



The John Hampden School Wendover



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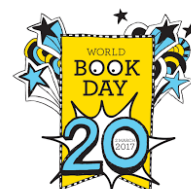
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NEWSLETTER

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I hope you enjoyed the half term break—it is good to see the children back in school and enjoying their learning.

Favourite characters from story books or nursery rhymes was the theme we gave you for dressing up costumes as we celebrated World Book Day today. As usual, we have been incredibly impressed by the standard of the costumes you provided—thank you. The staff looked great too! With so many other things to cover there is not enough space in this newsletter to tell you all about World Book Day so I am saving the detail and the photos for the next newsletter on 17th March.



I hope you found the Learning Review Meetings that have taken place this week useful and informative. At the end of the meeting you were asked to complete a questionnaire to gauge your opinions of the information you were given and the organisation of the event. If you did not complete and return your questionnaire at the time, please bring it into school as soon as possible in order for your thoughts to be included. I will collate the data we have received and feedback to you if we need to make any changes for the future. For those of you who were able to spend time sharing your child's work with them today, I am sure you found it an interesting and enjoyable experience—I know the children love to show you what they have been doing at school. They have thoroughly enjoyed reading the lovely comments you left for them following your meetings with the class teachers. The feedback has been inspiring and motivating for many.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 2017

8th—FS Maths workshop 9-

9.30 am in the Hall

9th—Science investigation day

17th—St Patrick's Day and FJH cake sale

24th—Red Nose Day—Comic Relief fundraising day

27th—Enterprise week

27th—7pm induction meeting for new EY parents

28th—EY new children visit

31st—School closes for half term at 1.30pm

In two weeks time we will, once again, be asking the children to come to school in their own clothes to participate in Comic Relief fundraising.

We are not giving a specific theme but if the children would like to wear red or wear an appropriate costume (as long as it is suitable to wear outside at playtime) we are happy for them to do so.

Thank you for your continued support.



Friday
24 March

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

The John Hampden school aim is 'to be a secure and welcoming environment that fosters progress, achievement, aspiration and the social skills to use in a diverse community. So, we strive for rigorous academic standards and high quality care, guidance and support.'

This is obviously something we strive for in all elements of school life and also foster through strong links with the community and providing support for our parents. One of the key examples of this extended support is the Out of School Care (OOSC) provision.

The OOSC includes the Breakfast Club which runs from 7:45 -8.50am and the After School club from 3:15-6pm each week day. It is open to children aged between 4-7 years attending The John Hampden School Wendover (JHSW), Year 3 pupils from Wendover Junior School (WJS) or pupils from Years 4,5 & 6 at WJS who have a sibling link at JHSW.

We are proud of the OOSC, the staff, the children and all the good work it does. Both the After School and Breakfast club are very popular provisions and achieve full capacity for most sessions catering for over 100 children across the week.

One of the main aims of the OOSC is to provide holistic support for the children. We ensure that the breakfast and after schools clubs are a welcoming and fun environment but the unique benefit of the school OOSC is that it can add value by book ending the excellent work done in the school. The OOSC staff are all friendly, enthusiastic and trained to a high level and a large number of them have other roles in the school during the day. This provides them with strong links to the class teachers and school leadership team which enables sharing of development, progress and also sharing any concerns around wellbeing.

The OOSC are a fully certified provision which have to follow the same guidelines and policies as the rest of the school. The OOSC always ensure that the ratio of staff to children exceeds the guidelines and allows the children to be supervised at all times. The clubs have to align to the Early Years/Foundation Stage curriculum but play and development activities are also differentiated for all age groups within the clubs. We look to support the children in controlling and directing their own play.

The OOSC provide activities such as craft, construction, small world play and role play each day alongside the playground activities and quiet areas. We have recently introduced children's planning choice which gives them more say in the activities they have each day. We have improved craft planning to ensure the cultural diversity is embedded in practice and have a number of fun themes which are often linked to the work being done in the school. A recent example of this was in 'Taking care of ourselves' week, the craft activities ranged from Old Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and Food Mobiles while the role play activities centred on food and health e.g. Hospitals, Café.



The OOSC benefitted last year from the completion of the new hall, OOSC office, quiet/TV room and kitchen. This has given the children more room to enjoy and share.

The OOSC also make as much use of the school outdoor space as possible with a wide range of outdoor play equipment. Recently the OOSC have purchased new equipment especially for dark nights to extend the time the outdoor spaces can be used during the winter months.

Snacks and drinks are provided every day in each club. These snacks follow Schools Trust guidelines and are purchased and prepared fresh each day and the OOSC have a 5 * food hygiene rating.

Making sure your children are happy and supported within the OOSC is paramount. We have recently introduced a Junior school buddy system where chosen children from the Junior school help new children to settle in or help with children who are finding it difficult to find friends to play with. Also regular discussions are held with the children to gain their views on what they would like for the club or what activities they would like for the special fun weeks we provide at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms.

We are always looking at ways to improve the OOSC provision and regularly send out questionnaires for parent feedback. The feedback last year was very positive and showed an overall rating of over 90%.

The latest OFSTED inspection recognised the benefits of the John Hampden OOSC provision:

A breakfast and after-school club is effective in supporting parents who are working. It is well organised, appropriately resourced and the children are well cared for by the qualified staff.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Out of School Care provided by John Hampden please look on the OOSC section of the school website.

David Wheeler

Parent Governor and OOSC Linked Governor



The Governing Board 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 pphillips16@bucksgfl.org.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion or if you just have a query about the school.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

School Uniform

We ask all parents who send their children to our school for their support of the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork (including a named P.E. kit). Parents should ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

The Uniform Policy and an order form is available on our school website and gives clear guidance about appropriate clothing for school. Many items can be purchased from the school office.

We wish to discourage parents from allowing their children to wear 'jean' type trousers and we prefer children to wear school type shoes or boots in black, grey or navy.

If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the head teacher. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example religious objections, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform the school will look sympathetically at such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the head teacher. The school will not treat pupils with disabilities unfavourably.

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be);
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

School websites are an important way of finding out about a school. There is a great deal of statutory information that should be included on a school site but we continue to work hard to try and ensure that ours also gives a true flavour of what the school is really like. Our website is constantly being developed and I would urge you to take a regular look as new information/detail is often added. We would be pleased to hear your feedback or to receive suggestions as to what you would like to see on the website so we can make it as useful as possible. The website address is www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk or you can find us by googling John Hampden School Wendover.

Head Lice

We are aware that there are still a few cases of head lice in the school currently. Please check and treat your child's hair if necessary to prevent further spread. Children with long hair should have it tied back at school.

Sign2Sing

On Tuesday 21st February, the whole school joined together to support this worthwhile cause. Many thanks for your support—we managed to raise £118.05. The event can be viewed as a video clip under the news section of the school website.

WORLD BOOK DAY TOKENS

In your child's book bag today there is a World Book Day Token to the value of £1. This enables your child to receive £1 off any book worth £2.99 or more at any participating bookseller.

4. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

Friends of John Hampden Committee meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday March 7th at 8pm at the Shoulder of Mutton. Come along, everyone is welcome!

Cake Sale - Friday 17 March

The Spring Cake sale is planned for after school Friday 17th March - two weeks away.

This is a reminder and a thank you in advance to all you bakers. Please bring any contributions (all baked / bought goods welcome - not just cakes) to the school office on the morning of Friday the 17th. If you would like your plates or containers returned please put your child's name and class on them.



Prizes!

In recognition of some of the beautiful efforts we have had in the past, there will be some small prizes awarded to the best decorated treats. In particular those which have been designed by the children. This is meant to be an extra bit of fun, so please don't feel you cannot send anything in, if you are not at the level of producing a show stopper!

Spring Run - Sunday 23 April

Who needs the London Marathon when you have the JHS Fun Run!?! Please Save the Date for Sunday, 23 April - the 5km and 10km scenic trail races through Wendover Woods and starts at 9.30am and the Kids Fun Run starts at 11am. Please look out for entry and sponsorship forms in book bags soon. All proceeds raised go to JHS.

If you're able to help out on the day, please email lulagkirby@hotmail.com. Thanks!



Easyfundraising

Unfortunately we have no new supporters but we've raised **£919** 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...

£919.37

No. supporters

72

Save the Dates

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

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

We believe that involving pupils in real issues through class councils helps them to develop important life-skills that promote positive mental health and social welfare; emotional literacy, critical and moral reasoning, self esteem, self awareness, communication skills, relationship skills and assertiveness. At John Hampden we have regularly held Class Council Circle Time sessions to gauge the views and opinions of our pupils. However, we feel the time has now come to extend this idea by introducing a School Council. Mrs Spencer has taken responsibility for leading this initiative and last week we established the first School Council to enable our pupils to make even more of a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.

One representative from each class was chosen by the rest of the class following a session where the children were informed about the purpose of the role and the necessary characteristics/attributes that would make a successful School Council Representative.

The School Council representative's job is to:

- Go to all School Council Meetings
- Tell other members of the School Council about what their class has been talking about
- Take part in School Council discussions
- Report back to their own class about what the School Council has said
- Speak with Mrs Barnes & Mrs Parkinson about their work on the Council
- Help when visitors are shown around the school, sharing their views.

The children appeared to be enthusiastic about this new idea and following class elections the School Council was introduced to the whole school at the Merit Assembly last Friday. Their first meeting was held on Wednesday 1st March where a Chairperson and Secretary were nominated and the JH School Council Constitution was agreed. Minutes and other documents will be stored in the reception area so they can be shared by everyone.

We are proud to introduce the first John Hampden School Council Representatives:

Class	Name
Caterpillars	Felix
Ladybirds	Vaani
Honeybees	Evie
Hedgehogs	Evie B
Badgers	Jack
Squirrels	Caelan
Firecrests	Logan
Hérons	Freya S
Red Kites	Benji
Eagles	Lucy

6. CURRICULUM

INVITATION TO ENTERPRISE WEEK

Following its very successful introduction seven years ago we will be organising our next 'Enterprise Week' at the end of this term. The event is included on the school calendar, which was issued at the beginning of this academic year, because we do invite parents/carers to come along and support their children if possible. We do understand that this may be difficult for working parents so we do explain to the children that not everyone will attend and it is still possible to contribute to the event financially even if you are not able to be present.

A couple of years ago we changed the organisation of the event slightly and because this proved successful we will be continuing in the same way again this year. This means that each class will choose their own fundraising idea and you will receive an invitation to attend an event which has been planned by the children especially for you. The children will be thinking about the steps towards making their event a success and will be involved in collaborating to plan, resource and work out costings. The aim is to make some money and to recognise that you need to work hard to achieve this goal. Once the event has taken place the children will decide how they would like to spend any profit they have made.

Further details of dates and timings are given below but you will receive further information from the class in due course.

Crickets class will be inviting parents/carers in on Friday 24th March at 11.30am for a sale of items made by the children.

Honeybees class will be inviting parents/carers into their classroom on Thursday 30th March in the afternoon for an Easter sale.

Caterpillars class will be inviting parents/carers into their classroom on Thursday 30th March in the afternoon for a zumba session—parents and children!

Ladybirds class will be inviting parents/carers into their classroom on Thursday 30th March in the afternoon for a sale of items made by the children.

Badgers class will be inviting parents/carers into their classroom on Wednesday 29th March in the afternoon for a 'Make & Take' sale with a raffle.

Squirrels class will be inviting parents/carers into their classroom on Wednesday 29th March for 'Afternoon Tea' and a bake sale.

Hedgehogs class will be inviting parents/carers into their classroom on Wednesday 29th March in the afternoon for an Easter Eggstavanza sale.

Eagles class will be inviting parents/carers into their classroom on Thursday 30th March for afternoon tea.

Red Kites class will be inviting parents/carers into school on Tuesday 28th March in the afternoon for a Country Dancing session followed by refreshments and a raffle.

Firecrests class will be inviting parents/carers into their classroom on Thursday 30th March soon after school drop off in the morning for an Easter themed sale.

Herons class will be inviting parents/carers into their classroom on Thursday 30th March in the afternoon to watch their talent show.

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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

GOAL A: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Each year the school purchases a package from The Bucks Learning Trust to support our Governing Board. This package ensures our Full Governing Board meetings and all Finance meetings are clerked by an approved external clerk who works for the Bucks Learning Trust. As part of the package our Governors also receive induction training so they are fully informed about their role and their responsibilities. We also receive an annual Governor Training course which can be chosen from a range on offer to us. Last week the Governing Board received training on 'Understanding Your School's Performance Data'. The courses are designed to impact positively on Governor performance and to allow the Governing Board to identify action points to take forward. Our close working relationship with Wendover Junior School means that, whenever possible, Governor Training is shared so both schools can access more than one topic in the year.

GOAL B: TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT

It is important that teacher assessments are moderated to ensure they are accurate and consistent. Following assessment week teachers within each year group met together to moderate their judgements. Subject leaders can then complete cross school moderation to ensure staff across the year groups judge attainment in the same way. Next week staff from John Hampden will meet with staff from the other Liaison Group schools to consider the requirements for working at greater depth in mathematics to ensure consistency. This practice is viewed as exemplary and we are lucky to have such good working relationships with the other local schools.

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE

Gaining feedback from pupils and parents/carers is a vital way of gauging how successful we are being. This week we have asked parents for their comments about the Learning Review meetings. This important feedback will be used to inform future planning and to continue to improve the standard of the information we provide. The results are analysed and fed back to individual teachers and collated to give a whole school overview which we will share with you in due course.

Next week Mrs Spencer will be collating feedback from the first School Council meeting and preparing the way forward with this new group. These are just two examples of how we are trying to engage with our stakeholders and respond to their feedback to us.

GOAL D: PUPIL OUTCOMES

The Pupil Premium is an element of school funding aimed at narrowing the gap in attainment of certain disadvantaged groups of pupils. For our school, it is calculated based on the number of children receiving free school meals (this is different to the initiative to provide free meals for all infant aged pupils!), the number of children from Service families and the number of 'Looked After Children'. The Premium can be spent how the school decides and must ensure that standards are raised as a result of the spending. In 2015/16 our school budget included a total Pupil, LAC & Service Premium of £21,260 (approx. 2% of our overall revenue budget). It is vital that the school is informed of all pupils who may be eligible for this funding so do make an appointment to see Mrs Barnes if you think that your child may be entitled to this additional financial support. Applications for free school meals are handled in the strictest confidence and there is no requirement to take up the free lunch - the funding would still be provided. On our school website in the 'Key Information' section there is a link to a document which describes how the school has used this funding and the perceived impact it has had.

8. MISCELLANEOUS



Little Acorns Kindergarten

calls out for votes to bag a share of bag charge fund

Little Acorns Kindergarten is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative. Three groups in every Tesco region have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and Little Acorns is one of the groups on the shortlist hoping to raise a whole bag of cash to improve our outdoor play area. There are 3 prizes, £1,000, £2,000 or £5,000. The highest amount of votes bags the £5,000, so every vote counts!

Voting is open in stores throughout March and April and Little Acorns would be very grateful to receive your vote. You are able to vote in both Aylesbury Stores and Jackson Road and Wendover Metro stores. If you do not use any of these stores or shop online, Little Acorns are still able to benefit from your vote. Simply save your receipt or delivery note and Little Acorns will be very happy to collect them from you. A basket will be in the Entrance Foyer for you to leave your receipts.

Please spread the word to all your friends, family and work colleagues.

PLEASE VOTE FOR US - YOUR VOTE COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

Murder!!

The Great British Cake Slice

Someone is prepared to kill for a cake!

Where?

On Saturday 25th March

Wendover Memorial Hall

Doors open 6:45pm, starts at 7:15pm

Tickets £18pp available from FNHC Wendover Shop and Charity

Offices on 01296 429975. Price includes mystery play performed by the Quaintwood Players and a two course dinner. Tables of 8.

Licensed bar and raffle.

All proceeds go to Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

