



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

A very warm welcome to the new school year. I hope you managed to enjoy some sunshine during the summer break and that you now feel rested and relaxed! It was lovely to watch the children coming back into school this morning and to welcome the new children and their families. I was impressed to see so many children in Year 1 and Year 2 wanting to come into school by themselves. In the first few days we recognise that parents may want to bring their children into school but as soon as your child is ready we would request that you leave KS1 children by their blue entrance doors to walk into their classrooms alone. Children should arrive at school between 8.45a.m and 8.55a.m.

I am sending this first short newsletter as a paper copy but in future we will continue to use the traditional paperless system. This means the fortnightly newsletters will be emailed to all parents using the email address you provided when your child was admitted to the school. If your email address has changed recently please do let the school office know. The newsletter can also be emailed to both parents if necessary, but please inform us if you require this to happen. Do look out for the next full newsletter which will be sent out on Friday 16th September.

At the beginning of each school year we invite parents to attend an induction meeting **held in your child's classroom**. The class teacher/s will talk to you about the curriculum, classroom routines and expectations. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. We understand that the timing of these meetings may not be convenient for everyone so we always outline the information covered in the session on the appropriate class page of the school website. Parents attending meetings will need to enter the school through the main entrance.

### INDUCTION MEETINGS

CLASS		DATE	TIME
Red Kites—Mrs Beattie	Year 2	Monday 12th September	2.45pm—3.15pm
Herons—Mrs Brannan	Year 2	Tuesday 13th September	2.45pm—3.15pm
Firecrests—Mrs McNally & Mrs Timms	Year 2	Wednesday 14th September	2.45pm—3.15pm
Eagles—Miss Nawaz	Year 2	Thursday 15th September	2.45pm-3.15pm
Squirrels—Mrs Spencer	Year 1	Monday 19th September	2.45pm-3.15pm
Honeybees—Miss Webb	Foundation Stage	Monday 19th September	2.45pm-3.15pm
Hedgehogs—Mrs Shrimpton	Year 1	Tuesday 20th September	2.45pm-3.15pm
Caterpillars—Mrs Nelson	Foundation Stage	Wednesday 21st September	2.45pm-3.15pm
Ladybirds—Mrs Mills	Foundation Stage	Thursday 22nd September	2.45pm-3.15pm
Badgers—Mrs King	Year 1	Thursday 22nd September	2.45pm-3.15pm

**Please take time to read all the sections of this newsletter as they contain important information**

Whenever possible Mrs Parkinson or I will try to be outside as the children come into school so do come and speak to us if you need to. I am always happy to make appointments to speak to parents about any more serious concerns/issues at a mutually convenient time. This term we will continue to offer support to parents. Mrs Spencer will be available to speak to any parents who would value support relating to non-urgent issues regarding school life. You may want advice about ways to engage your children in homework, or support in helping them to come into school independently etc. Mrs Spencer is a very caring and experienced teacher who will be able to support you in helping your child because we know it isn't always easy! Please ring the school office to arrange an appointment time with Mrs Spencer.

### **Staffing News**

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Nelson and Mrs Mills to Foundation Stage. I hope they will be very happy in their teaching jobs at John Hampden. We have also appointed Miss Hackman and Mrs Bowman as Learning Support Assistants, Mrs Wheeler as a Teaching Assistant and Mrs Knight and Miss Stewart as Midday Supervisors. Staff photos are currently being updated and will appear shortly on the school website if you need to put a face to a name.

### **Dahlicious Dress Up Day**

On Friday 23rd September, we hope that our school will be taken over by Oompa-Loompas, Willy Wonkas and Charlie Buckets! It's all part of the **Dahlicious Dress up Day**, where children come to school dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character for a wonderfully fun and creative way to raise money for Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity. The charity exists to make life better for seriously ill children and young people around the UK. A suggested donation of at least £1 per pupil will help our school to raise money for this very good cause. Your child can dress up as any of Roald Dahl's fantastic characters, or simply wear his favourite colour—yummy yellow!



[www.dahliciousdressupday.org](http://www.dahliciousdressupday.org) gives some costume guides. For crafty parents, who want to share their tips on how to create a Roald Dahl character costume, this website also gives information as to how you can enter the video competition to win some wonderful prizes.

## **2. IMPORTANT MESSAGES**

### **Reminder**

This is a polite reminder, in line with Bucks County Council guidelines, that no dogs should be brought onto the school campus and there should be no smoking on the school campus.

### **PE Kit**

Please would you ensure that your child has the correct P.E. kit in school. Navy shorts and a white round necked T shirt are needed for Gym and Dance activities and plimsolls, sweat-shirt and tracksuit bottoms are needed for Games which takes place outside. Children with long hair should have it tied back on P.E. days and stud type earrings should be removed or covered with tape. Please provide the tape and ensure your child can cover their earrings independently.

### **THANK YOU**

Mrs Spencer would like to thank the parents and children who watered the vegetable garden over the summer holidays, an absolute necessity given the wonderful weather. The children will enjoy cooking using the vegetables grown, a real plot to plate experience!

### **Holiday/Leave of Absence Requests (PLEASE NOTE)**

In conjunction with our Liaison Group we have agreed a consistent attendance policy. Leave of absence will not be granted during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Parents wishing to request leave of absence for their child must use the correct form which is available on our website or from the school office. This must be completed at least four weeks before the proposed absence.

### **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL**

Please be aware that there will be no crossing patroller available to help families to cross Wharf Road for the next two weeks. Our regular crossing patroller has had an operation but will resume her post as soon as possible. Please take extra care when crossing.

### **PUPIL PREMIUM FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

**Did you know .....just registering your child for Free School Meals means the school gets extra money?  
Register now to make sure we don't miss out**

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. For every child registered, The John Hampden School Wendover gets £1,300 this year to support that child.

How does it work?

1. First check if you qualify—it is not just if you are unemployed (see the list below)
2. Registering is really quick and easy—if you think you qualify, contact Mrs Mohammed in the school office who will help you register
3. The school will receive £1,300 to provide additional educational support or to subsidise educational costs for your child
4. Your child does not have to take advantage of the lunches that are provided, the school still gets £1,300 extra

**Details and confidentiality are strictly maintained at all times so please talk to us about registering your child as soon as possible.**

If you feel you are not currently eligible but your circumstances change in the future, please come in and see us.

#### **Do you qualify?**

You can register if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit (regardless of income) and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

### 3. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN (FJH)

**Welcome back - hope you're ready for a fun filled year! In addition to our usual events, we are holding a Foundation stage Cheese & Wine evening Thursday 15 September. We thought it would be nice for new parents to come along and get to know other parents with children in the same year group. **It will be an informal evening where you can meet new people and join the school community.** Letters will be in the children's book bag this week.**

**A calendar of events is attached so that you can add them to your diary.**

**A number of the committee have moved on to the junior school so we are looking to recruit new members. We are a very friendly, informal group that meet once a half term to have a drink and 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 me a line on [helenwood30@hotmail.com](mailto:helenwood30@hotmail.com). The next meeting is at the Shoulder of Mutton at 8pm on Tuesday 13th Sept.**

#### **This years events:**

Cheese & Wine	Thursday 15th September
Christmas Cards*	September
Quiz Night	Friday 14th October
Ice Cream Day	Friday 21st October
Christmas Fayre	Saturday 26th November
Christmas Parties	Thursday 15th December (in school)
Bag to School	January TBC
Children's New Year Disco	Friday 20th January
Ice Cream Day	Friday 10th February
Spring Cake Sale	Friday 17th March
Spring Run	Sunday 23rd April
May Fayre	Saturday 20th May
Ice Cream Day	Friday 26th May
Fruity Fridays	every Friday starting Friday 9th June
Bag to School	Wednesday June 14th
Summer BBQ	Friday 7th July
Picnic in the park (free)	Last day of Summer Term

## 4. READING BOOKS

For Year 1 and 2 Parents:

We are always so very grateful for the supportive parents we have at John Hampden. This is most evident with reading. We strive to continually develop our parental partnership and keeping you informed of any changes is central to this process. My responsibility as the English Co-ordinator is to ensure that there are a wide variety of books available to all. We are very fortunate at John Hampden as throughout the years we have built up our stock of resources so that we are able to offer children a wide variety of books using many different schemes. This not only ensures that there are adequate amount of books for the children in our school, including our bulge class, but also it means that there are a wide range of different books that appeal to all. I regularly review our books with the staff of John Hampden and monitor the reading interests of the children and frequently meet with educational consultants as well as other infant and primary schools to discuss new books, new schemes as well as current ones. I then use this information to purchase new books or top up existing books out of our yearly budget. Due to the increasing amount of books and schemes that have been purchased, storage in our school needed addressing as some books had become damaged due to the current storage system. The summer holidays was a perfect opportunity to re-organise the reading scheme books we have in school, update various titles and dispose of any tatty or damaged books. The books are now organised in a slightly different system that the children will be taught to access independently.

How are the books stored? The books are now stored in boxes with a letter of the alphabet and a number, for example, A1 or B4 which refers to their location. Therefore, the storage is not organised in levels of difficulty i.e. your child would not start at A1, progress throughout the year to G5 and then finish at their time in the school at Z16. The books are organised this way so that all children can independently access them on their book change days, but also to ensure that they are reading a book at the right level for them without worrying where they are in the reading scheme in relation to others. Not only does every child progress at a different rate, but some children need to read a certain type of book at a particular time to progress in their individual journey. For example, one child may need to experience a wider range of phonic books, or another child may need to develop comprehension skills so need a set of books with fewer words, but higher level of questioning. However, all children need to read a range of books - Biff and Chip stories, traditional tales, poetry books, information books, books with little words that develop deeper thinking, chapter books and longer texts for example.

How do we ensure that the books are at the correct level? It is important that children read books at the correct level, in terms of their ability to decode words, read certain words by sight **and** comprehend the words they are reading. The reading books in each scheme are carefully graded by reading levels known as book bands by the Institute of Education. This means that schools can select books from different reading schemes knowing that they are at the same level. Sometimes it can appear that some books may not be on the same level, for example do not have as many words in, but they may have a higher comprehension demand.

How will your child get used to the new system? This week your child will become familiar with the location of books as the class teacher and teaching assistant will take the children to show them where all of the books are stored. Next week your child's teacher or TA will take your child to get a new book from the scheme to take home. They will have a list of books that your child has already read which was given to them during the transition process at the end of the last academic year.

What can you do this week and next week in terms of reading while waiting for the children to get used to the new system? One of the demands of the new curriculum is the extended level of comprehension. However, before a child can gain a deep understanding of what they have read they need to be able to read fluently. To be able to read fluently, children need to be able to read words automatically. It is therefore vital to build up a bank of key words and to re-read the words and almost overlearn them so that they are recalled instantly. For the next two weeks we ask you to spend a short time each evening reading the high frequency words that are at the front of the Homework Diaries. Children are at various stages within the list of high frequency words, but wherever they are the aim is to read them at speed. One suggestion would be to see how many words they can read in a minute, then to make a note of the words to learn to read and then learn them. To read 'fluently' children need to be able to read approximately 90 words per minute. When the children have mastered this, it frees up brain space to think about what they have read instead of using the brain to decode all unknown words. By the second week of term, your child will have a school reading scheme book. It would be very helpful to read the book and re-read it to gain fluency and spend five minutes overlearning high frequency words.

Finally, please continue to encourage your children to read a variety of books at home and please read to your children. Children of all ages love reading their own books as well as being read to. Last year we had a 'Book Swap' event where children were able to bring in any unwanted books and swap them with other books. This year I would like to develop the 'Book Swap' and I am looking for parents who would continue to donate unwanted books, but also who would be able to source or make outside book stations for children (and even adults) to swap their books. I have attached some photographs of some examples I have seen. Please let the school know if you are able to help in any way.



Thank you for your continued support. Happy reading!



## 5. MISCELLANEOUS

### *Wendover Chairman's Charity Ball*

*Black Tie & Diamonds*

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2016

CHILTERN FOREST GOLF CLUB

7PM FOR 7:30PM

TICKETS £55

*Includes; Reception drink, 2 course meal, Dancing to Mr Kite's  
Benefit Band and Bus to and from the Golf Club from Wendover  
High St*

*Fundraising with Live auction, Raffle, and Photo booth*

*Tickets - 01296 623869 / [wendoverchairmansball@gmail.com](mailto:wendoverchairmansball@gmail.com)*



*All proceeds to charity*



## 6. UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS

### Brief History

- In April 2014 the previous coalition Government introduced a policy to offer all infant (Reception and Key Stage 1) pupils free school meals from September 2014.
- At that time, our school, like over 60 others across the county had not previously been able to provide a school meal service so we considered the options open to us and decided to opt into a scheme being established by Buckinghamshire County Council to provide a hot meal at lunchtime. Over 40 schools were looking to be part of this service.
- Due to the short lead in time and the number of schools requiring hot meals for the first time it was decided that logistically the scheme needed to be rolled out over the Autumn Term 2014 while Buckinghamshire County Council secured a contract provider.
- Chartwells became the nominated provider but it quickly became apparent that the nature and scope of the contract was extremely complex.
- In Autumn 2014 our school had no suitable dining or kitchen facilities and the layout of our building would have meant that our young pupils would be carrying hot meals down steps to be able to eat them in their classrooms, so it was agreed that we would offer a packed lunch solution provided by Chartwells.
- In September 2014 we admitted a bulge class of children into Foundation Stage and by accepting these additional children we worked hard to negotiate the inclusion of a suitable dining space and serving facility (we do not have a kitchen that is large enough/suitable for hot meals to be cooked on site - meals may only be heated or delivered hot to site and served)
- Towards the end of 2015 contract negotiations between Buckinghamshire County Council and Chartwells ceased due to concerns over sustainability taking account the limited funding that is available to provide all the necessary equipment both for the supplier and all the schools. The supplier also needed to set up a new production facility in the county to meet the demand.
- Until our building work was complete (April 2016) we continued to provide our pupils with the option of a free packed lunch, which does satisfy the duty placed on the school for universal infant school meals to be available, using funding that was delegated to the school from Buckinghamshire County Council.
- During the Summer Term 2016 we met with three possible providers for a hot meals contract and discussed the logistical issues involved. As a result we could be in the position to start hot meals from January 2017.
- Use of the dining room was trialled during the Summer Term 2016 and we were just about able to ensure all of the 300 Foundation Stage and Key Stage One children could collect and eat their packed lunches in the one hour and fifteen minute lunch break.

So, as we begin a new academic year and because your children are currently in the school, the Governing Body are seeking your views on what you would like us to do next. As we see it, we have two options that we would like you to consider. These are outlined on the next page with our identified pros and cons listed alongside. It would not be possible to provide free packed lunches and free hot meals.

Please take time to read the next page before providing your opinion by completing the feedback sheet and returning it to school by **MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER.**



Option 1: Continue to offer packed lunches	PROs	CONs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All children have time to eat in the dining room</li> <li>• Current contract can be renewed</li> <li>• No new lunchtime staff required</li> <li>• No additional set up/running costs for the school</li> <li>• Dining space only used between 12.00 noon and 1.30pm (no preparation/set up time required)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children do not receive a hot meal in the middle of the day</li> <li>• Some children do not enjoy the lunches that are provided</li> <li>• Packed lunches generate additional waste paper/packaging</li> <li>• Parents need to provide a cooked meal in the evening</li> </ul>
Option 2: Offer a hot meal instead of packed lunches	PROs	CONs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have access to a hot meal in the middle of the day (especially beneficial in the winter months)</li> <li>• Parents may not need to provide a hot meal in the evening</li> <li>• Parents can select menus online with a meat or vegetarian option</li> <li>• Parents can opt to choose the hot meal on specific days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional staff will be required to serve and clear away i.e. additional cost which will have to come directly from the school budget—only the cost of the meal is funded by the government</li> <li>• Children will need to collect their own meal from the servery on a tray and carry this independently to a table</li> <li>• Additional time required to serve and eat hot meals means classrooms would need to be used again for those with packed lunches</li> <li>• Year groups may not be able to eat together at the same time</li> <li>• Parents not opting for a hot meal would have to provide a packed lunch</li> <li>• Hot meals may not be to child's liking (no alternative available)</li> <li>• Those opting for hot lunches may not be able to participate in lunchtime clubs due to timing issues</li> <li>• Numbers taking up hot meals on a day to day basis may vary impacting on staffing and organisation</li> <li>• Setting up/clearing up time for hot meals impacts on the timetable for delivery of other curriculum subjects i.e. Computing which takes place in the dining room</li> </ul>

Following receipt of your feedback we will analyse the data and take action based on what the majority of parents tell us they would like us to provide. If the decision is taken to opt for hot meals there will be an opportunity for parents to come to taster sessions for each of the potential providers.

We will also provide a summary of the data we collect for all parents to see.

Please complete and return to school by **MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER.**

## UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS FEEDBACK

Having read the information provided in the newsletter, please identify your preferred option by ticking/completing the appropriate boxes.

Either **OPTION 1**

I would like my child to have the option of receiving a free packed lunch	
Approximately how many days each week would you opt for a packed lunch to be provided ?(1,2,3,4,5)	

Or **OPTION 2**

I would like my child to have the option of receiving a free hot meal	
Approximately how many days each week would you opt for a hot meal to be provided ?(1,2,3,4,5)	

Please use this box to include other comments/feedback you would like to offer

\*delete as appropriate

I have a child in

**\*Foundation Stage**

**\*Year One**

**\*Year Two**

