



# The John Hampden School Wendover



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### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Governor Section 2

It is hard to believe that the Spring Term has ended—Christmas seems a long time ago and there are very clear signs that Spring is definitely here. The term has been quite a short one but, as always, a busy one. After the break we look forward to welcoming some new children to Crickets class—they visited earlier this week and it was good to watch them mixing happily with the other children in the group.

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Changing the clocks last weekend reminds us that summer is just around the corner and we will be continuing with our tradition of welcoming the season by celebrating May Day. On **Tuesday 1st May at 9.30am** we are holding our annual May Day celebration for children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2. As space in the hall is limited we only invite parents of children in Year 2 to watch because Year 1 parents were invited to the Harvest Assembly in the Autumn Term – we try to make it fair! Early Years and Foundation Stage parents—your time will come.

Pupil's Section 4

As usual we would ask that Year 2 parents try to make alternative arrangements for younger siblings as they often find it difficult to sit quietly through a performance lasting just over one hour. If you do have to bring a younger child please would you ensure they sit on your lap and if they do start to make a distracting noise take them out of the hall until they become quieter.

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On the day, as we are celebrating the fact that summer is approaching, we are inviting all the **girls** in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to come to school wearing **something summery** which is appropriate to dance in. They will not need to bring their school uniform as they will wear their summer outfit all day. **Boys** in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 should come to school looking smart in **shorts or trousers and a shirt/top**.

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Our Year 1 children are responsible for choosing the May Queen and her attendants and we will also have a child dressed as the Lucky Sweep. We will put lots of the photos we take on the school website so you can share the event even if you are not able to attend in person.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**16th April** School opens

**19th April** SATs meeting  
at 2.30 pm

**27th April** FJH Neon  
Nights disco 7.45–11.30  
pm

**1st May** May Day for  
Year 2 parents at 9.30 am

**7th May** Bank Holiday  
Monday

We have almost come to the end of the first phase of the current building project—our new Year 1 classroom is almost complete. When we return from the Easter break we hope that the maroon coloured wooden buildings at the front of the school (formerly owned by John Colet School) will have been demolished. This is the start of the next phase of the project and, in due course, we will need to make some changes to routes for dropping off children and collecting them at the end of the day. Please be assured that we will communicate these changes as soon as we are fully aware of the exact details.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very peaceful and relaxing Easter break and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday 16th April.



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## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Dear Parents and Pupils

As we draw towards the end of another term I thought I'd take some time to review what an extraordinary fun packed and amazing term it has been for the children at John Hampden.

Looking back we've had visits from Olympic athletes and 'Strider' (the WOW living streets mascot...), guest assemblies to learn about Chinese New Year, dressing up for History Day, Sport Relief, World Book Day (my particular favourite). We've had Arts week where the children experienced drama and drumming workshops, Zumba dance classes, mask-making, learning about different techniques such as painting, printing and scraping, and different artists such as Matisse and Henri Rousseau! Then there was Discovery Week, which combined school wide Science investigations, a Thinking Day and a Maths Day. And let us not forget two snow days (hurrah say the children, argggghhh say parents). I'm not sure how the teachers find the time to teach their core subjects!

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend school during Discovery Week, as part of my role as Science link Governor. The session I attended comprised a Science Investigation exploring which materials were best for keeping Teddy (a teddy...) dry in his house (a plastic cup). The purpose of the investigation was to enable to children to learn about a range of different materials, to explore and discuss their various physical properties and then to apply their acquired knowledge to solve a problem (without getting too wet!).

The children were encouraged to 'Think like a scientist', exploring which materials might work the best to form a water-tight roof over Teddy's house. Later that day the children were asked to write-up their experiment, describing what they had done and found out. I was struck by how polite and well behaved all the pupils were, always raising their hand and waiting to be invited to contribute, despite this being hard work for some children who were obviously extremely keen to share their knowledge!

Science is, I believe, one of the subjects where a *great* teacher can have a significant impact on a child's learning. Children of all ages need to be enthused if they are to learn effectively. I can remember several of my science teachers, throughout my education. These teachers encouraged me to advance my learning through GCSE's, A-levels and then Science degrees, which in time led me to my current career as an Environmental Consultant. They had a positive impact on the direction of my life.

From my time spent in the classroom and with meetings with Mrs Tysoe, the Science Lead, it is obvious that both teachers and pupils have a true enthusiasm for science. Pupils are engaged in their lessons, which encourages their natural curiosity. This is supported by incredible teachers that are always well prepared, have access to adequate resources and are well supported in the classroom by their Teaching Assistants.

I consider Science to be one of the key subjects, a belief which I know is echoed by the senior leadership team at John Hampden. Science can inspire children, encouraging them to be inquisitive about the world, nurture their innate curiosity and enable them to develop a range of skills such as observation, prediction and critical thinking.

That said, there is a belief that Science is slowly but surely being "squeezed out" of the primary school curriculum. This view is shared by Amanda Spielman, Ofsted's chief inspector, who recently advised that there is a continued narrowing of the primary curriculum, driven by schools' understandable desire to excel at key (and nationally tested) subjects such as English and maths.

We therefore all need to support all the school's great work and encourage our children in science related tasks. This can be as simple or diverse as you want to make it. Go out sledging and explore why some sledges are faster than others, find and look at some frogs' spawn and talk about a frog's life cycle, play with a torch and make funny shadows, or mix up the "chemicals" needed to make the best chocolate brownie *ever*... These are all examples of things we as parents can do at home to get our children interested in science; although I suspect you might find that they are *already* interested in science...

I trust everyone has a great Easter Holiday.

James Edley, Parent and Chair of Governors



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, [jedley@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:jedley@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion or if you just have a query about the school.

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### SPORT RELIEF

Many thanks for allowing your children to participate in this fund raising event. We managed to raise £238.00 for this worthy cause and it was great to see the children looking so sporty in assembly.

#### SAVE THE DATE



Sunday 27th May is the diary date for the next Wendover Celebrates event. As usual, we plan to enter a walking float to the parade and there are plans for us to be present in the event grounds throughout the celebration so you can come along and see us there too. If you think your child would like to join us on the parade please save the date. For a small cost we will provide costumes and we will provide further details in due course but we would like as many children as possible to take part.

#### ACCESS/PARKING OF VEHICLES ON SWAN MEWS

We have received a letter from Neil Douglas Block Management Ltd. identifying that a 'vast number of parents associated with our school' are using Swan Mews estate for means of turning and parking, creating unnecessary congestion and blocking access for residents. Apparently the Management Company have erected signs and taken necessary measures to prevent this but no further improvements have been seen. We have been asked to request that you refrain from accessing Swan Mews with vehicles to ensure there is access onto the estate at all times for means of emergency, waste management and residential vehicle access. This is particularly important given that a large proportion of the residents are elderly and are therefore constrained by their mobility.

#### GOODBYE TO MRS YOUNG

It is with sadness that we will be saying goodbye to one of our long standing teaching assistants. Mrs Angela Young is relocating to the seaside where she hopes to continue her flourishing career as a published author. We thank her for all her hard work over the years—we shall miss her and wish her all the very best for the future. Some internal staffing re-organisation means that Mrs Lynne King will take over Mrs Young's role in Firecrests Class and Badgers will have a new Teaching Assistant designated to their class- we are in the process of making final arrangements for this.

#### P.E KITS

During the Easter Holiday we would be grateful if you would check that your child has a complete P.E. kit including track-suit bottoms and a sweatshirt for use outside when necessary. Your child also needs to have a correctly fitting pair of P.E. shoes (preferably not laces unless they can tie them themselves!) **All kit must be named.** Children with long hair should have it tied back and anyone with earrings should have them removed at home or be provided with tape to cover them during P.E. sessions.

#### WATER BOTTLES

Especially in the summer months, we encourage our pupils to bring a water bottle into school which can be stored on their table and accessed when necessary. Bottles must only contain water—no juice or squash as this can become very sticky and is attractive to ants!

#### MEETINGS WITH MRS SPENCER

Just a reminder that Mrs Spencer is available to speak to parents about any non-urgent school related issues. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's academic or social development or any issues relating to homework etc. please phone the school office to make an appointment.

#### SPARE CLOTHING

We are currently running short of spare girls tights and school trousers suitable for older boys. If you have any spare tights or trousers that you would be willing to donate to the school for use when pupils have had an accident we would be very grateful to receive them. Please bring them to the school office. Thank you.

## 4. PUPIL'S SECTION

### **ENTERPRISE WEEK 2018**

The importance of money has been on our minds this week and we were delighted to welcome Mrs Wheals-Brown to speak to the whole school during the Monday assembly about the importance of saving money.

This year we have made some changes to the concept of Enterprise Week and this links beautifully with a new 'Money Managers' initiative being introduced by the Harpenden Building Society who run our school bank.



This year each class has been given a £20 note with the aim of using it to make more money. The profit that is made will become the property of the class and they will be responsible for deciding how to spend it in a wise fashion—the original £20 will be returned to the school!

In previous years we have finished Enterprise Week with an event to which parents are invited. This may not be the case this year but each class will let you know what they have planned and if/how you will be involved.

### **Reading Mentor Project—linking with Wendover Junior School**

This term Mrs Spencer has led a project involving children from our school and Wendover Junior School. The Reading Mentor Project gave our pupils the chance to develop their reading skills with a mentor from WJS. The project culminated in a celebration assembly where certificates were handed out. The following comments reflect the impact of the project :



'My Mentor gave me confidence to read' Luan

'I enjoyed reading with my Mentor' Bailey-Jack

'I feel happy & confident about reading now' Holly

'I liked reading with my mentor' Jude



'I was a bit shy when I first met my Mentor but now I like reading with him' Mason

'The project made feel excited to read' Ellie

'My Mentor Hannah, helped me a lot' Eva

'I am getting better at my reading because Neeson helped me'

'The project made me feel good' Alfie



## 5. CURRICULUM

School visits and visitors are an enjoyable and valuable part of the school curriculum.

As part of our Explorer Topic, Foundation stage had a visit from Walter at Animal Edutainment last week.

Walter brought with him a wide selection of animals ranging from a Chilli Rose Tarantula , a Bearded Dragon, a Royal Python and a Tenrec (which looks like a hedgehog but is in fact closely related to the elephant!!) The children were able to hold or stroke the animals and ask questions about where they live and what they eat. Everyone behaved brilliantly and had a fantastic time.

Chloe G - I held a python. I was brave. It was my first time holding a snake.

Jack B- I held a tarantula. It was hairy and soft.



### 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

## 6. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

### Cake Sale

A **HUGE** thanks to all of you who baked, decorated, donated, bought and ate all the delicious goodies from our Cake Sale - we raised a huge £290!!! Our competition was kindly judged by Mrs Van der Lowen and Mrs Mohammed - winners were Year 2 - Catherine S (Firecrests), Year 1 - Hugo B (Squirrels), Foundation Stage - Eva S (Honeybees) and Crickets - Bertie B - well done all of you for such amazing bakes!

A special mention too to Mrs Perez for our school cakes - as pictured!

We hope to run another sale in the summer term - look out for dates coming soon!



### Neon Nights - adult disco - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April - Wendover Memorial Hall

Have you got your babysitter booked - the committee led by Lucy Johnston is working hard at compiling a list of your favourite tracks - it should be a great evening! It is a joint venture with WJS and not limited to parents - bring your friends and have a boogie or an uninterrupted 'chat'!! Tickets via Parentpay - log on in the usual way - available until April 17<sup>th</sup>!

### Spring Run - POSTPONED until Autumn term - date TBC

### May Fayre - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Planning for our Royal Wedding themed May Fayre is well under way as it's our 2<sup>nd</sup> largest fund raiser of the year - raffle prizes are coming in however we are reluctant to ask parents to donate yet another item for the fair so we are hoping that you could help us out.

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 (PTA Chair). If you require any more information please do not hesitate to contact Caroline on [caroline.benson2@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.benson2@gmail.com). Please also look out for volunteer forms which will be in book bags after Easter.



### Lost Property/Preloved Uniform Sales

Lucy Johnston and her team kindly ran a stall on Friday to allow parents to reclaim any lost property - all unnamed property. If you were unable to be at pick up on Friday, Lucy has taken all leftover items to be washed and re-sold for JHS profit. We have a large stock of summer dresses, cardigans, logo jumpers, girls vests (new!) - please contact Lula on [lulagkirby@hotmail.com](mailto:lulagkirby@hotmail.com) or Laura on [lauracroker1981@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lauracroker1981@hotmail.co.uk) or on our FB page - if you have any specific requests for items!

### Easyfundraising

Thank you to our 129 supporters - we continue to raise money for the school. If you've not signed up yet, please click on to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> before you start booking your summer or half term holidays (not forgetting that last minute Easter break to escape the rain!!) - it's simple and **costs you nothing**.

## Friends of John Hampden School Wendover

In the last 30 days your cause has raised **£129.51** and recruited no new supporters.



Your cause has raised  
**£2,136.29**  
£129.51 in the last 30 days

### Save the Dates

|                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Neon Nights – adult disco | Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> April |
| May Fayre                 | Saturday 12 May               |
| Bag to School             | TBC                           |
| Summer BBQ                | Friday 6 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**

April is budget setting time for the school and we are in the process of finalising our expenditure for the next academic year. As you are aware the budget situation in Bucks schools is extremely tight. Last week members of the leadership team met with representatives from Bucks County Council to discuss the challenges faced by our school with regards to our budget share allocation. There was recognition that our school appears to be particularly poorly funded due to our context and pupil numbers, so the team from Bucks are taking time to consider the best way forward for us.

Staff are consulted when preparing the financial plan and governors hope to ensure that it will support the school in achieving its goals for school improvement in order to enhance learning. Mrs Griffiths, our Finance Officer, takes responsibility for the day to day running of the school finances, assisted by the Leadership Team.

### **GOAL B: TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT**

The week before the Easter break is 'Assessment Week' and staff have completed a range of tasks and tests with their pupils to measure their progress and to identify the next steps for each child in the key areas of Reading, Writing and Maths.

On Thursday 22nd March Mrs King ran a meeting for parents of children in Year 1 to explain the statutory Phonics Check for these pupils which takes place in June. We have provided plenty of support materials on the school website under the Parents Section.

On Thursday 19th April, Mrs Barnes will hold a meeting for parents/carers to explain the statutory assessment arrangements that are due to take place with Year 2 children within the month of May. At the John Hampden School, the children are used to being assessed regularly at all stages of their education, and they are always encouraged to do their best. As a result of the introduction of the new National Curriculum, end of KS1 tests have changed and parents who have older children who completed the old style SATs might be interested to hear and see the differences that have been made. Whilst end of key stage tests are important in evaluating the success of the school, it is essential that we continue to track the progress made by individuals, groups and cohorts throughout their time in the school.

### **GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE**

Class Council Circle Time has happened again in the past two weeks. This is where each class were asked the same questions and the results were collated. The focus of the discussion this time was behaviour and safety and it has been interesting to read the children's perceptions. Staff are taking note of individual concerns that were expressed during the discussions and supporting these children on a 1-1 basis. Key issues from the Class Council Circle Time will be shared with staff and the School Council who will decide how they would like to see the Leadership Team addressing their concerns.

### **GOAL D: PUPIL OUTCOMES**

Tracking pupil progress is a necessary part of monitoring in the school. Each term, following Assessment Weeks, staff give a summative assessment level for each pupil in reading, writing and mathematics. This information is used to track progress from one term to the next. It is then possible for us to identify those children who are making below, expected or above expected progress. For any child that has not made expected progress, teachers are required to identify actions they will take to address any concerns. This careful tracking of pupil progress helps us to maintain the high standards of achievement we have come to expect at John Hampden.

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS

**HB Public Law**

working in collaboration with you

9 March 2017

Dear Parent/Carers

### **Use of social media**

We are writing to you to request your support in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all members of our community when posting and sharing content on social media sites. It has come to the local authority's attention that there has been an increase in the use of social media to discuss the borough's schools and that this is not always being done in an appropriate manner.

If parents wish to set up social media groups in order to get to know other parents and discuss their children then they are strongly advised to do so by setting up private groups and ones which cannot be accessed by other members of the public in order to ensure the safety of their children.

All parents and carers are entitled to have their own views and opinions and schools welcome these comments through the appropriate channels. We would like to ask that all members of our school community consider how comments are sometimes misunderstood when shared online and the possible impact and consequences on others of our online actions.

It is important that all parents and carers understand that the use of social media to deliberately threaten, upset, harass, intimidate or embarrass members of staff or anyone else associated with the schooling community will be considered to be cyberbullying and/or harassment and will not be tolerated. Posting threatening, obscene or offensive comments online can also potentially be considered as a criminal offence and can therefore have very serious consequences.

Schools in Buckinghamshire will take action against inappropriate postings on social media if they:

- I. Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- II. Pose a threat to another pupil or member of the public or
- III. Could adversely affect the reputation of the school.



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If parents/carers have any concerns or complaints regarding their child's school, then we would like to request that they be made using the correct and official channels so we can work together to help resolve any concerns that parents/carers may have. Your child's school will have a complaints procedure and anti-bullying policy which can be requested from the school office if not available online.

If parents/carers wish to discuss this matter further or have any other online safety concerns the please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead of your child's school.

Many thanks in advance for your support in this matter.

#### Lost credit card

We have in our safekeeping a Nationwide credit card for a Miss Conolly. If you know who this might belong to please could you let them know. We would need to see photographic I.D. in order to consider returning the lost card to them. Thank you.

A fund raising event for  
The John Hampden School and Wendover Church of England Junior School



Friday 27th April  
7.45pm – 11.30pm  
at  
Wendover Memorial Hall



**Wear something BRIGHT**

**£10 pp – includes free glass of fizz on arrival**

**All proceeds from the disco go to JHS and WCEJS PTAs**

**Book your babysitters NOW ! Everyone welcome !**

**Please purchase your tickets as follows (over 18s only):**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>The John Hampden School</b>           | <b>via Parentpay (same login as termly contributions)</b>  |
| <b>The Wendover C of E Junior School</b> | <b>via envelope, with cash or cheque (payable to WCEJS PTA) to the School Office. Please mark the envelope Neon Nights, with your child's name and class</b> |

**Tickets MUST BE PURCHASED before the deadline of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**All tickets will be distributed via the children's school bags w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

Please email [lucysparkles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucysparkles@hotmail.co.uk) with your song request(s) – maximum of 3 each





# HYPERACTIVE MODERN AND STREET DANCE CLASSES

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**Email:** [footprintdance@outlook.com](mailto:footprintdance@outlook.com)

 Footprint Dance







# The Secret Life of 4 & 5 Year Olds

The award-winning Channel 4 series is returning to follow 4 and 5 year olds, as they play, learn and interact with other children in a nursery. They will be observed throughout by leading scientists and psychologists, who will give insights into child development.

We are currently looking for **4 and 5 year old children** and their parents to take part. Your child would be needed for a week or two of filming during the summer holidays.

**If you are interested please go to the below link to fill out our online application form**

**<https://www.shortaudition.com/The-Secret-Life-2018>**

*We are committed to promoting inclusion and welcome applications from parents of children living with a disability. All communications with us will be treated in confidence.*

*Any information you give us will be kept securely and confidentially and in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 (and your right of access to the information is as provided under that Act).*



# **FREE WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL EASTER EGG HUNT**

**From Monday 26th March  
through to  
Sunday 8th April 2018**

Hop on over. Let's have some fun...  
We're looking for eggs, each and every one!

The Easter Bunny has hidden 12  
eggs in the shop windows around  
the village. How many can you find?

**Entry Flyers Available from The  
Clock Tower & Library**