



The John Hampden School Wendover



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NEWSLETTER

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope you had an enjoyable Easter holiday despite the wet weather. Sadly the poor weather did not deter unwanted visitors to our school site during and after the holiday. Trespassers entered the school site and caused damage and mess in the EYFS outside learning area. This criminal damage has been reported to the police and they hope to provide additional surveillance during evenings and weekends to ensure we stop this kind of mindless activity. Mr Redman has done a great job in mending damaged equipment and the EYFS staff have spent a considerable amount of time clearing up and cleaning the resources that were taken from the locked storage sheds.

Better news is linked to the building work. The new Year 1 block at the rear of the school is due for completion on 4th May and, following the recent hot weather, the mud has dried up so we have been able to reinstate lots of the lovely playtime activities that the children really appear to be enjoying at lunchtime. You have probably noticed preparations for more building work at the front of the school, which is due to start on 7th May. I apologise that the amount of waiting space has already reduced but the builders need to access this land in order to build our new Early Years classroom and another Foundation Stage classroom. Predicted pupil numbers for September 2018 mean that our move to four form entry will be delayed—we will continue taking up to 90 children so we will remain at three form entry for the next academic year.

Please note we will need to make some changes to access arrangements for parents of children in the Early Years and Foundation Stage from Tuesday 8th May. A new route will be created which will mean children in Crickets, Caterpillars and Ladybirds will reach their classrooms by walking down a newly created path which will run down the side of the building work (adjacent to the canal). This will mean walking through the outside play area to reach these classrooms. Please can I remind parents/carers that children are not allowed to use this equipment when school staff are not present—we will remind the children! A new door has been created to access Honeybees classroom. Children in this class should enter through the wooden gates by the scooter park and make a line up the steps near to the new door. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause—it will be worth it in the end!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 1st May—May Day Celebration @ 9.30am for Year 2 parents

Monday 7th May—Bank Holiday

Friday 11th May—Own clothes — please bring a contribution for the FJH May Fayre (bottles/ filled jam jars/cakes)

Saturday 12th May—FJH May Fayre. 12noon—3.00pm.



It has become a tradition for the pupils and staff at John Hampden to celebrate May Day each year and this year is no exception. The timeline for producing the newsletter means that you will see the photos and the detail of this years celebration in the next edition, although I hope to put some photos on the website for you to enjoy before then. At 9.30am on Tuesday 1st May we are inviting Year 2 parents/carers to attend and it is always lovely to see the enjoyment on their faces as the children perform their songs and dances. As outlined in the last newsletter children are invited to come to school wearing summer clothes suitable to dance in on this day.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

As a Parent Governor I usually approach Governor School visits with a keen interest, wanting to get an insight into the place where my daughter spends six hours a day and still comes out claiming to have done “nothing”. It is eye opening for me when I spot a link between what I have seen from Alia’s school work and being explained the purpose of it.

On one of my recent visits I met with Mrs Spencer to learn about the Handwriting and Presentation policy. It is a joint policy agreed between John Hampden and Wendover Junior School so that when the children progress into Junior School they can continue to build on what they have already learnt. Teaching staff receive training and also use the writing in lessons and feedback to reinforce the learning for the children – this is quite a feat as I’m not sure I could write that neatly anymore!

Handwriting and presentation are taught consistently across all subjects with the expectations increasing with their specific ability, as an example an early goal would be to write a short date on a piece of work (27.04.18) progressing to the long date when they are able (Friday 27 April 2018). The children are taught specific formation of letters from the very beginning. This ensures that their work is understood clearly by themselves, their teachers and their peers. Once they have proven they can write the letters neatly on a standalone basis they are then encouraged to use those skills to connect the letters into joined up handwriting. Peer assessment is used in many lessons and I have seen from my visits as a parent that this encourages a supportive and nurturing environment between the children.

Ofsted state that children should “secure the essential skills of reading, writing and mathematics, as the gatekeepers for successful learning across all other subjects” and the Handwriting and Presentation Policy is working hard to support this goal.



Daniya Stewart

Parent 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

CONGRATULATIONS

I am very pleased to be able to pass on the news that Mrs Nelson is expecting a baby. We offer our congratulations to her and her husband. Their baby is due at the end of October so Mrs Nelson will stay with her class until the end of this academic year.

Last week Miss Webb popped into school with her beautiful baby. Miss Webb took her to visit the children who loved meeting baby Abigail.

POLITE REQUEST

Please could we ask that parents/carers collecting children from the Foundation Stage classes do not let any of their children play on the outside learning equipment at the start and end of the school day. We have noticed an increasing number of children using the equipment or taking resources from their storage areas. As we do not have staff supervising the areas at these times we would ask that you refrain from using them for safety reasons. Having highlighted the issue in the newsletter and reinforced the message with the children in the Foundation Stage classes we would really appreciate your support with this. Our staff work hard to encourage our pupils to respect a specific set of rules regarding the use of the outside equipment during the school day and this is sometimes undermined if parents allow something different when they are in charge!

REMINDER

This is a further reminder that all school uniform must be named. As we reach the Summer Term more children are taking off their coats, cardigans and jumpers and if they are not named there is the real possibility that they may find their way into the lost property box where it is very difficult to match it with the real owner.

WATER BOTTLES & SUN CREAM

We have enjoyed some lovely warm weather recently and at these times it is particularly important that children bring a water bottle to school. Children are given water at break time but it is good for them to have their own bottle in the classroom so they can stay hydrated.

We advise parents to apply sun cream to their children before they come to school. It is possible to buy cream that only needs to be applied once and this avoids children having to bring their own bottles to school. If you believe your child needs suncream applied more often, please let the class teacher know and they can organise times for this to happen. Children should be taught to apply their own cream -thank you.

TESCO BLUE TOKENS

We are delighted to announce that we came 2nd in the recent Tesco blue tokens fundraiser which means we should get the second prize of £2000 donated to the FJH.

SIGNING HOME/SCHOOL DIARIES

Please can we remind parents that we encourage you to hear your child read for a short amount of time each day. 'Little and often' is the best way and we would ask that you sign your child's diary when you have heard them and indicate which pages you have listened to. Thank you

JAM JARS

As the May Fayre approaches you are being asked by the Friends of John Hampden to fill jam jars with 'goodies' which will be sold to the children on the day. We have lots of spare empty jam jars in school and we will put a tray out in the entrance hall which you can help yourself to if needed.

4. PUPIL'S SECTION

During our Enterprise Planning Week we gave each class a twenty pound note and asked them to think of ways that they could make this amount of money grow. The Foundation Stage classes have already completed their money making activities and parents/carers were invited into school last Friday afternoon to get involved.

Honeybees class decorated plant pots and planted bulbs and also painted some fabulous 'still life' pictures of fruit, both of which they then sold to their parents. They also held a 'chocolate raffle' with Easter gifts kindly donated by their parents. They raised a grand total of £176.55.



Ladybirds class held a sponsored mini-triathlon. The children ran, cycled and scooted and carried an egg and spoon, five times around the track for each event. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, cheering on their friends and persevering to complete each event. In the afternoon, parents were invited to come in and enjoy lemonade, juice and cakes and to purchase the lovely arts and craft items the children had made. They raised a grand total of just over £400.00 which will be used towards a summer fun day for the children later in the term.

In Caterpillars class the children spent the week creating products to sell to their families. They enjoyed decorating and planting flower pots, creating photo frames and decorating biscuits to sell for £1 each. On Friday afternoon the children had a Pyjama Party. We changed into our comfy pyjamas, got our blankets and settled down to a movie with some squash and popcorn. It was a really special treat and the children loved it! We had a great time during enterprise week and we hope we've raised a lot of money for our class.

5. CURRICULUM

In recent times much has been written about the need for schools to promote British values and, as a staff, we have spent time discussing what this means for our school and our pupils.



DfE definition (2014)

'Schools should promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs'

At The John Hampden School Wendover we ensure that through our school vision, ethos, agreed values, curriculum and teaching we promote respect and tolerance for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. As educators we have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe.

The promotion of British values and democracy is clearly evident within our school through:

- Whole school and class assemblies where we discuss and celebrate school values including respect and collaboration and focus on the ability to make the right choices
- R.E lessons which teach the children about similarities and differences between different faiths and cultures
- Our curriculum which shows the many influences that have helped to shape the modern Britain of today and the values of our society
- Our Values education and pastoral care
- The high priority that is given to P4C (Philosophy for Children)
- Opportunities which provide all pupils with a clearly heard 'voice'
- Our Vision Statement and the values which guide behaviour, thinking and learning
- Enrichment weeks including Health & Safety Weeks, Enterprise Week, Discovery Week and World Weeks
- Close links with our community
- Our support of numerous charities



OUR VALUES

Perseverance

Collaboration

Respect

Good Manners

Independence

Belonging

Reflection

6. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

ROYAL WEDDING THEMED May Fair – Saturday 12th May – 12 noon – 3pm



We have a selection of great entertainment and stalls lined up for the afternoon, including crafts, face painting, children's nail bar, pony rides, raffle, plant sale, tombola, refreshments and beer tent! There will be plenty to do and lots of fun to be had – we are hoping we will have a fire engine too!! Please see the letter in book bags detailing help and donations that we are so grateful for.

The May Pole dance demonstration will be held at **1.30pm** and 'Mr Marvel' will be keeping us entertained throughout most of the afternoon.

Don't panic if you haven't got a jam jar – plenty are available from the school office reception area – remember wrapped sweets only and no notes. Please also avoid any curry/vinegary jars as they have to be thrown away! The raffle pulls in the most amount of money for the school - please could you ask the company that you work for / businesses that you deal with to **donate a prize**? We will publish a list of businesses that have donated. If you are able to obtain a prize, please drop the donation into reception for the attention of Caroline Benson. If you require any more information please do not hesitate to contact caroline.benson2@gmail.com

With prizes on offer from some fantastic companies including The Village Gate, Haringtons, Agora, Jodie Digby Fitness, Little Bird Gallery, Cornelli, Dayla, Waitrose, Monsta Pizza, Kings Farm, BML Fitness, Sarah Greer Photography, Elegantly Iced and many more, this year's raffle is one to buy a ticket for! Look out for tickets in bookbags today.

Teddy Tombola

If you have a Preloved teddy bear in good condition that you would like to donate to the teddy tombola, please bring to your classroom by the end of today.

Neon Nights We sadly had to cancel our adult disco fundraising night due to lack of ticket sales - everyone who bought a ticket should now have received a refund.

Preloved Uniform - last year's sales of pre-loved uniform were very high and we are now running low in stock – particularly of 'logo-ed' items – please get in touch with Lula Kirby via email (lulakirby@hotmail.com) or FB JHS Parents page to arrange drop off of unwanted clothes or to buy – we will have a stall at the Fayre.

Easyfundraising

We now have **179** supporters – **does that include you???** If you've not signed up yet, please click on to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fjhwendover/> before you start booking your summer holidays – it's simple and **costs you nothing**.



Save the Dates

May Fayre	Saturday 12 May
Bag to School	TBC
Fruity Friday	Fridays after half term
Cake Sale	Monday 11 th June
Summer BBQ	Friday 6 th July
Wendover Woods end of term picnic	Tuesday 24 th July

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:-

GOAL A: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

The educational landscape is changing rapidly at the moment and there is a need for schools to look at how they can work more closely and profitably with others. Last year, to this end, senior representatives from our school met with leaders and governors from the Liaison Group of schools to initiate discussions about the potential of formalising our current working relationships. This has resulted in the development of two projects which are currently running and which involve regular meetings, one led by governors and one led by the Head Teachers of the schools. We have historically worked well as a Liaison Group of schools and we are now in a better position to evaluate the success of these shared projects.

GOAL B: TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT

Improving marking, feedback and presentation has been a focus of our school plan. Consistent marking symbols were introduced and work scrutiny shows that these are now embedded. Our next step was to provide pupils with the opportunity and time to respond to the comments of the teacher and to offer advice and support to their peers. There is clear evidence that this is now happening regularly. This development is allowing our pupils the chance to reflect on their learning and to really understand their next steps. We are starting to see pupils adding their own comments in response to the comments of the teacher—they really seem to be engaging in the learning process. Presentation has also improved considerably as a result of the increased focus on correct letter formation, sizing and layout.

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE

Each term I analyse the incidents of negative behaviour resulting in children losing some of their Golden Time. Last term, not listening, not being gentle and not being kind and helpful are the three most common reasons for children losing Golden Time. Children who have lost Golden Time spend time in Mrs Barnes' office rather than enjoying the whole Golden Time experience. Over the year we make changes to the organisation of Golden Time. We have now reached the stage where we are providing nine exciting activities each Friday afternoon so, at the beginning of the week, children choose the one that they are aiming for. We hope this is an incentive to behave well and the current organisation means there are children from each class in the school enjoying the activities together. Our School Council were involved in discussions with the leadership team about what we should do for the very small number of children who lose Golden Time regularly. They decided that any child who loses Golden Time more than six times should then lose another privilege.

Since we have returned from the Easter break we have introduced a new way of monitoring how well the children line up at the end of lunchtime play. Our Midday Supervisors are now awarding a token (a ball) every time their class lines up beautifully. The balls are visible in class jars in the dining room and last week we celebrated the fact that Honeybees Class and Squirrels Class both gained all five balls for the week. These classes can choose the reward they would like -other classes are going to try harder next week!

GOAL D: PUPIL OUTCOMES

Year 2 children are about to be assessed as part of the end of Key Stage statutory assessment procedures. The assessments (tests) for 2018 take place throughout the month of May but our teacher assessments are on-going. Y2 Parents and carers were invited to a meeting last week to hear about the format of these tests. If you were unable to attend the presentation it has been included under the 'Parents' section of the school website. We will be informed in May if our school will be externally moderated this year but, regardless of this, our Year 2 staff will be attending moderation sessions which aim to ensure consistent judgements across the local schools. Mrs McNally has successfully completed moderator training with Bucks Learning Trust and she is now qualified to moderate the judgements of staff in other schools. This means we now have an EYFS moderator and a KS1 moderator within the staff at John Hampden which helps to ensure the accuracy of the judgements we make. Our Foundation Stage assessments are not being externally moderated this year as we were visited last year but, as usual, Mrs Parkinson will lead the team to ensure their judgements are accurate and reliable.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

Piano Tuition

We are pleased to announce that Beckford Music will be continuing to work with our school again from September 2018 to provide high-quality, exciting individual piano tuition to children of Year 2 only. Please note that spaces are extremely limited and are dealt with on a first come, first served basis. For more information please email : beckfordmusic@hotmail.com

Postcard plea

In June during World Weeks, Crickets will be learning about different places in the UK and around the world and we would like your help. We will be making gingerbread men and one of the gingerbread men is going to escape and run away. If you have any friends or family who live in different places other than Buckinghamshire in the UK or around the world it would be wonderful if you can ask them to send a postcard to your school with the words "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man!" We can learn all about where the Gingerbread Man has been.

Please address the post card to :

Crickets, John Hampden School, Wharf Road, Wendover, Bucks, HP22 6HE, England

**** Please do not tell the children about this ****

Many thanks

Mrs Parkinson



MAY FAYRE

Saturday 12th May

12 – 3pm

Tombola, pony rides, football, treasure hunt, children's nail bar, teddy and book stall, refreshments, guess the Lego and much, much more!



**ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS
VERY WELCOME!**



**CHARITY SWING EVENING WITH
DANCE CLASSES, SUPPER &
LICENCED BAR**

WESTON TURVILLE VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 12 MAY, 7.00-10.30

TICKETS £17.00 (INCLUDING SUPPER)

**FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT
DAVID BLACKMORE ON 07811 116152**

