

# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

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### IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

12th—14th October: Parents' Evenings	22nd October—School closes at 3.15pm for half term holiday
18th October: Assessment Week	1st November—School re-opens [Safety Week]

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

In an infant school, at the beginning of a new school year, I think it is particularly important for the children to be given time to settle into their new classes, getting to know their new teachers and teaching assistants. We have spent time in the first few weeks focusing on our 'Behaviour Expectations' (new name for the old Golden Rules) and reinforcing our core values so that all pupils are fully aware of the things that are important to our school community. I regularly visit the classes during the working day and it is very encouraging to watch the children adjusting to the routines and expectations of school life. We aim to have a positive approach to behaviour management, and our behaviour expectations highlight what children should do, rather than what they should not! We have made some important changes to our Behaviour Policy this year (available on the school website) which include removing the sun, thinking cloud and rain cloud from the classrooms and replacing these with a 'Recognition Board' where children's names are written immediately we spot them doing something particularly well. We believe it is important to acknowledge when children do well and at John Hampden, this is done in a variety of ways. Feedback from teaching staff is the most immediate method, but stickers and pebbles are also used as reward tokens in many of the classes. Children are sent to me or Mrs Parkinson to share their learning when they have done exceptionally well and we reward this behaviour with special stickers and a gold star to take home. Each Friday we are holding our new 'Over & Above' assembly, in which children from each class are chosen to receive a special certificate and sticker. This is awarded by the class teachers and teaching assistants for exceptional behaviour or exceptional learning. Children receiving the 'Over & Above' certificates are invited to sit on special chairs and a star is put onto our display board in the hall to remind us of their achievements.

A silver cup is awarded to the 'Class of the Week'. So far Squirrels and Caterpillars have won the cup - I'll leave your children to tell you who won it today!

Finally, 'The Scroll of Honour' is unfurled. The scroll contains the names of any child in the school who has been spotted by any adult for doing something special. The children are called to the front of the hall and the whole school sing a congratulatory song to them. Each child whose name is on the scroll will bring home a special certificate so you know what they have done to impress us. They will also be given a yellow badge to wear on their jumper during the following week.

We also like to celebrate achievement outside school and we have a display board in the corridor to showcase the talents of our pupils. If your child is awarded a certificate or an award for swimming, dancing, sport, music etc. we are happy to take a photocopy or photograph and put it up on the board.

We are looking forward to our upcoming Parents' Evenings where we can provide you with feedback about how your child is settling into their new class. From our perspective it appears the online system for making appointments has worked successfully. Please remember that only one parent should attend the appointment and a face covering is advised. The 10 minute appointments will take place in a well ventilated space and you will need to follow the signposted route to reach your child's class teacher. If, following your appointment, you would like to speak to me or Mrs Parkinson about any matter please come to the main entrance where we can arrange a mutually convenient time and place to speak.

Thank you for your continued support.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Hello All,

Firstly, I would like to pass my sincere thanks to Jay Edley for his commitment to the school over the past years as Chair of Governors. Jay has been a valuable asset to the school and the Governing Board and has certainly helped me transition into replacing him as Chair of Governors. I am pleased to write Jay's commitment will continue in his role on the Board, as Governor for SEND, Science and Development. Outside of being the Chair of Governors I have 2 children at the school after my eldest moved onto the Wendover Junior School this year. I work as a Head of Programmes within the NHS and enjoy lots of physical activities swimming, running, tennis, and football along with the occasional bottle (I mean glass!) of red wine.

We are certainly in full swing now and off to a great start to the new academic year. Thanks to the efforts of the senior leadership team and teaching staff at the school I feel the transition into new surroundings for all of the children has been a smooth one. I witnessed a small number of upset children as they got to the classroom doors early in the term and with that have noticed how well you parents and teachers have managed the situation over the last weeks meaning the number has now reduced to almost none. A great effort by staff, parents, carers and the little ones themselves! Book bags have started coming home with reading materials, phonics sheets and wonderful creative pieces of work that children have worked so hard on and are so excited about.

The transition has been an excellent one and I have seen many happy faces on their way into school. However, there are some faces I don't see as they are hidden away in vehicles. I just wanted to write a polite reminder that the campus is not designed for pick-up and drop off by vehicles and parents should not be attempting to drive onto the campus unless they have applied to the school for permission to do so. I appreciate that walking to school is not an option for many families due to distance, however if driving please remember to park off campus and walk the remainder of the way. The children do also get reminded in their classrooms and in assemblies that safely walking into school is expected of them. Please remind your children that when cycling or scooting into school they have to be especially careful as other young children are also making their way in on the footpath.



Ben Gattlin  
Chair of Governors

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, Ben Gattlin, [Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) you would like to raise a matter for discussion

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES



#### **OPEN EVENTS AT JOHN HAMPDEN—EARLY YEARS (NURSERY) & RECEPTION PLACES**

If you, or someone you know, is looking for a school place for **September 2022** they may be interested in booking an appointment to visit and view the school.

We are holding three separate Open Morning events with two slots on each day. Please contact the school office via [office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk) or telephone 01296 622629 to communicate your choice of date and time and book your place.

9.15am –10.15am Tuesday 12th October  
10.30am—11.30am Tuesday 12th October  
9.15am –10.15am Thursday 21st October  
10.30am—11.30am Thursday 21st October  
9.15am –10.15am Wednesday 3rd November  
10.30am—11.30am Wednesday 3rd November

Please note—visits must be pre-booked and we request face coverings are worn whilst in the school. Visits are intended for parents/carers only at this stage.

#### **Dogs on Campus**

Please note that dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school campus.

#### **COATS**

Children are involved in learning outside the classroom everyday so it is really important that they bring a named coat to school everyday especially as it is starting to get a little colder and wetter now. Also, could you check that your child has their own name in their belongings. Sometimes children wear pre-owned uniform that has a previous pupils name in it—and obviously that can cause confusion!

#### **REMINDER**

Please remember that children should not bring in sweets/treats for classmates when it is their birthday. We have a number of children with allergies and it is safer to say no to this altogether in order to avoid upset and disappointment.

#### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

Please do not use mobile phones whilst on the school grounds. In this way, we are safeguarding our pupils by ensuring there is no chance of anyone taking unauthorised photographs/videos within the school environment. Please remind others of this message if you spot anyone on their phone—it is a shared responsibility.

This is also applicable when bringing or collecting from our Out of School Care provision.



#### **DRUMMING WORKSHOP—PLANNED FOR 11th OCTOBER**

The deadline for voluntary contributions for this workshop was yesterday. To date we still have not received any voluntary contribution from 93 parents. We do appreciate that this is a voluntary payment but if you were intending to pay and have just forgotten to do so please take this message as a polite reminder. Unfortunately if we do not receive further funds by Wednesday 6th October we will have to cancel this visit as we are not in the position to subsidise it from the school budget.

## 4. CURRICULUM

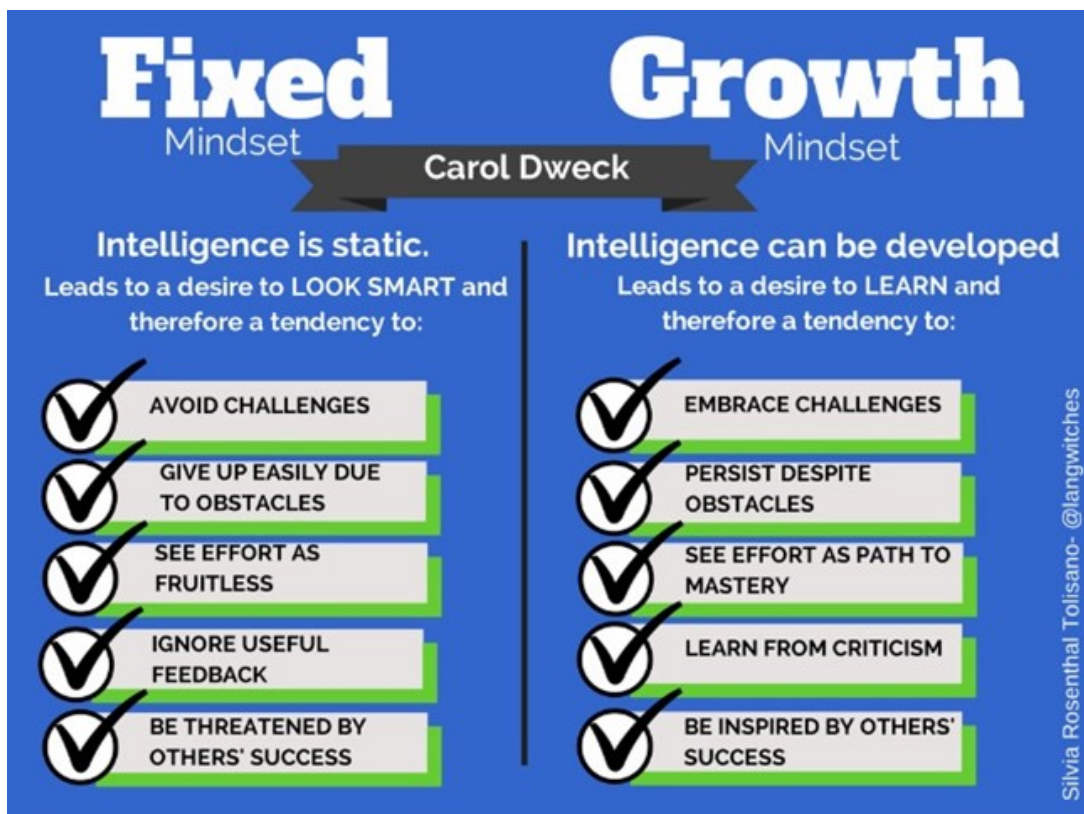
### Growth Mindset

In addition to being Hedgehogs class teacher I have responsibility for overseeing Growth Mindset across the school.

At John Hampden School we encourage all our children, and adults, to have a Growth Mindset. Key Stage One have a Growth Mindset assembly every Thursday and each classroom has a 'Great Learning Adventure' board. This helps remind the children that when learning something new, we will find it a challenge but if we persevere we can achieve what we set out to do. We encourage the children to say 'I can't do it YET' rather than 'I can't do it.' This reminds us that the possibility to achieve is always there.

### What is Growth Mindset?

Carol Dweck is an American psychologist who has spent many years researching how we learn and how our mindset affects our ability to succeed. She is of the belief that it's not just our abilities and talent that bring us success—but whether we approach them with a fixed or growth mindset. The table below outlines the behaviours that determine whether we have a growth or a fixed mindset. We very much encourage the children at John Hampden School to see challenge as positive and making mistakes as being part of learning. We always encourage children to 'have a go' as this is the first step to success and can often be the most daunting stage of learning something new.



### How can you support Growth Mindset at home?

One of the best ways you can model a growth mindset is to speak about mistakes you've made, and what you've learned from them. Speak positively about your mistakes and struggles, and this will show your children that taking risks and making mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. Explain to your children that trying hard things is what helps us grow, and you can't be perfect when you try something hard!

The way we praise our children can have a profound impact on their mindset. Research on praise and mindsets shows that when we praise children for being 'good' or 'clever', it promotes a fixed mindset. It sends a message that their accomplishments are trait-based, and tied to something innate. In contrast, praising children for the effort involved promotes a growth mindset. It sends a message that the child's effort is what led them to success.

You can encourage this at home, rather than praise the outcome, make the praise specific, for example.....

Instead of saying....	Try saying.....
I love your picture	Wow, I can see you've worked hard to keep the colouring inside the lines
Great reading	Well done for using your phonics to help you sound out that difficult word
Good girl/Good boy (This is a very vague statement for children as they often don't know why they are 'good')	I'm really pleased with the effort you put into....  I'm really happy that you did..... it shows me how hard you've tried
That's not right	You've worked hard to spell that word, keep trying as you are nearly there!
I'll do it for you	Let's try together because if we keep trying we'll get better
Great work, you're really clever	Great work, you put a lot of effort into doing that so well
Well done for getting all your spellings right	Well done for working hard to learn all those spellings. I can see how much effort you made and it paid off

Mrs Anna King  
Growth Mindset Co-ordinator



## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

On Thursday 30th September we held the KS1 Harvest Festival and today our Foundation Stage children are performing. Each class had been practising their own performance in the classroom so it was lovely when they had the opportunity to watch others in their year group perform. If you were able to attend we hope you enjoyed the show!

We thought you might like to read about what the children enjoyed about it.

Many thanks for all the contributions of food and produce. They were collected by representatives from the Women's Refuge in Aylesbury who are always very grateful for our donations.



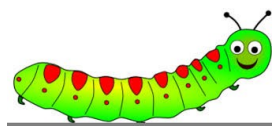
Ladybirds Class performed Big Red Combine Harvester

Lily enjoyed singing the Big Red Combine Harvester song because she likes doing the actions and George liked singing Big Red Combine Harvester because he likes combine harvesters.



Honeybees Class performed The Owl

Max said he liked the twit-two bit and Rosie said she liked singing it and liked tweet-ing it. It's her favourite song



Caterpillars Class performed Leaves are Falling

Esme enjoyed learning the poem 'Leaves are Falling' and performing the actions and Tom showed an abundance of enthusiasm whilst they were learning 'Over the Harvest Moon'. His actions for the little mice and tiny bats were superb



Hedgehogs Class performed Dingle Dangle Scarecrow

Ollie liked making the scarecrows. They made them move with split pins and Seva liked doing the scarecrows as she could colour it in and use split pins and make them dance to the song



Squirrels Class performed a poem called The Squirrel

Ace liked being in the hall and seeing his Mummy. He also liked the harvest song. Tia liked doing the Squirrel poem and it was nice when her Daddy waved at her



Badgers Class performed Cauliflowers Fluffy

Louisa liked all the songs and she liked the strawberry part. She liked the autumn leaves are falling down at the end. Max liked wearing the hat and singing the songs.



Red Kites Class performed Harvest Hoedown

Harriett said it was scary to start with but she kept going and she felt good and the other children said they were worried to start with but they sang the song and got to



Hérons Class performed Bean Harvest

Evie loved performing Bean Harvest and when she gets it right she feels proud. Dexter liked showing the parents what they have learned and he liked doing the actions. They both really enjoyed Red Kites and Firecrests performances as well



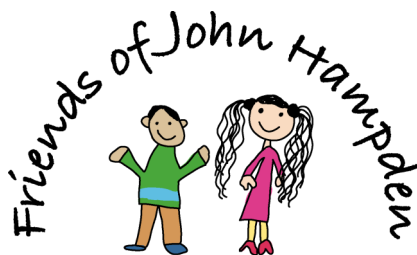
Firecrests Class performed Harvest Samba

Yash liked it because he saw everyone clapping and supporting them and Martha loved it because she liked the beat of the music and the actions and everyone was smiling.



Many thanks for all the contributions of food and produce. They were collected by representatives from the Women's Refuge in Aylesbury who are always very grateful for our donations.

## 6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



**The Friends of John Hampden (FJH), would like to offer you a warm welcome to John Hampden School. We're the school's dedicated Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) made up of parents and teachers who work together to raise funds for the school and develop the school community through socials, events and communication.**

As parents or carers of a child at John Hampden Infant School, **you are automatically a part of the FJH.** But we invite you to get involved as much as you can to help our organisation to be as successful as it can be. Whether you choose to take on a lead role in organising our events or are happy to be called upon on an adhoc basis, there is a role for everyone at FJH.

If you would like to **find out more** about what we do, how you can **help**, or give us your **suggestions**, why not come along to one of **our meetings**?

Our next meet up is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm at The Red Lion, Wendover.

### Funds

Our funds are used to buy new equipment that our children can use at school to enhance their learning experiences. In the last 2 years we have raised almost £20,000 which has bought interactive whiteboards, play-ground equipment and new materials for Early Years (and much more!). This year we have a target of £13,000 to raise

### Joining together

Our warm, supportive school community is one of the things that makes John Hampden so special. Our **Facebook Group, JHS Parents**, is an easy way to connect to the wider school community. Visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/263833573776169/> or

**search JHS Parents.** You can also join our WhatsApp group to keep up to date with PTA news and shout outs

### Happenings

The FJH events are always warmly received and strongly supported and after such a long break from our usual activities and events, we are looking forward to starting this term with some events we think the children will love. We are always looking at creative ways that we can raise funds and boost our school community during these challenging times and are keen to welcome new ideas!

**The FJH have 3 focuses:**

**There are lots of things you can do to help FJH!**

**Join in with our organised events!** Even if you can't volunteer, the people who support our events are just as important. Buy a raffle ticket, enter a competition, like a Facebook Post – it all helps  
Can you support with any of our upcoming events?



Event	About	Date
Spooky Halloween Trail and Bake Sale	Fri 22nd October	Join us straight after school for a spooky trail! Please bring your Halloween themed bakes into school that day to be sold after school. Prizes for the best bakes!
Christmas Fayre and Market	Sat 27th November	Our traditional fayre, with a twist!
New Year Disco	Friday 14th January	After school/ early evening disco with Children's entertainment, music, tuck shop and chill out zone.

**Volunteer to be a class contact.** While not everyone can or wants to be 'hands on,' it's really helpful for us to have the details of at least one person in each class, so they can help us publicise events. Join the WhatsApp group or email [FJHVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FJHVolunteers@gmail.com) so we can stay in touch.

**Use Easyfundraising Online** - If you're buying anything online, click on [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and over 2,700 retailers will donate a percentage of the order to the school. **You don't pay anything extra.** We have about 200 members so far who have helped to raise nearly **£4000** – which has cost them nothing!!

**Buy a weekly £1 ticket for the Aylesbury Vale Lottery** which donates 50p to FJH and you could win!  
<https://www.valelottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-john-hampden-school>

**Sponsorship** – selling your home with Christopher Pallet? Tell them you have a child at our school, and they will donate £100 to the school for every completed sale.

**Join us**

As an officially registered charity, FJH have a full committee. We are...

Chair Person: Sophie Hughes, mum to Will in Caterpillars

Secretary: Danielle Gaglione, mum to Xander in Herons

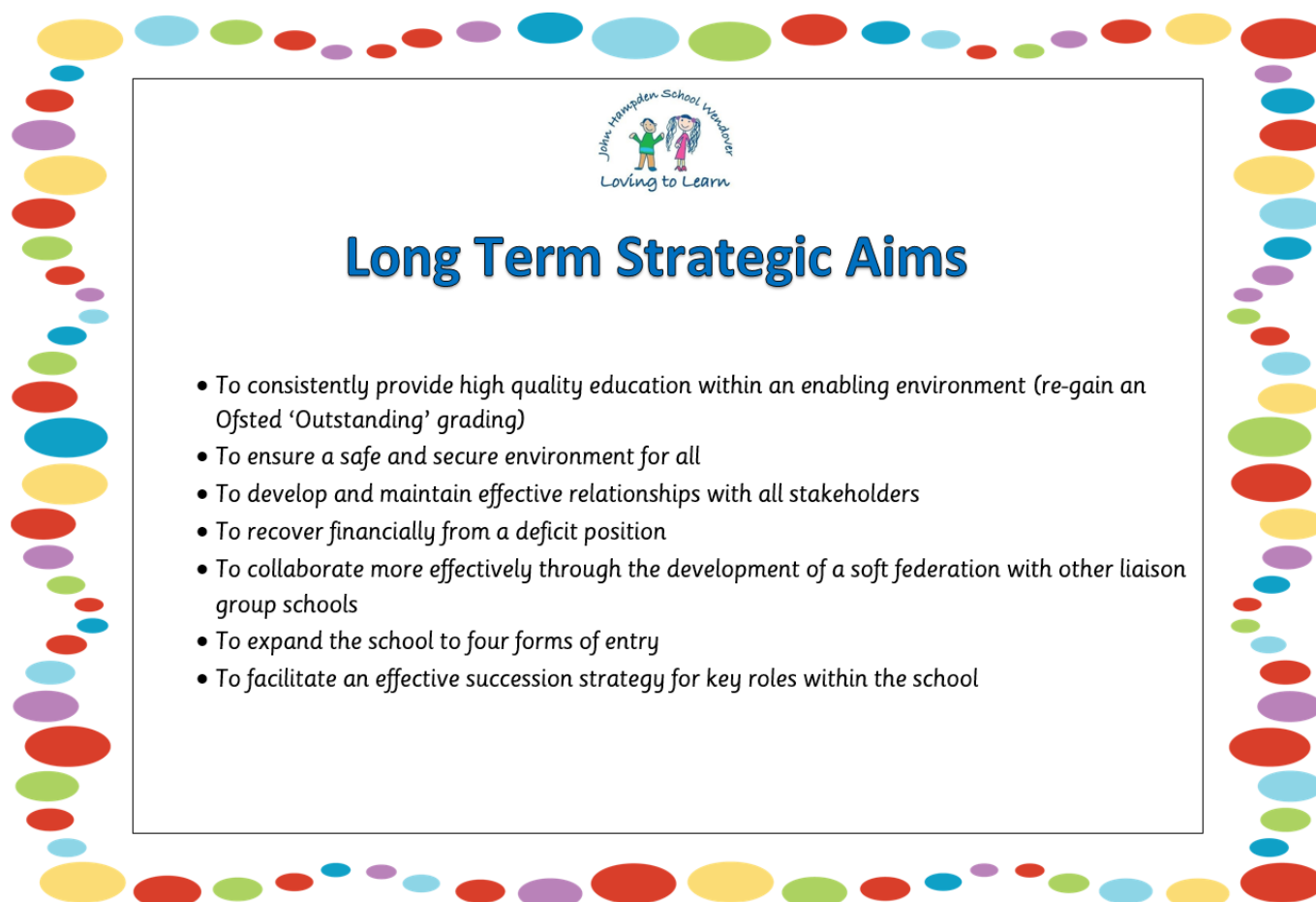
Treasurer: Rebecca Sackman-Smith, mum to Romilly in Hedgehogs

Plus a lot of regular faces 😊

**Thank you in advance for all your support. Let's make 2021-22 a brilliant year for John Hampden School and the Friends of John Hampden!**

## 7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The leadership team at the school, which includes the Full Governing Board, has agreed the long term strategic aims for the school. They are as follows:



Each year we review and use these strategic aims to underpin an annual School Development Plan where we identify key targets and success criteria within four 'Goals'. The goals link to the Ofsted Inspection Framework:

**Goal A: Quality of Education—including targets linked to curriculum intent, implementation and impact**

**Goal B: Behaviour and Attitudes—including behaviour; attitudes to learning; attendance and punctuality**

**Goal C: Personal Development—including pupil voice; equalities and diversity; personal, social and health education; extra-curricular activities; support for learning**

**Goal D: Leadership & Management—including collaboration arrangements; deficit recovery; professional development for staff; safeguarding; managing workload**

The annual School Development Plan 2021-2022 is available on the school website and each fortnight you will receive an update on our progress towards meeting the targets in the plan in this newsletter.

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS

### School music teacher and piano teacher

Experienced school music teacher and piano teacher living in Wendover has a few vacancies for children of all ages and levels from complete beginners to post Grade 8. The emphasis is on high quality teaching whilst making learning fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you are interested, please phone or text—Denise Erlandsen on 07767 372049 or email at [derlandsen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:derlandsen@yahoo.co.uk)

### Part time Parish Office Administrator



#### **Part time Parish Office Administrator**

St Mary's Wendover and St Michael's Halton are looking to appoint a **part time Parish Administrator**, 25 hours per week, to support and liaise with the Clergy, Church Officers and Volunteers. The role is varied and is the face and voice of the Churches on the High Street. You will need to be able to communicate well, be empathic and work independently, meeting timescales and be familiar with the Microsoft suite including publisher.

The job description and application form can be found at [www.stmaryswendover.org](http://www.stmaryswendover.org)

Applications are to be sent to Sally Moring [vicar@stmaryswendover.org](mailto:vicar@stmaryswendover.org)  
by 12.00 noon Monday 11 October 2021.

Interviews will be Thursday 21 October 2021

For a conversation about the role please contact Sally Moring.