



The John Hampden School Wendover

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Happy New Year!

Governor Section 2

In this first newsletter of 2017, I would like to start by welcoming children and their parents to the Early Years Class (Cricketts). I have been very impressed by how quickly the children have settled into the routines of school. The class are currently being taught by Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Redman who are both new to the school themselves and we welcome them to our team.

Important Messages 3

Having walked around myself and observed all the children in the school in the first days of the new term, it is clear that they are eager and ready for the challenges that the new year will bring.

Curriculum 4

We are extremely fortunate to have a strong and committed team of teaching staff but, very unusually for us, the new year has started with a few staffing changes. Unfortunately Mrs McLennan (Early Years Teacher) needs to take some time away from school for personal reasons so we are grateful to Mrs Griffiths who has stepped into the role on a temporary basis. We said a fond farewell to Miss Nawaz at the end of last term but we are pleased to welcome back Mrs Tysoe from her maternity leave to teach Eagles class with Mrs Grimsdell.

Pupil's Section 5

Despite these changes the beauty of John Hampden is the excellent teamwork that is a feature of the school. This means that all new members of staff are well supported and we can ensure consistency for all classes in each year group. As well as new teaching staff we are pleased to welcome Mrs Redman and Mrs Dwyer as new members of support staff in the school.

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School Improvement 7

May I remind parents that if you wish to take your child out of school during term time you must request a leave of absence form from the school office. Wherever possible you must give at least one month's notice of the proposed absence. We follow a locally agreed policy regarding leave of absence and it is important that parents think carefully before taking their children out of school. You will shortly be receiving a letter giving an interim attendance figure for your child. I hope you will find the attendance figure a useful guide for your own information. I am sure you will appreciate that it is difficult for me to authorise absence if your child's attendance percentage is below the expected level of 95%.

Miscellaneous 8

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

20-1-17—FJH Disco

26-1-17 Maths Day

3-2-17 Bags 2 School collection

6-2-17 Assessment Week

6-2-17 Arts Week

10-2-17 School ends for half term @ 3.15pm

Voluntary Contributions—the time has come to request another voluntary termly contribution of £10 for each pupil. This money is used to help us pay for additional activities that the school budget does not allow us to provide. The contribution is voluntary and no child would miss out if their parents opted not to pay. However, the more contributions we receive, the more we can provide. Each year group have clear plans for spending the contributions they receive. Providing a termly contribution means that parents will not be asked for several smaller voluntary contributions throughout the term. Contributions should be sent in an envelope via the class teacher or directly to the school office. We do have records of people who paid £30 for the whole year last term.

Thank you

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

As we rapidly approach the end of week 2 into the new term I have had a little time to reflect on the Christmas holidays. The feedback from the family was good, our twins got what they wanted and I think my daughter was happy with her gifts but as she gets older the lines of communication have become less consistent. This has led me onto the theme of this governors section "communication".

I believe the newsletter is an invaluable way to communicate with the school, Mrs Barnes has done great work embedding this as one of the primary tools at the school's disposal to communicate directly with the John Hampden community. The school is due to have a very busy year, it is going to be very important that everyone feels they have the appropriate level of information. If this is not the case I would urge you to use the e-mail address below or failing that please feel free to ask one of the governors, if they are unable to answer your question I am sure we will know someone who can.

As ever I would like to end with a quote from a personnel hero of mine..." You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think". - Winnie the Pooh

From all of the Governing Body, we wish you a happy and fruitful new year.

John Goodman
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, Paul Phillips, on p.phillips@johncolet.co.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Adverse Weather Conditions

If we need to close the school this winter due to adverse weather conditions the following procedures will be used to inform parents.

1. A decision will be made about the school closure by 7.30am. This decision will be based on health and safety grounds, which may include not having enough staff at school to supervise our pupils.
2. By 7.45a.m the school website home page will be updated with closure details. MIX 96 will have been contacted and should announce our school closure at regular intervals throughout the morning. The County Council's website will also list our school closure: www.buckscc.gov.uk
3. If the notices listed above have not been implemented then you are to assume the school will remain open.
4. With these three methods of communication in place, there should be no need for you to telephone the school asking whether we will be open or closed.
5. Should the school open but need to close earlier than 3.15p.m, we will contact you via text or telephone.

Please be assured that school closure will always be a last resort.

It is entirely the responsibility of the parent/carers to decide whether it is safe to travel to and from school in inclement weather and we respect the choices you make. As usual please inform the school by telephone or in writing if your child will be absent from school.

Coats, Hats, Gloves and Boots

In this winter weather please would you ensure your child comes to school wearing appropriate clothes and footwear. We will be going outside as long as the playground remains ice free. All hats, coats, gloves and boots must be named and it would be really helpful if you could show your child where their name is written on each item of clothing, so they know where to look!

CLUBS

Key Stage One parents will shortly be receiving a letter about extra-curricular clubs in their child's book bag. If you would like your child to be considered for a place you must return the form by the date given on this form. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis but priority will be given to those who did not attend a club in the Autumn Term, to make it fair.

Medicines

Please note:

Medicines should only be brought into school for administration when essential; that is where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day. Should a prescribed medicine be required to be taken three times a day or less, the school will not administer the medicine during the school day as we have been advised that medicines that need to be taken three times a day can be taken in the morning, after school hours and at bedtime.

Home School Diaries

Please remember to tell your child to inform us if you have written a specific message in their Home School Diary. Staff do not routinely check diaries every day and we would not wish to miss anything of importance.

Collecting from School

If, for any reason, you are unable to collect your child at the end of the school day and you organise someone else to do it (even at the last minute) please would you make sure you inform the school office as we are unable to let children go with people that we/they were not expecting to collect them.

Headlice

We are still aware of some cases of headlice in the school. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat as necessary. We would ask that children with long hair have it tied back when they are at school. This is vital on P.E. days. Children with earrings should have them removed on P.E. days or have the means to cover the studs with tape which they should be able to manage themselves. P.E. days are outlined on the class timetables which can be found on the appropriate Class page on the school website.

Parent helpers

We are keen to hear from any parent/carers who are able to volunteer some time to support learning in school. Full training will be given but we require a few more people who can commit to offering regular support in either a morning or an afternoon. Please contact the school office if you would like to help. **Please note that our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in our care so volunteers would need to be prepared to undertake an enhanced DBS check.**

4. CURRICULUM SECTION

As the new year and the new term begins each year group has embarked on a new topic. You will soon be able to find a topic guide on the school website under the Classes heading and you will also have the guide emailed to you in due course. We hope this will help to give you an outline of what the children will be learning and ideas of how you can support this learning at home, if you would like to.

Foundation Stage have a topic of 'Explore, Explorer what can you see?'

Year One have a topic title of 'Through the Keyhole'

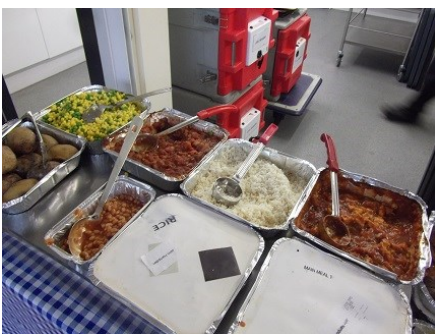
And Year Two have a topic title of 'London's Burning'

As well as the explicit taught curriculum a great deal of learning goes on in what is known as 'the hidden curriculum'. The introduction of hot school meals has been a huge learning experience for us all but so far it appears to have been a positive one!

The children are gradually getting used to queuing for their lunch, independently collecting their plate, cup and cutlery. They are sitting together and sharing this time for social interaction and we have been impressed with their table manners and their ability to use the cutlery correctly! At the end of the meal they are responsible for scraping away any waste, stacking their plates and sorting their dirty cutlery. We are pleased to see their independence shining through and even our youngest children are coping very well with all that is being asked of them. As the weeks go by we hope the lunchtime system will become slightly slicker—we are constantly tweaking things- but it has been a good start and the children generally seem to be enjoying the food on offer. Pizza slices and fishfingers have proved to be the most popular so far!



Independently accessing the plates, cups and cutlery. The coloured band indicates what meal has been ordered.



A selection of the food that is available. There is a meat, vegetarian or jacket potato option each day. There is always additional fruit and bread on offer.



Enjoying their hot meal with their peers.



Clearing away independently after their meal.

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

The children appear to be enjoying the introduction of hot meals this term and we thought you might like to read some of their comments.

"I like the pizza because it tastes yummy" - Zac (Honeybees)

"I like the fruit we have at lunch. I like the watermelon because it is nice and juicy" - Willow (Honeybees)

"The food is great. I ate all of mine" - Will (Ladybirds)

"I liked the pizza! There is lots of it" - Arthur (Ladybirds)

"They were yummy. My favourite was the pizza!" - Ruben (Caterpillars)

"They're nice. I've had all of them before. I like pizza and jacket potato. I have beans" - Jenson (Caterpillars)

"I really like all the puddings. The chocolate brownie is my favourite" - Lexi (Hedgehogs)

"I really love the pizza because it is so cheesy!" - Ollie (Hedgehogs)

"I think it is smashing because it is so yummy" - Maya (Badgers)

"I liked having lasagne and rice" - Caleb (Badgers)

"Everyday it is really nice because you get to choose a pudding and extras too" - Annie (Squirrels)

"You can choose different toppings for your jacket potato. They are tasty!" - Harry (Squirrels)

"I think they are lovely because they are hot and tasty. Also you still get to choose some other things" - Elsa (Firecrests)

"I prefer them to the cold packed lunches we used to have" - Jamie (Firecrests)

"They are very, very tasty and really delicious. I like the pepperoni pizza" - Dan (Hérons)

"I really like the dessert. All of them especially the cake with the custard and the apple crumble. They were delicious" - Josh (Hérons)

"It is much better having hot meals as they are far better than sandwiches" - Rowan (Eagles)

"They were even better than I expected. My favourite lunch was pizza" - Noah (Eagles)

"I like them because you get pizza and they are not cold they are warm" - Samuel (Red Kites)

"They are so scrummy and I love the pizza and jacket potatoes" - Sophie (Red Kites)

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

Children's Christmas Parties

Thank you to Hollie & Chrissie for co-ordinating the Christmas parties and Mandy Rushton & her Dad for being the 'special guests'. The children (and adults) had a great time.

Children's New Year Disco - Friday 20th January – 6pm – 7.30pm

We hope the children are all looking forward to a fun night at the disco. DJ Dan Blaze will be entertaining the children in the main hall. Children are also able to relax watching a film, colouring or playing with the lego in a number of designated class rooms.

Guilty Pleasures (adult) Disco – Saturday 4th February

Don't forget to book the babysitter and order your tickets – it's your turn to hit the dance floor! Look out for the letter in the book bags.

Bag 2 School Friday 3rd February

Please look out for the small white Bag 2 School bags in your child's book bag this week. If possible please fill it with any unwanted adults' and children's clothing, paired shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys and bring to school by 9am on Friday 3rd February (there will be a tarpaulin on the grass by the scooter park from 7.30am). The school then gets money by weight of the collection. Thanks!

Easyfundraising

Thank you - we have **another 2 parents** that have signed up to Easyfundraising in the last fortnight – we have now raised **£871** 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 holidays – it's simple and **costs you nothing**.

Your cause



Your cause has raised...

£871.29

No. supporters

71

Save the Dates

Children's New Year Disco	Friday 20 January
Guilty Pleasures Disco (parents)	Saturday 4 February
Spring Cake Sale	Friday 17 March
Spring Run	Sunday 23 April
May Fayre	Saturday 20 May
Bag to School	Wednesday 14 June
Summer BBQ	Friday 7 July

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. It is now three years since Ofsted last visited us so they are due again at any time. They identified four areas for improvement at that time so we thought you might be interested to see the actions we have taken over the last three years to address their development points for us.

Point 1: The attainment and progress of boys are not as strong as that of girls.

- INSET training on 3 occasions linked to published research linked to boys and girls learning styles, attitudes, aptitudes etc.
- Performance Management targets linked to developing learning environments to meet the needs of all, teaching styles and strategies, data (closing the gap between boys and girls)
- Developing the learning environment inside and outside to meet the needs of all learners
- Detailed data analysis linked to gender and term of birth
- Revised curriculum planning to ensure topic content was appealing to all
- Additional opportunities provided to develop core strength and fine motor skills
- Change to handwriting policy to ensure all children could form letters easily
- Audit of reading books to ensure appealing content for boys and girls
- Boundaries for acceptable behaviour/values across the whole school made clearer
- Behaviour initiatives (Scroll of Honour, playground organisation) to provide structure to hidden curriculum *
- Liaison Group writing project to improve standards of writing for boys
- Introduction of positive male role models (WJS, Premier Sport, enrichment week visitors, male staff)

Point 2: Not all tasks meet the learning needs of all pupils.

- KS1 pupils complete Pupil Learning Surveys annually feeding into PM for teachers EYFS pupil voice links into curriculum planning
- Parental feedback about their children's interests/aptitudes requested annually prior to children starting a new class
- Curriculum design reflects pupil's ideas/interests
- Learning environment exemplifies required standards and support for learning (Working Walls)
- Forensic approach to formative assessment, target setting and pupil progress monitoring
- Further differentiation to teaching according to need e.g. Guided Reading, phonics, interventions
- Consistency of learning environments across the school provides security and familiarity
- Playground organisation/expectations allows children to develop interests, creativity, social skills, chance to 'let off steam' in a controlled way
- Introduction of a range of extra-curricular clubs to interest and engage children
- Use of P4C as an approach to teaching provides children with a structure to creative thinking/questioning
- Introduction of revised marking and feedback policy allows children to self-assess via traffic lights/challenge lights their view on the work offered to them
- Curriculum planning builds on formative and summative of pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding
- Transition timetables for the first weeks of a new school year allow pupils to settle quickly

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (CONTINUED)

Point 3: The proportion of pupils that meets the required standard in the Year 1 reading check is below average.

As you know, from the regular feedback in newsletters, we have done a great deal to improve phonics teaching in the school. This has been enhanced by curriculum evenings for parents and additional ideas for how to support learning at home. We continue to see phonics as just one approach to improving reading skills and we work hard to ensure our pupils develop a love of reading too. Attainment in reading is consistently very high and it was acknowledged that, 'Reading is a strength of the school. Pupils have a good knowledge of fiction and non-fiction books. They read with confidence and with expression. The school supports them well by making sure individuals have the correct reading book for their level of ability.' Ofsted December 2013

However, improving standards in phonics can now be backed up with statistical evidence as shown below.

Y1 Phonics	% at expected standard
School 2016	88%
National 2016	81%
School 2015	85%
National 2015	77%
School 2014	82%
National 2014	74%
School 2013	51%
National 2013	69%
School 2012	38%

Point 4: Subject leaders who are new to their role have yet to make an impact on learning so that all pupils make good progress

Obviously, three years on our subject leaders have been able to demonstrate more of an impact (many had only been in post for seven weeks when Ofsted made their observation!) Our independent review (Nov 2014) stated, 'Amongst the many impressive examples of leadership and management at the school is the work of the school's middle leaders in developing discrete areas of practice.'

Actions:

- Review and re-distribution of leadership roles
- Clear succession planning in place
- Governor subject links to ensure leadership team has a clear understanding of each curriculum area
- Further improvements to Subject leader files – annual action plans, policies
- Involvement of subject leaders in data analysis linked to core subjects
- Implementation of new National Curriculum by all subject leaders
- Significant English initiatives introduced which have impacted positively – Phonics, Talk for Writing, Guided Reading
- Maths initiatives linked to data analysis
- Curriculum evenings for parents organised to support learning at home
- Huge changes to ICT in the school improving quality of learning in computing
- Further development of P4C as an approach to teaching across the curriculum (emphasis on Science)

We are obviously never complacent when it comes to school improvement and we are continually striving for ways to be better at what we do, but we have certainly seen a difference as a result of the recent actions we have taken—we hope Ofsted will too!

8. MISCELLANEOUS

February Half Term Holiday Camps



Our aim is to guarantee your child a huge amount of fun. Children will be active while developing sporting skills for life with our expert Activity Professionals. Giving you the piece of mind you need when you entrust your child into our care.

Where



SCHOOL BASED HOLIDAY CAMPS

Princes Risborough Primary School (PR)
Manor Farm Junior School, Hazlemere (MF)
Bishop Wood Junior School, Tring (BW)

Times & Prices

8am - 5:30pm	£16.00
9am - 3:30pm	£13.00
9am - 1.00pm	£8.00 (suitable for 4 year olds)

Activities

Football	Archery	Arts & Crafts
Basketball	Fencing	Athletics
Gymnastics	Golf	Dodgeball
Street Dance	Rounders	Cycling/ Scooters

Where



PREMIER SPORT HQ

Wendover Youth Centre (WYC)
We will also visit -
Wendover Pool, Wendover Woods
& John Colet Sports Hall

Times & Prices

8am - 6:00pm	£24.00
9am - 3:30pm	£19.00
9am - 1.00pm*	£11.00 (suitable for 4 year olds)

Activities

Swimming	Street Dance	Rounders
Football	Archery	Arts & Crafts
Basketball	Fencing	Golf
Gymnastics	Pizza Making	Athletics
Adventure Walks*	Toast Breakfast	Dodgeball
Cheerleading	Hockey	Table Tennis
Dance	Drama	

When

February Half Term	Manor Farm	Great Kingshill	Bishop Wood	Wendover Youth Centre	Princes Risborough
Mon 13th Feb	✓			✓	✓
Tues 14th Feb	✓			✓	✓
Weds 15th Feb		✓	✓	✓	
Thurs 16th Feb		✓	✓	✓	
Fri 17th Feb		✓	✓	✓	
Easter Holidays					
Mon 3rd Apr	✓			✓	✓
Tues 4th Apr	✓			✓	✓
Weds 5th Apr		✓	✓	✓	
Thurs 6th Apr		✓	✓	✓	
Fri 7th Apr		✓	✓	✓	
Mon 10th Apr	✓			✓	✓
Tues 11th Apr	✓			✓	✓
Weds 12th Apr		✓	TBC	✓	
Thurs 13th Apr		✓	TBC	✓	

*Please note children attending the offsite Adventure Walks need to be 8 years old and over. Swimming is not included as this takes place in the afternoon. For full terms and conditions visit premiersport.org



WIN A FREE DAY!

Like us on facebook/Premier-Sport-Buckinghamshire and win a free day on camp.

Sibling & Early Bird Discount

Receive 15% off by booking two weeks in advance of the course start date or by booking a sibling at the same time

Plan Ahead...

All 2017 holiday camp dates are now online at premiersport.org

Childcare Vouchers

If you would like to book using childcare vouchers we accept these at our Wendover Youth Centre Venue. To book please email akempton@premiersport.org with the dates required and your childcare voucher provider company name.

What Do You Need To Bring...

- Packed Lunch
- Water Bottle
- Weather appropriate clothing
- Trainers

To Book
www.premiersport.org
01953 499 040

Enquiries
akempton@premiersport.org
01296 620 097

facebook/Premier-Sport-Buckinghamshire
@PS.Buckingham

Recruiting more Foster Carers

With more than 400 children and young people in need of a foster home, Bucks County Council are always looking for new people to come forward to train as foster carers.

They are running a session on Thursday 19th January at Aylesbury Opportunities Centre, Thame Road South, Aylesbury, HP21 8TS from 7pm to 9pm where people can go along and find out more about fostering and what it involves.

To find out more or to book a place please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering or contact First Step Team on 0800 160 1900 or firststep@buckscc.gov.uk

Find out more about fostering



**Come along to one of our
special Information
Sessions to find out more:**

- **Wednesday 11 January**
7pm to 9pm
The Hub, Easton Street,
High Wycombe, HP11 1NJ
- **Thursday 19 January**
7pm to 9pm
Aylesbury Opportunities Centre,
Thame Road South,
Aylesbury, HP21 8ST



Book your place now
0800 160 1900
www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering





Our Branch in Wendover has a vacancy for the following permanent position:

Branch Cashier (Part-time)
£5,148.00 per annum starting salary + excellent benefits
12 hours per week:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
11.45am – 2.45pm
plus 2 in 4 Saturdays: 8.45am to 12.15pm
at an additional rate of £58.50 per Saturday

We are a traditional building society with our Head Office in Harpenden and Branches in Harpenden, Radlett, Leighton Buzzard, Tring, Wendover and Buckingham.

As a first point of contact you will need to be confident, friendly and numerate with a good all-round standard of education. You will need to be computer literate and able to provide excellent customer service.

A background in either retail or financial services would be beneficial, but is not a requirement.

In return we can offer an attractive salary with benefits that include contributory pension scheme, generous holidays and free uniform.

If you enjoy working as part of a small team and are willing to work some Saturday mornings as part of our rota, then we would like to hear from you.

For an application form and job description, please contact:

Jo Richardson
Office Manager
Harpenden Building Society
3 Icknield Court, Back Street
Wendover, Bucks, HP22 6EB
Telephone: 01296 623595
Email: jrichardson@harpendenbs.co.uk

CLOSING DATE 27th JANUARY 2017

Hot school meals catering assistant vacancy

As you are aware, from January 2017 we are moving to providing hot school lunches for the pupils. Chartwells, our meal providers are therefore looking to employ a catering assistant who will be based at the school to help prepare and serve the food. The contract of employment will be with Chartwells (not John Hampden School). Please see the job vacancy advert below for further information.

JOB VACANCY AT THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER

OUR COMPANY ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING

Position: CATERING ASSISTANT

Time: 11.30-1.30pm 10hrs per week

(Monday – Friday; Term time only)

For further details and an application form, please contact Ann Dilinchev

Telephone Number: 07880 023136

Email: ann.dilinchev@compass-group.co.uk

