



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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Curriculum	4	18th December—9.00-12 noon	5th January 2021
Pupil's Section	5	Home learning activities to be provided.	Start of the Spring Term—all pupils in school

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

As we approach the end of the first term of this academic year, it is a good opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved since September. Whilst filming the children in their Christmas performances, I saw our core values of perseverance and collaboration shining through. The children have all worked hard during the term and I hope they are beginning to recognise that effort really does lead to success. Many of the Merit Awards handed out so far are rewarding children for their continued effort and their ability to uphold the Golden Rules and the values we believe are so important for effective learning. I hope all our pupils will return in the New Year ready to build on the impressive start they have made.

It has obviously been an unusual and challenging Autumn Term in many ways, and I am sorry that we have not been able to open our doors to parents as we usually would. However, within the school we have tried to make things as normal as possible and the usual Christmas activities and excitement have been a feature of the last few weeks and the children have obviously responded with enjoyment.

Now, as we head towards a much needed break I need to inform you of what to do if Covid symptoms develop in one of our pupils in the first days of the holiday. As I mentioned in my letter last Thursday, the school will still be involved with track and trace duties up until 23rd December so you must inform us of a positive case up until that date. As usual I would ask that you contact the school first rather than messaging other parents via social media. This should be done via

office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

This email address is continually monitored and advising us early means we can communicate with everyone concerned with all the relevant information to hand.

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. As our school's last teaching day is on Thursday 17th December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23rd December.

It just leaves me to wish you a very happy Christmas—I hope you manage to have an enjoyable and peaceful festive season. I am truly grateful for your support this term and for being so understanding of the actions we have had to take. Let's look forward with positivity to 2021!

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

As I am a relatively new Governor having joined in January, this is my first piece for the Newsletter.

We have all been so impressed by and thankful for the School's Leadership, subject co-ordinators, teachers and all the staff at the school who have supported the children and provided a safe and supportive learning environment for them through the last difficult months. I am sure you join me and the rest of the Governors in thanking them for doing such a great job!

My two, now grown-up girls, attended the school in the early 1990s. This time of year was always a special time with Christmas performances – we still have the recordings of The Wizard of Oz from '92 and Snow White from '93. 2020 is quite different but no less fun for the children.

This run-up to Christmas is very different from previous years but that has not got in the way of the teaching staff enabling the children in their individual classes to enjoy learning, rehearsing & performing Christmas songs and dances together with their class-mates in Years 1 and 2 and a short Nativity among Foundation class children. These have been made securely available online for you to see your own child's class' show this year for which Mrs Barnes has turned film-maker/Director in making the recordings.

From dances to 'Frosty The Snowman' and 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer', to 'Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree' and 'Little Saint Nick' and the singing of songs from 'Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town' and 'Christmas is Here' (from 'Home Alone') to the more traditional 'It was on A Starry Night', it's been a busy time especially for Badgers class & their teachers with them returning from isolating more recently, but I know this will all have been much enjoyed by everyone and has been a wonderful opportunity to come together in spirit if not in person. As well as aligning with our aims of engendering a love of learning and developing new skills, working together contributes hugely to supporting our values in particular, Belonging and Collaboration, (perhaps Perseverance too) and to supporting wellbeing.

On behalf of the Governors let me again thank the whole staff for their incredible work throughout 2020 and in making Christmas special again this year. Also, to the staff, children, parents and carers let me wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and a peaceful and positive New Year.



Martin Whitthread

Co-opted Governor

PS: On a personal note; we have all been spending a lot of time online and I have a seasonal thought for you which I have been big exponent of since I came across it a number of years ago. That is Norad Tracks Santa (www.noradsanta.org "LIVE" on 24th December). You and your little ones might find it fun – I know I did (and still do).



Run by volunteers in the USA and Canada this is a fun way to show time zones and geography as they track Father Christmas in his sleigh pulled by his reindeer around the world's skies. I've have shown it to many over the years and small children really like it.

Norad, as you might know, is the North American Air Defence radar system. Back in the mid-1950's a US department store's newspaper advert gave a free number to call Santa on. A small child accidentally misdialled an unlisted number and reached Norad's Operations Centre Director who realised what had happened and played along instructing his staff to check the radar for any indications of Santa making his way from the North Pole! From that, the tradition was born where volunteers enable the Norad Tracks Santa program to evolve with modern day internet access making it fun informative and easy to see.

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

Re-starting Hot Meals at John Hampden

For some time we have been trying to work out how, within Covid restrictions, we can return to the position where we can offer hot meals in the dining room at the school. Finally, we believe we may have found a way. This offer will start in the first full week of the Spring Term (11th January), so for the first week back (5th January) children will still need to bring a packed lunch, which you can order in the normal way—the menu is live now. You have until **midnight on Tuesday 5th January** to order hot lunches to start the following week on Monday 11th January. The process for ordering is just the same as that you have used to order the packed lunches. The menu for hot lunches will replace the packed lunch offer from Chartwells from 11th January. If you would still prefer your child to have a packed lunch, that is fine, you will just need to provide the lunch from home.



MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL OR STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2021

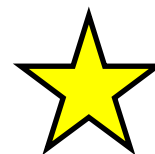
Parents/Carers of Year 2 children at John Hampden must apply for a Junior School place for their child. The Junior School online application service opened at 11am on 2nd November 2020 and the deadline for online applications is 3pm on 15th January 2021.

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.



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.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Message from the Dogs Trust

At the moment, we aren't able to run any events in person, but we hosting virtual events on www.facebook.com/groups/dogstrustultimateonlineogshow - at the moment there is a Christmas Dog Show running and we have hosted a virtual Christmas Fayre which includes meet Santa, a raffle, and activities for children!



Dogs Trust online workshops!

Becky, Phil and Charlotte from Dogs Trust delivered online workshops with to our classes in October to teach pupils about **safe behaviour around dogs!**

Everyone really enjoyed this exciting, new format and we all learned lots about appropriate behaviour around familiar and unfamiliar dogs.

You can find out more about these messages and continue learning at home at: www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk/safety.

A message from Dogs Trust

If your child is frightened of dogs, we hope our workshop provided them with some tips they can use to help them feel more confident.

You may also be interested in our free **Building Confidence Around Dogs** guide for families, which can be found here:

<https://www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk/building-confidence/>



[learnwithdogstrust.org.uk](https://www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk)



[dogstrusteducationteam](https://www.facebook.com/dogstrusteducationteam)



DT_Educ

St Mary's Crib Service



We wanted to let you know that St Mary's will have its usual crazy Crib Service again this year – but this time (for obvious reasons) online through Facebook and YouTube. We've posted the trailer here (https://fb.watch/2mdi_2QFeU/) . . We're hoping that it might just bring a bit of a smile to peoples' faces this Christmas...

JOB VACANCY



OUR COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Position: Lunchtime Catering Assistant

School: John Hampden School

Total Hours per Week: 10 hrs

Time: 11.30 am – 1:30 pm. Term Time Only

Salary: £8.72 p/h

Please contact: Chartwells on 07825 011019 or

Email: creativekitchenadmin2@compass-group.co.uk

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Our Holiday Camps near you...

Venue: The John Hampden School, HP22 6HF

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.

You will need

A packed lunch
Plenty of water
Suitable clothing for the weather
Loads of energy!

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