



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd July —Induction Meeting for Sept
FS parents 7pm

3rd — County Induction Day

6th July—Reports & FJH BBQ

12th July - Open Evening - 6-7pm

18th—20th July FS Performances at
2.30 pm : 18th—Caterpillars, 19th—
Ladybirds, 20th—Honeybees

20th July—Last EY session

24th July—Y2 Leavers Assembly 11.15am

24th July—School closes for the summer
1.30pm

24th July—NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

6th Sept—School reopens 8.55am

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I would like to start with a big thank you to everyone who was able to come along and support their children at Sports Day this year. I am sure you agree that the children participated brilliantly throughout. There are a few photos and videos on the school website for you to see if you were unable to attend.

With only a few weeks until the end of the academic year our thoughts turn to plans for the future. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a number of staffing changes for next year. We shall shortly be saying a fond farewell and thank you to a number of staff as they move on:

- Mrs Brannan (Badgers Class Teacher) leaves us today as she relocates to Oxfordshire with her husband
- Mrs Timms (Teacher in Firecrests Class) has decided to take some time out of teaching and leaves us at the end of term.
- Miss Webb has decided not to return to work following the birth of her daughter last November.
- Mrs Nelson, who is pregnant, is due to begin her maternity leave at the end of September so will not be taking a class responsibility next year.
- Mrs Knight, Support Assistant at lunchtime, will no longer be working with us next year.

So, in September, Mrs Parkinson will be joining Mrs Shrimpton and Mrs Mills in the Foundation Stage team. These teachers will be supported by Mrs Fox, Mrs Dale and Mrs Zucconi respectively. Miss Burns will also be attached to the Foundation Stage team in the Autumn Term.

Year One classes will be taught by Mrs Beattie, Mrs A. King and a new teacher, Mrs Shyvers who will join the team. Mrs Hazel, Mrs Morrall and Mrs Maddison will be supporting them. Foundation Stage parents had the chance to meet these teachers and find out more about what Year One will bring at a meeting this afternoon.

The Year Two teaching team will be made up of Mrs Spencer, Mrs McNally/Mrs Tysoe and newly appointed teacher Mrs Bowman. Mrs McLoughlin, Mrs King and Mrs Wilton will be supporting them.

Miss Francis will continue in the role of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Mrs Collins, Miss Francis, Mrs Grimsdell and Mrs Llewellyn will continue to work in the school providing cover and expert teaching in specific curriculum areas such as music, art and P.E.

Today, Foundation Stage and Year One children will be bringing home a letter informing you of their new class teacher/s for September, so do look out for it in their book bags. Next Friday (6th July) you will receive your child's annual report. Ensuring a smooth transition into, out of and within John Hampden becomes a priority for us now and we are about to start a planned programme of transition arrangements to prepare the children for the next stage in their school journey. We thought you would be interested to know what these activities are so I have included details in the same letter. **We look forward to seeing you and your children** at the Open Evening on 12th July. This is a chance for the whole family to tour the school, meet staff and visit old and new classrooms.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

I recently picked up a geographic book in the Cottage Bookshop in Penn written at the turn of the 19th Century. The Wendover entry was rather unkind... "Wendover is an ancient borough, consisting principally of mean brick houses built in a low bottom among the Chiltern Hills. The inhabitants derive their chief support from lace making; but as a branch of the Grand Junction Canal has been lately brought into the town we may suppose that their situation will improve." The text then went on to talk about the eponymous patron of our school John Hampden. Now, I did not know much about him and why his name has graced our school since 1968.

John Hampden was born in 1594 into a family with a long tradition of service to the Crown. He studied at Magdalen College Oxford and later at an inns of court where he obtained "a considerable knowledge of the laws". By 1621, he had a seat at parliament and later represented the borough of Wendover for three terms. During this time he became known as 'Patriae Pater – The Father of the People' when he stood out against the imposition of the Ship Money tax by King Charles I.

Hampden was a tireless worker in Parliament, and played an important part in the impeachment of the King's chief minister, the Earl of Strafford. He was one of the Five Members whose attempted unconstitutional arrest by the King in the House of Commons in 1642 sparked the English Civil War.

When the Civil War broke out, Hampden raised and commanded a regiment in the Parliamentary Army, known as the Buckinghamshire Greencoats and was appointed a member of the Committee of Safety (the Parliamentary War Cabinet).

Hampden fought in several engagements in the early Civil War, but he was mortally wounded by a pistol shot at the Battle of Chalgrove Field in Oxfordshire and died on 24th June 1643 at Thame.

After his death, Hampden's integrity and bravery were long remembered and celebrated. The wars established the constitutional precedent that the monarch cannot govern without Parliament's consent, a concept legally established as part of the Glorious Revolution in 1688 and enshrined in the British Constitution as the Bill of Rights of 1689. His political legacy can therefore be found in the constitutions of many of the world's leading democracies including the USA and much of the Commonwealth.

John Hampden's life and values; freedom, justice, integrity and respect for others are as relevant today as they were 350 years ago. I can see how these directly link with the instilling of modern British values at John Hampden School. The Department for Education defines these as "the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs." OFSTED guidance states "the school promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles; and support and help, through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community, to prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain"

This teaching of Britishness and having a well-rounded world view link with the teaching of RE and in my role as RE link governor, I recently met with Mrs Grimsdell, who is the RE subject lead for JHS and together we reviewed the impact of RE provision over the academic year.

The RE curriculum is integrated within themed weeks, such as the recent activities for World Week, and as a standalone subject linked with significant dates in world religions and pagan calendar. The children's work included the study of different faiths and the comparison & contrast between them. This manifests in different forms, from labelling, drawing and written explanations to craft activities, progressing to greater depth in succeeding years. This all contributes to building acceptance and knowledge of other cultures, faiths and backgrounds that all figure in modern Britain and are the fundamental bedrock of our society.



Simon Ward (Parent Governor)

The Governing Board is always willing to listen to parental queries and to explain in more detail what the Governing Board 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

FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

Back in January we asked for your views on changing the age range for our school to allow us to accept pupils into our Nursery class in September each year rather than the traditional start date of January. Feedback about this initial proposal was generally positive (87% in favour) so we have now moved to the formal consultation stage. There will be a letter emailed about this process with further information available on the school website. Once again, we would urge you to respond as previous responses are not allowed to be included in this part of the process. Thank you.

Reminder

As we reach the end of the school year this is a reminder that children should not come to school before 8.45am each morning. We will make sure doors are opened promptly at 8.45am and hopefully this way we can avoid the congestion that builds in certain areas when people arrive early and have to stand around waiting.

Lost Property

We will have a table of lost property out at the Open Evening on Thursday 12th July so do take a look if you are missing anything.

Checking Book Bags

Please check book bags regularly as staff are noticing that there are often letters in them that remain unread and you may be missing vital information!!

Sale of School Uniform

At the open evening on Thursday 12th July we will have a school uniform stall set up for any parent wishing to buy uniform, book bags, P.E kit etc. for the new academic year.

Consideration for our Neighbouring Schools

We often urge parents to park considerately and to avoid bringing cars close to the school campus. We would also ask that you act considerately around our neighbouring schools whilst bringing and collecting your children each day. This is particularly important in June at key examination times.

Head Lice

We are aware that there are some cases of head lice in the school currently. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat as necessary.

Warm Weather

We are enjoying a particularly hot period of weather at the moment. Please make sure your child comes to school with sun cream applied and with a sunhat to wear. Children in KS1 should be provided with a named water bottle which must not contain juice or squash please. Children in EYFS have access to water at all times so do not need to bring in their own water bottle. Please see the advice on the NHS website—Public Health England—Beat the heat.

4. CURRICULUM

The school has a strong commitment to the added value of learning beyond the school premises. We also take every opportunity to invite visiting groups into school.

Each year we arrange a number of activities that take place off the school site which support the aims of the school.

Yesterday, Year Two pupils took part in a multi-skills festival at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. This allowed them to join with other Year Two pupils from the local schools in a range of fun sporting activities.

Year One children recently enjoyed a trip to Whipsnade Zoo and we thought you might like to hear more about it.

On Monday 18th June Year One had a fantastic day at Whipsnade Zoo. Each class had an informative session with one of the zoo education team to support our Science class work about animals. The children were able to experience animals close up and even got to stroke a snake! The children were very enthusiastic and managed to walk a long way. The elephants, flamingos and giraffes were particularly popular!

I really enjoyed seeing the flamingos because I like the way the flamingos stand on one leg, even when they are sleeping. Eva- Hedgehogs

I liked stroking the snake because it was my first time to do that. It felt weird! - Kyle, Hedgehogs.

I liked the giraffes because of their tall necks. It was great watching them eat their food at such a height. Shanbi- Squirrels

I loved looking at the butterflies because they were so beautiful. It was fun when one of them landed on my hat! Lucy- Squirrels

I liked the long tail lizards because they had patterns on their tails—Oscar (Badgers)

I liked the stripes on the zebras. I liked the baby giraffe because the mum was protecting it—Maisie (Badgers)



5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Last week, to link with their recent Science work, our Year 2 children enjoyed a trip to Collings Hangar Farm, a local organic farm in Prestwood. The children had a wonderful day, finding out how wheat and other cereals are milled, exploring orchards, taking a minibeast hunt and meeting the resident woodland pigs and young lambs. The highlight of the day for many was making their own pizza for lunch with ingredients all home grown on the farm. A great time was had by all. Whilst they thoroughly enjoyed the trip and took part in a range of exciting activities we were delighted to receive some excellent feedback from the farmer about our pupils:

Once again what a lovely school the John Hampden is, they can visit the farm any day! The children are engaged, polite and the staff are all very attentive, which makes the visits so much more enjoyable for myself and my many helpers. I notice that the children are supportive of others and take a real interest in all that goes on. They really are my favourite school to visit.

Best wishes to you all and enjoy the summer!

Virginia

Wren Davis Ltd

Here are some comments from the children :-

I liked making pizza because I had never made one before. It was delicious! (Eleanor—Hérons)

I liked rolling down the hill in the field, even though I rolled through a cow pat! (Jacob—Hérons)

I enjoyed making the bookmarks because it was fun picking the little flowers and I won a prize for the prettiest bookmark (Holly—Hérons)

I enjoyed stroking the lambs because they were so soft (Evie—Hérons)

I enjoyed learning about plant crops because I learnt things I didn't know about our food (Bethany—Hérons)

I loved seeing the pigs because they were very cute and funny when they were eating (Lily—Hérons)

I loved it in the orchard because I saw lots of fruit trees and found some sheep wool (David—Hérons)

I loved bug hunting and I almost caught a fly, but it was really fast (Alex—Hérons)

I loved wearing Farmer John's cowboy hat and I felt like a real cowgirl (Poppie—Hérons)

I enjoyed the running races we did in the fields because I won some of them (Alfie—Hérons)

I loved EVERYTHING because it was my first time on a farm (Miley—Hérons)



6. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



PTA funds raised!

We are delighted to announce that the PTA have just funded some new IT equipment in the form of new laptops for the IT suite. The next purchases will be in the form of visualisers and new playground equipment as the building work comes to an end... A HUGE THANKYOU for all your generosity this year

Summer BBQ Friday 6 July 6.30 – 8.30

Don't forget to order your entry ticket and food for the Summer BBQ, all via Parentpay - last orders is on 30.6.18 - there will be no extra food available on the night as we want to eliminate food waste! We are buying the sausages & burgers from [Beef Olive](#) again this year to support our local community. For those of you who haven't been to the BBQ before; there aren't as many stalls as the May Fair, it's more of a social event. A bar for the parents and Simon says Magic for the children. Of course there will be a few things for the children to spend their pocket money on; sweets, ice-creams; tattoos; pocket money stall etc. This year we will get the footballs out with a few fantastic dads to guide some activities with the children.



Wendover Woods Picnic is now Picnic in the Park Tuesday 24 July from 1.30

A lovely way to end the term – everyone is welcome. Bring your picnic to the park –we will be in the park by the cricket pitch (– with the playground and sports equipment) and celebrate the summer. This is not a fundraiser.

Fruity Fridays – every Friday until the end of term

The PTA are continuing to maintain the production of 200 lollies/week - there will be plenty more in stock for this Friday as the heat-wave continues! Over time we have stuck to Innocent smoothies and Del Monte readymade lollies, although they may be slightly more expensive, parents get to know the ingredients so helps with children with allergies.



JHS Parents – Closed Facebook group

Did you know that there is a closed Facebook page where parents can post information / reminders / questions to other parents? It is administered by the Friends of John Hampden (PTA), designed to help parents support each other, socialise and remind each other of the million and one thing we need to do for the school and our children - like not forget non uniform days!

If you don't have access, search for '**JHS Parents**' and request to join and one of us will authorise you.

Easyfundraising

In the last 30 days we have raised £102.05 with 1 newbie recruited. If you've not signed up yet, please click on to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fjhwendover/> – it's simple and **costs you nothing**. Some PTAs raise thousands through this website – imagine what we could raise if all the parents, grandparents and staff used the site.



Your cause has raised
£2,488.23
£102.05 in the last 30 days

Save the Dates

Fruity Fridays

Every Friday this half term

Summer BBQ

Friday 6 July

Picnic in the Park by Cricket ground Tuesday 24 July

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan.

GOAL A: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

As we come to the end of this academic year we are starting to plan the next actions to improve the school further. We will be taking notice of a range of data, feedback and monitoring and evaluation information to write the objectives for the School Improvement Plan for the next academic year. This allows us to include the views of our pupils, staff, parents, other stakeholders and external validators in our future improvements.

In 2018-2019 our Senior Leadership Team will remain the same—Mrs Barnes, Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Spencer.



GOAL B: QUALITY OF TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT

Ensuring we are prepared to provide an engaging and stimulating curriculum remains a priority for next year as we continue to make tweaks to the current plans. At recent staff meetings, we have reflected on the changes that have been made to the content and structure of the curriculum and we look forward to making further creative and exciting improvements for next year.

Once again, a six week transition timetable is being designed for all pupils from September. This aims to ensure the move from one year group to the next is as smooth and consistent for the children as possible.



GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE



The arrangements for a smooth transition to the next school year are well underway. The teachers and children will visit their new classes in their new rooms a number of times before

the end of term. We currently have over 270 children in the school so on Tuesday 3rd July, careful planning is required to ensure pupils moving to Wendover Junior School get there safely, Early Years move to Foundation Stage, Foundation Stage move to Year 1, Year 1 move to Year 2 and new children starting in September are welcomed and sent to their new classrooms. Future Year 1 and Year 2 children are looking particularly grown up now and I am sure they will impress their new teachers with their wonderful attitude to the changes they are facing.

Meetings for parents of children due to start Foundation Stage in September will take place on Monday 2nd July.

GOAL D: PUPIL OUTCOMES

All assessment data has now been submitted to the Local Authority and all statutory deadlines were met. Foundation Stage parents and Year 2 parents will receive information regarding their child's performance in the statutory assessment procedures for these cohorts. We are very pleased with the outcomes of the Foundation Stage assessments for this group of pupils. They are certainly well prepared for the next stage of their education. Year 2 pupils have also made very pleasing progress but it will be some time before we are able to compare our performance to that of other schools locally and nationally. The statutory Phonics check took place for all Year 1 and some Year 2 pupils. Parents will receive their child's individual result with their annual report. Following a considerable amount of work to improve teaching and learning in phonics over the years we are pleased to note consistent high standards -keeping us well above previous national results for the fifth time.



8. MISCELLANEOUS

