



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

In this first newsletter of 2020, I would like to start by wishing you a belated Happy New Year. Having walked around myself and observed all the children in the school in the first days of the new term, it is clear that they are eager and ready for the challenges that the new year will bring. The Curriculum Section of this newsletter gives further details of some of the activities that will be covered this term.

May I remind parents that if you wish to take your child out of school during term time you must request a leave of absence form from the school office or download one from the school website. Wherever possible you must give at least one month's notice of the proposed absence. We follow a locally agreed policy regarding leave of absence and it is important that parents think carefully before taking their children out of school. You will shortly be receiving a letter giving an interim attendance figure for your child. I hope you will find the attendance figure a useful guide for your own information. I am sure you will appreciate that it is difficult for me to authorise absence if your child's attendance percentage is below the expected level of 95%.

Voluntary Contributions—the time has come to request another voluntary termly contribution for each pupil. In a similar approach to last term each year group will be sending home an itemised list of activities with a cost against each one. Parents are asked to pay for the activities using the Parentpay website. No child will be disadvantaged if their parents/carers choose not to pay but it may be necessary to cancel activities if not enough contributions are received.

Thank you

Nurture Support

For several years we employed Helen Brettell to provide support for children from Service families. Helen secured a new job and left us in November. Following some internal re-organisation we have now appointed Mrs Lainey Morgan to replace Helen. Mrs Morgan will work with service children and others who may require a little additional nurture support from time to time. She has started in her new role this week. Please note, if you ever feel your child would benefit from a little extra nurture support for one reason or another please speak to the class teacher and we will organise for Mrs Morgan to see them.

Evening for Parents— Save the Date—Thursday 6th February

We are pleased to announce another evening designed to give support for parents. Please look out for the letter in your child's book bag nearer the time and send back your request for seats.

Reading Competition

Over the Christmas holidays we launched a Christmas Reading Challenge – to read or share 10 books. We are delighted that so many children took on the challenge and the class who collected the most Reading Challenge Cards are:

LADYBIRDS

Congratulations to them – they received their prize in Merit Assembly today along with a certificate.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

January 2020, the beginning of a new calendar year and the beginning of a new decade in the 21st Century. It is the time for many to review their goals and aspirations, and to set new challenges for the year ahead. How many New Year's Resolutions did you make on January 1st (and how many are you still keeping)?

For the staff and children at this school, this is NOT the start of a New Year, but one third of the way through the academic year that started in September. It is a time for reflection and re-appraisal of plans to allow all children to make as much progress as possible along their learning journey. I, like the other governors who have responsibility for different areas of the curriculum taught at the school, meet with subject leaders and discuss with them their policies and action plans for the year and how they would like to see their subject taught. In my discussions with Mrs McNally, the History subject leader I was very impressed by her enthusiasm for the subject and her desire for all children to have access to History in its widest sense, in an engaging, exciting and stimulating way. Last term, Year 2 studied Roald Dahl and were able to tell me lots of interesting facts about him following their studies and a visit to the Roald Dahl museum. Using a variety of means of assessment the teachers will have gained a good idea of which children are "emerging", or "expected" or "exceeding". This will inform their teaching in this term's topics, which will include (SPOILER ALERT) The Great Fire of London. The children in Year One will have learnt about Toys and Explorers by the end of their time in that year, and will be becoming further equipped to be great History Detectives and learning to enjoy discovering about the past.

I also have responsibility for Geography, PE as well as being the Early Year's Governor, and Assessment Governor, so as you can imagine I am kept fairly busy.

The Governing Body also regularly reviews it's progress and what we as Governors can do to support all staff to deliver an interesting and varied curriculum for the children at this school.

I hope that 2020 will be a great year for all associated with this school, with fun and excitement in learning being one of the key elements.



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 them 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

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Adverse Weather Conditions

Another reminder that if we need to close the school again 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.

Coats, Hats, Gloves and Boots

At this time of year, please would you ensure your child comes to school wearing appropriate clothes and footwear. We will be going outside as long as the playground remains ice free. All hats, coats, gloves and boots must be named and it would be really helpful if you could show your child where their name is written on each item of clothing, so they know where to look!

WHATS APP GROUPS

We appreciate that social media can be a really useful way of communicating important information and reminders. We are aware that Whats App groups have been set up for use by parents in some of the classes for this purpose. Please could we ask that social media is not used as a way of sharing children's work or gaining information about specific learning tasks. Spellings etc. may be differentiated so it is far more appropriate to contact the school directly if you have mislaid learning information—we would be happy to provide you with the correct information for your child.

CLUBS

Key Stage One parents will shortly be receiving an emailed letter about extra-curricular clubs. If you would like your child to be considered for a place you must return your request by the date given. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis but priority will be given to those who did not attend a club in the Autumn Term, to make it fair.

Medicines

Please note:

Medicines should only be brought into school for administration when essential; that is where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day. Should a prescribed medicine be required to be taken three times a day or less, the school will not administer the medicine during the school day as we have been advised that medicines that need to be taken three times a day can be taken in the morning, after school hours and at bedtime.

Home School Diaries

Please remember to tell your child to inform us if you have written a specific message in their Home School Diary. Staff do not routinely check diaries every day and we would not wish to miss anything of importance. We do ask you to support regular reading at home and we request that you sign the diary when you have heard your child read—signatures are not apparent in every diary at the moment!

Nuts

This is a polite reminder that children bringing their own packed lunch to school should not have any nuts included in their meal. This is because we have a number of children with severe nut allergies and the children are eating together in the dining room so there is a risk of contamination.

Scooting to School

We do encourage children to walk, scoot or cycle to school but we would ask that parents are vigilant when supervising their children on scooters— Thank you for your support in ensuring scooters are used safely.

Keyrings on book bags

Please could parents ensure that their children only have one small keyring on their book bags please as children still need to be able to put their bags in their classroom drawers. Thank you.

4. CURRICULUM



As the new year and the new term begins each year group has embarked on a new topic. You will soon be able to find a topic guide on the school website under the Classes heading and you will also have the guide emailed to you in due course. We hope this will help to give you an outline of what the children will be learning and ideas of how you can support this learning at home, if you would like to.

Foundation Stage have a topic of 'Explorers'

Year One have a topic title of 'Through the Keyhole'

And Year Two have a topic title of 'London's Burning'

Each term we try to enrich the taught curriculum with other special days and weeks which allow us to introduce further interesting and thought-provoking activities. During the Spring Term there will be a 'Discovery Week' which will include Maths, P4C and Science tasks and visitors. There will also be an 'Arts Week' with a focus on art and music. These weeks will take place either side of the half term break.

P4C

P4C was introduced to John Hampden School approximately 10 years ago and has become thoroughly embedded into our teaching and learning at John Hampden School. We were recently awarded our second 'bronze' status by the organisation SAPERE for our commitment to P4C in school.

What is P4C?

P4C, or Philosophy for Children, is an approach to learning and teaching which enhances children's thinking and communication skills, boosts their self-esteem, and improves their academic attainment.

In P4C, a stimulus, such as a story, video clip or image, is shared with a group of children. The children are encouraged to discuss the stimulus and what it means to them. This includes developing questions and responding to the ideas of others.

Philosophical questions are encouraged. This means there is more than one valid point of view, with no right or wrong answer. The question is important in the lives of the children, and it is a shared issue or concern. Children might come up with philosophical questions such as:

§ Is it ever OK to lie?

§ What makes you you?

§ Do we have to respect everyone?

§ Can good people do bad things?

§ Do we all have the same rights?

Through a vote, the children then choose the question they would most like to discuss. The teacher gives the children time to think and reason individually about the question before facilitating the exchange of ideas and opinions as a group, or community of enquiry.

As questions grow more philosophical and imaginative, children learn to listen carefully to each other, to explore differences of opinion respectfully, and to value the ideas of others. As a result children become confident speakers and good listeners. They learn to reason and explain their views. Skills which are valuable in so many aspects of life and learning.

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Pupil Voice—P4C—Autumn Term 2019

Year 1—What have you learnt in P4C?

I have learnt that in P4C there is sometimes not a right or wrong answer.

In P4C we don't always have to say something because it is important to listen to when it's someone's time to talk.

We sit with our palms out if we want to say something. We look and listen at the person talking.

In P4C not everyone thinks the same and this is ok!

Year 2—What do you like about P4C?

I like P4C because it is interesting and fun.

I like P4C because we look at lots of different topics.

I like the interesting questions.

I like that we get time to think about important things.

I can fill my mind with lots of important ideas.

I like P4C because I can use my brain a lot.

It is interesting and I learn new things and ideas.

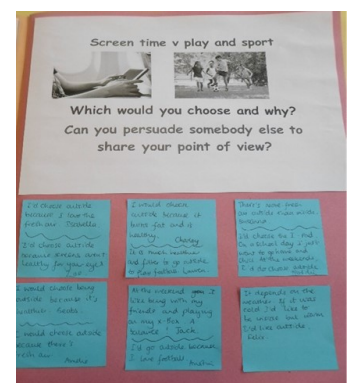
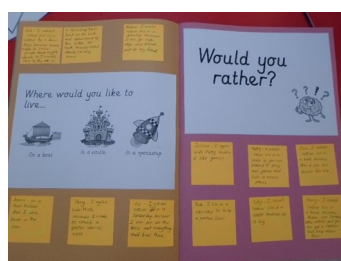
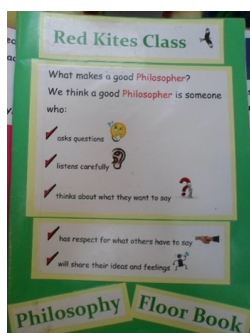
I enjoy P4C because I learn about new things that I haven't thought about before.

I like sharing my ideas and point of view about things.

I enjoy P4C because I get to hear other people's opinions.

P4C lets me spend time with my class.

I really enjoy when we vote with our feet.



6. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



CHILDREN'S NEW YEAR DISCO

Friday 24th January 2020

6.30pm - 8pm

It's time to dust away those January blues and dig out the kid's party shoes for their annual Children's New Year Disco! Hosted by The Friends of John Hampden School and the amazing Tot's Disco!

The children can revel in the music and games of Tot's Disco or simply chill out in the lego and colouring room, or relax in the DVD room; there's something for everyone!

Tickets are £5 each including a piece of 'glow', UV facepaint and squash to drink.

We will also have a tuck shop to keep the kids energised so don't forget to bring some pocket money!

Tickets can be purchased directly from Parent Pay. Your email confirmation of your purchase will act as your e-ticket - just show the confirmation email via your device when you come in.

Tickets are available for John Hampden School children only (sorry no siblings) and are available on a limited, first come, first served basis so please order ASAP and before Friday 17th JANUARY.

All children must have an adult present who is responsible for them.



As always, the Friends of John Hampden events can only work as well as they do, with your loyal help and support. If you are happy to spend 30 minutes assisting on the night, on the door, serving squash, manning the chill-out rooms or doing a bit of UV face-painting (which is dead-easy!) please fill in the appropriate box on Parent Pay when you buy your ticket.

Or alternatively, please drop us an email at FJHvolunteers@gmail.com to let us know if you can help by 17th January so we have time to then organise the rota 😊

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

PLEASE ORDER YOUR TICKETS VIA PARENT PAY BY FRIDAY 17th JANUARY

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. Since the last news-letter we have made progress linked to the actions outlined below:

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Tracking pupil progress is an important aspect of our work and at the end of the Autumn Term assessment activities were completed which allowed KS1 staff to give a summative assessment level for each pupil in reading, writing and mathematics. In Foundation Stage interim assessments were made against all seventeen areas of learning. This information is used to track progress from one term to the next. It is then possible for us to identify those children who are making below, expected or above expected progress. For any child that has not made expected progress, teachers are required to identify actions they will take to address any concerns. This careful tracking of pupil progress helps us to maintain the high standards of achievement we have come to expect at John Hampden.



GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

Behaviour monitoring for pupils continues and we are working hard to spot the triggers for particular behaviours and to plan strategies and interventions that meet the needs of all.

Behaviour monitoring for the Autumn Term reflects the fact that 18% of the school population lost Golden Time during the term. The Golden Rule that is broken most often is 'Do be Gentle' (46% of incidents) followed by 'Do Listen' (30%). The Golden Rule that is broken least often is 'Do work hard' (1%) - so that is encouraging!

Attendance and Punctuality monitoring has been completed for the Autumn Term and parents will get the chance to see the figures for their child shortly.



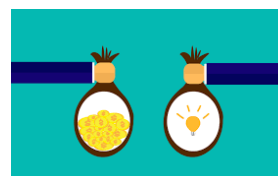
GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The INSET Day at the beginning of term was spent focusing on Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE). New statutory guidance has been issued and Relationships Education should be ready for implementation by the deadline of September 2020. Mrs Spencer is leading this initiative and we are already trialling revised teaching and learning plans. There is a requirement for parents to be consulted and this will happen in due course.



GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Following a career progression job opportunity for Mrs Griffiths, our Finance Manager, we are currently recruiting for a new person to fill this role. We are working very hard to try and reduce our in-year deficit and during the Autumn Term continued austerity measures, successful fund-raising and greater access to cost effective training resources helped us to save money but continue to maintain high standards. With the promise of more Government funding and healthy pupil numbers we hope for a more prosperous new year!





Proudly sponsoring



Christopher Pallet, Wendover's longest established independent estate agent are proud to be sponsoring Friends of John Hampden School.

As Part of our sponsorship we will be donating £100 to the school, for every parent/guardian or teacher that successfully sells their property through Christopher Pallet Estate Agents in Wendover.

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