



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

A very warm welcome to the new school year. Following such a difficult 2019-2020 academic year it has been truly lovely to watch all the children coming back into school this week and to welcome the new children and their families. I am extremely grateful to you for following the designated routes into school and for your patience whilst waiting in queues! We were so impressed to see the children in Year 1 and Year 2 entering their classrooms independently but we quite understand that, in the first few days, our EYFS parents will want to accompany their children into the classroom. As soon as your child is ready we would request that you leave them at their blue entrance door to walk in alone. This will help reduce queuing time and we would ask that only one adult brings the child onto the school grounds so we minimize the number of adults on site. Sadly it is not possible to widen the pathways around school so we appreciate your efforts in queuing and moving in a socially distanced way. Please keep your children with you at all times whilst on the school grounds and move away promptly once you have dropped off/collected. Our experience tells us that after a few days, once routines become familiar, the system becomes quicker especially if you can arrive promptly at the allotted time for your child's year group. Try not to arrive too early as you will just find yourself waiting in a queue.

I am sending this first short newsletter as a paper copy to all our EYFS parents 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 18th September.

We are very aware that you have missed the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher prior to the beginning of term and traditionally we would have invited parents/carers to attend an induction meeting held in your child's classroom within the first two weeks of the new school year. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 situation it will not be possible this year so, on Friday 18th September, we will be uploading useful information from your child's class teacher about the curriculum, classroom routines and expectations etc. onto the class page of the school website. From Monday 14th September you will also be able to access weekly sheets informing you of the curriculum areas being covered so you are well informed about what your child is learning. You will see the class teacher each day at the door but this is not the best time to try and speak to them about your child. Home School Diaries can be used as a communication tool but do tell the teacher you have written a note for them to see. If you do need to have a conversation with the teacher you can ring or email the school office and the teacher will get back to you as soon as possible. We are here to help and will always make time for you but unfortunately at the moment we can't invite you into the classroom for such discussions.

In these unprecedented times we need to be extra vigilant in terms of judging whether children are well enough to be at school. It really depends on what the symptoms of any illness are. Obviously if your child has any of the coronavirus symptoms they should not attend school and they should be tested. Book a test if you or your child has: a new, continuous cough; fever/high temperature (37.8C or greater); loss of, or change in, sense of taste or smell

A runny nose, blocked nose or a sore throat are currently not recognised as symptoms that would require a test but if you are having to give Calpol etc. you need to decide whether your child is really well enough to attend school. Bouts of sickness and diarrhoea mean your child must remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode of illness.

Finally, we will be sending home a copy of the calendar of events for this academic year shortly. Whilst we have penciled in some potential dates for Christmas performances etc. these are not set in stone. It will be dependent on whether relaxation of current guidance allows such activities to take place. Wherever possible we will do our utmost to make alternative arrangements for some of the traditional events to ensure children do not miss out.

Thank you for your support.

3. THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM AT JHSW



Mrs Barnes

Head Teacher



Mrs Parkinson

Deputy Head Teacher & Leader of EYFS



Mrs Spencer

Senior Leader

New families to our school may not recognise our faces yet, so here we are! We have all worked in the school for many years and are all committed to providing the very best quality of support and guidance to our pupils and their families. Together with a fabulous team of staff we are passionate about creating an environment that enables children to become confident, independent and enthusiastic learners. We consider being part of a young child's learning journey to be an absolute privilege.

Whenever possible Mrs Parkinson and I will try to be outside as the children come into school so do come and speak to us if you need to. We are 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 communicate with 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 a telephone appointment with Mrs Spencer.



It is with real sadness that I need to let you know that Mr Redman, our school caretaker, is moving away to live near the seaside with his family. We have really appreciated Mr Redman's hard work over the years and he leaves the school in a much better condition than when he started with us, due to his hard work and capable nature.

Mr Redman will leave us in mid-September but I am delighted to say we have managed to appoint a great new caretaker, Mr Richardson, who has already started work at the school. You will probably have seen him already as you have brought or collected your child from school. We are very pleased to welcome him to our school team.

2. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

COATS

The children will be working outside at certain points throughout the day so it is important that they have a coat in school every day. Rain does not stop us going outside.

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.

LUNCHBOXES & FOOD BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL

Thank you for providing your child with a packed lunch but please do not give them too much to eat. Children have about 25 minutes in the dining hall which should be plenty of time for them to eat what you provide. You do need to provide a drink for lunchtime too. During the day staff will provide water to drink so you do not need to give them a separate water bottle. Please continue to provide a fruit snack for mid-morning until further notice.

As we have a number of children in the school with allergies we are reminding parents **not to include any nuts** in your child's lunchbox. Sweets and fizzy drinks are also not encouraged. This also serves as a reminder that we do not allow children to hand out sweets/cakes etc. to other pupils when it is their birthday.

Thank you for your co-operation.

MILK

If you have ordered milk your child will start receiving this from Monday 7th September.

READING BOOKS

If you still have any school reading books at home please would you return them as soon as possible. Children in Years 1 and 2 will all be given reading books to take home by the end of next week. They will have set days for changing their books which will be highlighted in their new Home/School Diary. We would encourage you to spend time practising the high frequency words printed in the front of these books too.

VAN NEEDED

We have been offered some free office furniture but need someone with a large van to help us collect it from Hemel Hempstead. If anyone can help with this we would be happy to pay fuel costs. Please contact the school office (furniture needs to be collected by 8th September)

HAND SANITISER

We have plenty of soap and hand sanitiser in school however, to reduce costs, if any parent has access to discounted quality hand sanitiser we would be pleased to hear from you!

UNIFORM

If you still need to purchase any uniform you can download a uniform order form from the school website and email it to the school office or post it in the secure post box outside the school office. You can pay by cheque, cash or via bank transfer. If you opt for an online payment Mrs van der Lowen will provide you with the necessary details if you phone the school office.

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 should be completed at least four weeks before the proposed absence.

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.

PUPIL PREMIUM FREE SCHOOL MEALS

**Did you knowjust 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

