



# The John Hampden School Wendover



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## NEWSLETTER

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

As we reach the end of the first term it is a good opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved since September. Watching the children in the Christmas performances, I saw our core values of perseverance and collaboration shining through. The children have all worked hard during the term and I hope they are beginning to recognise that effort really does lead to success. Many of the Merit Awards handed out so far are rewarding children for their continued effort and their ability to uphold the Golden Rules and the values we believe are so important for effective learning. I hope all our pupils will return in the New Year ready to build on the impressive start they have made.

My thanks to the Friends of John Hampden for their support this term. Their hard work has already raised a considerable sum of money this academic year and we always use these funds to provide the luxuries that the school budget cannot stretch to.

We are grateful to all who have given their time voluntarily to help the school. We have a dedicated team of people who fulfil a range of roles e.g. passport stamping in the morning, hearing readers, supporting on school trips, helping out at FJH events. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and thank you for your work with us.

The Early Years classroom opens its doors to a class of new children in January. Mrs McLennan will teach the class and she will be supported by the newly appointed Mrs Emma Griffiths who will be the new Teaching Assistant. The class will run from the room in between Foundation Stage and Squirrels classroom and the space is looking wonderful now that it has been prepared and is ready for the next class of Crickets!

It is with sadness that we will say goodbye to Miss Nawaz at the end of term. The staff have said their own farewell and children from our school and Wendover Junior School have contributed with goodbye wishes. I am sure you will wish to join me in thanking Miss Nawaz for all she has done for us over the past ten years as a member of the Leadership Team, P4C co-ordinator, R.E leader and Computer whizz!

We shall also be saying goodbye to Mrs Norton, one of our team of Midday Supervisors who is starting a new job in January. Her replacement will start when we introduce the new hot meals service.

On Monday, the children will join in the fun and games with the parties that have been organized, and we hope they will demonstrate their impeccable manners when a very special guest arrives!!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and to thank you for all your support this year.

Reminder that the school reopens on

Thursday 5th January 2017

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

The Autumn term has been a busy one. From welcoming our new Foundation Stage children to refining our School Development Plan; from revamping the way we manage our Literacy reading books to Dahlicious Dress Up Day; from the Harvest festival to the many PTA events and activities; from meeting healthcare professionals in Health and Safety Week to the many mufti days we've had, fundraising for various good causes. And not to mention the huge planning effort that has been, and will continue to be required when we start serving hot meals in January, something we're all looking forward to. As a parent, I know that I have found this term very busy and I am sure that the teaching team in school are ready for a little rest over the Christmas break, although they are already planning for more delights to come next term.

One of my Christmas countdown milestones is watching the Christmas show at school. It is always guaranteed to get me in the Christmas spirit. I went to see the Key Stage 1 show on Wednesday and it was a delight to watch all of the children having such fun, dancing, singing and taking such pride in their performance. They were all brilliant, and I know that all of the parents watching the show thoroughly enjoyed it too.

From all of the Governing Body, we wish you a happy and restful Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you back in school in 2017. Happy Christmas!



**Alison Collins**  
**Associate 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](mailto:p.phillips@johncolet.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### **Admission to Junior School**

All Year 2 parents applying for a junior school place for September 2017 must note that Bucks County Council (BCC) will not be issuing paper copies of the 'Guide for Parents - Admission to Buckinghamshire Primary Schools'. Instead electronic booklets and information regarding junior transfer are available to download from the BCC website: [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

Please note that the closing date for online applications for junior school places is 3pm on 16 January 2017

#### **Admission to Foundation Stage at John Hampden**

This is a reminder that parents of children due to start school for the first time in September 2017 need to apply for a school place for their child. Parents must make an application by 3pm on 16th January 2017. You can apply online at [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

Applying online is quick, easy to use, safe and secure. All parents need is an email address and access to a computer, tablet or smart phone.

Once parents have completed their online application and submitted it they will receive an email to let them know it has been received.

On 18th April 2017 (National Allocation Day) parents will receive an email to let them know which school their child has been offered. Parents will then be able to log back into their application and accept the place offered. Parents who are not able to apply online can have a paper application sent to them.

**If parents are late making an application for their child it can seriously impact on their chances of getting a place at any of their preferred schools.**

#### **P.E. AT SCHOOL**

As P.E. bags come home in the Christmas break to be washed please check that your child's P.E. kit is all clearly named and correctly fitting. Please note that children must have a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt to wear for outside P.E. sessions, which continue throughout the winter months. Children with long hair must have it tied back for P.E. lessons and no earrings should be worn for health and safety reasons.

#### **Head Lice**

We are aware of some cases of headlice in the school currently. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat accordingly. Thank you

#### **Home School Diaries**

Your child will receive a new Home School Diary at the beginning of the Spring Term. Please would you make sure you sign the diaries every time you hear your child read and encourage them to draw the faces each day so we can gauge how they are feeling at school.

Each year group's diaries are different and an asterix indicates which days the children can change their reading books.

## 4. CURRICULUM

We have been absolutely delighted by the overwhelming response we have received for the naming of our new school area focusing on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We are pleased to announce that the winning name is: Cosy Corner. The children will now be able to access that area to support them with reflection and as a calm space in the school. We are looking forward to using this wonderful space and seeing the benefits.

## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

On Friday 9th we enjoyed another successful Thinking Day. We focused on the theme of safety and what it means to be safe. The children also had opportunities to discuss and role play the various scenarios and here are some comments from the day:-

Thinking Day was fun! We made brain hats and thought about how we keep safe—Angel (Ladybirds)

I enjoyed Thinking Day because when we watched Jack and the beanstalk it helped us to think about how to keep safe—Jack didn't do things to keep himself safe! - Arthur (Ladybirds)

I liked watching Jack and the Beanstalk. He took the money and the chicken—Oscar (Honeybees)

I liked making a Brain hat and colouring the different parts—Rosie (Honeybees)

My brain did a lot of thinking! - Malachy (Badgers)

We thought about why Goldilocks wanted to run into the woods on her own—Rosa (Badgers)

I liked Thinking Day because I really enjoyed all the questions—Daisy (Hedgehogs)

I liked discussing light over darkness on Thinking Day because it made me feel safe—Tilly (Hedgehogs)

I liked making a poster about being a safety hero—Indigo (Firecrests)

I know that the school is a safe place to be because it has lots of safe people in it—Robert (Firecrests)

Thinking Day really helps me as I sometimes worry—Lucy (Eagles)

It helps me to calm down—Ralph (Eagles)

## 6. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN (FJH)

### Children's Christmas Parties - Monday 19th December

We will provide crackers so no need to put one in your child's lunch box. Thank you to all that have volunteered to help at the party. If anyone is around at 12.30/1ish to help clear up it would be greatly appreciated.

### Children's New Year Disco - Friday 20th January

Watch out for letters in the book bags in the New Year.

### JHS Parents Facebook

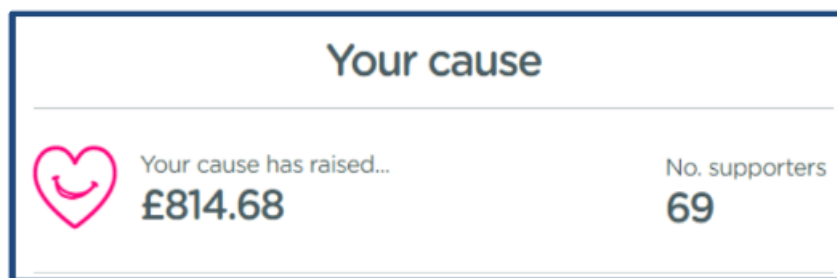
Don't forget the closed Facebook page for reminders about non-uniform days, upcoming events etc.

### Committee Meeting - Tuesday 10th January

We are always looking for parents to join the FJH Committee. We are a very friendly, informal group that meet once a quarter to organise the forthcoming events. We appreciate that everyone has different skills and amount of time that they are able to offer. If you are able to join us, please drop one of the committee a line or just come along to the next meeting, 10th January 8pm in the Shoulder of Mutton.

### Easyfundraising

Thank you - we have another 5 parents that have signed up to Easyfundraising in the last fortnight - we have now raised £814.68 for the school. If you've not signed up yet, please click on to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> before you start ordering Christmas presents- it's simple and costs you nothing.



#### 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       |



# Crib Service - Christmas Eve

4pm, at St Mary's Church, Wendover



Children are invited to come dressed up as characters from the Nativity, if they wish (*Mary, Joseph, shepherd, cow, sheep etc*)



**FREE**  
taster session

# Drama Workshops

**DRAMA  
HUB**

Help your children grow in confidence,  
be creative and have fun!

Drama workshops run by professional actress and qualified teacher Tessa Churchard. Due to popular demand, new classes starting in January 2017.

- Sessions are at the Wendover Youth Centre
- Fees £6 per hour - 15% discount for siblings.
- Saturday mornings and Monday Evenings from Jan 2017
- Workshops for ages 4 to 14



Limited places so please call or  
email Tess to book.  
Call 07808 960632 or email  
[dramahubwendover@gmail.com](mailto:dramahubwendover@gmail.com)

