



The John Hampden School Wendover

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It was good to see so many of you as you arrived for your consultation meetings last week. Our pupils are very lucky to have such supportive parents who are obviously keen to find out how their children have settled into the new academic year and to hear about the progress they are making. We hold another set of meetings in the Spring Term and in the final term you receive a very detailed report about your child's performance throughout the academic year. The annual questionnaire, completed by parents in July 2016, suggests that almost all parents (95%) believe they are kept well informed about how well their child is getting on. However, I would like to reiterate that teachers will make themselves available to speak to you if you feel you need more time or have a particular concern. Mrs Spencer is also available to support parents with non-urgent issues and I will always make myself available if you feel you need to speak to me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to fill in the comment sheets for your child after meeting the teacher and seeing your child's books. The comments were very positive and encouraging and the children (and staff) were delighted by them. This was a new initiative this year but certainly one we would like to repeat in future.

Staff news

Parents of children in Eagles Class have been informed that we will be saying a fond farewell to Miss Nawaz at the end of this term. Miss Nawaz has secured a Deputy Headship at a school in Chesham and we congratulate her on her appointment and wish her well in this opportunity for further career progression.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

26th Nov—FJH Christmas Fayre

30th Nov—FS Nativity
9.30 am

1st Dec—FS Nativity
9.30am

2nd Dec—INSET DAY
SCHOOL CLOSED

5th Dec—7pm Induction
meeting for new parents
for Early Years

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

You have received details about how to purchase tickets for our Christmas Performances and we do hope that as many parents as possible will be able to come and watch their children on the stage! You will also be receiving costume letters so hopefully you have enough time to prepare!! If you haven't yet ordered your tickets for FS Nativity or KS1 production please do so as time is running out. You have until the 23rd November, then any spare tickets will go on general release on Thursday 24th November. You can buy extra tickets from the school office. Tickets are £1 each. (KS1 for Friday 16th December is almost SOLD OUT) Thank you.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

One of the nicest things about being a School Governor is the opportunity that you get to visit John Hampden when special events are happening.

Recently the School has had both Safety and Health Weeks and my visit was on the Friday afternoon of Health Week. Jo Spencer told me about the wide range of health linked activities which had taken place so far, some of which have already featured in the School Newsletter, and then we went into the hall to join the Squirrels and Eagles

The hall itself had been transformed with games and puzzles everywhere, on the walls, tables and on the floor. After a brief introduction, the children were soon engrossed in the very varied range of activities on offer. Initially all eyes were drawn to a prominently displayed set of giant false teeth but as they walked around each group of four settled down to a different activity and having read the instructions they were soon engaging enthusiastically in the numerous games.

The children showed they were very familiar with the Government's Traffic Light system and foods and household goods were soon allocated to the appropriate bin with great speed and accuracy.

Test tubes with varying amounts of salt or sugar brought out the scientist in the children in two of the games. Despite some deep discussions, they, like many adults, were sometimes surprised by the quantity of salt or sugar contained in innocent looking every day foods.

The health benefits, or otherwise, of numerous drinks featured in one of the table mounted games and again the children demonstrated a very thoughtful approach and attitude to a subject which can easily fox grownups.

As a mere adult I thought that probably the most difficult of all the tasks was to construct a body using double sided cards containing pictures of parts of the skeleton on one side and major muscles on the other. If a card was inadvertently placed the wrong way up (not difficult) it threw the whole construction out. The amount of perseverance and application the children showed on this particularly taxing task was remarkable.

Despite coming at the end of a very busy week the children were clearly enthused by this entertaining and stimulating session and I was delighted to have been part of it.

Elna Joseph Co-opted 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 or if you just have a query about the school.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Children in Need

Many thanks to all of you who supported the BBC Children in Need appeal today by donating money to allow children to come to school without school uniform. It has been a very colourful day with many superheroes in attendance and plenty of spots on show! We are in the process of counting the donations for this very worthwhile cause.

Poppy Appeal

We managed to raise a large amount of money for The Royal British Legion by selling poppies in school for the appeal this year. Many thanks for your support.

Coats

Just a reminder that, as the weather is changing significantly now, children do need to come to school wearing a suitable outdoor coat for this time of the year. Children are outside for several



periods during the school day and they need to be suitably dressed. We have a few children who are still wearing shorts and we thought you should be aware that they will be outside on most days—only torrential rain stops us! Gloves and hats are encouraged (named, of course!)



Data collection sheets

In order to ensure that all our information is up to date and accurate, children in Year 1 will be coming home with a data collection sheet for you to check, amend if necessary, sign and return. Thank you.

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.

4. CURRICULUM SECTION

A visit from Perform

We were very pleased to receive a visit from Perform on Monday 7th November. The children had a wonderfully energetic time exploring the theme of *Around The World* 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 *Around The World*. 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 28th November. To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting THEJ281116 or visit perform.org.uk to find out more.

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

As soon as Health & Safety Weeks were over the staff were ready with the next exciting topics for the children.

In Foundation Stage the new theme is Fireworks and Fairy Lights

Year One are thinking about 'Lights, Camera, Action!'

Year 2 started the second half of term by introducing a topic called 'Santa SOS'.

Further details of the content for these topics will be added to the class sections of the school website.

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

Christmas Cards

Many thanks to Stacey Hawthorne and her team for taking on the mammoth task of sorting all the Christmas cards orders out. They should be in your book bags by 25th November. Keep an eye on Facebook for any updates.

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 26th November 12 – 3pm

Volunteers - I can feel the excitement mounting – the big event of the year is nearly here! Thank you to all of you that have volunteered to do a stint on a stall. We are still short of volunteers so if you have a spare half hour free – please could you email Becky on ms83rs@yahoo.com. We are especially short of helpers on the refreshment and face painting stalls.

Donations reminder of requested donations will be in your book bags next week. If you need a jam jar to decorate and fill – help yourself to one from reception.

‘Wrap a Present’ this is a huge draw for the children where they choose a gift from a selection for a family member and wrap it up for Christmas. The teachers have great fun running this stall and the children love the secret surprise! To make it happen we need to ask you to donate a brand new gift – and just a note, we are often short of men’s presents, so don’t forget something for Dad, Grandfathers, etc.!

Stalls - If you have friends of family that would like to have a stall – please ask them to email helenwood30@hotmail.com.

Raffle - A big thank you for the many generous donations from parents and local business' for this year's raffle. The value of the prizes so far donated is approaching an incredible **£900**, with more prizes still being confirmed. Historically the vast majority of ticket sales have been sold by our families ahead of the Fayre itself. Please make the hard work of our prize collectors worthwhile, by selling as many tickets as you can. Please look out for two books of tickets in your children's book bags along with a letter detailing the fabulous prizes and their donors. If you need more tickets they are available from the office. Please return all sold and unsold tickets along with any money raised to the office by Friday 25th November. We are still collecting prizes, so if you have anything you can donate, please contact Lindy on bendly@hotmail.com. Thank you in advance for your help as these sales makes a tremendous difference to the success of the whole Fayre.

Children's Christmas Parties - Monday 19th December

This is a lovely event for the children which is held during school time – it's not a fund raiser. Please email Hollie on hollie.e.richards@gmail.com if:

You would like to help out at the party

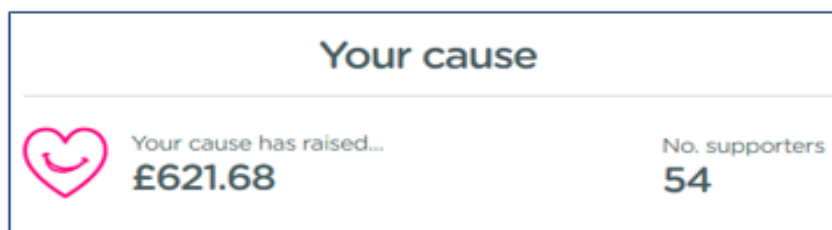
You know someone who is willing to dress up as Santa to hand out the children's presents

FJH Noticeboard

Thank you Mike Hargreaves (a Junior school student's Dad) for giving up your time on Sunday to mend our noticeboard.

Easyfundraising

Thank you - we have another 8 parents that have signed up to Easyfundraising – we have now raised £621.68 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 20th January

Guilty Pleasures Disco (parents)

Saturday 4 February

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. In the last two weeks we have made progress linked to the actions outlined below:

GOAL A: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

The senior leadership team (Mrs Barnes, Mrs Parkinson, Miss Nawaz and Mrs Spencer) are working to ensure the school's self evaluation is accurate. We have recently received new data about the school, based on 2016 statutory assessment results for our pupils, and this is being used to update the Self Evaluation document and to inform plans about further school improvement. The website is constantly being updated and monitored to ensure statutory requirements are met.

GOAL B: TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT

The quality of the learning environment was monitored following the first half term and class teachers are given feedback regarding strengths and areas for further development.

The assessment week at the end of the first half of the Autumn term allows staff to complete activities to confirm their judgements about a pupil's strengths and areas for development. The staff work together to moderate their judgements and recently they have spent time comparing findings within each year group to ensure there is a common understanding and a consistent approach to planning and setting targets for improvement. These targets are regularly reviewed and any necessary interventions are put in place to try to ensure each child reaches his/her goals—these may have been discussed with you at the recent Parents' Evenings. To ensure consistency across the local area our staff have also attended Liaison Group moderation sessions where writing from each year group in the schools is shared.

GOAL C: BEHAVIOUR, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & WELFARE

At the beginning of the school year we further enhanced our transition arrangements to ease the move from one year group to the next. The transition timetable ran for the first half term and ensured that:

- Children had time to get used to their new teaching areas and their new teaching staff
- Children had time to get used to new routines and became familiar with the high expectations in each year group
- Foundation Stage children had time to learn to use and tidy up equipment appropriately
- Year 1 children continued to have times where EYFS type child-initiated learning could take place
- Year 2 children became familiar with the added roles and responsibilities that come with being the oldest year group in the school.

We are in the process of evaluating how successful these transition arrangements have been. Following Health and Safety weeks a revised timetable has been introduced which aims to develop and progress the curriculum and the organisation of teaching in all year groups. Hopefully this will run smoothly as a consequence of the children being given time to settle happily into their new classes.

GOAL D: PUPIL OUTCOMES

At the end of October we receive a report which compares the performance of our school to that of other schools nationally. We have spent time analysing this data and comparing it to previous years and other annual attainment and progress measures. We are pleased to be able to report that the results data from statutory assessments for 2015-2016 reflects the fact that significantly more of our pupils achieved at least the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths when compared to local and national data. Our Phonics data showed a further improvement and a significant number of our pupils achieved a good level of development during their time in Foundation Stage. Our challenge will be to maintain these high standards with the increased expectations of the new National Curriculum.

8. MISCELLANEOUS



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

Branch Cashier (Part-time)

**£6,656 per annum starting salary + excellent benefits
(Saturdays are paid in addition at a rate of £58.50)**

16 hours per week:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

11.30am – 2.30pm & Wednesday 12.15pm – 4.15pm

plus 2 in 4 Saturdays: 8.45am to 12.15pm

**Must also be willing to work extra hours to cover
holidays and sickness**

**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. Full training will also be
provided.**

**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



We are now fully stocked with Advent calendars, candles and Christmas cards. **The Real Advent Calendar** is back for 2016. The only charity chocolate advent calendar with a free Christmas story.

And we have fabulous Fairtrade gifts for all your friends and family

Join us for a free glass of mulled wine, mince pies, brownies and late night

shopping on Wednesday December 7th



11 High Street, Wendover, HP22 6DU



Everyball Tennis

John Hampden School Lunchtime Tennis Club

Spring Term 2017

Booking Open Closes End of November

Wendover Tennis Club and Everyball Tennis are delighted to continue their strong partnership with John Hampden School.

Booking now open for Foundation stage on Tuesday Lunchtime and Year 1 & 2 on Thursday Lunchtime for the Spring Term

Please Note: The school have requested that all pupils who would like to take part next term, register by the end of the month. This will give the school sufficient time to let the lunchtime supervisors have the accurate registers for the club's ahead of next term.

To book visit.....

<http://www.everyball.uk/>

Problems booking or questions ?

Please email james@everyball.net or call 079811 52818