



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

17th December	
Friday 4th December—INSET DAY	Christmas Parties for the classes
7th December—Assessment week	18th December
	School closes at 1.30pm
11th December	4-1-21 INSET DAY
FJH Christmas Jumper day—in return for a small donation	5-1-21 Start of the Spring Term

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

With the new tier system being introduced in England it was suddenly announced there was the possibility that parents would be able to come into schools in tiers 1 and 2 to watch their children in nativity plays, as long as the school could guarantee social distancing would be in place. This announcement was completely unexpected and yet another last minute challenge for schools to cope with. Sadly, we are unable to guarantee that opening the school to 292 sets of parents, albeit in class groups, would be a safe and risk free thing to do. For this reason we have chosen to continue with our plans in that we will not be inviting a live audience in on this occasion. I understand that this may disappoint some of you but, at this time, my priority continues to be the safety of all the pupils and staff and I am reluctant to jeopardise the hard work we have done to limit contact within school up to this point. This decision has not been taken lightly and we genuinely look forward to welcoming you into school, but only when the time is right for all concerned.

We have put a great deal of time and thought into how we could provide you with virtual Christmas performances to enjoy and we have planned exactly what we are going to do and how it will be filmed and distributed to you. The first recordings have already taken place and you will hear, in due course, how you will be able to watch your child in their virtual performance.

Christmas Parties

These are planned for **Thursday 17th December**. We invite the children to come to school wearing party clothes and suitable footwear on that day (the children will be going outside at playtimes so clothing needs to be appropriate for colder weather). We would like you to provide your child with a special Christmas party lunch on this day and, as this is a special occasion, we are happy for them to have any food which you consider to be appropriate e.g. sweets, chocolate etc.

Each year we are amazed by the wonderful lunches that are provided. Lunchboxes are often specially decorated or contain Christmassy items. **The FJH will be providing each child with a Christmas cracker at the party.** The children will join in with the fun and games at the parties and we hope they will demonstrate their impeccable manners if a very special (socially distanced) guest arrives!!

CHRISTMAS TREES

We are extremely grateful to Christmas Tree Farm, Chesham and Chiltern View Nursery for donating magnificent Christmas Trees for our school. I am sure you will be impressed when you see them twinkling as part of the virtual Christmas Performances.

Please remember that tomorrow, Friday 4th December is an INSET Day so there should be no pupils in school.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

It is almost unbelievable that we have reached December in 2020 – a year unlike any other. Everyone has been affected in some way by the pandemic and although things are not back to “normal” in any sense of the word, many are trying to move forward in a meaningful way. This is particularly true at the John Hampden School where the staff are working hard to help all children along their interrupted learning journey in the best possible way, using many different means at their disposal.

Although the Governors are not able to carry out our usual visits to better understand what is happening in all different aspects of school life, we have been keeping in close contact with the staff as “critical friends”. With my Assessment hat on I have been in contact with Mrs Barnes. You will know that from the beginning of September a “recovery curriculum” was put in place because of the different learning experiences the children had had since March. Part of this required a degree of baseline assessment so that staff would be able to put in place relevant plans to target help where it would be of most benefit. The results of some of the initial observations were shared with parents at the Parents evenings in October along with “next step” targets which would form an integral part of planned teaching. Just before half term there was “assessment week” for pupils in KS1 and following on from analysis of data gathered, the staff having been working hard to put in place a wide range of tailored interventions, concentrating on phonics, reading, spelling, handwriting, maths as well as ensuring that the mental health and well being of the children is nurtured and physical development is not forgotten. This all goes on alongside the regular everyday teaching! I know that all staff will have been working really hard to ensure that all the children in the school are truly “Loving to Learn”. By the end of this term there will be further assessments to find out progress, see what has worked well and what needs to be further amended. Be assured that although this word “assessment” sounds daunting and you may worry that your children are being bombarded by tests, it will all have been carried out in a very relaxed manner and the children enjoy the various activities they are being asked to do and are not usually aware that they are being “tested”.

We all know that learning does not just happen at school and that as parents you are very important educators of your children, so I would urge you to continue talking to your children, stimulating their observational skills and know that reading to them as well as hearing them read very regularly will be of tremendous importance in their learning journey. Onwards and upwards!



Alison Duggan
Co-opted 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, James Edley, jedley@johnhampdenwendover.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



MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL OR STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2021



Parents/Carers of Year 2 children at John Hampden must apply for a Junior School place for their child. The Junior School online application service opened at 11am on **2nd November 2020** and the deadline for online applications is **3pm on 15th January 2021**.

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start school in September 2020, an application for a Primary School place must be made in the next few months. The Primary School online application service opened at 11am on **2nd November 2020** and the deadline for online applications is **3pm on 15th January 2021**. Please note that a place in the Early Years Class at John Hampden does not guarantee you a place in the school—an online application must still be made. Parents should use the following website to make their application:

<https://services.buckscc.gov.uk/school-admissions>

STARTING IN THE NURSERY CLASS AT JHSW IN SEPTEMBER 2021

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 they are eligible for a place in our wonderful Nursery Class from September 2021. To register your interest please download an application form from the school website or email or phone the school office.

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.

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.

FROSTY MORNINGS

Please take additional care on campus on frosty mornings. The caretakers of all schools do their best to keep pathways free of ice and snow, but please remember that Covid-19 is placing enormous additional demands on site staff. We have reminded all children about the dangers of running / deliberately sliding on potentially slippery surfaces.

POPPY APPEAL

Many thanks to all the children that bought a poppy last month. We raised £88.56 for this good cause.

4. CURRICULUM

In education, a curriculum is broadly defined as the totality of pupil experiences that occur in the educational process. At John Hampden our curriculum comprises the taught and the 'hidden' elements of learning that help to shape the young children we are privileged to work with.

It is important to reflect on how our pupils feel about the experiences they are offered and we do this by gathering their 'voice' via Class Council Circle Times and by meeting with our School Council. Class Council sessions involve each class providing responses to a set of questions. Both of these pupil voice activities have taken place recently and the findings from the Class Council Circle Times were used to inform the agenda for the School Council meeting. Thanks to Mrs Spencer for leading these activities.

We thought you might be interested to read a summary of what was discussed and communicated to us.

Question	Summary of responses
Question 1: What would make your classroom even better inside?	Some thoughtful suggestions from the different classes across the school. Teachers will take note of those made by their class/year group to agree on the ones that might be possible to implement.
Question 2: What would make your outside learning area even better?	Again, some interesting suggestions for Teachers to consider. EYFS – seem to want more of what they already have. Yr 1 - certain types of equipment for their learning area. Yr 2 – more about developing the learning environment and the physical space they have
Question 3: What makes you feel happy in school?	Common themes across the school: Friendship. Resources that offer comfort. Equipment that fosters a love of learning e.g. stories, games & computers. Go to strategies that help with helping them to feel good – teachers to talk to plus PSHE, P4C, relaxation & calming down e.g. Yoga, drawing, art, craft & music. Fun - playtimes, lunchtimes, playing games, Christmas etc.
Question 4: What makes you feel unhappy in school?	The main themes were around friendship, not being listened to, falling out, getting hurt, unkindness, lining up, unkind words, noise & loneliness. This feedback provides Teachers with the opportunity to plan lessons around the issues that are pertinent to their class in order to reach a resolution – particularly impactful because class bubbles are not currently mixing within the school day.
Linked to question 5: If you feel sad, what kind of things will make you feel even better in school?	Pupil voice has clearly indicated many children know many ways that will help to resolve issues around unhappiness. Teachers will consider the responses from their class & indeed across the school to see what might be implemented.

Overall findings:

- Pupils have articulated their views clearly concerning life & learning at John Hampden, reflecting strong emotional literacy.
- The majority are happy in school and know what to do when they face a challenge.
- There are clear patterns of behaviour that give some pupils cause for concern.
- Many sensible and practical ideas for improvement have been made by our pupils for Teachers & Year group teams to consider.
- It is important to let our class know about changes made as a result of pupil voice.
- Senior Leadership Team & the School Council will discuss the topics raised further.

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

This time of the year provides us with a perfect opportunity to develop and enhance performance skills. Our EYFS and KS1 performances have helped us to ensure that every child in the school, from the youngest to the oldest, is given a moment to shine. It is clear that some children have real strengths in terms of their ability to speak, sing or perform a dance and every child is given the opportunity to collaborate and take part. It has been wonderful to watch the rehearsals going on and to see the progress that is made as well as the enjoyment and commitment that so many children demonstrate as they prepare for the filming of their performances.

E-Safety



In the newsletter linked to Safety Week we highlighted the safeguards we have in place to allow children to have controlled access to the internet whilst at school. We have effective web filtering in place and we closely monitor how children are using the ICT in school to keep them as safe as possible whilst they work.

However, we recognise that even our very youngest pupils are increasingly using a range of different, internet-connected technology at home. As the Christmas shopping season begins, many parents will be considering buying this type of gift for their children.

To support you, we thought it may be helpful to highlight some potential risks attached to items on the list for Santa. Some of the toys/devices you are thinking of buying will have cameras and microphones recording the environment and the child's play. The Information Commissioner published an article looking at the risks of using smart toys and it is well-worth taking note of the 12 steps they advocate:

1. Research the security of a product before buying

Doing your homework before buying a connected device should allow you to recognise those with poor security. Research online reviews and manufacturers' websites for information on privacy notices and policies. You should also look to see how a product will be updated in the future if a security issue is identified.

2. Take care when shopping online

At this time of year, when online shopping is nearing its peak, scammers may be more likely to try to access your personal information such as bank account or credit card details. Only use secure sites when shopping online – secure sites usually carry the padlock symbol. [Get Safe Online](#) has advice on how to protect yourself.

3. Take your time

Don't wait until Christmas Day, when excited children will want to just turn on a new toy or device and skip as much of the set-up process as they can. Take the time beforehand to read the manual and familiarise yourself with the security and privacy options available to you.

4. Change passwords and usernames from default

Default passwords and usernames for many devices are freely available on the web. You should always change the defaults immediately and choose a [suitably strong password](#). Use a different password for each account and device. If a device doesn't allow you to change the default password, you should strongly consider whether it is worth keeping it.

5. Is your router secure?

Your router is the first line of defence on the perimeter of your home network. If you have devices connected to your network, the default settings of your router might be exposing them to the internet and therefore everyone else. Create a strong password and look out for and install security updates.

6. If there's a two-step identification option – use it

Two-factor authentication offers you an additional layer of security when logging in to an online service. While few devices will offer this capability, the website you use to view its data might.

7. Be camera aware – you never know who's watching

Some toys and devices are fitted with web cameras. The ability to view footage remotely is both their biggest selling point and, if not set up correctly, potentially their biggest weakness, as the baby monitor hacking issue of a few years ago demonstrated. If you have no intention of viewing footage over the internet, then turn the remote viewing option off in the device's settings, or else use strong, non-default passwords.

8. Location, location, location

One of the main selling points of children's smart watches is the ability for parents to know where their children are at all times. However, if this isn't done securely, then others might have access to this data as well. Immediately get rid of default location tracking and GPS settings and set strong, unique passwords.

9. Bluetooth ache

It is not just potentially insecure web connections that can put children's online safety at risk. Some toys and devices have been found to have unencrypted WiFi connections or unsecured Bluetooth connections which can be easily accessed by strangers. If there is no option to secure these in the device's settings, consider whether using the device is worth the risk. If there is an option to protect them with either a password or a PIN ensure you choose a strong one.

10. Children have information rights too

Have age-appropriate conversations with children about their online safety, and model the correct way to do this. Children's information and privacy rights are a key area of concern and new legislation coming next year will also strengthen children's legal rights.

11. If in doubt, don't splash out

If you aren't convinced a smart toy or connected device will keep your children's personal information safe, then don't buy it. If consumers reject products that don't protect them, then developers and retailers should soon get the message. If you've purchased a device that you've since discovered is insecure, complain to the manufacturer or retailer and see if you can return it.

12. Have a secure Christmas

By taking some time and care beforehand and following our advice, you can still see a child's face light up when they open their new, web-connected Christmas present, safe in the knowledge that you are keeping them secure as well as happy.

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



A huge thank you this week from the Friends for all the generous donations and support that you have been giving us and the school. Lots of mentions below. The Friends of JHSW have only this week paid £10,000 to the school for resources they requested support with, so all money raised, or donations, are very well received and hugely appreciated. Hopefully, we can get back to our usual fayres and fun events in the Spring!



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Friday 11th Dec is Christmas jumper day, with a donation of £1, to be shared between FJHSW and Save the Children.



CHRISTMAS CALENDAR UPDATE

Thank you for supporting the Christmas calendar and photo competition, which has raised over £1,500!



CHRISTMAS YULE LOG

Why not try a spot of family baking over the holidays? Suave Foods will be selling hampers, containing all the ingredients and video instructions you need to make a traditional chocolate Yule log, plus giving away a prize for the best log! All proceeds from the boxes go to the school, so please support this lovely initiative.

To pre-order your Yule log ingredients box for £10 please email chef@suavefoods.co.uk.



AMAZON WISH LIST

Also, a big thanks to everyone who has looked at the Friends Amazon Wish List and bought something for the school. It really does feel like Christmas has come early for John Hampden School Wendover and the children will hugely benefit from all the items you have so kindly donated. It is still open for anyone who would like to take a look.



GENEROUS DONATION

Thank you to the parents of a child in Year 1 who have generously donated £1000 to the Friends this week in recognition of the fact that fundraising has been limited this year. They wanted to make the gesture to say thank you to all the wonderful teachers and staff who are doing a brilliant job in these difficult times.

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Since the last newsletter:

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Making sure marking and feedback is meaningful to pupils and not too onerous for staff has been a particular focus recently. We have a range of marking symbols and pen colours that we introduce to the children right from the start and we regularly review the strategies we use to ensure they meet the needs of the pupils. Another review took place this week and further tweaks have been made to policy and practice in each year group. Teaching staff aim to give as much immediate, verbal feedback as possible and this is reinforced by marking symbols as well as the opportunity for pupils to begin giving their own assessment of their learning through the use of 'traffic lights' to signify whether they feel they coped well with the learning task they were asked to complete.



GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES



Supporting pupils to develop socially is equally as important to us as helping them to develop academically. As we assess pupils to identify gaps in their learning of phonics, handwriting, reading, writing and maths we are also looking out for those who may have gaps in their social development too. Nurturing children who require a boost, or supporting the development of others to behave appropriately in school is now a focus for regular interventions for those that we feel would benefit.

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This week Mrs Spencer has organised and led a School Council meeting for the Key Stage 1 School Council Class representatives at John Hampden. The focus for the discussion was the 'Life & Learning at John Hampden'. The School Council meeting follows a Class Council Circle Time at John Hampden where every class was given the opportunity to consider a set of prepared questions and express their opinions. It is just one example of how we listen to the views of our pupils and engage them in school improvement discussions.



GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT



Several meetings of the Governing Board have taken place virtually over the last few weeks. The recent Full Governing Board meeting focused on ensuring Governors were fully updated about the impact of Covid-19 and the financial losses associated with the pandemic. Time was also spent discussing the Governing Board's longer term strategy as well as the impact of the Board on the work of the school. Governors were also keen to ensure that children's mental health is being monitored effectively.



Christingle online

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER AT 4PM

This year our annual Christingle Service will take place online.

Join us via St Mary's Church website

www.stmaryswendover.org

or on our Facebook pages St Mary's, Wendover and Churches together.

Your Christingle Recipe!

You will need the following ingredients and
we will go through the method to put it together during the service!

Orange or something round

Red ribbon or tape

4 Cocktail Sticks

Some raisins and sweets

a Candle

OR

You may prefer to build your Christingle using Lego or Duplo.

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DECEMBER
5-8PM

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Dates: MON 21st - WED 23rd December

Times: 9:00am - 3:30pm

Price: £50.00 for 3 days

Ages: 4 - 7 years old

Additional Info:

Xtra-time is available, select this option when booking online for an earlier drop off and extended pick up time; 8:30am - 4:00pm, £5.00

Join us for
our Christmas
party on
Wednesday
23rd
December!

Taking every precaution

Our Activity Professionals have been undergoing additional training in order to provide the best care to the children under their supervision, specifically the Transcend Level 2 Award in Infection Prevention, Mitigation and Management.

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Wendover Christmas Carol Trail

11th to 21st December 2020

What is your favourite Christmas Carol?

Churches Together in Wendover are organising a Christmas Carol Display Trail through Wendover. For this we are inviting individuals and families to make a display of their favourite Christmas Carol in their front window or front garden. It needs to be visible from the road because the public will be invited to come and look at the displays and decide which one is best.

The Carol Displays need to be visible between the 11th and 21st of December, this will give everyone an opportunity to come and admire them and cast their votes. If you would like to take part, please let us know by email or phone by the 30th of November.

A list of the roads where displays can be found will be published from the 4th of December. Anyone who wants to follow the trail can receive the list by email or download it from our website or collect a paper copy from Just Shop in the High Street.

Contact us

Telephone: 01296 622354

Email: carol@wendoverfreechurch.org.uk

Website: <https://wendoverfreechurch.org.uk/caroltrail/>



Wendover Christmas Carol Trail

11th to 21st December



**If you would like to take part,
or follow the trail,
check out our website:**

<https://wendoverfreechurch.org.uk/caroltrail/>

or send us an email:

carol@wendoverfreechurch.org.uk