



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Coronavirus

So much has happened in the world since the last newsletter and we now know that our school has been forced to close to most pupils from the end of today. As requested by Government, we are working to put a plan in place to provide care for children of key workers and others who are considered vulnerable in some way. On Thursday we emailed a letter explaining the current situation and a copy of this can be found on the school website, along with home learning activities stored under a tab called 'Home Learning'. Today I am emailing you another letter to give further information of what to do if you think you are a 'key worker' or have a 'vulnerable child'. There is no clarity yet on how long the closure will last but as soon as we are told we can open again I will inform you via email and via the school website.

I am aware that lots of you must also be dealing with very challenging circumstances so please do take care of yourselves and your families.

It was good to see so many of you as you came into school last week for the Learning Review Meetings and the work sharing event last Friday afternoon. There was virtually 100% attendance at the Learning Review Meetings and staff will work hard to catch up with anyone who missed the opportunity to come in and hear about their child's progress and view their learning. We have shared your lovely comment slips with your children who were delighted to hear/read your encouraging notes. The questionnaires have also been analysed and findings will be fed back to individual teachers.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated—our pupils are extremely lucky to have such interested and supportive parents and carers. For our part we try to make the learning opportunities we offer interesting and engaging. From time to time we enrich the curriculum with visits, visitors and special days or weeks. This half-term there have already been a number of activities including:

- Arts Week
- Year Two Puppet Man visit
- Foundation Stage Animal Man Visit
- World Book Day links with Wendover Junior School
- Tennis Workshops

Some of the activities we offer are free of charge and for others we need to request a voluntary contribution. Unfortunately the school is not in a financial position to fund every type of enrichment activity directly from the school budget share so activities can only go ahead if enough people opt to pay. The activities we book are carefully planned to spread the cost over the school year. The contribution is entirely voluntary and no child will be disadvantaged if their parents are unable to pay or opt not to pay for some or any of the items. A survey, completed during the last academic year told us that parents/carers appreciated a reminder about making payments as some people said that they did forget to do it even though they intended to, so we will continue to do this.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

The John Hampden School governing body is working closely with Mrs. Barnes and the school's Senior Leadership Team to help communicate and plan for the constantly changing Coronavirus COVID-19 situation. As you can appreciate, this is an unprecedented, fast moving crisis which is impacting everyone. As mentioned by Mrs Barnes in recent communications, the school is adhering to Department of Education guidelines. In line with the announcement on Wednesday, the school will be closed after the end of school on Friday 20th March until further notice.

Special arrangements are being put in place to continue a provision at the school for the children of key workers and vulnerable children during the period the school is closed. Again, this will be in line with government guidelines. Mrs Barnes will be contacting the parents of the children who will be covered by this.

Our primary focus is the welfare of the pupils and staff. The governing body are having regular conversations with Mrs Barnes to offer support and guidance wherever possible. We have suspended all face to face governor meetings but will continue to meet virtually throughout this period to ensure the school, staff, pupils and parents needs are discussed and policies/guidelines are followed.

The school has been planning over the last few weeks for the eventuality of the school closing and Mrs Barnes will be communicating with parents and sharing plans for the coming weeks. The teachers have been preparing resources and tasks to progress. Mrs Barnes will also be sharing communication methods to support you and the pupils when the children are at home.

Please take care of yourselves and your children during this challenging time.



David Wheeler
Associate 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



PROSPECTIVE PARENTS & PUPILS—NURSERY CLASS SEPTEMBER 2020



In September 2020 we will, once again, open the doors of our Early Years Class (Cricketts) for a whole new class of children. Our 26 place nursery class runs from a purpose built classroom at the front of the school and has its own outside area. Places for the Cricketts Class this academic year were in demand and we managed to fill all 26 places. Therefore if you have a child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 and you are interested in the Early Years Class at John Hampden for September 2020, we would urge you to complete an application form as soon as possible.

If we fill all 26 places with eligible children (admission criteria apply) we are not planning to admit further children after Christmas or after Easter so you may only have one chance to secure a place.

Learning Review Meetings

Thank you for your feedback following the learning review meetings in early March. This information has been analysed and fed back to class teachers. At the end of this newsletter you can see the overall feedback percentages from all those who completed a questionnaire following their meeting. We are obviously very pleased with these findings but have also taken on board the verbal and written feedback that was provided. Keeping to time is clearly the biggest challenge for staff because if everyone has just one minute longer than their allotted time there will inevitably be a consequence for people with later appointments. We apologise if you had to wait beyond your appointment time.

4. CURRICULUM

TENNIS WORKSHOPS

On Monday 9th March we were fortunate to receive some free tennis coaching from The Everyball Tennis coaches. Each FS and KS1 class had a 30 minute session in the hall where they learnt some of the key skills required to handle the racquet and ball successfully. The children really seemed to enjoy this exciting opportunity.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Friday 6th March was when we celebrated World Book Day. Favourite characters from books was the theme we gave you for costumes on World Book Day and the children looked fantastic. The staff did too! The main feature of the day was a book sharing experience with pupils from Wendover Junior School. Year 2 pupils visited Wendover Junior School to share their reading, while pupils from WJS came down to share books with FS and Y1 pupils. The older children clearly loved helping with sounding out words and reading with our pupils. It seemed to be a very enjoyable experience for all. More photographs are available under the news section of the school website.



4. CURRICULUM (CONTINUED)

History at John Hampden School.

Let's step back in time... At John Hampden School, the children all enjoy regular opportunities to step back in time and look at the past. It has been a year of exploring for all ages. In Foundation Stage, the children have led their own learning, exploring and discovering about Bonfire Night, Dinosaurs, Space travel and watched 'Magic Granddad' looking at differences between now and the past. In Year 1, classes have celebrated 'Toys' old and new, and hopefully next term, will explore the lives of famous 'Explorers' including Neil Armstrong and Robert Falcon Scott. In Year 2, the children have looked at the life of our famous local author, Roald Dahl and visited Bucks County Museum in Aylesbury; explored the events of the Great Fire of London and the impact on London today; compared the lives of two famous nurses so far – Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. They will have the opportunity to continue to research our third famous, significant nurse from during World War 1 – Edith Cavell in their Home Learning. Throughout these topics, the children have gained a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world too. As you will read in the Pupil Voice, it is clear that the children are engaged, excited and enthused by all these subjects. Above all, it highlights the pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. They clearly 'Love to Learn' about History! Along their journey through time, the children develop and build upon a range of skills: they ask questions, answer their own questions through research using a range of resources; they use a range of vocabulary to show the passing of time and historical terms; they look at timelines and create their own; they look at similarities and differences between famous people; they also see how the past can be interpreted in different ways. All their discoveries and explorations are presented and celebrated in a range of different ways. We have a school full of History Detectives! In the Spring term, Year 2 celebrated their learning about the Great Fire of London with a Great Fire of London day! The children came in dressed in costume and stepped back in time into 1666. The children rotated round the three classrooms. They took on their characters and roles and did some drama and hot seating in one class. In another they were in the Thomas Farrynor's bakery on Pudding Lane, preparing rolls for the King. We used a traditional recipe from that time. The rolls never made it to the King, but instead the children brought these home! The third activity was an art activity. We looked at some more traditional artwork of the Great Fire using oils on canvases. In contrast, we looked at some modern art interpretations of the Great Fire and reproduced our own using bright chalk pastels on black sugar paper. It was a lovely celebration of their work. We had a visit from Alison Duggan, our History Governor for the morning of this event and I'm sure she would support me in saying what a big success the whole project had been! This term, Year 1 have celebrated their learning about Toys. They had a toy workshop led by 'Classroom Adventures' who came in just this week. The children got to experience making their very own toy from scratch and also brought in a Victorian Museum for the children to see. The Toy Making Day experience offered children an unforgettable experience where they learnt and developed motor skills, hand-eye coordination and self-confidence. They looked into the history and science of a variety of different toys. Alison Duggan also visited the History morning this week to see what the children got up to. This report on History is a little earlier than I planned due to unforeseeable circumstances. In the near future, I hope to hear more about the History Detectives in our Nursery class, Crickets to complete the whole picture of History at John Hampden School.

Mrs McNally (History Co-ordinator)



5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Pupil Voice Feedback

Foundation Stage

I liked watching the film about when man landed on the moon. It was all grey – not like our TV now. It was a long time ago. Olive

We learnt about what rockets looked like and then made some! Thomas

I enjoyed learning all about the dinosaurs. Did you know they are extinct now? That means they don't live any more on our planet. Emilia

They died millions of years ago. Phoebe

I liked learning about the difference between houses in the old days and now. I didn't know that they didn't have electricity. They didn't have electric lights, washing machines or ovens like us! Molly

I liked learning about Bonfire Night because Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Jaime

Year 1 (Toys Workshop)

Florence in Badgers said "it was my best day ever!"

Alfie in Badgers said "I really liked making the toys because it was fun"

Megan in Badgers said "I really liked that we took our toys home because we can play with them"

Toby P in Badgers said "I really liked that you got to use a screwdriver to screw the toy"

MW (Hedgehogs) – I enjoyed learning about the toy that came from Egypt. It was the first ever toy. It was found in a pyramid. It was the best day of my life because it was the first time I ever made a toy. I have never used a drill before.

EB (Hedgehogs) - I like the spinning helicopter because it went flying around the room. If you spin it one way it goes up and if you spin it the other way it goes down.

SN (Hedgehogs) - I liked the skipping ropes because it was really fun. We went outside and skipped and used the metal hoops from a long time ago.

BM (Hedgehogs) - I learnt about the toys that needed string to make them work. You have to pull them to make them work. I liked the parrot that flipped on the string. I would tell other people to do it because it's so much fun making the toys.

Alex (Squirrels) really enjoyed hammering because I have never used a hammer before.

Bella (Squirrels) really enjoyed hammering the wooden peg into my wooden ball because it was loud.

Sid (Squirrels) enjoyed putting the pieces together because I liked using the medium drill.

Year 2 (Great Fire of London Day)

I enjoyed making the pictures using chalks. It was really exciting and I put on the River Thames and flames on the building. Leo (Red Kites)

We used dough and flour to make bread rolls using a recipe from 1666. Zach (Red Kites)

Drama was fun – we got to act out a part of the Great Fire of London events - I was passing buckets of water along to put out the fire!

I really loved making the 17th Century bread. It was squishy and fun to make! Rosie (Herons)

I enjoyed acting out a scene from the Great Fire of London because it was nice to collaborate with my friends. Lauren (Herons)

I loved using pastels to create a scene from the Great Fire of London and I also liked drawing the tiny boats and people on the River Thames. Jim (Herons)

I liked acting out the fire. We had to use actions and not talk! Isabella (Firecrests)

I liked the bread making because it was like the bread they made at the time of the Great Fire of London. Evie (Firecrests)

I liked all three activities – it was lots of fun – especially the art! Leo (Firecrests)

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

Thank you to everyone who came out to join us for the Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper on Friday 6th March. It was a huge turn out and generated a net profit of £1,100, which will be shared with the Junior school PTA. Thanks to the organisers, helpers, bakers and parents, and also to Anthony Davison-Hoult for being Quizmaster.

In light of Mrs Barnes' recent communication and the government advice to avoid group gatherings during the pandemic, it has been decided that we will cancel the Easter trail and cake sale and also the May Fayre. There may be more Friends events scheduled for later in the year, but for now we have no plans for fundraising activities.

The next PTA meeting scheduled for 21st April will not be taking place; we will reschedule something in May or June.

Best wishes

Sophie – Chair of FJHS

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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

GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION



It has been really encouraging to see how well our pupils are responding to the different themes and topics that have been introduced during the year. We have worked hard to try to cover numerous curriculum areas within a topic and the quality of learning appears to have improved considerably as a result. We are very aware that the teaching and learning environment contributes enormously to effective learning and we are working hard to ensure our outside learning areas reflect a similar high quality to that provided indoors. The EYFS curriculum and the National Curriculum guide the content of the taught curriculum but the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of learning also feature strongly in the curriculum to reinforce the ethos of our school.

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Feedback from the recent Learning Review Meetings has been positive in terms of the satisfaction levels linked to information provided by the school. This is enhanced by opportunities for parents to communicate with their child about what they have heard and seen via individual comment sheets and during the work sharing event. Developing confidence and self esteem is crucial in the early years and children need to be recognised for their strengths as well as being supported in developing resilience and positive attitudes when faced with new challenges.

The continued focus on developing positive attitudes to learning and encouraging a growth mindset is reflected in the day to day observations of pupils and staff at John Hampden.



GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES



The Golden Rules and the School Values underpin the behaviour policy at John Hampden—they are displayed in every area in the school and regularly referred to, so our pupils are very clear about our expectations. However, our children are only young and their education at our school involves them being taught social skills as well as academic skills. Just as our pupils are at different stages with their academic development, they are at different stages with their social development too. To accommodate this there are a huge range of interventions and support offered to those that need more help to make the right behaviour choices. This type of support is on-going and regularly monitored and evaluated by all staff to try to ensure that everyone can learn well. At the recent learning review meetings teachers covered any issues linked to behaviour as part of their discussions.

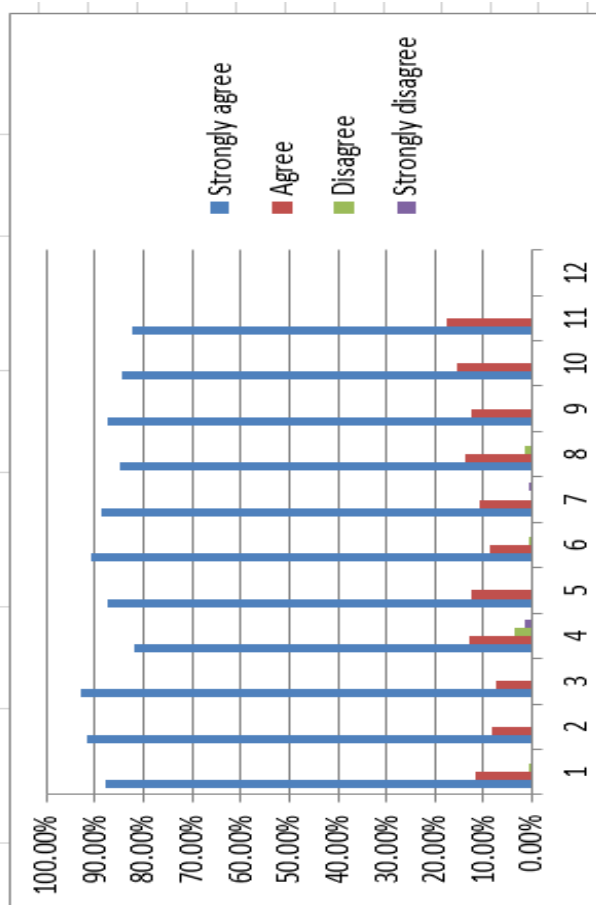
GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Each teacher in the school takes responsibility for a specific curriculum area. During the term governors may come into school to observe a specific event linked to their subject area or they meet with the teacher to discuss how the subject is being taught, assessed or developed. At the end of each term subject leaders are required to review the actions they have taken during the term and the impact these actions have had. The governor section of the newsletter often provides an example of this in practice and it is clear that this type of liaison is mutually beneficial and also helps to maintain standards in the school.



8. LEARNING REVIEW FEEDBACK

	LEARNING REVIEW FEEDBACK MARCH 2020	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	I was sufficiently aware of the dates for the Learning Review Meetings	181	87.86%	24	11.65%	1	0.49%		0.00%
2	I had enough notice of my appointment time	189	91.75%	17	8.25%		0.00%		0.00%
3	My appointment matched with my choice of day and time	191	92.72%	15	7.28%		0.00%		0.00%
4	There was a satisfactory match between my appointment time and the time I actually saw the teacher	169	82.04%	27	13.11%	7	3.40%	3	1.46%
5	I received a useful amount of information in 10 minutes	180	87.38%	26	12.62%		0.00%		0.00%
6	I found out about my child's strengths and areas for development	187	90.78%	18	8.74%	1	0.50%		0.00%
7	I found out about my child's behaviour and attitude to learning	183	88.83%	22	10.68%		0.00%	1	0.50%
8	I am satisfied with the progress that my child is making academically	175	84.95%	28	13.59%	3	1.46%		0.00%
9	I was provided with helpful handouts about how to support my child at home	180	87.38%	26	12.62%		0.00%		0.00%
10	The school has set my child realistic targets	174	84.47%	32	15.53%		0.00%		0.00%
11	The school is challenging my child appropriately	170	82.52%	36	17.48%		0.00%		0.00%



9. MISCELLANEOUS

Out of School Care Playworker vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Playworker at our Breakfast Club from 7.30 am to 8.45 am for four mornings per week (Monday to Thursday) and at our After School Club from 3.00 pm to 6.15 pm three afternoons per week (Tues, Wed, Thur) term time only. The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children and a relevant Level 2 qualification, however this is not essential. The salary will be within Bucks Pay Range 1A (currently £15,840 per annum pro rata) and the closing date for applications is Friday 20th March 2020. If you are interested in this post and would like more information, please call the John Hampden School office on 01296 622629 or email office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or contact the OOSC on 07506 195699 or email oosc@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

Tel: 01296 623056
www.wendover-pc.gov.uk



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*Free
to enter!*

Sat 4th - Sun 19th April



Wendover Easter Hunt



**Hop along ...
& join the fun!**

There are 12 Easter bunnies
hidden in the shop windows
around the village.

Each bunny is holding a
letter, what does it spell?!

- Entry forms are available at the Clock Tower or on our website.
- Please drop entries off into the Clock Tower's post box.
- Correct entries will be drawn from a hat on 20th April 2020.
- The age limit for this competition is 2-16 years old.