



# The John Hampden School Wendover



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## NEWSLETTER

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

It has been good to see many parents attending the induction meetings that have happened so far, we hope you found them useful. I do understand that the timing is not convenient for everyone, so class teachers will be putting details of the information covered under their class section of the school web-site very soon.

[www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](http://www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk)

Mrs Parkinson or I will attend each meeting to welcome parents and to provide some extra information. In addition to this, please note:

Emergency Contact Details—please do remember to inform the school if any of your emergency contact details have changed recently. It is vital that we hold the most up to date information for you.

Voluntary Contributions—each term we ask for a voluntary contribution of £10 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. An end of term pantomime costing £550 has already been booked, and 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. It is possible to pay £30 for the whole year if this is more convenient. Thank you

Further improvement of teaching and learning in mathematics is a target for us this year. As part of the many activities that are planned we will be holding a Curriculum Evening for parents on Thursday 29th September from 7pm - 8.30pm. The meeting is intended to give help and guidance to parents in terms of how to support mathematics at home. Information will be provided on how to develop calculation skills for all year groups. Please return your request for seats as soon as possible.

Any child who has completed the 'Big Friendly Summer Reading Challenge 2016' should bring their completed record booklet into school. These children will receive a certificate from Mrs Parkinson on Dahlicious Dress Up Day on Friday 23rd September.

Please note:-**Thursday 13th October - Red, White and Blue Day**

23rd September- Dahlicious Dress Up Day

Children are asked to wear red, white and blue in return for bringing £1 to school. All money raised goes to supporting families of our Armed Forces. As we have a number of pupils who have parents in the Forces we feel it is important to support this charity event.

29th September—Curriculum evening—7pm—maths

We have just had new fencing erected outside the main entrance to the school with gated access to the car park. **Please do not attempt to open the gate to walk up the school drive**—pedestrians must use the designated path. Children will be told this in assembly so please could parents/carers also adhere to the safety message we are giving. Thank you

4th October 11.30am FS singing, 11.45am-12.30pm FS reading meeting

Finally, a reminder that if you have any worries or concerns about your child in school, you should contact the class teacher as soon as possible. I will also make myself available if you need to speak to me. Mrs Spencer is also able to provide support regarding non-urgent issues.

6th October—Harvest festival for Year 1 parents at 9.30am

## COMING SOON

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

I would like to welcome all our parents and pupils to what I am sure will be another successful school year. I would especially like to welcome those of you who are new to the school and I hope that you find the school as warm and friendly as I did when my children first started here.

The world of education seems to be constantly changing and yet at the same time, it is basically about teachers teaching and children learning—activities that the school does so well. I am sure there will be lots of challenges throughout the year, especially with ever tighter budgets and ever increasing demands on staff but the school is well-placed to deal with whatever comes along, I have no doubt.

As a Governing Body, we try to be as accessible as we can to parents and you will no doubt see us at a variety of events over the course of the year, so please come and say hello!



If anyone would like to know more about the role of the Governing Body and what we do, then you should contact me at the email address below.

I look forward to seeing some of you soon.

Paul Phillips  
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, Paul Phillips, on [pPhillips16@bucksgfl.org.uk](mailto:pPhillips16@bucksgfl.org.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion

## 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

### School Times

This is a reminder that pupils should not arrive in school before 8.45a.m each morning. We have noticed a number of children who are at school significantly earlier than this. Pupils may arrive at anytime between 8.45 and 8.55a.m and we hope this slightly staggered start will ease congestion at one of the busiest times of the day. We would also remind parents/carers that they should be at school at 3.15pm to collect their child. We obviously understand if there are unforeseen circumstances that mean you may be late on rare occasions and we will always supervise children if they have to wait. However, we would ask you to make alternative child-care arrangements if late collection is a regular occurrence.

### Parent Helpers

Please look out for a pink letter in your child's book bag next week. We are seeking help from any parent/carers who may be able to volunteer in school to support reading, cooking, art, sewing etc.

We are also seeking help from parents who would be willing to spend the first fifteen minutes of the school day (8.45am -9.00am) supporting children with reading activities.

All volunteers must be prepared to undertake a DBS check as part of our safeguarding procedures.

### **Milk**

It is still possible for parents to register their child for the 'Cool Milk' scheme. You can collect a form from the school office or you can register online at [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com).

### **School Bank**

Our Foundation Stage parents will soon be receiving information about the School Bank. The Harpenden Building Society visit the school at 1.30pm every Wednesday. The children may open an account and save a small amount each week. If any other child in the school is interested in joining the bank, packs are available in the school office.

### **Tours at Wendover CE Junior School**

Parents of children currently in Year 2 are warmly invited to visit Wendover CE Junior School to meet the Headteacher, Mr Mirams, and have a tour of the school led by the Year 6 prefects. To allow them to cater for expected numbers, they ask that you book a place on your chosen session by calling the school on 01296 696822 by Friday 4th November. Tours are available on Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th or Thursday 10th November either 1.30pm or 2.15pm.

### **Water Bottles**

We do encourage children to bring a water bottle to school each day. This is in addition to their lunchtime drink. Your child will have easy access to their water bottle throughout the day. Children are reminded to take their water bottles home each night to be refilled. Please do not put squash or juice in these bottles as it is less healthy and can also be very sticky! Thank you

### **Food Tasting**

You will shortly receive a slip in your child's book bag. At various times throughout the year we do food tasting activities and we need to be sure that we are aware of any allergies. Please complete the slip and return it to school as soon as possible and remember to keep us updated of any changes. Returning the slip will mean we don't have to ask for the information each time a food tasting activity is planned. Please note, we only need to know about specific allergies, not details about food that your child doesn't like!!

### **Nuts**

We do have several children in the school with a severe allergy to nuts. We would be grateful if you would refrain from providing nuts in lunchboxes to reduce the risk of allergic reactions. Thank you

### **Naming Belongings**

After the first few P.E lessons/ clubs, it is clear that many children have clothing that is not named and this is causing real difficulties for staff. Please would you ensure all belongings are named and that children are aware of where their name is on their things. It is obvious that some children would really benefit from having some extra practise when dressing/undressing independently and keeping their clothing in neat piles, socks in shoes etc. We would really appreciate your support with this.

### **Message from Mrs Duggan**

"I would just like to thank everyone for their kind gifts and good wishes on the occasion of my retirement. I very much appreciate everything given and said. As yet I have not fully decided how to occupy my new "leisure" time (apart from looking after a grand-daughter on Thursday afternoons), and it is strange not thinking of when and what I should be teaching! As you know I worked for many years at the John Hampden School, and during my time worked with great staff and governors, taught lots of interesting children and met many parents. I wish everyone all success for the future. Thank you. Alison Duggan"

### **Message from Mrs Parkinson**

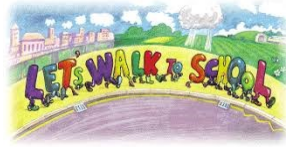
This week the children in KS1 should all have come home with a reading scheme book. They are gradually getting used to the new reading book organisation and we will keep practising!!

It has been lovely to receive feedback from teachers who report that parents have clearly been reinforcing the high frequency words in the Home School Diary. Please keep doing this alongside hearing your children read their scheme books.

### **Headlice**

We are aware of a few cases of headlice. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat as necessary to prevent further spread. Thank you.

## SCHOOL TRAVEL



### Go For Gold 'Walk to school' scheme Stampers needed!

I am very pleased to say that our 'Go for Gold' walking initiative will be starting again this term thanks to two new volunteer coordinators, Mrs Palmer and Mrs Gammans.

We are hoping to launch the scheme in the next few weeks to coincide with 'Health Week' and your child will soon bring home a new bronze passport that can be stamped each morning. Remember, you don't just have to walk to school, but you could come on your bicycle, scooter or drive part of the way, park away from the campus and then walk the remainder of your journey. Don't forget, the more stamps in the passport, the more prizes can be won.

There are many benefits to walking, scooting or biking to school: it keeps you healthy, there is less traffic on the campus road, making the journey to school much safer for pedestrians and it is good for the environment too.

Our 'Go for Gold' scheme is very important to the school and to help it run smoothly I would like to build up a team of volunteer stampers to help stamp the passports in the morning.

The scheme has been running for many years now and we would like to be able to continue, so ideally we would need to recruit at least two volunteers from each class to help. If you have a few minutes to spare when you bring your child to school then I am happy to hear from anyone who would like to join our team. If we have enough volunteers then a rota can be set up, so the more helpers the better.

To ease congestion we will also be setting up different stamping stations for each year group and more information will follow soon.

If you would like to be part of our team then please contact me, Mrs Palmer or Mrs Gammans. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Heather Beattie  
School Travel Plan Coordinator



## 4. PUPIL'S SECTION

The pupils have now been at school for two weeks and I can report that for the Autumn Term we have 282 pupils on roll. There are still places to be filled in Foundation Stage. This number increases in the Spring and Summer Terms when our Early Years classes start. We have also welcomed several new children into Year 1 and Year 2. We thought you might like to read comments from some children about their new classes.

We do singing. I like singing 'The Wheels on the bus' - Finlay (Honeybees)

I like playing with my friends—Rosie (Honeybees)

I like playing with all the toys. I like playing with the people who brought all the toys—Kai (Caterpillars)

I like doing colouring—Maisie (Caterpillars)

We get to play outside in the foundation stage garden on the climbing frame and bikes—Cerys (Ladybirds)

I get to meet and play with lots of new friends—Gus (Ladybirds)

I like choosing time when we get out the things we like—David (Badgers)

I like the books and the reading tent—Francesca (Badgers)

I love the fact that if we can move Spike to Number 10 we get a class reward for being good—Erin (Hedgehogs)

We can choose to do lots of reading in our Reading Rocket and it is quiet—Holly (Hedgehogs)

I can write stories in my new English book and I can tick the target pictures to show what I have done—Ella (Squirrels)

I work hard and have fun—Freddie (Squirrels)

I like everything! - Jacob (Squirrels)

It is a lot of fun and we have a lot of new things—Ralph (Eagles)

We have a huge brand new screen and we use it to learn lots of new things—Lucy (Eagles)

I am enjoying learning all about Mr Gumpy's Outing and writing about it in English—Alex (Firecrests)

Everything around the room and on the display helps me with my learning—Olivia (Firecrests)

I get more challenges than I did in Year 1—Benji (Red Kites)

I like seeing new things like the number line up to 100 and getting pebbles—James (Red Kites)

I like being in Herons Class because Mrs Brannan is funny and teaches us well.—Hugo (Herons)

I like being in Herons Class because I like maths and number challenge—Amily (Herons)

## 5. CURRICULUM

This year, as a result of feedback from the children and staff, we are continuing with the changes we made to Golden Time and the 'Scroll of Honour' will, once again, provide opportunities for children to be spotted for doing something special. We have seven Golden Rules that underpin our Behaviour Policy. Children who consistently follow the Golden Rules will be rewarded each Friday afternoon with approximately 45 minutes of 'Golden Time'. This term each teacher has planned a different exciting activity, and during the term each class will rotate through the different activities. Activities include: visiting the Octagon, story activities, craft activities, multi-media, construction and music. Children who have lost some minutes of their Golden Time will spend this time with Mrs Barnes. We hope that these appealing activities will be a real incentive to encourage everyone to follow the Golden Rules.

Within each class we have also included a 'Thinking Mat' which, if necessary, children are asked to sit on to reflect on their behaviour.

All pupils are following a carefully designed 'transition timetable' for the first half of the Autumn Term. We hope that a timetable which allows time for staff to ensure children are settled and getting used to the regular routines and expectations, will be beneficial for all.

Philosophy sessions/activities continue to be a weekly feature. This may sound rather ambitious but children are naturally curious and educational research suggests that encouraging children to ask questions and to listen to other people's ideas helps them to understand their thoughts and how they affect their lives.

It is fascinating to hear the children's thoughts and we find that from one starting point many more questions are posed. The only thing to remember with philosophy is that there are no right or wrong answers— just the opportunity to hear, develop and value different viewpoints.

## 6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

### **Christmas Cards**

As usual, your child will be designing a Christmas Card at school this half term which will be sent to you as a proof, so that you can choose whether to order a pack or other gifts with their design on. This year we will leave some extra templates in the office that you can pick up if you would like to design something at home with other siblings. If you would like to create your own design, please collect a template next week and return your completed design by 7 October.

### **Class Reps**

We are looking for a class rep from Herons and Red Kites - please email me if you are able to help. [helenwood30@hotmail.com](mailto:helenwood30@hotmail.com)

### **JHS Facebook page**

A reminder that we have a facebook page where parents can contact other parents e.g. ask questions / post reminders / generally communicate.

### **Easyfundraising**

If you're buying anything on line (e.g. John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Thomas Cook), click on [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and over 2,700 retailers will donate a percentage of the order value to the school. **You don't pay anything extra.**

### **Quiz Night 14th October**

Save the date - a letter with details will come through in the books bags.

## 7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As the new academic year begins we are in the process of identifying and planning actions for a new School Development Plan 2016-2017 which aims to guide improvements to the school over this time. We are taking into consideration many factors e.g. stakeholder views expressed in questionnaires and comments, feedback from other outside agencies, data analysis, Government policy etc.

In the next newsletter I will share a summary of the new priorities so you can see what we are aiming to achieve.

However, during the summer holiday and over the next weeks/months, works to improve the school environment are on-going:

- The Early Years class turned into a Year 2 class (many thanks to the RAF for providing us with manpower to make this move easier)
- Fabulous new Interactive boards were installed in all Foundation Stage classes and in Eagles class (funded by the FJH)
- The old hall floor was stripped, sanded and varnished
- Old shelving and reading book storage was removed and replaced with new shelving and book boxes
- Display areas were created in some of the new spaces created by the building work
- A new finance office was created
- Mrs Parkinson's office was completed and she moved in
- The curved wall in the corridor was re-plastered and redecorated
- Designated spaces for KS1 class groups to work outside the classroom were created
- Deep cleaning of the classrooms and shared areas took place
- Two skips were filled!



Valerie Peters, a teaching assistant in Year 2 in Red Kites class has for the last two years been helping her friend organise 200 boxes for Operation Christmas child, through an organisation called Samaritans Purse. They are the largest childrens Christmas project in the world. With the community behind them they have collected, wrapped and fund raised and managed to send all 200 boxes abroad.

This year they need your help. Each year they have knitters who knit hats and gloves. They have fund raised to get all the toothpaste/tooth brushes and flannels for each box. They even have pencils and paper but unfortunately they are short of small cuddly animals and toys for boys and girls aged 4-10 years.

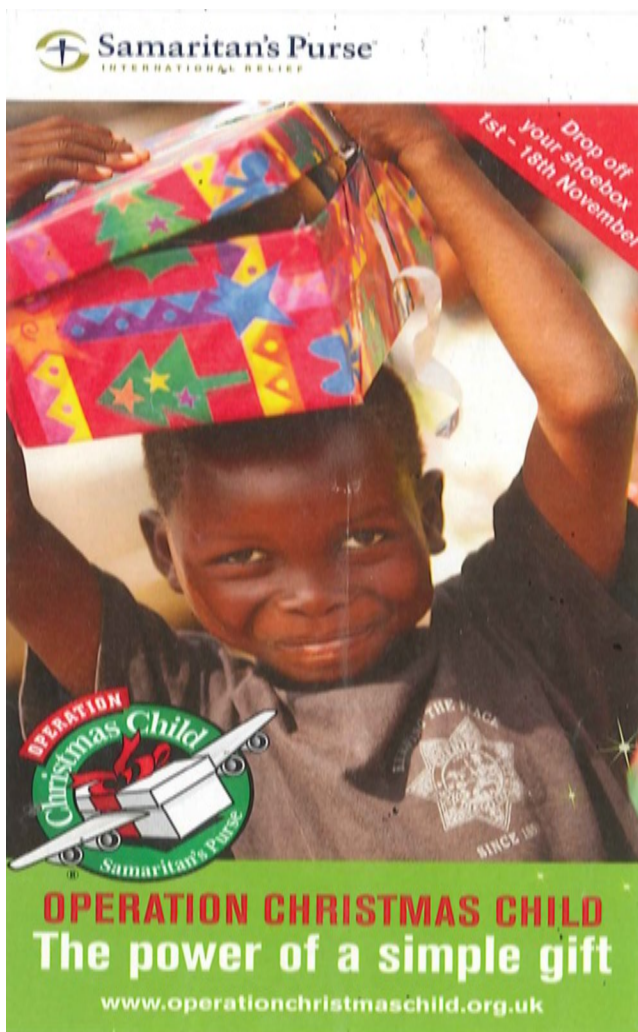
These children have nothing. A little girl was walking around with a stick. When asked why, she said it was her baby. Imagine the joy when she opened her parcel and had a dolly.

If you don't have any suitable toys to donate, it would help a small child so much if you could donate £3 towards posting one of these boxes.

Please think of the children and help us send them a present at Christmas.

Any donations to the school office please. Many thanks.

For more information please visit [www.samaritians-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritians-purse.org.uk)



## Sophie Palmer's babysitting service

Hello I'm Sophie and I'm a Mum to 4 little ones, 3 who attend John Hampden School.

I am a fun, loving and kind person available for babysitting, with a professional but personal service! I've been working at the school at lunchtimes for the past term and a half so I've been lucky enough to get to know lots of your little ones, which always helps to put your mind at ease when requiring a babysitter.

Please contact me for availability and rates on 07860 658108 or contact me via my facebook page Sophie Palmer's babysitting service.

I look forward to meeting you!







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Footprint Dance





Please see below information from Wendover Children's Centre regarding a new group 'Fairytale Feasts'. This is a parenting group for families with English as an additional language (with children under five). The group will begin on Monday 19th September with a coffee morning.



ADULT LEARNING  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



# Bringing Stories to Life!

Come along with your child to this **FREE** 4 week Family Learning course

- ♦ Look at reading stories together
- ♦ Make puppets and instruments to use at home
- ♦ Explore making music and singing with your child
- ♦ Discover how you can support your child's early language

**This is for families with English as an additional language**

**Mondays** (4 weeks)

**9.30—11.00am**

**26th September to 17th October**

**Wendover Children's Centre**  
**Wharf Road, Wendover, Bucks, HP22 6HF**

For further information please phone  
Wendover Children's Centre on 01296 621143

[www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk](http://www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk)



# thumbsie

## HELP YOUR CHILD STOP THUMB SUCKING!

WITH THIS FUN AND COMFORTABLE THUMB GUARD

Thumbsie is suitable for children aged 3-12 years old, that want to give up thumb sucking but need extra help at those difficult times, such as when they are tired, travelling in the car, or watching TV.



LOTS OF  
*colourful & fun*  
FABRICS

to choose from

Take a look at our website and read about the successes children have achieved wearing a Thumbsie.

[WWW.THUMBSIE.CO.UK](http://WWW.THUMBSIE.CO.UK)