



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

There was a time when a fall of snow gave Head Teacher's such a headache—making decisions about whether it was safe to open or safer to close—nowadays these types of decisions have really been put into perspective. I hope you managed to enjoy the snow last weekend. It certainly looked very beautiful as I took my daily exercise route around the all too familiar streets where I live. I think we're appreciating small changes like these even more in these challenging times.

As I write this section of the newsletter I am aware that we are now at the end of week four of the partial closure of the school. We are all really grateful for the positive feedback we have received so far about the learning we are offering for you at home. We are trying very hard to make it the best it can be but I'm sure you appreciate we cannot replicate the true school experience—even the children in school are finding things rather different. Gavin Williamson has promised that schools will be given two weeks notice of a proposed return date for pupils, but we need to be prepared for the fact that it will not be before 8th March. Whilst we may be disappointed by this news, such disappointments test our resilience and we can choose how we respond. At John Hampden our value of perseverance is one which we allude to regularly—it is easy to give up when the going gets tough, but we become much stronger if we put the effort in and plan to keep going.

I have seen numerous examples of excellent home learning and some beautiful end results. The whole staff join in congratulating you and your children when things go really well and there is something to be very proud of as a result. However, we recognise that it can be hard work to encourage and motivate children when they are away from their peers, their teaching staff and their regular learning environment. The strong message from us is, 'praise the effort' and make sure you let your children know how pleased you are when they show good learning behaviours at home. Learning behaviours are basically some of our school values—perseverance, independence, reflection, respect but good listening is key. If you praise and reinforce these things you may well find beautiful end products are the result. Our mantra at school is 'effort leads to success'. Remember, if you are struggling we are here to help and you can email or phone us if you need to (see page 3 for further ideas)

To provide equality of opportunity, the learning that is uploaded to the website each day is the same as that being completed by children coming into school. By completing the activities at home your children are not missing any curriculum content. In my last newsletter you will have read that we have approximately 38% of the school population in school each week, which equates to over 100 children, plus the children in the Nursery Class. This is a significantly higher proportion than in the first partial closure last March, when we only ever had up to 10% of the children in school. The definition of 'Key Worker' is broad, however, many parents working in the relevant sectors are able to ensure their child is kept at home. **In this National Lockdown, every child who can be safely cared for and educated at home should be.**

I do need to reiterate that my letter to you on 5th January gave a clear deadline for notifying us if you needed a place for your child. I believe it is fair and reasonable that we should not be contacted now to request places. I do appreciate that your situation may have changed and that these circumstances are challenging for everyone, but we simply do not have the capacity to take more children in safely, whilst providing the same quality of remote education. The lockdown is designed to limit the spread of the virus and already having over 100 children in school increases the risks for all involved. We would obviously have to close year group bubbles if anyone tests positive, so keeping our numbers consistent now keeps everyone safer—staff included.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN LEARNING AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE

2. NURSERY NEWS

NURSERY NEWS

Our school nursery – Crickets – have remained open. At the beginning of January, we welcomed back excited children with boundless enthusiasm!

As we start to receive enquires for nursery places in September, it is an ideal time to reflect on the incredible journeys that the current children have made so far. In such a short space of time, despite the uncertainty and unpredictability in the world, where children have been confronted with major changes to everyday life, the children have settled so beautifully into nursery and are flourishing.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a fabulous team in Crickets.





				
Mrs Taylor	Mrs Wheeler	Mrs Kearney	Miss Maddison	Mrs Khan
Teacher	Teacher	Teaching Assistant	Teaching Assistant	Teaching Assistant

They have created a magnificent learning environment that inspires children's curiosities. The learning environment seeks to encourage children's natural investigations and interest through a range of open ended resources. The purpose of effective continuous provision is to offer children a constant environment that is safe for them to explore whilst challenging their learning. It allows children the freedom to explore and become independent in making choices.



An important part of the EYFS is to support children in becoming active learners; continuous provision allows children to demonstrate this aspect and staff closely observe this during their play. Continuous provision supports children's learning and development across all seven areas and the characteristics of effective learning.

Here are just some of the activities the children have been independently exploring this week. We cannot believe how far the children have come in just one term.

The Inside Area

	
The Home Corner	Funky Fingers
	
The Investigation Station	The Number Nook

The Stable

	
Small world	

Using the school hall for yoga



Well done Team Crickets – we are so proud of you!

If you would like to receive information regarding Crickets September 2021 intake,
please contact the school office.

3. GOVERNOR SECTION

It's a short message this time just to say: THANK YOU.

As a result of the latest lockdown the parents and carers of about 190 children at our school have become unexpected, unpaid teachers. In many cases also having to manage a day job and in some cases juggling the differing homework of children in two or more years. As a parent governor I know none of us find this easy. It's hard work and in some cases it simply isn't possible but it's important to remember we're part of a big team. The school staff have worked hard to produce structured learning packages and are still tweaking the process to make it easier to follow and allow the children to rely less on adult supervision. There's been a lot of parent-to-parent support on social media which is great. But none of this teaches the kids automatically which is why the governing board wanted to acknowledge the effort everyone is making to keep our children learning. Even though we can't chat at the school gates at the moment you can still contact any of the governors via the school website and I know Mrs Barnes and the entire staff will respond to any email questions you send them in a timely manner. So once again, if you're home schooling, thank you for everything you've done and everything you're doing. I know that thanks alone doesn't make your life any less difficult but I hope it does help you feel a little more appreciated.



Toby Short
Parent Governor

4. HOME LEARNING SUPPORT

Ways to support home learning:

Be realistic about what you can do:

You're not expected to become teachers and your children are not expected to learn as they do in school. Using our daily plans and simply **providing your children with some structure** at home will help them to adapt. Use the tips below to help you make this work for your household

Take stock from the first weeks. What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too

Share the load if there are 2 parents at home. Split the day into slots and take turns so you can do your own work if you need to.

Take care of your own health and wellbeing. Recognise that this is challenging for your entire household, but do persevere

Create and keep to a routine if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!

Involve your children in agreeing the way to follow the daily plan where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership

Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible. If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible

If you have more than 1 child at home, **consider combining their timetables.** For example, they might exercise and watch assemblies together – see what works for your household

Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over

Stick the plan/timetable for the day up on the wall so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day

Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life

Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day

If you have a **garden, use it regularly.** If you don't, try to get out **once a day** as permitted by the government

E-Safety

As the children have the potential to be spending more time online, we have included a link to the NSPCC website which gives some helpful advice about explaining the importance of internet safety. Please do read this and share the important messages with your children.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Net aware is another really useful resource on the NSPCC website which highlights the risks of certain APPs and games that your child may be using in their spare time. You can search for any APP or game and find a review of it.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

5. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

EXERCISE BOOKS

To ensure children are not disadvantaged during this lockdown period it is vital that all children are accessing the remote learning every week day. So, even if they are attending school for certain days each week, they still need to complete the activities on the days they are at home. Learning at school mirrors the learning that is being offered for home, so children may miss parts of the learning sequence if they do not participate every day.

Children coming into school must bring their exercise books in the book bags each day.

STAFF CAR PARK

This is a polite reminder that no parent bringing or collecting children from our Out of School Care Provision should use the staff car park. This is especially important during these dark evenings.



THE LIONEL ABEL-SMITH TRUST

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS OF
THE PARISH OF WENDOVER AND MOOR PARK



We're here to help you

At the Lionel Abel-Smith Trust we know that the past year has been difficult for many individuals, families and children in our community. Did you know that we were set up with the purpose of supporting the local community and those in need?

For example, in the last year, we have helped local families with covering costs of educational equipment, costs of individuals re-training/ changing careers and support for families with children with specific needs and many others.

Could we help you?

If you, your family or children could benefit from a financial grant please apply to us today by emailing: clerk@wendovertrust.org or writing to: Clerk to the Trust, 51 Dobbins Lane, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6DL*

For more information visit: www.wendovertrust.org and follow us on social media  Lionel Abel-Smith Trust

*Please note you must be a resident of Wendover or Moor Park to be eligible to apply. Applications received by February 28th will be considered at our AGM on April 28th and decisions communicated at that time. Grants for real need can be made throughout the year. Unfortunately we are not able to guarantee funding for all applications received.

The Lionel Abel-Smith Trust is a registered charity founded in 1977 by Lionel Abel-Smith, Lord of the Manor of Wendover. Registered Charity Number: 274879

PARENTS—WOULD YOU VALUE SOME FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO HELP IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES—WOULD YOU LIKE TO PURCHASE A NEW DEVICE FOR YOUR CHILD TO USE FOR HOME LEARNING? DO YOU NEED A PRINTER?
READ ON.....



Wendover Multi Activity Half Term Camp

Dear parent/carer,

We hope you are keeping safe.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to confirm that we will be running a multi activity holiday club at the school for the children of critical workers and children on the vulnerable children list during February half term.

We are aware that the weather and lack of light during the evenings, along with the closures to local facilities has meant it has been difficult for children to access their regular physical activities recently, so we're looking forward to getting children active during half term.

The course details can be seen below;

VENUE: The John Hampden School & Wendover CofE Junior

DATES: Monday 15th – Thursday 18th February 2021

TIME: 9:00 am – 3:30pm daily

ACTIVITIES:

Non-contact sports such as soft archery, athletics, gymnastics, dance, yoga, children's fitness, personal best challenges and individual sport specific skill sessions. The main aim of the sessions is fun, so don't worry if your child isn't really sporty as there will be lots of general fun and games too to engage the children.

The camp is open to boys and girls who have continued to attend the school during lockdown 3.0 from all years and will need to dress appropriately for the weather.

In order to make sure everyone is as safe as possible during the current climate we have adapted our usual camp structure to ensure social distancing guidelines and increased hygiene standards are met throughout.

Our staff have continued to work in schools during the school closures, meaning they have months of experience delivering in the new environment. They have also completed training in completing COVID-19 risk assessments and have the Level 2 Infection Control qualification.



Block bookings:

In order to continue the schools great work based around social distancing, we will be continuing with bubble systems throughout the camp. With this in mind ratios will be as low as 1 coach to 15 children, and children will stay in the same bubble for the duration of their booking. Our staff will also stay constant throughout. Individual day bookings will not be permitted in order to keep bubbles the same each day.

There are three booking options available – *Half day* 9:00am – 1:00pm, Full day 9am-3:30pm & 'Xtra time' 8:30am – 4:00pm*. Parents can only book for two days at a time, If a parent only wants their child to attend a proportion of the course they book (ie. only one day of the two day option), they must still pay for both days. This is because this place cannot be offered to someone else in order to keep children in the bubbles the same to reduce cross contamination.

[*Please note that due to Ofsted guidelines, children aged 4 can only attend a half day session](#)

Cost:

Half day - £26.00 for 2 days

Full day - £38.00 for 2 days

Extra time is an additional option to the full day. Tick this option when booking online (£5.00 a day)

There is a 15% siblings discount available, where 7.5% is taken from the price of each child whilst booking online.

Spaces are limited to 30 children per day and bookings are now available on a first come first served basis via the direct links below:

[The John Hampden School \(ages 4-7\)](#)
[Wendover CofE Junior \(ages 7-11\)](#)

Please also find a flyer attached with further details about the camp dates and times.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Martyn Hutt, mhutt@premier-education.com or call 01296 620097

Stay safe

Premier Education - Chilterns

Safe, active, together.

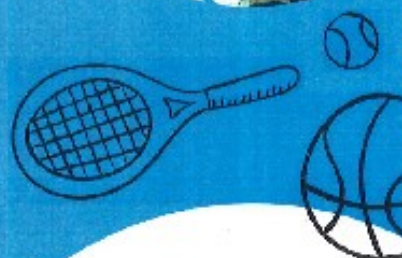


Multi-sport Holiday Camps for your children!

Our Holiday Camps have been making kids happy for over 20 years, and this February should be no different. Our super-fun sessions are jam-packed with safe activities for every child to enjoy.

To book now, visit
premier-education.com/holiday-camps

Follow our socials @PremEducationUK



★ Trustpilot 4.8/5



Based on over 5,000 reviews



Premier
Education

Our Holiday Camps near you...

Venue: The John Hampden School

Dates: Mon 15th - Thurs 18th February

Times: 9:00am - 1:00pm or 9:00am - 3:30pm

Price: Half day £13.00 / Full day £19.00

Ages: 4* - 7

*Per Ofsted guidelines, children aged 4 can attend but will only be able to book a half day (9am - 1pm) slot.

Additional Info:

Minimum 2 day booking required.
Please note this camp is available to
all children who are still attending
school.



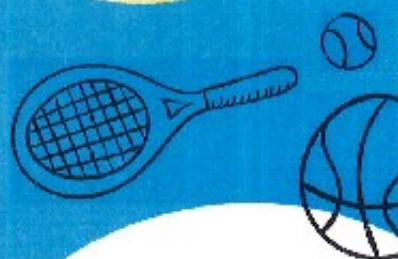
Taking every precaution

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.

They will need

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

Premier Education Promise: In the event these courses are cancelled, we will issue a full refund within 7 days.



★ Trustpilot 4.8/5



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