

PLEASE DO NOT MISS THIS IMPORTANT DEADLINE



The FJH has just joined the Aylesbury Vale Lottery as a good cause - so lottery tickets can be bought for £1 - with 50p from each ticket sale coming straight to the FJH. Details as follows:

We have joined Vale Lottery as an official good cause. Lottery tickets can now be bought with HALF of the ticket price going to FJH.

Details about tickets as follows:

Each ticket costs just £1.

Each ticket is made up of 6 numbers/digits.

Each digit must be in the range 0-9 and the same digit can appear more than once.

This means there are a million possible ticket numbers from 000000 to 999999!

If you have a cherished number such as a date of birth or telephone number why not use that. Alternatively, if you don't mind what numbers you get just click "Choose for me" and it'll randomly pick the numbers for you.

To win a prize you must match at least 2 numbers in a row starting from either the left OR right.

Every ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize every week!

Winning ticket example:

If the winning number one week was 092582

All tickets starting 09XXXX will win a prize

All tickets ending XXXX82 will win a prize

If you match 2 numbers you get 3 free tickets

If you match 3 numbers you get £25

If you match 4 numbers you get £250

If you match 5 numbers you get £2000

If you match all 6 numbers in the correct order you will win £25,000!

You can buy individual tickets whenever you like, or set up a Direct Debit for 1 (or more) ticket(s) per week and not worry about forgetting!

Draws are every Saturday night.

Here's the page from which to buy them - <https://www.valelottery.co.uk/.../friends-of-john-hampden-sch...>



**Support Aylesbury Vale
and win amazing prizes!**

Vale Lottery

www.valelottery.co.uk

Vale Lottery - a fun and easy way to support
good causes in Aylesbury Vale!