



The John Hampden School Wendover



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NEWSLETTER

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I wanted to start this newsletter by thanking those of you who are able to come into school today to see the work that has been completed in 'World Weeks'. It is incredible that the children and staff are able to put on such an excellent display of learning and artefacts following just nine days of work—but the results are stunning and we hope you enjoy the opportunity to come into school and look at all the interesting activities that had been completed. If you are not able to come in you will find photos in the news section of the website.



We were also very proud of some of our Year 2 pupils who recently performed at the Wendover Junior School Summer Fayre. For many of them it will be their next school so it was a good opportunity to show their new teaching staff just how fabulous they are! My thanks to Mrs Collins for leading the singing so fabulously.

In the next two weeks I will provide you with details about classes and staff changes for 2017-2018 prior to the start of our transition programme which runs from 3rd July. There are a number of staffing changes but full details of these will be in the next newsletter. Before that we must say a fond farewell to Mrs Karen Fisher, Teaching Assistant in Hedgehogs Class, who leaves us today. Mrs Fisher has secured an exciting new career opportunity so we wish her all the best in her new venture but I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to her for all her hard work over the last 14 years. She will be truly missed.

Good news to share is that Miss Webb is pregnant so we send congratulations to her and her partner. Their baby is due in November.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 21st June—FS & KS1 Sports Day (weather permitting)

Wednesday 28th June—alternative date for Sports Day

3rd July—Induction Meeting for new FS parents 7pm

3rd July—Crickets Consultation Meeting

Tuesday 4th July— County Induction Day (children to visit their new classes)

I am beginning to spot prominent displays of school uniform in some shops and supermarkets so it must be time to start thinking about the new school year! Office staff spend quite a lot of time selling uniform on an adhoc basis so this year we have, once again, decided to set up a stall in the hall during the planned Open Evening on Thursday 13th July. We hope that any parents wishing to buy or order uniform for the next academic year will use this opportunity to purchase all they need. Whether it is a new reading folder, P.E. kit, one of our water bottles, or a complete set of new uniform—we hope to have enough stock for you to be prepared for the Autumn Term. We may also have a small table of second hand uniform available.

Thank you for your continued support.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

As the dust starts to settle on the latest round of democratic decisions, the issue of education funding was rather overshadowed by the (perhaps) more pressing issue of Brexit. For those of us closer to the issue of education funding, the result of the election has not delivered any more clarity on how the pressures on school budgets will be eased. Although more money is being spent across the country on education than ever before, the budgets allocated to individual schools continue to shrink. The funding for new schools (regular schools, free schools, academies and UTCs etc.) comes from the same pot that existing schools are sustained from, and as such there is less money to go round.

Austerity across national and local authority departments has reduced the amount of money ending up in the classroom. Schools have not escaped inflationary cost increases for services, utilities, resources and materials. Despite sustained pay restraint, changes to National Insurance and pension contributions have increased staffing budgets with no additional funding made available. To say that funding is very high on the list of concerns for governors and senior staff is an understatement.

So what are the implications for the school? Clearly, the governors and senior leadership team work hard to ensure that services, materials and resources are managed carefully and procured in the most cost-effective manner. Costs are tightly controlled and any opportunities to realise efficiencies are carefully considered. The work of the Friends of John Hampden and the funds that they raise tirelessly throughout the year form a vital component of the school's income. Parental contributions are gratefully received and these allow for the wider enrichment of the pupils through a variety of activities. A collegiate approach involving everyone (including the pupils) will ensure that nothing is wasted and that every penny is accounted for and spent wisely.

Regardless of the funding situation, the overriding concern of the Senior Leadership Team and Governors is the quality of learning that the pupils can expect when they attend John Hampden school. Maintaining the ethos and quality of teaching is sacrosanct and we are all working hard to ensure that the budgetary pressures do not impact on the childrens' learning. It is fair to say that we can expect choppy waters over the next few years and education will undoubtedly be affected by this uncertainty. By working together, we will be able to steer the Good Ship John Hampden to calmer seas.

The Governing Body is 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 or if you just have a query about the school.

Mike Boyle

Co-opted Governor

We recently wrote to parents requesting nominations to fill a vacancy for a parent governor. By the deadline of 3.15pm on Friday 9th June we had received two nominations so there will need to be an election —we will contact the parent body soon to provide details of this process. In the meantime we thought you might like to read the information the two nominees provided about themselves.

Robyn Asprey (Parent of Owen—Caterpillars class)

According to the National Governor Association, “School Governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children’s education”.

For all my working life I have been working and pushing boundaries to do this. With experience primarily in Early Years roles, running my own childcare setting, I have been able to give the children I have worked with both a positive education, and also an environment in which they feel not only safe but also happy and excited to be in. Now working with people with learning difficulties, I have gained a wealth of expertise in another area in which education plays a pivotal role. Most importantly, as a parent, ensuring school is a great place for the children to attend and achieve is the priority.

I understand the enormous financial restrictions currently faced by schools, and I would relish the chance to work with the governing body to provide the best possible education, environment and opportunities for the children who attend John Hampden School. With a child attending the school myself, I would sit on the governing board to represent both the children and the parents of the school to help the school continuously improve.

Angie Daly (Parent of Tilly—Hedgehogs class)

My daughter Tilly is in Hedgehogs in Year One, and my other daughter Rosie is starting at John Hampden School in September.

We, as a family, think John Hampden is a great school, and I see this opportunity to become a Parent Governor as my chance to not only have a say in determining the future of the school, but also to give something back to the school community.

I work part time in the public sector, and feel that I have the time to dedicate to this role. I think (hope!) that people find me approachable and so I am sure that I would be able to do a good job in representing and considering the views and needs of the families of the school.

I believe that academic attainment is important; but I also believe that children should learn how to look after themselves and become valuable members of the community; while at the same time having fun.

I am passionate about the education of our children and will do my utmost to help reach decisions which will ensure that our children receive the very best.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES



SPORTS DAY 2017



Weather permitting, our Sports Day will take place on Wednesday 21st June. We will continue with our traditional format this year which hopefully makes the event shorter, more competitive and more enjoyable for participants and spectators.

The event will take place on the Wendover Junior School field and each year group will participate at a different time.

Year 1 will commence at 9.15am

Foundation Stage will commence at 10.15am

Year 2 will commence at approximately 11.15am

At the appropriate time, spectators should arrive and enter John Hampden via the marked gate. Please follow the signs directing you to the field and we would ask you to ensure you take the marked route to avoid us disturbing the pupils and staff at the Junior School.

Spectators are welcome to bring chairs or rugs to sit on and we will ask you to position yourselves behind the markers beside the edge of the track. Pupils should come to school in normal school uniform. They will change in school and be brought to the track by their teaching staff at the appropriate time. Children should have sun cream applied before they come to school and they are welcome to bring a cap if it is very sunny. The staff will provide water for anyone who needs it. The activities for each year group will last for approximately one hour and during this time there will be the opportunity for mums, dads and younger siblings to join in, so do come prepared!

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 21st, but if the weather is bad we will postpone the event until Wednesday 28th June. If, on either day, Sports Day has to be postponed I will put a message on the school website and the school gates by 8.30a.m. If there is no message you should assume the event is taking place so there will be no need to phone the school office.

FIDGET SPINNERS

Please can we remind everyone that children should not bring their own toys/sticker books into school because they do not have the opportunity to use them during the school day. A few of the popular 'fidget spinners' have been seen and to avoid the upset that is caused when personal items are lost it is best if they are not brought into school at all. Thank you.

SCOOTER SAFETY

We have been asked by Wendover Junior School to remind parents/carers that they should supervise their children closely whilst waiting to collect siblings from the junior school especially if they have scooters and bikes with them. Ideally the children should not be riding bikes and scooters in the area where people are waiting to collect older children.

NHS Organ Donor Register

We have been provided with a few leaflets about Organ Donation for Children and Young People, which are available in school. The leaflets contain photographs of a family from our school who sadly have first hand experience of the need to raise awareness about organ donation for children and young people. For further information about how adults and children can join the NHS Organ Donor register go online: organdonation.nhs.uk or phone 0300 123 23 23.

SCHOOL GATES

Please note that the school gate into the playground is shut at 9.00 am each morning. If you arrive after this time, please come round to the school office.

SCHOOL TRAVEL

Road Safety

We know that the road traffic management system for our campus is not ideal and we have worked hard to reduce the risk of incidents. However, there are a number of individuals who are putting our children's safety at risk. There have been a number of near misses recently that could easily have caused serious injury to our crossing warden, Mrs West. To reduce the risk of an incident, please remember:

- Vehicles should only be parked in a safe place (this includes waiting): not within 15m of a junction, not on double yellow lines – such as in the turning circle, not on hazard warning lines and not in bays marked for buses
- The speed cushion is not a zebra crossing – check both ways before walking into the road
- Reduce speed around the entrance to the campus – there are many parked cars which means that it is hard to see pedestrians crossing until they are in the road.
- The crossing patroller is legally entitled to stop traffic and will do so by displaying the STOP sign (lollipop)
- The barrier reduces traffic on campus to help keep children safe – do not attempt to drive onto campus at restricted times unless you have been authorised to do so or have a pre-arranged meeting

THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR CO-OPERATION



Walk to School Poetry Competition

Thank you to all the children that entered the 'Walk to school' poetry competition.

All the children that entered have received a small prize and I have sent the four winning entries to Bucks CC for their poetry competition.

The winning entries were by Ryder Levick and Poppy Banks, both from Crickets class and Nadia Zlotnicka from Firecrests class and Freya Levick from Eagles class. They will receive my prizes this Friday.

Well done to all of you.

Bike to school week

As you know we have been running a raffle for all children that biked or scooted to school this week. Thank you to all the children that have taken part. The raffle will be drawn during merit assembly this Friday. I will let you know who the winners are in the next newsletter.

Hopefully now the weather is warmer it will inspire you to walk, scoot or bike to school more often. If you do have to come by car, I hope you can park away from Wharf Road and Manor Road and walk the remainder of your journey, therefore relieving the congestion near the schools.

Parking Promise

I would like to thank all the parents and carers that are very supportive of our school crossing patroller who does a superb job helping everyone to cross the road safely. However, there have been several dangerous incidences that have put her and the children and parents at risk. So the Junior School and John Hampden are sending out this message:

'IF YOU CARE ABOUT CHILDREN'S SAFETY, DON'T PARK HERE'

Please sign up to our Parking Promise and receive a car sticker to show you support for our campaign.

Thank you for supporting sustainable travel to and from school.

Heather Beattie, School Travel Coordinator.

4. CURRICULUM

Today is the last day of the two World Weeks so the children are about to embark on their final topic for this academic year.

The title for the Early Years topic is 'Traditional Stories'

The Foundation Stage topic is 'Stories Around the World'

Year 1 pupils take the theme of 'Animals & Space'

Year 2 will finish their year with a topic called 'Minibeasts and their Habitats'

Further information about these topics from the different year group teams along with other useful information is/will be available under the *Classes* section of the school website.

A visit from Perform

We were very pleased to receive a visit from Perform on Monday 12th June. The children had a wonderfully energetic time exploring the theme of *Wild West* and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.

To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of *Wild West*. It contains fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances.

Perform run regular weekly classes in the local area and they are offering a special introductory discount to all parents of The John Hampden School if they come along for a free trial session before Monday 3rd July. To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting THEJ030717 or visit perform.org.uk to find out more.

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Over the past two weeks each class has been studying a different country as part of 'World Weeks.'

Whilst you have had the chance to come in and look at the work that has been completed by your child's class we thought you might be interested to read about what some of the other classes have been learning.



Caterpillars Class have been learning about Australia. They found out: I loved going to Australia on a plane. It takes 24 hours to get there. We were looking at animals (Abigail). I have enjoyed learning about all the animals. There's kangeroos and wallabies and platypus (Evan)'

Honeybees Class have been learning about Native America. They found out: I enjoyed making a tee-pee. I challenged myself to do the sticks on my own. Then I put material all around. It's good (Evie). I liked making a necklace. I had to put the pasta on. It was tricky (Oscar T)



Ladybirds Class have been learning about Kenya. They found out: We made paper mache masks. I like messy things. Then we painted them with patterns (Huw). I enjoyed making the African jewelry with sparkles and pasta (Hugo). The sunset safari pictures were the best! (Will)



Squirrels Class have been learning about Ecuador. They found out: I have learnt that the Galapagos Islands has lots of different animals like the kimodo dragon, sea lions and crabs (Jacob W). I found out that at Christmas they pass a doll (baby Jesus) around and they ride horses.

This is called the 'Pas del Nino' (Leyah)

Badgers Class have been learning about Japan. They found out: I liked making real sushi because I liked getting my hands wet! We had to press the rice onto the seaweed wrap. Then we put peppers and cucumber inside. Finally we rolled it (Caleb). I liked learning about Japan. It was fun! We made pretend sushi from paper and real sushi. We made koi carp kites and drums. It was all great (Olivia)



Hedgehogs class have been learning about Mexico. They found out:: I really enjoyed being able to do my own research on the computers to find out what animals and plants there are in Mexico

(Brooke). I really enjoyed using my imagination and creating my own Aztec God (Erin)



Firecrests Class have been learning about Sri Lanka. They found out: I enjoyed making the Sri Lankan masks because they were tricky but fun to make (Logan). I loved the food tasting because there were lots of lovely new things to try (Holly W)



Eagles Class have been learning about Bhutan. They found out: I loved cooking and tasting Bhutanese food (Dexter). I liked the Fable of the Four Friends—they worked together (Sophie J)



Hérons Class have been learning about Egypt. They found out: I have enjoyed making camels and pyramids and putting them together (Olly) . I like learning about all the interesting facts about Egypt (Teddy)



Red Kites Class have been learning about Peru. They found out:: I have enjoyed doing all the artwork. I also learnt that the capital of Peru is Lima (Michael). I loved making the god's eye and I know they have alpacas in Peru (Kaya).

6. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

May Fair

A huge thank you to Chrissie and the team for co-ordinating the May Fair. With your generosity we raised about £4,100 for school which looks like another record.



Ice-Cream Day

There were lots of smiles on the last day of term when the volunteers took ice-creams into the classrooms at the end of Golden time. Thanks for your time volunteers!

What have we done with your money?

This year the school has spent a whopping £30,000 of the money you have donated to the FJH events. Our children are now benefitting from:

- 8 Interactive whiteboards – used daily to enhance our children's learning
- Cosy corner – a safe place students can chill out and gather their thoughts
- Scrap shack replenishment – our children are able to go and use their imagination and use equipment to enhance their 'make believe play'.



Play house for the Foundation Stage outside learning area



Summer BBQ Friday 7 July 6.30 – 8.30

Save the date for the summer family BBQ – letters will be in book bags shortly. For those of you who haven't been before; there aren't as many stalls as the May Fair, it's more of a social event. A bar for the parents and Mr Marvel 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.



Wendover Woods Friday 21 July from 1.30

A lovely way to end the term – everyone is welcome. Bring your picnic up to Wendover woods and celebrate the summer. This is not a fundraiser. The FJH have hired a BBQ area so feel free to bring a sausage to bung on the barbie.

Fruity Fridays – every Friday until the end of term

The PTA have ramped up production. 175 lollies were sold last week – plenty more in stock for this Friday. Over time we have stuck to Innocent smoothies, although they may be slightly more expensive, parents get to know the ingredients so helps with children with allergies.



Sponsorship Well Done

The fun run raised around a whopping £750 but a special well done to 2 students who raised £125 and to El-lie who didn't do the run but walked 6km instead and was sponsored for that, raising £70.

Treasurer

Thank you to Rach Jacob for her amazing work as treasurer over the last three years. We are looking for a replacement to take over in July; maybe it's something you could do as 'job share' with a friend? There is no-one on the current PTA that can take the role on.

Rach promises that it isn't that hard! Please drop Rach a line if you would like to find out more about what the role entails Rachel.higley@challonershigh.com

We need you

We are looking for new members to join the PTA. You may think that we have loads of volunteers but we don't. We had to reduce the number of stalls at the May Fair as we couldn't man them all.

A number of the Year 2 PTA members will be leaving next month and we need new supporters to take their place.

We can all commit different time and skills, there's no pressure to help with every event. Please join and do as much or as little as you like. For more information please contact christina_edley@yahoo.co.uk or helenwood30@hotmail.com



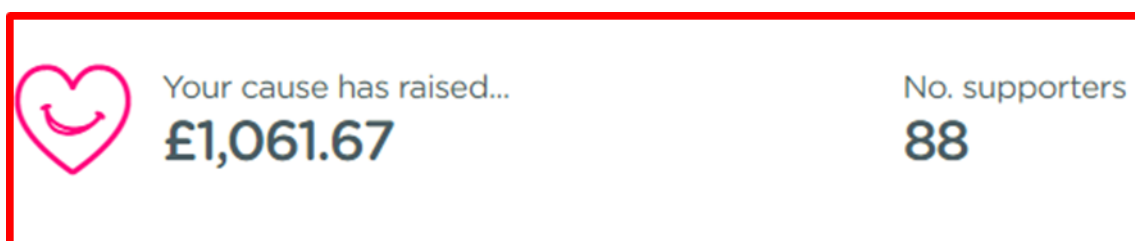
JHS Parents – Closed Facebook group

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 **£58.09** and recruited **5 new supporters**. 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**. Some PTAs raise thousands through this website – imagine what we could raise if all the parents, grandparents and staff used the site.



Save the Dates

Fruity Fridays

Every Friday this half term

Summer BBQ

Friday 7 July

Wendover Woods Picnic

Friday 21 July

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. Since the last newsletter:-

GOAL A: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Many thanks to all the parents who have returned the annual questionnaire that I sent out with the last newsletter. There is still time to respond (deadline for returning completed questionnaires is Friday 7th July) and I would love to receive as many responses as possible. The information gathered will be collated and shared with the various stakeholders in the school. As well as asking parents for their views we also ask the pupils what they think too. Our Key Stage 1 pupils will be completing a learning questionnaire which aims to provide us with information on how well the pupils are taught and supported in their learning.

It is vital for us to regularly conduct these types of exercises in order to continue to develop the school.

GOAL B: QUALITY OF TEACHING

June is report writing time for teachers. At John Hampden we have designed an annual written report that aims to provide narrative comments giving clear information, personal to the child, about the pupil's progress over the whole academic year. The report comments on general progress, behaviour and attitudes, and progress in all subjects and activities of the curriculum. It outlines the child's strengths and the areas they need to develop. FS and Y2 parents receive summary data linked to statutory assessment procedures. A summary of the child's attendance record - number of possible attendances and % of unauthorised absences is also included. Additionally, for KS1 pupils we also include a sheet that is completed by the child indicating their view on how well they meet the school values as well as identifying areas they have enjoyed or would like to improve in. This annual report is deliberately very thorough and for this reason we do not organise specific consultation meetings for parents in the summer term. You are, of course, welcome to make an appointment to see the teacher following the annual report if you feel it is necessary.

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE

We recognise the importance of smooth transition from one class to the next and we have put in place manageable systems and procedures to ensure that as far as possible, there is timely transfer of information between teachers within the school and between schools. When a pupil leaves, we fulfil statutory requirements to send information to the receiving school; we also send on the child's educational record as legally required. We also work hard to support pupils in making successful transition from class to class within this school.

Therefore we ensure that teachers:

- Have opportunities to talk together before the pupils transfer
- Have clear understanding of colleagues' judgements based on secure moderation procedures
- Share information about pupils' progress as they move from one class to the next or to a new school in order to support continuity of learning for all pupils
- Make good use of the information received at cohort, class and subject level as well as to help determine the provision for groups and individuals
- Support vulnerable pupils in moving to an unfamiliar context

Today we are sending home a survey to complete with your child about their interests, influences and role models outside school—please do send your completed form back in so it can be passed to their next class teacher. (EY, FS and Y1 only)

GOAL D: PUPIL OUTCOMES

The week commencing 12th June is Phonics Screening week. Since Monday, our Year 1 pupils (plus those Year 2 pupils who did not reach the standard last year) have all worked individually with their teachers to gauge their phonic knowledge using the check provided by the Government. We are cautiously optimistic that our results will be very pleasing. Whilst phonics is extremely useful in the early stages of reading we are now really seeing the impact of children using phonics to improve their spelling too. The weekly spelling tests are reinforcing phonic knowledge and we are grateful to those parents who are clearly supporting their children so well at home to consolidate these sound foundations for future learning.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

Little Acorns News

Little Acorns Kindergarten announce the news of Gill's retirement from the end of this current term. Gill is a strong and dedicated member of the team and was Deputy and SENCO until last year. Her commitment to all children's development has been inspirational to all and we will sadly miss her and we know that the children will too.

We wish her well for the next venture of her life.

If Gill was a key worker to any of your children, your best wishes and memories of your time would be greatly appreciated to add to a keepsake leaving book.

Please email Susanna@littleacornswendover.org who will be compiling this memory book for her.

SCARLET FEVER

We have just had a case of suspected scarlet fever within the school. We are obliged to make parents aware of this and would ask you to check the NHS website for more information if you are at all concerned.